



## **Welcome to Mowgli Expeditions.**

Here is a list of FAQ for the Belize Birding Trip

Q. Are Covid related entry requirements still in place for Belize. What are they?

A. Effective July 2022, you no longer need to show proof of covid vaccine. However, please do carry the original covid vaccination card.

Q. Visas – For US Citizens

A. US Citizens do not require a visa for Belize, but make sure your passport is valid for 90 days on date of arrival and also has a couple of empty pages.

Q. Electricity & Wifi

A. Belize is on 110 V same as US and sockets are also same as US. Wifi is available at most of the lodges we are staying at but may be available only in the lobby/reception area at some of the places.

Q. Cash, Currency Exchange.

A. 1 USD is equiv. to 2 Belizean dollars approximately. It's best to carry USD \$200 - \$300 per person cash in twenties and ones for miscellaneous items like tips, drinks, and souvenirs. All meals are included. US currency is accepted almost everywhere and you may get change back in Belizean dollars. You really won't need to use an ATM machine.

Q. Is there a specific time for Airport pick-up from the BZE airport and drop off on the last day?

A. As we are staying in Belize city the first night, besides the group pick-up, we shall arrange for one or two additional alternate pick-ups based on participants arrival time (no extra charge). Tour leader shall be in Belize city a day before.

For drop-off, since we shall be coming from Hopkins, which is about 2 1/2 hours from Belize City, the group transfer shall leave at 10:00 am from the lodge in Hopkins. We shall head straight to the BZE airport getting there about 12:30 pm-12:45 pm. People who have a flight in the next 3 hours or so can alight at the airport. For folks having a flight post 4 p.m., we shall carry on to the hotel in Belize City, 20 minutes away, and have a late lunch there(not included). We shall arrange for a transfer to the airport 2 hours before departure (no extra charge).

Q. Luggage weight limits.

A. Please travel light. If the tour is sold out we would have 9-10 people including the tour leader. So one bag pack and one suitcase max 26 inches in length is recommended. Soft bags preferred. If you really can't manage with one bag pack and 1 carry on bag, don't sweat. In that case you can get a check in bag but please do try and avoid it as much as possible.

Also, we shall try and have the windows down wherever the vehicle will allow for it.

Q: What other kind of vaccinations do I need to get before traveling to Belize?

A: Standard childhood shots, Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid recommended.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/belize>

Q: Are malaria prophylaxis necessary? It doesn't seem like it's necessary but some sources mention it's a good idea.

A. There are few different anti-malaria drugs. Of them Malarone(atovaquone-proguanil) is tolerated much better by most. The others are not well tolerated by most.

While officially we can't recommend against taking these drugs, we personally don't find them necessary for ourselves and don't take them. You have to make your own decision.

Q: Is Typhoid vaccine necessary?

A. Typhoid's oral vaccine is no longer available in the US and many other parts of the world, which is unfortunate. The injectable form is quite expensive but advised.

Like Malaria, officially we can't recommend against taking the typhoid vaccine, we personally don't find it necessary for ourselves and don't take them. We all shall be having our meals at good places, but you can never be sure.

Q: Do I need travel insurance?

A: Travel insurance is required for this trip. For a quote on insurance, visit World Nomads or InsureMyTrip.com (more expensive but insures people above 70 and has more options).

Q: What will the climate be like when we are there? What clothes should I pack?

A: March falls in the dry season that runs from January to April. It's a good idea to carry a light waterproof poncho though.

Temperatures in March range from low 70s to high 80s.

In the field, long pants and long sleeved shirts in neutral colors are best. If interested, you may also want to bring swimwear as one of the lodges we are staying at, has a nice pool and we are also spending the last 2 days at a lodge by the beach.

You don't need to carry rubber boots, but you should carry an extra pair of shoes or waterproof sandals in case one pair gets wet.

You should also carry a water bottle so you don't have to buy bottled water. You can refill your water bottle with filtered water from the lodge which is good.

Q. Will the accommodations have Air Conditioning?

A. The rooms we are booked in at the first lodge and last lodge of stay will have air conditioning, while others will not.

Q. Don't we need proof of accommodation at entry into Belize?

A. The immigration officer at Belize entry asks you for the name and address of lodge you shall be staying at. You need to just provide the first lodge there. They rarely ask you for proof. However, We shall provide you a hotel list which can be shown in that rare case.

Q: Is it customary to tip and how much should I give?

A: Tips for van drivers and for group meals are covered in the price of the tour. However, you may want to tip as follows if you were happy with the services provided:

Biring Guide: \$5 per person per day.

Q: What mosquito repellent should I take?

A: We recommend you buy the All terrain Herbal Armor deet free repellent from Amazon

[https://smile.amazon.com/All-Terrain-DEET-Free-Repellent-Activities/dp/B0016BFDN6/ref=pd\\_sim\\_121\\_4/138-2023701-7358508](https://smile.amazon.com/All-Terrain-DEET-Free-Repellent-Activities/dp/B0016BFDN6/ref=pd_sim_121_4/138-2023701-7358508)

Belize can be quite “buggy” so carry two of 2oz bottles or equivalent. You can also carry a bottle of “Off” to use , but that has deet just so you know.

Q. Laundry

A. Available at the lodge near Macal river where we stay on day 5. You can either pack for all 10 days or pack for 5 days as long as you remember to get them laundered at this lodge.

Q. What birding field guide should I carry?

A. Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America

There is also The Birds of Belize by Lee Jones. However that is a bit dated and larger and heavier. Any other one that you like better is fine too.

Also we highly recommend the Merlin app and eBird app that work well together.

Q. Scopes – Guiding shall be provided by different local guides at the different lodges and they shall be carrying a scope. If you are planning on bringing a scope, that’s fine, please do let us know.

Q -Will you be at the airport to greet us or a driver with a sign?

A. I will be at the hotel. The airport is small and not chaotic. A driver with your name on a placard shall be there with a Placard to pick you up. Dont panic if you don't see him when you come out, which is unlikely. I will be reachable on my phone.

Q. Will we be able to stop to pick up drinks and snacks either before we leave Belize City or along the way to each area?

A. Yes, the shops are close by to Radisson and its safe to go pick up some snacks. But go ahead and carry a few snacks.

The day we can pick up snacks on the way are Day 1, Day 5, Day 8 and Day 9 while in Hopkins before travel back to Belize city next day.

Q – What about coffee.

a. Free coffee is available every morning at every lodge. However, if you like to have coffee several times in a day, I would recommend that you buy and carry a small 12 oz French press and some coffee with you. Hot water is more easily available than coffee during the day :)

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B07N79SQYT/>

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