



Pre-Departure Information



Blue Reef
Island

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IMPORTANT:

The information below is essential to ensure that you are prepared for a Blue Reef trip.

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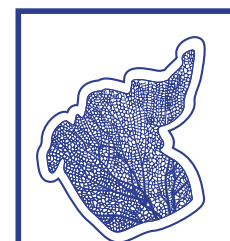
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Blue Reef

Island



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This information is intended to assist you with your preparations for your trip. Before you leave home for a Blue Reef trip, there are a number of details that you must ensure are in order, including Passports, Vaccinations and Insurance. We have included some guidelines on what you should bring with you including suitable clothing, diving equipment and other personal items.

Before you leave



Passports & Entry Visa

Check that your passport is valid – it takes time to apply for a new one!

Belize was formally British Honduras and gained independence in 1981. Therefore, British, Canadian and US passports are valid and there are no special visa requirements for trips up to 1 month.

Fitness & Health

There are currently no vaccination requirements for Belize. However, it is a good idea to be up-to-date on diphtheria, typhoid, hepatitis, tetanus, polio, cholera and rabies before you leave home. It is recommended that you discuss your trip with your Doctor and get advice prior to departure.

If you plan to scuba dive, a dive medical is recommended but not mandatory, prior to departure. Your GP can arrange this or do it for you. Divers must be able to pass a medical examination to prove they are physically fit to dive or answer NO to all questions and sign the PADI Medical Form. Blue Reef will provide a copy of the form prior to your trip or it can be downloaded from the PADI website: www.padi.com.

In the extremely unlikely event of a diving accident, Blue Reef staff is fully trained in Emergency Management and Procedures. The nearest Hyperbaric Chamber is in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. It is important that you have dive insurance that covers this. Please be aware that Blue Reef operates a non-decompression policy and requires safety stops for every dive.

Medical Kit: There is a first aid and oxygen kit on the island and basic medical items can be bought locally. However, you should certainly bring with you an ample supply of any medicine or drug which you use regularly. There is a hospital in Dangriga



Insurance

We recommend that you take out a fully comprehensive travel insurance that includes cover for unforeseen weather conditions. Please check out: <https://partner.globalrescue.com/bluereefisland/index.html>

Diving insurance is mandatory. Most travel insurance policies can include dive insurance up to 30 metres.

For diving insurance, Blue Reef recommends Divers Alert Network (DAN), which offers comprehensive dive insurance as part of their membership scheme: <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>

Please bring a copy of your insurance documents with you for us to file.

Air Travel/Baggage Allowance

Most airlines will only allow 1 or 2 items of luggage on the plane and 1 carry on item. Check the baggage allowance with the airline carrier prior to departure. Providing your international carrier has no problem with your luggage, then it will be no problem for Tropic Air, our recommended airline for in-country air travel.

Airport Security: In recent years' security checks have been stepped up in major international airports. Bear this in mind when packing any electrical appliances in your luggage. You will probably be asked to remove batteries and hand them over to security staff before your flight. Sharp objects, such as knives and scissors, should be packed in your main luggage, as most carriers will not allow them inside the aircraft cabin. **Allow extra time to check in where possible.** In most international airports the minimum check in time is 2 to 3 hours prior to departure. **Allow 3 hours if possible.**

Covid-19 Entry Requirements

The Belize Tourism Board announced recently that the government decided to remove all public health measures at the point of entry to Belize!

The Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that as of June 12, 2022, air passengers travelling from a foreign country will no longer be required to show a negative COVID-19 test when entering the United States. Travel health insurance is an option, but no longer mandatory for all visitors upon entry to Belize. The Belize Travel Insurance will help protect travellers if they test positive for COVID-19 during their stay. The Insurance Plan, available for \$18.00US, provides coverage for medical expenses related to treatment of COVID-19 for a period of 21 days including lodging expenses due to quarantine. Purchase online at www.belize-travel-insurance.com

When you Arrive

Airport

Belize City (BZE): The internal flights are small propeller planes that fly regularly.

The typical itinerary for Tropic Air is as follows:

Belize International Airport (BZE) to Dangriga

Departure Time	Arrival Time
08.30am	08.45am
10.00am	10.15am
11.00am	11.15am
12.00pm	12.15pm
13.00pm	13.15pm
14.00pm	14.15pm
15.00pm	15.15pm
16.45pm	17:00pm

Dangriga to Belize International Airport (BZE)

Departure Time	Arrival Time
07.25am	07.40am
08.55am	09.10am
10.25am	10.40am
11.25am	11.40am
12.25pm	13.15pm
13.25pm	14.15pm
14.25pm	14.40pm

Please contact the Blue Reef office for assistance booking your internal flights with Tropic Air.

Email: info@bluereefisland.com with your flight arrival & departure details into Belize International airport (BZE) and we will get back to you with your reservation details. Blue Reef are an agent for Tropic Air, therefore you do not need to pay for your flights until you check in, they do take credit cards and there are no penalties for changes or cancellations.

If you have to wait at Belize International for a connecting flight, there is a bar upstairs and other bars in the departure lounge. The current cost of the flight is circa \$165.00 round trip, and it is great fun. The plane flies along the coastline where you can see the reef and coral cays on one side and the jungle and Maya Mountains on the other. Have your camera ready!

A van or taxi will be there to meet you at Dangriga airport. If your flight is early or delayed call +501 615 1428 (local phone 615 1428) and speak to a staff member. If you arrive early Tropic Air has our number, let them know that you are with Miss Polly at Blue Reef Island!

Blue Reef will send you our arrivals meet and greet email prior to your trip.

Belize



Money & Exchange

There are a number of banks in Dangriga where you can access funds via debit or credit card. The banks have international ATM's and can give cash advances on debit or credit cards.

U.S. and Belizean dollars are accepted everywhere.

Gratuities

Industry standard is 15-20% of the cost of your stay however, any gratuity is appreciated. The staff always appreciate cash! \$US is acceptable. We can also accept credit cards. Most of our guests personally tip the guides, and leave an amount with management which gets shared equally amongst the rest of the staff.

The Belizeans

The Belizeans are very friendly towards tourists and harassment is not an issue. Most of the local people know each other and will get to know you too. They speak mostly English and Creole.

Alcohol and Drugs

Despite the laid-back feel of the place, please do not be fooled! Drugs, including marijuana are illegal in Belize. The police are very strict and will arrest you for the smallest quantity.

Blue Reef operates a strict no drug policy. Drugs are not allowed on the boat or the island.

Please be aware that local beer, rum, vodka & sodas are included. There is a private bar and restaurant for island guests. There is also a public cash bar on the island. If you prefer a particular drink such as a favourite wine or international liquor, please let us know prior to your trip so that we can ensure we stock it. **Please be aware that any international liquor or wine that is ordered from the bar, is NOT included and there will be a charge.**

Please keep diving safe and do not drink alcohol before or in-between dives. You must be 18 years old to drink alcohol in Belize.

What to Bring

- A re-usable water bottle
- Water shoes
- Swimwear, at least a couple of bikinis or shorts as you will be in the water most days.
- Shorts, at least a couple of pairs. Quick-drying materials recommended.
- Fishing shirts, vest (tank) tops and t-shirts. Quick-drying materials recommended.
- Long pants/trousers.
- Thin long-sleeved fleece for the evenings (only during winter months) and a lightweight waterproof shell/jacket (thicker for the boat during winter months) Keep this handy for the boat journey, just in case!
- High factor (SPF) sunscreen and lip balm (especially for the boat rides), after-sun lotion.
- Sunglasses and a hat.
- Photocopy of your passport.

Please note that the bathrooms in all of the cabanas are equipped with shampoo, conditioner & shower gel.

For Fishing

Colombia style fishing shirts and quick drying shorts are advisable for the boat. Also, a waterproof jacket in case it rains or for choppy seas. We also love the buffs for extra protection around the head and neck.

If you are planning to fly fish, please bring your own fishing gear.

For Diving

We do have shorty wetsuits. During the winter months – November through February a full 3mm wetsuit is recommended; shorty wetsuits may be OK for some people. Water temp can get as low as 26°C (78.5°F) in the winter months. Most people dive without wetsuits during the summer months.

Booties.

PADI certification cards and Log Book (if applicable).

Blue Reef supply BCD's, Regulators, weights & tanks.

We do not supply dive computers or dive watches.

The Island & Accommodation



The 3-acre island is only a 20-minute boat ride from mainland Dangriga. Off the beaten track, a remote island paradise where guests can fish, dive, snorkel, fly fish, deep sea fish, spearfish, kayak and paddleboard to their hearts content.

The island boasts a private west facing pool & hot tub for island guests only. After a fun filled day at sea, round off with a relaxing massage followed by sundowners in the pool or hot tub.

All glass frontage cabanas have verandas overlooking the turquoise sea. Accommodation is in 5 x gorgeous cabanas all with a/c, inside and outside shower bathrooms, mini bars and tea and coffee making facilities. 3 cabanas have private walkways that take you from your cabanas directly into the Caribbean! The premier cabana boasts a private plunge pool.

Guest comfort is a priority. Beds have high quality mattresses and luxurious high thread count Egyptian cotton linens. Cabanas are a mix of king-size beds and family configurations. All cabanas have pull out futon sofa beds.

Please note that the bathrooms in all of the cabanas are equipped with shampoo, conditioner & shower gel. Standard US power cords work in Belize, you do not need adapters.

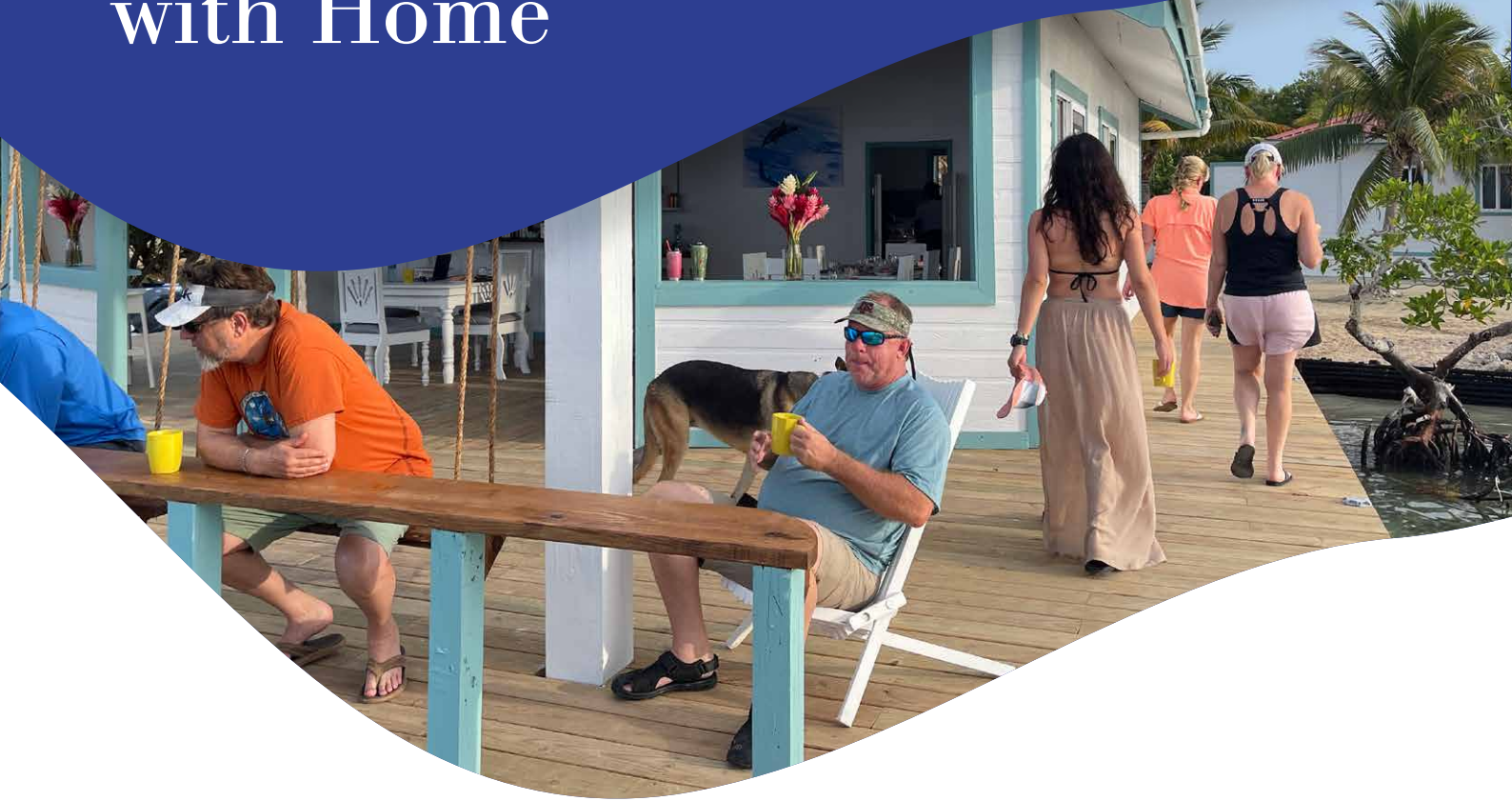
Meals and Drinking Water

All meals and drinking water are included. Local Beers, Rums, Vodka and Sodas are also available and included.

WiFi

We do have a WIFI service throughout the island.

Communication with Home



Phone and Email

We do have WIFI connection on the island. For emergencies please give family, friends and colleagues Polly's phone number +501 615 1428 and email address polly@bluereefisland.com.

People at home can either phone the emergency number in Belize (+501 615 1428), or email: info@bluereefisland.com or polly@bluereefisland.com.

Terms & Conditions

(including, but not limited to, the following)

The emphasis is upon flexibility and the approach is not regimented. People are required to adhere to the dive protocols at all times, this will be fully explained to you when you arrive on site. There are guidelines for safety reasons. However, guests can choose what they want to do. We appreciate that some guests wish to do as much fishing & diving as possible whilst others will want to combine the trip with relaxation and other activities. It is important that people are respectful to the host country's environment and cultures.

Cancellation Policy

Deposits are non-refundable but are transferable.

If you cancel your trip 60 days or more prior to departure, 50% of the balance is non-refundable.

If you cancel within 60 days the entire balance is non-refundable.

If Blue Reef cancels the trip prior to departure, 100% of the balance and the deposit are refundable, except in cases of natural disaster and force majeure.

Force Majeure

Blue Reef Caribbean Resorts will not be liable for failure to perform agreed obligations if such failure is as a result of Acts of God (including fire, flood, earthquake, storm, hurricane or other natural disaster), Virus's such as COVID-19, war, invasion, act of foreign enemies, hostilities (regardless of whether war is declared), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, military or usurped power or confiscation, terrorist activities, nationalisation, government sanction, blockage, embargo, labour dispute, strike, lockout or interruption or failure of electricity or telephone service.

Should diving, fishing or island transfers not take place due to force majeure, natural disaster or unforeseeable circumstances including rough sea conditions, monies will not be refunded. **It is advisable to check your insurance policy.**

Wherever possible Blue Reef will try to reschedule cancelled trips to a future date within a 12-month period, subject to availability. Blue Reef can reschedule full island bookings, however there will be a cancellation fee.



Blue Reef

Island

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