

INFORMATION TO NOTE

Catch & Release Only: Belize River Lodge was the first to practice catch and release for Permit, Bonefish & Tarpon and as of the summer of 2009, it is now law! Belize law states that all Permit, Tarpon and Bonefish are Catch & Release only. Even though not protected by law, BRL continues its goal to improve the fishing environment, so only one Snook per day at guide's size discretion (and only if wanted by the guest) may be kept. Some Snapper, Barracuda & Grouper may be kept for the table, again only if wanted by the guest.

Travel Arrangements: Guests fly to Belize International Airport, airport code is BZE. You are met by a member of the Lodge staff, who will shuttle you to the Lodge which is only a few miles away. Agents normally handle airline ticketing or you can get it online. You can contact the airlines online at the following websites: American Airlines is www.aa.com, Continental Airlines is www.continental.com, US Airways is at www.usairways.com, Delta is www.delta.com and TACA is www.taca.com.

If you are arriving in your private aircraft, planes should clear through Phillip Goldson International Airport (airport code: BZE) with the Belize Civil Aviation Department and the Belize Airport Authority. For more details, please check the following website: www.travelbelize.org/private_airplanes.html

Travel Documents: A valid passport is required to enter Belize and must be valid at least six months beyond the duration of your stay. Visitors from the USA, UK and most of the Caribbean do not need Visas. Most other countries do. Any questions, please contact the Embassy of Belize at (202) 332-9636.

Belize Departure Tax: There is a fee of US\$39.25 for the Belize Departure Tax & Airport Security Fees that may be included in your ticket or must be paid at the airport upon leaving Belize. If not included in your ticket, this must be paid at the airport in US Dollars before departing Belize.

Travel Protection: Travel Insurance and protection is always nice to have as you never know what the future will hold or if plans need to be changed at the last minute. Travel protection is available from most travel agents or is available online. Many travel insurance sites are available, here are a few that we know about: Travelex Insurance Services: www.travelex-insurance.com

Travel Guard Insurance: www.TravelGuard.com

Note: If you are booked during hurricane season (June to October), and you have paid for your trip, if a storm brews and your trip has to be postponed, no problem, you don't lose any money, you have one year to reschedule your dates.

Mosquitos: We try to protect the environment and we minimize the use of sprays and insecticides, as they also harm birds and butterflies. Mosquitos and No-seeums (sandfly's) can be pesky, especially around sun-up and sun-down, and are the worst you will encounter. Mosquito repellent is a good deterrent and light weight long pants with socks and light weight long sleeve shirts also help to keep them from biting you.

Restaurant & Meals: BRL serves family style meals and our daily menus are varied and very tasty. It is best if we know before you arrive in Belize if you have any special dietary needs (food allergies or special requests), however, at the main Lodge we are near supplies, so can usually accommodate requests quickly. When checking in, double check with you on dietary requirements and if we somehow missed yours, please be sure to let management know of any dietary restrictions or requirement that the kitchen staff needs to be aware.

Dietary Requirements at Long Caye Outpost Lodge: The Outpost is 14 miles from the nearest supplies and is stocked before your arrival on the island. We need to know of any dietary requirements (food allergies or special requests) BEFORE your arrival in Belize, so that your cook is aware and the island is fully stocked and prepared.

Liquor at the Lodge: The Lodge has a small self-service, honor system bar and guest sign a tab for drinks. We have open bottles of alcohol (a Belize rum, a vodka, a gin, a whiskey, & a tequila) at the bar for you to mix drinks in the evening. We also have alcohol & wine for sale by the bottle. Please check with the office to see what is available by the bottle. You may bring your own alcoholic beverages, if you like. When entering Belize, after

Immigration and before luggage retrieval, there is a "Duty Free". This is an easy place to pick up your liquor and tobacco. If purchased at the duty free in Belize, visitors are allowed 4 liters of alcohol duty free each.

Liquor at Long Caye Outpost Lodge: The Outpost Lodge will have 2 cases Belikin Beer and a bottle of One Barrel Rum & guest sign a tab for drinks. We will not have anything other alcohol stocked, unless by request. If anything else is needed (wine, more beer, spirits, specific mixers), please e-mail with any requests, which can be purchased by the bottle. You may bring your own alcoholic beverages, if you like. When entering Belize, after Immigration and before luggage retrieval, there is a "Duty Free". This is an easy place to pick up your liquor and tobacco. If purchased at the duty free in Belize, visitors are allowed 4 liters of alcohol duty free each.

Telephone, Fax & E-mail services: There is a telephone in the office that uses local (BRL) calling cards and sometimes you can use credit card phone cards. BTL phone cards are available in the office in increments of US\$5.00 and US\$10.00. The US\$10.00 card gives you approximately 12 to 15 minutes of call time to the USA. Lodge internet computer, fax and computer services are available for a small fee.

The main Lodge porch and living room is set up for wireless internet, please ask the office for the password. If you have brought your laptop, please feel free to use our free wireless service; however, only a few guest computers can be used at a time. This is minimal access for e-mail only, no big downloads, please!

Long Caye Outpost Lodge does not have phone or internet services.

Electricity and electrical outlets: The main Lodge gets electricity from Belize Electricity Limited. Belize is on the same electrical system as the USA (110 volts, 60 cycles), so if coming for N. American, no special outlet plugs are needed. Some of BRL's outlets are two prong, so you may want to bring a two-into-three prong electrical plug converters (about \$1.00 at a hardware store in the US).

Long Caye Outpost Lodge gets power from a generator, which provides the same as the USA (110 volts, 60 cycles). Most outlets are three prong, but if you have a lot of camera equipment, etc, you may want to bring a small power strip to handle your electronics in one area of the Outpost guest house.

Mike's Closet (Tackle Shop): BRL has a small tackle shop with an assortment of fishing supplies - backing, lines, leaders and tippet. Mike's Closet has a good selection of flies and lures on sale (based on the BRL recommended lists), however, you can follow our fishing list and bring everything that you will need, using Mike's Closet as a back-up. If you cannot find something, don't worry, we have it available at the main Lodge.

Rental Equipment: Belize River Lodge does provide rental equipment, subject to availability. Fly fishing equipment is top quality, mainly Sage rods, 8 wt's, 10 wt's & 12 wt's, & Teton or Sage saltwater reels. All reels have Rio lines. We also have a few 8 wt Winston rods in our rental equipment. Spin fishing equipment is also top quality, mainly Ugly Sticks with Shimano or Penn reels. If you find that you are short of the needed equipment, flies or lures, we have a good stock of flies & lures that work well for the local waters. Please check with someone in the office.

Long Caye Outpost Lodge - Items to consider before heading out to the island: Long Caye is stocked per trip for food and drinks. Alcohol is basic stocking of 2 cases of Belikin Beer and 1 bottle of One Barrel Rum, purchased by guests, only if used. When booking Long Caye Outpost Long, please note that along with basic stock of alcohol, we do NOT have flies, lures, any rods & reels, tying bench and materials. All of this is available at the main Lodge, so please be prepared. When staying on the island, please consider

Food (diets & special requests)

Drinks (sodas, tonic, soda water, beer, wine or other alcoholic beverages)

Rod & Reels

Flies & Lures

Leaders

Anything else of importance

Please let us know of any of the above items, so that we can have Long Caye ready and stocked for your arrival.

After confirming your dates, Planning for your trip: The best thing you can do to get ready after booking your trip is to practice your casting. **Accuracy of cast** is far more important than distance. Speed of re-casting is also very important as saltwater fish tend to move across the flats. So, if you have an accurate 40' cast and can pick that fly up and recast, example from 12:00 to 2:00 to get in front of a moving school of fish, this is far better and will hook more fish, than a wild 60' cast.

Your guides are there not only to get you into fish, but to help make your fishing trip go as smoothly as possible. They are well versed in both fly and spin fishing and know that area of Central Belize well. Some guides tend to be a bit shyer than others, and don't want to be presumptuous, so if you need something, just let them know. If you need help with your casting, the guides are well versed in fly fishing and different kinds of conventional tackle. The guides will make fly/lure recommendations and help to rig rods.

When fishing, you are on the bow of the skiff and the guide is normally on the platform at the aft. Guides use the "clock" system, and foot measurements to help you locate fish. If standing facing forward on the skiff, the bow is 12:00, hard right is 3:00 and hard left is 9:00. For foot measurements, your flyrod is approximately 9' and a spinning rod is anywhere from 6' to 9'. Your guide should go over this before fishing so you are both referring to the same thing – if he forgets, please remind him.

And finally, guides are people and not all have the same personalities. All know fishing and the areas to fish in Central Belize and all of our guides will work hard to get you into fish. They like when you catch fish as much as you do, if not more so. Sometimes weather or the fish themselves are not cooperative and this is not the guides fault. He will be working harder to find fish in areas less windy or fish that feel like eating.

Wading: Some wading is available from both the main Lodge and the Outpost Lodge. If you would like to wade, please let us know ahead of time, so that we can schedule you with a guide who wades. There is no wading while fishing Snook and Tarpon. If fishing for Bonefish & Permit, about 20% of our flats are wadable. Please note, that the wadable flats are usually the first to blow out in windy conditions.

Trip Feedback: We do not always get in touch with you after a trip, this is not because we do not care about your thoughts on what could make your trip better, this is because we are giving the guest at the Lodge the same personalized attention that you received. Please contact us with feedback where we can make the Lodge better or if you just enjoyed your trip. We really do enjoy hearing from you.

Below are frequently asked questions . . .

1. *Who gets to fish when etc?*

There are usually two anglers to a boat and people rotate fishing. Fishing from the skiff is one person at a time, rotation can be by caught fish, casts to fish or time. Typically if you are fishing for bonefish, permit, tarpon, snook, one person gets to fish to the group until he either catches one or spooks them and then the next person gets the next group. The guides try to make sure that both people in their skiff fish equal time throughout the day. Wading from the Lodge is minimal due to marl flats; however, if you are on a wadable bonefish or permit flat, people can get out and fish.

2. *Where do we fish?*

Central Belize saltwater fly fishing and spin fishing is mainly on the Flats about 14 miles around Belize City. 90% of the time, anglers are sight-casting the Flats and channels for Tarpon, Bonefish, Snook and Permit. Fishing from the Lodge also offers the option of fishing the rivers and inland lagoons, mainly for Tarpon and Snook with option of other local river fish, such as Tuba and Bay-snook.

Fishing from the Long Caye Outpost Lodge will allow you to fish many of the same areas fished from BRL's main lodge. However, you will be closer to many of the fishing grounds located around Long Caye, enabling you to fish earlier and later. You and your crew (guides and cook) decide your fishing day. BRL guides fish about 8 to 10 hours a day. If you leave after breakfast, fishing is the entire day, returning about 5:30 pm'ish. If you would like to fish early, before breakfast, and later into the evening, please plan for a rest break during the day.

Trip Planning Checklist

Below is an itemized list to help prepare for your trip to Belize River Lodge. It is a very good general list and should help with packing; however, please note, that depending on your schedule, all items may not be needed. Also, before traveling, you should check for any changes in flight restrictions. The following are a few websites to read before traveling.

Transportation Security Administration: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>

AirSafe.com: <http://www.airsafe.com/danger.htm>

The Travel Insider: <http://www.thetravelinsider.info/travelaccessories/airlinecheckedluggageallowances.htm>

PERSONAL ITEMS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Itinerary & Phone Contacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Toiletries or Cosmetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airline Tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport (Copies of first two pages) | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Insurance (see Info to Note) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen (30 SPF or higher) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wallet with credit cards, cash, checkbook & pen | <input type="checkbox"/> Lip Balm (SPF 30 or higher) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photocopy of credit cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Aloe/After sun lotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wristwatch | <input type="checkbox"/> Cortaid for Bites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Glasses/Contacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent (DEET/ Avon's Skin So Soft) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook/Reading Material | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Kit | _____ |

FISHING GEAR

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rods & Reels (see fishing recommendations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Forceps or Hemostats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Fly lines (see fishing recommendations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail Knot tool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Spools (see fishing recommendations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Line Cleaner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaders & Shock Tippets (see fishing recommendations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Reel Oil/Reel Lube |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flies & Lures (see fishing recommendations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight (small) and extra batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Bag (waterproof) | <input type="checkbox"/> "Nu-Skin" or similar for Leader cuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight & Extra Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Shoes/Socks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polarized Glasses –Amber | <input type="checkbox"/> Flats Wading Boots (primarily for Live-Aboard Trips) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglass straps/Crookies | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife or Leatherman Tool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lens Cloth | <input type="checkbox"/> Zip Lock Baggies (Large & Small) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hemostats or Pliers on Lanyard or belt | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nippers | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hook File | _____ |

CLOTHING

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wide Brimmed Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light Weight Shirts (Short & Long Sleeved) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light Weight Pants & Shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Wind Breaker or sweatshirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana | <input type="checkbox"/> Belt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes/Sneakers | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | _____ |

PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Memory cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Lense Cleaner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Film & Tapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof Case |

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Travel Alarm Clock
- Tarpon Stretcher Case
- Small boat towel
- Emergency Gear Repair kit
- Boga Grips
- Water bottle

- Power bars or Snack food
- Binoculars
- Travel Guide Book
- Cash in small denominations for miscellaneous purchases and airport porter services
- _____

SNORKEL GEAR

- Snorkel
- Fins
- Fin booties
- Mask