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Belize implements travel restrictions and enhanced screening at ports of entry to protect country from Ebola

The Government of Belize is closely monitoring the spread of the Ebola virus, globally and is taking preventative action at home. There are currently no known cases of Ebola in Belize and the overall risk of Ebola to Belize remains low.

Travel Restrictions

Out of an overabundance of caution, The Government of Belize has approved, with immediate effect, a Temporary Visa and Travel Ban on persons who have been in West African countries including Nigeria, Guinea, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone, during the last 30 days.

The Director of Immigration and Nationality Services informs that every Belizean national and holder of permanent residence traveling into Belize who has visited these countries will be allowed entry, but will need to be quarantined as per Ministry of Health protocols, in accordance with International Health Regulations. This will offer an additional level of protection to Belize.

Travellers arriving by sea, including cruise ship passengers, will be thoroughly screened by Immigration Officials. Shipping agencies and airline carriers are advised not to board passengers with the exception of Belizean nationals or holders of permanent residence who have been in countries in the aforementioned region as they will be refused entry into Belize.

For residents and citizens of Belize, the Government advises against all but essential travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

These travel restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.

Screening at Ports of Entry

Screening measures have been put in place at Belize's International airport and other border points. These measures include assessing, via a health entry form, passengers' recent travel history, who they have been in contact with and where they are going next. There will also be a possible medical assessment on a needs basis. Medical assessments will be carried out by trained medical staff rather than Immigration staff. Passengers will also be advised on what to do should they develop symptoms later.

The Belize Tourism Board will continue to work with our Government officials and local health authorities to protect Belize from the Ebola virus, and protect the safety and wellbeing of all visitors and citizens of the country. It will continue to closely monitor the situation, and will keep all travellers informed of any new developments.

For more information on the newly implemented safety regulations to enter Belize, please call the Belize Tourism Board or email at partners.

About the Belize Tourism Board

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Civil Aviation and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation. The BTB works in conjunction with members of the private sector - including the Belize Hotel Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize National Tour Operators Association – and is dedicated to building tourism in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner. As a part of its responsibilities, the BTB promotes Belize as a premier tourism destination to both in-country and international consumers. Among its outreach to the international travel market, the BTB markets the country's unique attractions to travellers, members of the travel trade industry and media outlets in key markets. The BTB is also dedicated to developing and implementing tourism programs that will help strengthen and grow the Belizean tourism industry; promote good destination stewardship; and instil high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit www.travelbelize.org.

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