

Tracking Sharks and Rays in Florida

Expedition Packing List

REQUIRED COVID-19 SAFETY ITEMS

The following items are required to be prepared in the event you or another person on site displays symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19:

- Multiple face masks—enough for the duration of the project (N95, FFP2, or equivalent are recommended)
- **IMPORTANT:** Multiple (3–4) COVID-19 antigen (rapid) tests
- Personal thermometer
- Hand sanitizer
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (if required by your destination country)
- Enough personal medications or other necessities to cover possible time in quarantine beyond your planned travel days.

GENERAL

- Expedition Logistics Document
- Your travel plans, rendezvous details, and Earthwatch's emergency contact information
- Photocopies of your passport, flight itinerary, and credit cards in case the originals are lost or stolen; the copies should be packed separately from the original documents.
- Passport and/or visa (*if necessary*)
- Certification of vaccination (*if necessary*)
- Documentation for travel by minors (*if necessary*)

CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR FOR FIELDWORK

- Closed-toed boat shoes.
- Bathing suits
- Quick-drying, lightweight shorts (two or three pairs)
- (1–2 pair) Loose-fitting, quick-drying, comfortable pants—those with zip-off legs work well and can double as shorts.
- (2–4) Quick-drying, lightweight shirts
- (1–2) Lightweight, long-sleeved, quick-drying shirts to prevent sunburn.
- Rain gear (*especially for teams in June and July—non-waterproof nylon jackets will get soaked through*)
- Hat with a wide brim (a chin strap is recommended for the boat)
- Thin socks for mosquito protection
- Neck gaiter or light scarf for sun protection
- Warm jacket and clothes for **December teams**

CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR FOR LEISURE

- At least one set of clothing to keep clean for the end of the expedition.
- Flip flops

FIELD SUPPLIES

- A small daypack to keep your personal items together and dry (dry bags are recommended if you are bringing towels or cell phones on the boat)

- Hard case to protect sunglasses or prescription glasses on the boat.
- Alarm clock or watch.
- Headlamp or flashlight or torch with extra batteries and extra bulb
- Sunscreen lotion SPF 30+ (we recommend biodegradable or reef/fish-friendly products like those from [Stream2Sea](#). Get 10% off with promo code 'Earthwatch')
- Lip balm with SPF.
- Two one-liter water bottles
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent (ideally fragrance-free or with a mild perfume); repellents with permethrin are most effective against ticks.

BEDDING AND BATHING

Note: Bedding, a pillow, and a bath towel will be provided.

- Beach towel
- Shower sandals.

PERSONAL SUPPLIES

- Personal toiletries (we recommend biodegradable or reef/fish-friendly products like those from [Stream2Sea](#). Get 10% off with promo code 'Earthwatch')
- Antibacterial wipes or lotion (good for cleaning hands while in the field)
- Personal first aid kit (e.g., anti-diarrhea pills, antibiotics, antiseptic, itch-relief, allergy meds, pain reliever, bandages, blister covers, etc.) and medications.
- Spending money

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Snorkel gear: mask, snorkel, and long fins, plus extra mask and fin straps. Snorkeling is optional; please bring gear if you plan to snorkel. (Highly recommended—lots of volunteers have regretted not bringing these)
- Extra sunglasses and hat (highly recommended)
- Seasickness medications (Dramamine, Bonine, etc.) if there is ANY chance you will get sick.
- Thin (one to three millimeter) wetsuit if you are prone to getting cold in the water; at minimum, we recommend bringing a rash guard for sun protection during snorkeling.
- Comfortable shoes to change into after conducting fieldwork.
- Granola bars, energy bars, or other snacks (particularly to supplement meals if you are a vegetarian or have any other special dietary requirements)
- Binoculars
- Pack-towel or sarong.
- Camera, film or memory card(s), extra camera battery
- Hardware for sharing digital photographs at the end of the expedition.
- Dry bag or plastic sealable bags (e.g., Ziploc) to protect equipment like cameras from dust, humidity, and water.
- Books, games, art supplies, etc., for free time
- Earplugs for light sleepers

Note: *Bring only what you can carry and handle on your own.* If traveling by air and checking your luggage, we advise you to pack an extra set of field clothing and personal essentials in your carry-on bag in case your luggage is lost or delayed.