

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Punta Gorda

Toledo, Belize



Ya'axché Conservation Trust receives Gold Standard Certification in response to COVID-19.

We are pleased to announce that EcoTourism Belize is now officially Gold Standard Certified. EcoTourism Belize is Ya'axché's ecotour operator, a component of Ya'axché Institute for Conservation Education (YICE) sustainable financing initiative. The Gold Standard Certification allows EcoTourism Belize to resume its tour operations with enhanced health and safety measures for the safety of all visitors. EcoTourism Belize offers local and international visitors with sustainable tours, transportation and accommodations services.

Upon arrival and departure at Golden Stream Corridor Preserve Field Center, visitors and staff are required to stop by the body temperature booth where the Golden Standard Program Manager will measure the body temperature with a non-contact infrared thermometer. It is required for everyone to properly wear a face mask, practice social distancing and sanitize regularly. Proper signage is in place at every facility along with sanitation stations for hand washing and disinfecting. All of these mandatory COVID-19 measures are in place to enhance social interactions, operating procedures and workplace policies.

As a community oriented NGO, Ya'axché has made a priority to improve its tour operations with enhanced safety measures while minimizing impact on visitor's experience. Ya'axché is also committed to provide a safe workplace by implementing its response plan for COVID-19 among employees and communities in the Maya Golden Landscape.

Ya'axché focuses on bringing harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both; protecting wild places and empowering communities in southern Belize.

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