

Neches River Adventures - IVORY BILL

COVID-19 Boat Protocols

Public Tours & Private Charters as of 08/15/2020

Health and Safety

The Big Thicket Association and the Neches River Adventures program has always had the safety of our passengers and crew as our top priority. In addition to the Ivory Bill's strict U.S. Coast Guard inspections, and Captain & Crew certifications, we are taking extra precautions during the current global pandemic. We are committed to following the recommendations from state and local health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Safety Protocols

1. Passenger capacity has been reduced to 18 passengers (50% capacity). This will allow more space between individuals. We have designated seating for the passengers. See photo attached.
2. Passengers and crew members are required to wear mask or face shields during all tours from check in to check out. BTA can provide masks, if someone does not have one. The following people are exempt from the rule: Children 10 years or younger and any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.
3. Passenger temperatures will be taken with a forehead scanner before boarding the vessel. Temperature readings of over 100.4 will not be allowed to board the vessel.
4. Hand sanitizer is available on the vessel. A pump bottle will be placed in an easily accessible location such as on top of the life jacket storage bin.
5. Our crew members will be checked before each trip to ensure that they are healthy and symptom-free. Any crew with symptoms or who has been knowingly exposed to COVID-19 will not participate in boat activities.
6. The Ivory Bill will be cleaned by the crew before and after each cruise. All railings, seats, other surfaces and head will be cleaned with a disinfectant/ sanitizer solution. (We use a non-bleach or non-alcohol disinfectant such as Oxiclean or Odoban. These products are safe for fabrics and will not harm the vinyl seats or paint.)
7. Passengers are required to sign a waiver which will include a COVID-19 statement. One waiver sheet is given to each registered group on a trip. All members of each group will sign the form.
8. A statement has been included on the BTA website's preregistration form about COVID safety. If a passenger or anyone in a group has been knowingly exposed or is experiencing symptoms on the day of the trip, we will work with them to cancel or reschedule their group.

Note: The Ivory Bill is certified as a Drug Free Vessel. The vessel and crew are members of the Maritime Consortium, a random drug & alcohol testing program that insures a 100% compliance with all Coast Guard testing requirements for the marine industry.