

“Just a few thoughts about what to expect, what to bring, etc.

Above all else, our boat trip will be dependent upon the weather. We have weather radar on our laptop through XM radio in addition to NOAA radio, so we'll usually have a pretty good idea about the weather each day. We will not travel on stormy days – so be flexible and bring a good book to read.

We'll do the best we can to be at your pickup place on schedule – but please understand that it may not happen. You may have to wait for us or make alternative travel plans. Most places have taxi service or car rentals. Also, some marinas will pick up or deliver guests from local airports. As your time with us approaches, we'll be in touch by e-mail or phone so you will be able to make travel arrangements. Please don't make air reservations that can't be changed or cancelled.

On travel days, we will plan to go anywhere from 40 to 70 miles, which will put us at our destination early enough to explore the area or sit and relax. We will be staying in marinas most of the time, which have power hookups and water. Sometimes we will be “on the hook” or tied to a wall somewhere (especially in Canadian national parks) that will require the use of our generator for any power that may be needed and water use may be limited.

We usually eat dinner out when we can. We think that is an important part of the experience and are looking forward to many interesting local specialties. We almost always eat breakfast and lunch on the boat and have the ability to carry food for at least a week or two. We have a small refrigerator and freezer – plus an ice chest. We mostly drink wine, lemonade, tea, coffee or water. We try to carry a small selection of soft drinks and beer. If you want anything specific other than the above, we suggest you bring it or let us know in advance. Many marinas have loaner cars, which can be used to go out to eat or to get provisions. Please let us know if you have any particular dietary restrictions.

We will be writing a BLOG on days when we have internet service so you'll be able to keep up with our progress and view our pictures. Many marinas have wireless internet. We'll have our laptop and a small printer on board. Feel free to bring your laptop or other electronic equipment. Just be sure whatever you bring is easy to stow. We have a TV, VCR, CD player and stereo. Some marinas will have cable hookups but we don't watch a lot of television when we are on the boat – there are just too many other interesting things to do.

WHAT TO BRING - - - most importantly, pack light. There is not a lot of storage room. *We have a washer/dryer that is not terribly efficient but can be used in a pinch.*

- Passports – if you will be in Canadian waters
- Casual clothing - maybe one outfit other than jeans or shorts
- Warm jacket or sweat shirt and windbreaker
- Rain gear if you have it – if not, don't buy – we have extra on board
- Hat, sun block & sun glasses
- Swimsuit – if you like to sun or swim
- Clean non-skid shoes for on the deck – white soles or deck shoes preferred
- Soft soled shoes (or no shoes) inside the boat
- Walking shoes – we plan to hike when we can or walk to villages, restaurants, etc.
- Camera and/or field glasses
- Reading materials
- Medicines

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Hard sided luggage -- we have no place to store it – please use a duffel bag or other soft sided bags that can be folded up
- Hard soled shoes
- Please minimize makeup and “fixed” hairdos -- the wind and sun play havoc!!
- We have a hairdryer on board if you need one

SAFETY:

Remember to keep your personal items stowed. The boat may be motion even when tied up at a dock. Be sure to hang on when walking around, especially on the deck. Don't be insulted if we yell at you to sit down or hang on. We are not being rude – we just don't want you to be injured if we see an approaching problem.

Fire extinguishers are located on the deck under the steering wheel and behind the doors in the guest staterooms. (They are there because the engines are under the beds. You probably won't want to sleep while we are under way!)

Life jackets are located in the locker on the back deck next to the ice chest and in the locker on the outside of the drive station. Life jackets must be worn when going through locks in the US – at least on Core of Engineers waterways. That may not be the case in

Canada. We'll be going through a couple of hundred locks on the trip. Hopefully, your visit will include one or more, as it is an interesting experience.

Emergency calling instructions are posted beside the radio by the drive station. Please read this over upon boarding so that you will have some familiarity in case of an emergency.

First Aid kits are located in the pocket beside the drive station and in our stateroom cabinet. We have a pretty good supply of emergency meds etc. but be sure to bring what you think you might need.

HEAD:

Flush or fill with water by pushing the toggle switches on the side of the sink cabinet.

Keep the lid closed to prevent anything falling into the head.

DO NOT put anything other than the provided toilet tissue into the head. It is a special paper that disintegrates. Other materials stop up the delphininger, which causes the yako-toto to implode, which causes a big toto mess. (Just kidding) but this is all very costly to repair.

Remember that water will be limited, we only have what we can carry – so short showers are necessary. Most marinas have public showers. Don't run the water while brushing your teeth, etc.

HOW TO HELP:

Please do not try to help with the boat operation unless we ask you to. Often, we need to make fast decisions and move quickly and will probably prefer that you not be in the way. Remember that if we speak loudly and with intensity, we are not being rude or angry. Shouting means fast action is required.

We LOVE help with the housework (or should I say boatwork). Help with food preparation and clean-up is always appreciated. The boat will need to be hosed off at least once a day while we are in salt water and several times a week in fresh water. General boat cleanup is a daily task.

ENJOY – most of all, enjoy!

We are so very glad that so many of our friends and family are interested in joining us for parts of the trip and think that these visits will be trip highlights. Robert has dreamed about this trip since he got his first boat at age 10. I came to it a lot later, kicking and screaming. We (including me, believe it or not) think this will be the trip of a lifetime and are looking forward to each and every day. Please come to us with a spirit of adventure; prepare for new activities, new foods, new faces and exciting new places. And most of all - - relax and enjoy!"

~~~ taken from Ann Levine's guest communication