



PRETRIPPLANNER
TRAVEL, LODGING, TACKLE & MORE
OUTFITTINGGUIDE
ALPHONSE ISLAND RESORT

SEYCHELLES



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TRAVEL & LODGING INFORMATION



Airfare & Hotel Reservations

IMPORTANT NOTE: A U.S. Passport valid for at least sixty days beyond your day of departure is required for entry into the country of Seychelles. **NO VISA IS REQUIRED FOR U.A.E. OR SEYCHELLES**

Booking Airfare to Mahe Island, Seychelles (Airport Code: SEZ)

Now is also the time to secure your commercial airline reservations to/from Victoria, Seychelles. You will need to make these arrangements on your own, however of course feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns about your specific itinerary before you make any purchases.

Remember, you must plan on both arriving and departing Alphonse Island on a Saturday. There are two options for making the journey to Alphonse as follows:

- 1) **Dubai, UAB Option:** Most guests choose to travel leisurely to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (DXB) the Thursday preceding the Saturday arrival at the lodge. This itinerary involves a connecting flight in Houston (IAH) or New York (JFK) with Emirates Airlines followed by an overnight in Dubai on Friday night en route. This is the most economical and convenient option.
The enclosed sample itinerary (following page) outlines the Houston/Dubai itinerary in detail.
- 2) **European Options:** Guests are welcome to travel to Seychelles via Western Europe. Air Seychelles operates direct flights from both London, Heathrow as well as Paris, France. Condor Airlines also operates daily flights originating in Frankfurt, Germany. These are a great options for anglers wanting to spend additional time in Europe, however is not recommended for travelers wanting the most expeditious, affordable, and code-share friendly routing. If the European routing is of interest to you inquire for details.

Arrival and Departure Schedules

When booking your commercial flights to/from Seychelles is that there is a schedule that you must adhere to:

On arrival day, guests are instructed to arrive in Mahe on Saturday no later than mid-morning in order to make your connecting charter flight to the island.

Inversely, guests must plan for a scheduled departure the following Saturday from Mahe no earlier than 9:00PM in order to allow for timely charter connection from Alphonse.

Note About Booking Airfare with Emirates Airlines:

Emirates is a very sophisticated carrier with an beautiful fleet of updated and comfortable Boeing 777 and Airbus 340 jets. Their fares are extremely economical for cash buyers, and Emirates code-shares with Continental Airlines. American Express members can redeem award travel points as well.

Emirates Airlines: (800) 777-3999

www.emirates.com

Before you book your commercial airfare

Before you solidify any non-refundable commercial airline reservations, please verify with us that your perspective flight schedule is suitable for your specific itinerary and connections onward to the island and back home. Once you have made your airlines reservations, we will need a copy of your itinerary in order to coordinate your customs assistance and connecting charter flight to the island.

Hotel Accommodations in Dubai (En Route)

Travelers on Emirates with layovers of twelve or more hours in Dubai are given complimentary hotel accommodations at the four-star Millennium Hotel. **You will need this hotel room on the Friday night preceding your Saturday morning flight to Seychelles.** The hotel is located within five minutes shuttle of the main terminal and also offers free dinner. When you book your airfare with Emirates, make sure to inquire about these services if they are not volunteered to you.

Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai

Al Garhoud Road PO Box 13018 Dubai, UAE

Tel: 971 4 702-8888 Fax: 971 4 282-0627

www.millenniumhotels.com/ae/millenniumdubai

Hotel Accommodations on Mahe (On Return)

On the Saturday of departure from Alphonse, guests are chartered back to Mahe and arrive early afternoon. As most connecting commercial flights do not depart until late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, we recommend allowing us to make “day-room” hotel accommodations for you at an inexpensive and convenient hotel close to the airport. A day-room will give you a place to set your luggage, clean up and enjoy a civilized dinner before heading back to the airport for your flight onward.

Sample Itinerary

THURSDAY

Travel to Houston, Texas (IAH) with Continental Airlines. *(Exact Flight Itinerary TBD)*

Note: Travelers originating in Dallas can travel from Love Field instead of DFW with Continental Airlines.

Arrive Houston (IAH) on mid-morning flight from home city

Depart Houston on Emirates Airlines Flight #212 @ approximately 6:30PM

FRIDAY

Arrive Dubai, UAE (DXB) @ approximately 7:00PM

Upon arrival in Dubai, and after clearing customs and immigration, travelers take the hotel shuttle from the main terminal to the Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai where complimentary accommodations and dinner are provided by Emirates Airlines.





SATURDAY

Take the Hotel shuttle to the airport two and one half (2.5) hours prior to your departure for Seychelles.

Depart Dubai, UAE (DXB) on Emirates Airlines Flight #707 @ approximately 8:30AM
Arrive Victoria, Mahe Island, Seychelles (SEZ) @ approximately 1:00PM

You will receive a Seychellois Tourist Card and customs declaration form on board the international flight to Mahe Island, Seychelles from Dubai. ***Please hold onto this paperwork.*** It will be stamped upon your arrival into the country along with your passport, and you will have to present it to Seychellois immigrations official upon your departure from the country.

Upon arrival into Mahe, you will be met by a representative of our transfer service, Mason Travel, who will provide VIP customs clearance and will escort you to the domestic terminal (3 minute walk) to connect on board the charter flight to Alphonse Island.

The charter flight is typically scheduled to depart at **2:30PM** and flight time is approximately one hour. There is an outdoor restaurant and bar in the airport for travelers to relax in while waiting to check in for the charter flight. The charter flight will be either a Beechcraft 1900 or Cessna F06.

Upon arrival on Alphonse Island, you will be greeted by a representative from the Alphonse Island Resort who will assist you with baggage handling and transfer you via golf cart to the Alphonse Island Resort to check in. Once you are settled into your chalet, lunch will be served in the Le Lys Restaurant.

Around 5:00PM, all anglers are asked to converge at the Alphonse Island fishing office for a brief orientation on the week's fishing program as well as meet the guides and staff. At 4:45PM, anglers are instructed to place their gear outside on the balcony and the staff will take it down to the Fishing Center if you would like any assistance with rigging your equipment and asking questions. Dinner is served in the Le Lys Restaurant typically around 7:30PM. Overnight at the Alphonse Island Resort.

SUNDAY - FRIDAY

Six full days of guided fishing in the St. Francois Lagoon!

Guests typically awake around 5:30AM for breakfast starting at 6:00AM. After breakfast anglers have time to gather their gear head down to the fishing office and meet the group and head to St. Francois aboard the mothership cruise vessel Tam Tam. Two bicycles are provided per chalet for guests to ride (3 minutes) to the Fishing Center. Departure for the flats is at 7:00AM sharp. Don't be late!

Anglers will board the mothership and be ferried to the St. Francois Lagoon, a forty-minute boat ride in normal conditions. After entering the lagoon, anglers are loaded onto the skiffs and head to the flats for the fishing day. Anglers are usually casting to fish by 8:00AM. Lunch is provided by the resort, and anglers order lunch for the following day from the menu selections found at the fishing office. The fishing day is approximately eight hours long, and guides are instructed to return to the mothership at 4:00PM. For safety reasons, all boats from the resort must be back in the mooring area at Alphonse no later than 5:00PM.

Guides will be rotated with different fishermen throughout the week. Each guide seems to specialize in different areas. Switching guides allows anglers to see as many different fishing grounds as possible and exposes anglers to the different personalities offered by the unique international guide staff.

SATURDAY

After breakfast, you will be instructed to once again head down to the fishing office to settle up for any purchases made from the fly shop as well as to distribute gratuities accordingly. Gratuities should be given directly to fishing manager for distribution amongst the guide staff.

Luggage should be left outside your room on the balcony for pick up and transfer to the airstrip. You should settle any outstanding bar or miscellaneous charges to the hotel at the main reception area prior to 2:00PM on departure day. The resort accepts all major credit cards or payment in US dollars or Euros; and NO personal checks. Note there is a 3.5% surcharge for using a credit card for extra expenses.

Guests will meet in the main reception area at the predetermined time and depart for the airstrip. The charter flight is typically scheduled to depart Alphonse for Mahe mid-afternoon.

NOTE: *A letter detailing checkout procedures and exact departure times will be left in your room by resort management on Friday evening prior to departure.*

Upon arrival in Mahe, anglers take a private taxi to a nearby hotel where we have arranged day-rooms on your behalf. Relax, grab dinner, and kill some time before heading back to the airport for your commercial flight. **You will be asked to pay for your rooms when checking out that evening.**

We advise you to return via private taxi to the airport in Victoria approximately two and one half (2.5) hours prior to your schedule departure. Upon arrival at the airport, make sure you are in the proper line and go through normal check-in procedures for your flight back to Dubai.

SATURDAY NIGHT / SUNDAY (EARLY AM)

Depart Seychelles (SEZ) on Emirates Airlines Flight #708 @ approximately 1:30AM
Arrive Dubai (DXB) @ approximately 6:00AM

Depart Dubai (DXB) on Emirates Airlines Flight #211 @ 9:00AM
Arrive Houston (IAH) @ approximately 4:30PM

(Onward connection to Home City)

General Information About Seychelles

Entry Requirements, Currency Time Zone, Taxes, Etc.



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A US Passport valid beyond six months beyond your departure from the country is required for entry to the Seychelles. No Visas are required for American citizens when entering Seychelles or United Arab Emirates.

TOURIST CARD

This document is essential and will be issued by the air carrier flying you to Seychelles along with your customs and immigration declaration. DO NOT LOSE THIS DOCUMENT. You will be asked to present it upon departure.

DEPARTURE TAXES

Please be prepared to pay various departure taxes when checking in for your flight home. These taxes may be paid in U.S. Dollars. The tax rate is always changing, however be prepared for roughly \$40 in departure taxes when you check in for your flight off of Mahe Island. These taxes are often included in the price of your commercial airline fare.

WEATHER & CLIMATE

The Seychelles weather is typically hot and somewhat humid. During midday, temperatures however near 90 degrees F but there is usually a breeze to keep things comfortable on the flats. Evenings are also invariably warm with the exception of the first few weeks of the season, where there may be a cooling breeze. The climate is tropical and rain can occur during any month.

CURRENCY

The local currency is known as the Rupee and the current exchange rate is approximately 12.5 Seychellois Rupees to 1 U.S. dollar (10/01/11). American dollars are more widely accepted in the Seychelles than the Rupee and we strongly suggest that you do not exchange any of your U.S. dollars into local currency. The resort accepts U.S. dollars, Euros, and all major credit cards. The resort does not accept rupees.

TIME ZONE

GMT + 4: 12 Noon Central Time Zone= 10:00PM in Seychelles

INOCULATIONS & HEALTH

No inoculations are currently required or suggested for guests visiting the Seychelles. However, if you are planning on extending your trip to any part of Africa we strongly suggest you consult with your doctor about any inoculations required or check with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for their recommendations on health precautions when traveling anywhere outside the United States. Toll Free: (800) 232-4636 or www.cdc.gov

Note that all passengers arriving from Africa are required to show proof of a yellow fever vaccination record. There is a full time qualified doctor based on the island. Guides carry a two-way radio with them at all times for communicating with each other in the fishery, and the mothership is equipped with a satellite phone and a comprehensive first aid kit. Skiffs are equipped with first aid kits, flares, and flotation devices.

General Information and Resort Policy

GRATUITIES

Tipping is a personal decision based on good service and is completely at your discretion. The following recommendations are simply for your understanding of what the expected tip is for a satisfied guest. Feel free to tip a bit more if you are very impressed with a particular guide. Many clients will happily offer a larger gratuity to guides who help them catch a special trophy fish or work hard through difficult conditions. All tips should be given in cash.

Guide Gratuities:

Following breakfast on departure day you will be asked to head down to the AIFC office to settle up for extra expenses at the fly shop distribute gratuities. We recommend around approximately \$50 - \$75 per person / day for your guides given at the end of the week to the fishing manager. This gratuity is preferred in U.S. Dollars and is divided equally amongst the guides and behind the scenes staff.

Resort Staff Gratuities:

All bar and restaurant bills at the resort include a service charge, however some guests add a nominal gratuity to their bill if desired. The staff gratuity is payable at checkout if you are inclined.

Airport and Ground Transfer Gratuities:

We recommend a modest gratuity for your ground transfer personnel as well as baggage porters at the airport(s).

EXTRA EXPENSES & CHECKOUT FROM THE RESORT

All extra expenses including bar tab, telephone charges, \$35 conservation levy (cash only), laundry service, and gift shop purchases, and any other extra expenses not yet mentioned at the resort can be placed on your room tab and paid for when checking out. The resort accepts all major credit cards, travelers' checks, American dollars, and Euros. Personal Checks are not accepted. *Cash required for \$35 conservation levy.*

EXPENSES FROM THE FLY SHOP

Any purchases made at the Alphonse Island Fishing Company Fly Shop will be placed on a separate tab from your room charges. You will be asked to settle up for these expenses on the morning prior to departure from the island. This is also the best time to distribute gratuities

LIQUOR & BAR TAB

All alcoholic beverages are not included in your trip package cost. The bar and restaurant have a full selection of top shelf liquors and beer, and an extensive wine cellar. Guests are welcome to bring their own wine to the dinner table, however know that the resort charges a "cork fee" for doing so.

BAGGAGE ON CHARTER FLIGHTS:

Luggage from Mahe to Alphonse Island is limited to fifteen kilos (33 pounds) per person and nominal (unspecified and varying) overweight charges may be levied. We strongly encourage packing in soft-sided luggage for the charter flight to ensure that all passengers' gear will fit on board. If an overhead department exists, it will be very small. Sometimes you will be asked to check even small handbags with cameras and other fragile items. When packing, take note of this fact and be prepared to have all baggage placed in the baggage compartment of these smaller aircraft.

WATER

There is a desalinization plant on Alphonse Island, and the water from the faucets is completely safe to drink. Guests are provided with a water bottle to be refilled at numerous locations around the island.

BOATS

Boats used by the resort are 16 foot, Dolphin and Maverick flats skiffs that will accommodate two anglers and a guide. Each is constructed with a forward casting deck, tandem passenger seats, rod racks, and a poling platform. Before you board the skiffs each day, you should be sure to have reel covers on your reels. While running, the reels often bounce and can be damaged.

BOAT REFRESHMENTS

Every morning your boat's cooler will be well stocked with complimentary beverages including soft drinks. All extra soft drinks and beers are placed in your cooler upon request and are put on your room tab payable at checkout. Be sure to ask fishing manager if you would like more or less of a specific beverage. Feel free to offer your guides a beverage from the cooler!

DRESS ATTIRE AT THE RESORT

The atmosphere is very laid back at Alphonse Island. You're on vacation! Please feel free to wear whatever is comfortable during the stay. We suggest dressing casual but smart during dinner as the restaurant has a moderately upscale atmosphere. Shorts, sandals, and a casual collared shirt are fine for the dinner meals.

BARBLESS HOOKS & FLY FISHING ONLY

NO spin casting is allowed on Alphonse or the St. Francois Lagoon. All fishing is done fly-fishing with barbless hooks. Take a quality pair of saltwater pliers to aid in hook removal if your guide is not immediately at hand to assist you in properly releasing fish.

MAID & LAUNDRY SERVICE

Daily maid service is provided at the Alphonse Island Resort. Laundry service can be provided upon request, however you will be asked to pay a nominal fee for these services.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT & AIR CONDITIONING

The Seychelles operates electrical current at 240 volts, 50 cycles AC. All American appliances work at the resort but do require converters and European style adapters. The staff will provide this for you if necessary, however note that the chalets are equipped with several 120 outlets as well as a hair dryer. All rooms are equipped with air conditioning.

TACKLE & EQUIPMENT

There are backup rods and reels available on the island in case of breakage as well as a small fly shop that has many local patterns available if you need extra flies or a fly line. Although this service is provided for you, please plan on bringing your own equipment, flies, leaders, rods, reels, etc. However, **guests should bring ALL their own fishing equipment and flies.** Don't plan on borrowing any equipment once you arrive!

THE GUIDES

The guides are all professionals and have a comprehensive knowledge of the areas in which they operate, having worked there for several seasons. They are a mixture of Seychellois, South African, and American in nationality and each offer their own style, sense of humor, and technique making each fishing day unique.

SECURITY ON ALPHONSE

Seychelles is a friendly and peaceful country that is well policed. There is very little crime of any kind. While on Alphonse Island, some guests feel inclined to lock their personal belongings such as money, credit cards, and passports in the chalet's safe. While on Mahe, it is advisable to lock car and hotel doors.

WADING BOOTS & OTHER FOOTWEAR

Because 90% of the fishing in St. Francois is done wading, quality saltwater wading shoes are mandatory. Flats vary from white sand, to jagged coral, to sharp shells. Although the majority of the wading is done on powdery sand, please do not try to cut corners with second-rate wading shoes. There is nothing worse than uncomfortable feet on an extended fishing trip. Flip-flops or sandals are ideal for around the resort and on the Tam Tam, however you may want to consider bringing some tennis shoes for exploring other parts of the island.

NON-ANGLING ACTIVITIES

During the current construction phase on the island, fishing is the predominant activity at the Alphonse Island Resort. However, there are a myriad of slow paced alternate activities for guests to choose from when not on the flats. A huge and beautiful freshwater swimming pool with wait service and furniture sits in the heart of the complex.

The resort has a lighted tennis court as well as several saltwater canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, and windsurfing rigs for those interested in a little exercise. There is an English style billiards table and a very spacious and equipped conference room/facility for business meetings. The island itself is completely uninhabited excluding the resort with several miles of well-manicured trails through the tropical jungle that are great for a jog or bike ride. On the opposite side of the island there are some remote beaches that are great for a private stroll or a little snorkeling.

ITEMS PROVIDED BY THE RESORT

The Alphonse Island Resort does provide many necessities free of charge that might influence how you pack. In an effort to pack as light as possible, please know that the resort provides the following...

- Beach Towels - provided in room
- Face cloths, soap, shampoo and lotion - provided in your room
- Alarm Clock - part of a telephone alarm system

Communication & Contact Information

CONTACTING HOME / GUESTS

Guests are welcome to contact the United States. Each chalet has phone service provided by a satellite system. Rates vary, but generally a call to the United States is roughly \$3 per minute. In the case of emergency, we have provided you with contact numbers your family or business may use to reach you.

The resort also has a computer located in the reception area that is equipped with internet access for guest usage. However, know that the connection is satellite based and extremely slow. It works well for briefly checking email, but is painfully slow!

CELL PHONES

Depending on your cellular provider and plan, cell phones typically do work on Mahe Island. Cell phone do NOT work on Alphonse Island.

Emergency Contact

Alphonse Island Resort - Seychelles

Alphonse Island Resort:

Resort Main Phone: {011} 248-229-030

Resort Fax: {011} 248-229-034

Alphonse Island Resort Manager:

Sharon Theron: alphonseinfo@gmail.com

Alphonse Island Fishing Company Manager:

Devon v.d. Merwe

Customs Assistance on Mahe Island:

Mason Travel (Victoria, Mahe)

{011} (248) 288-888

Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company

Travel Department Director: David Leake

2416 McKinney Ave

Dallas, TX 75201

Telephone: (888) 824-5420 or (214) 219-2500

Fax: (214) 219-2501

tailwaters@tailwatersflyfishing.com

david@tailwatersflyfishing.com

Quick Notes About Gear & Tackle

Seychelles is an extremely diverse fishery! Invariably, you will need a lot of equipment and flies to fully realize the potential of this incredible destination. Please do not be intimidated and contact us anytime with questions or concerns about what you actually “need” for this trip.

Fly Fishing Only & Barbless Hooks:

The guides on Alphonse Island strictly enforce a fly fishing only, barbless hook and catch & release policy. Don not bring your spinning or casting rods as you will not be allowed to use them.

Notes on Rod & Reel Selection:

There are a number of different ways to prepare your rod, reel and fly line arsenal for Alphonse Island. At a minimum, anglers should be prepared with the following:

7-8 Weight with Floating Line: Bonefish

10 Weight with Floating Line: Permit, Bluefin, Milkfish, Barracuda, Triggerfish, Others

12 Weight with Floating Line: Giant Trevally

The ultimate setup would be to add a nine weight with a floating line. This would allow you more versatility with regards to setting up your terminal tackle (leaders and tippet) - and minimizing the amount of re-rigging necessary. A nine weight could be your triggerfish and permit rod, while the ten weight could be dedicated to milkfish. Although not mandatory, you may consider bringing an additional spool for your 12 weight rigged with a full sinking line such as a 450-500 grain by Scientific Anglers or Rio.

Notes on Gel-Spun Backing for 12 Weight:

You must have 60-80 pound gel-spin backing on your giant trevally reel! More times than not, you encounter giant trevally around razor sharp reef that will slice through normal dacron backing very easily. While gel-spun backing is very expensive, we will give it to you at our cost (upwards of 50 cents a yard). This is perhaps the most important recommendation for anglers serious about landing a large trevally.

Notes on Wading Boots:

Nearly all of the fishing is done wading on Alphonse and St. Francois. You need to have proper wading boots by Simms or Patagonia to protect your feet from injury. Don't bring wading sandals or neoprene booties!

Borrowing Equipment:

Although there are a few backup rods, fly lines, and flies on the island, make sure to bring all of your own gear, tackle, flies, terminal tackle, rain jacket, polarized glasses, wading boots and other necessities.

Alphonse Island does not provide fishing equipment!

Notes on Clothing Around the Island:

Meals and happy hour on Alphonse are very casual. During the construction phase on the island, there are only anglers staying as guest at the resort. Feel free to wear casual fishing clothing and shorts to dinner.

Mandatory Items

- 7-8 weight rod with floating warmwater fly line for bonefish
- Quality Wading Boots
- Polarized Sunglasses
- 9-10 weight rod with floating fly line for permit, triggerfish, milkfish & bluefin trevally
- 11-12 weight rod with floating and sinking line for giant trevally. Gel-Spun Backing Required!
- Hip / Chest Pack
- All Flies & Leader Material
- Hip / Chest Pack
- Rain Jacket

Clothing & Accessories

CLIMATE AND GENERAL CLOTHING

Seychelles is uniformly hot and humid regardless of the season or time of year. When packing, keep in mind that the social atmosphere around the island is very casual. Tomorrow's clean and dry fishing clothing is almost always acceptable at the dinner table. Other than your fishing related clothing, a couple of tee-shirts, and a pair of casual shorts or pants, bring only one set of street clothes for travel days. Pack lightly!

The key to staying comfortable on the flats is to remain cool while protecting yourself from the sun. Lightweight clothing with plenty of ventilation is recommended. Odds are you will continually get wet all day long while wading, running in the boat, or during a rain shower. You want your fishing clothing to shed water and dry quickly.

LUGGAGE

We recommend roller style, soft-sided duffle bags for nearly all our travels. Ideally you have a bag that adheres to airline size restrictions but it still large enough to fit a couple of rod tubes, tackle, boots and other gear. We advise you to communicate with your commercial carrier as well as the TSA regarding any baggage weight restrictions that might be applicable.

We carry many excellent sets of luggage by Patagonia, Simms, William Joseph, Sage and Fishpond. These bags are the ideal size, bulletproof, and are equipped with efficient roller systems. Some models also have separate compartments for storing wet boots and/or waders or even rod tubes. Don't forget to mark your luggage with appropriate personal identification bag tags.

LIGHTWEIGHT SHIRTS

Fishing should be cool and dry quickly, have breathable flaps that allow air to circulate through, and should be easy to pack and maintenance-free. Patagonia and Simms make several different models and styles both in short and long sleeves. If you are bothered by the sun, we recommend the long sleeved versions for maximum skin coverage. Proper fishing shirts also should be equipped with chest pockets for storing small items like tippet material or a cleaning cloth for sunglasses and camera lenses.

SHORTS

Fishing shorts should also be made of a synthetic quick dry material. We suggest shorts with pockets and belt loops for accommodating pliers. Patagonia and Simms make excellent models.

LONG PANTS

Sun protection, rather than warmth, is the primary function of long pants when fishing in the tropics. Patagonia and Simms make great pants and shorts specifically designed for fishing. They will protect you from the sun, are wind resistant, and dry quickly. Some pants have removable pant legs that zip off to become shorts. Most styles of pants are also suitable for wearing at the lodge or on your travel days.

SUNGLOVES / FINGER GUARDS

Sungloves made by Mangrove, Patagonia, BUFF or Simms are great for protecting your hands from the sun. We also recommend finger guards for protecting your fingers if you are not keen to wearing gloves.

ADDITIONAL CLOTHING & SHOES

Tee-shirts, shorts, and lightweight pants will round out your everyday attire. Flip-flops, sandals, or tennis shoes are ideal for wearing around the island. Don't forget your swimsuit!

WADING BOOTS, GRAVEL GUARDS, & GUARD SOCKS

You will need high quality and durable wading shoes or boots for maximum foot and ankle protection. While wading the flats anglers will encounter various types of footing and ground surfaces including sand, rock, coral rubble, sharp shells...not to mention encounters with urchins, crabs, and sting rays. Excellent wading boots are mandatory, so please know not to cut corners with in the flats shoes department! Our favorites are the Simms Flats Sneaker or the Patagonia Marlwalker. They have thick soles, drain quickly, and offer ankle support that tennis shoes and sandals do not. Gravel guards will help keep sand and coral from getting inside your boots. Simms also makes a product called a Guard Sock that simulates the comfortable neoprene boots found with Gore-Tex waders, as well as provides the same protection from debris as traditional gravel guards. Leave the sandals and neoprene booties at home!

RAIN GEAR

A high quality, lightweight rain jacket is another essential piece of equipment while on the flats. Patagonia and Simms both make great lightweight jackets that will keep you dry during tropical rainstorms or while crossing choppy water in the flats boat.

POLARIZED SUNGLASSES

This is your most important piece of equipment for flats fishing. Flats fishing is primarily sight-fishing. Without the ability to see the fish you are stalking, you put yourself at a great disadvantage. Copper and Brown lenses are the best choice for this type of fishing. Yellow lenses are great for mornings, late afternoons, and cloudy conditions. Always bring two pair of polarized sunglasses in case you loose or break a pair. Action Optics and Costa Del Mar make a variety of stylish frames to choose from. We can special order bifocal or trifocal lenses for many of these frames with enough advanced notice. A lanyard or "croakie" is also invaluable in order to keep from dropping or losing your glasses.

HAT

Bring two hats or caps for sun protection. If you are sensitive to the sun, make sure to bring a hat that covers your head as thoroughly as possible. Hats that have dark colors underneath the brim help to reduce glare from the water aiding in spotting fish.

SUN PROTECTION

The tropical sun is very intense even on cloudy days. Pack some sun block and lip balm with a minimum of 30SPF. There is also a product on the market called a BUFF that has become fashionable with serious anglers on the trout stream as well as in the tropics. It is a comfortable, lightweight, and breathable garment that functions similar to a bandana and will keep UV rays off of your head, neck, and ears. We carry several models and styles.

Accessories

BOAT BAGS

A boat bag is important for carrying your tackle and gear with you on the boat each day. Running in the boats over open water oftentimes sprays saltwater mist into the boat, so you should have some type of waterproof or water resistant bag with you in the boat for storing cameras, lenses, tackle, flies, extra reels, spools, sunscreen, rain jackets, spare reel parts, bottled water, snacks, or anything else you don't want to carry on you while fishing. Patagonia makes a wonderful 99% waterproof bag called the Great Divider. It is also the exact dimensions of the under seat storage area on an airplane. We often use the Great Divider as our carry on luggage. Simms, Fishpond, and William Joseph make very comparable product in several sizes as well. Everything stays dry, salt free, and out of the humidity.

HIP / CHEST PACK

Fanny packs are great for carrying fly boxes, a camera, leaders and tippet etc... while wading. Consider buying one that can hold an easily accessible water bottle. Fishpond, Patagonia, Simms, and William Joseph all make practical packs in different styles, sizes, and price points.

PLIERS & BELT

Although your guide should be equipped with pliers, we recommend a quality pair of corrosion resistant pliers as an essential tool when fishing the saltwater...especially for big game. Pliers by Van Staal, Abel, Hatch or Ross aid in hook removal, cutting heavy monofilament, and tying big game knots. All pliers should be kept in a sheath and have a check-chord to avoid dropping them overboard. Don't forget to bring a synthetic belt to be worn in order to accommodate your pliers' sheath.

INSECT REPELLENT

Mosquitoes and other biting flies may be a problem anywhere in the tropics- especially if the wind dies down. If you are particularly bothered by bugs, we recommend bringing a product with a large Deet component. There is a product on the market called Smart Shield that is a totally organic bug repellent / sunscreen and actually works well. We carry a number of their products at the shop. Wearing lightweight wading pants and long-sleeved shirts will also discourage biting insects.

BOGA GRIP

Some of the fish that you may catch are toothy and can be difficult to handle. A Boga Grip eliminates the possibility of losing a finger to an angry fish. In addition, these handy tools reduce the amount of time you will handle a fish, improving its chance at surviving its encounter with you. Unfortunately, Boga Grips also let you know exactly how much your fish really weigh! A Boga is certainly not a necessity and is actually quite heavy to travel with, however can be a great luxury to have on board.

TOOLS & GADGETS:

Items like nippers, hemostats, and hook hones are necessities in every fishing pack. The tools can be kept on a retractor or on a lanyard. A Leatherman multi-tool is also a nice extra to have in the boat bag.

LENS CLOTH

While fishing the flats, it seems like glasses are always getting wet when landing unruly fish or on boat runs. This can be quite frustrating if you are not prepared with a quality lens cleaning / drying cloth. Consider taking one of Action Optics' Lens Cleaning Kits or something comparable to wipe salty film and sweat off of your glasses. *Tip: Always grab some toilet paper, kleenex, or a napkin and store it in a shirt pocket within an empty leader package to keep it dry.*

TAILING GLOVES

Although your guide should have a set of tailing gloves in his possession it is always a good idea to be prepared. All species of jacks including trevally have a very sharp set of spines running down their lateral line close to their tail that is often razor sharp. Don't ever try to land a trevally without protective gloves!

TRASH BAGS & ZIPLOCS

Always thrown in a couple of small trash bags in your bag for packing wet wading boots and gravel guards for the trip home in order to keep mildew from spreading through your clothing. Having some Ziploc baggies on hand are also a good idea for keeping camera equipment or papers dry in your boat bag.

FIRST AID KIT & TOILETRIES

A simple first aid kit with Band-Aids, alcohol wipes, waterproof tape, and Dramamine for motion sickness is always a good thing to have on hand. The island provides shampoo and soap but does not have other personal items like razors, deodorant, shaving cream or toothpaste. Make sure to bring your own.

FLASHLIGHT OR HEADLAMP

A flashlight can be an invaluable item to have when making the trek to the bathroom in the middle of the night or taking a stroll after dinner. Our favorite is the Petzl headlamp. Headlamps are great for reading at night while your roommate is sleeping, and free up your hands to get organized in the dark.

Other Miscellaneous Items

Water Bottle (For Hip Pack)
Measuring Tape
Camera and Film
Battery operated Alarm Clock
Batteries
Knife or Leatherman Tool

General Equipment Recommendations

FLY RODS

We highly recommend multi-piece travel rods in the four and five piece models for all travel with commercial airline carriers. Fly rods for all saltwater flats applications should be fast action models with fighting butts capable of handling windy conditions and delivering heavier flies. Remember, wooden reel seats will corrode and rot in the saltwater, so make sure your rod is equipped with an aluminum reel seat. We highly recommend nine foot rods as the ideal length for nearly all line weights between six through twelve weights. We also always recommend bringing a backup rod in case of breakage.

REELS AND SPOOLS

Reels should be anodized, corrosion-resistant saltwater models that will hold a full fly line plus the appropriate amount backing in accordance with the species you are targeting. Reels equipped with high quality, smooth, drags are essential to prevent break-offs from the blistering runs of a hooked fish. We cannot stress the importance of acquiring a reel with a high quality drag.

While all species typically require nothing more than a weight forward floating fly line, there are often scenarios at low tide when fishing for giant trevally when using a full sinking line can be effective. Having an extra spool loaded with a sinking line can make changing fly lines infinitely easier and faster.

FLY LINES

100% of all applications require a standard weight forward floating line, however when fishing for giant trevally or other big game species there are often scenarios and conditions that dictate using a full sinking line. Fly lines can easily break on coral or mangroves as well as fall victim to sharks or barracudas, so make sure to bring additional lines as backup.

BONEFISH

RODS:

A nine-foot, eight-weight rod is the standard universal bonefish rod used by the vast majority of all anglers worldwide. You want a rod that has enough fortitude to deliver the fly in windy conditions. However, the ideal bonefish rod also has enough feel in the tip section to allow for more delicate and accurate presentations at closer casting ranges. Some experienced anglers will also bring a seven or even a six-weight rod in the event the wind lays flat.

REELS AND FLY LINES:

Reels with a superior drag that will accommodate up to 175-200 yards of twenty-pound Dacron backing are suggested for your bonefishing outfit. A weight forward floating line is all that is required for all bonefishing. We suggest the Bonefish taper lines by Scientific Anglers or Rio as your standard bonefish fly line. The Sage Equator Taper is another line preferred by some experienced anglers. Other lines to consider are the Scientific Anglers Redfish taper and the Rio Tropical Clouser for those seeking a little more assistance turning over heavier flies in windier conditions.

PERMIT

RODS:

A nine-foot, ten weight rod is designated as the standard issue permit rod. However, depending on the conditions and the types of flies used, many experienced anglers will opt to go with a sturdy nine weight. Fishing for permit usually dictates casting heavy, wind resistant flies, and larger specimens can take up to an hour to land. If you decide to go with the nine-weight be sure you choose a fast action model with a lot of backbone.

REELS AND FLY LINES:

Reels with a superior drag that will accommodate up to 250 yards of thirty-pound Dacron or 30-50 pound gel spun backing are suggested for your permit fishing outfit. A weight forward floating line is all that is required for nearly all permit fishing applications. We suggest the Bonefish taper lines by Scientific Anglers or Rio as your standard fly line. The Sage Equator Taper is another line preferred by some experienced anglers. Other lines to consider are the Scientific Anglers Redfish taper and the Rio Tropical Clouser for those seeking a little more assistance turning over heavier flies in windier conditions.

GIANT TREVALLY

RODS:

“G.T.” are one of the strongest fish you will ever encounter! Fishing for adult giant trevally requires a hefty eleven - twelve weight rod. Giant Trevally in the 25-30 pound range can be handled on a ten weight, however you will not stand a chance landing “Geets” in the 50 - 100 pound range without a hefty twelve weight.

REELS AND FLY LINES:

Reels with a superior drag that will accommodate up to 300 yards of thirty-pound Dacron or fifty-pound gel spun backing are suggested for your giant trevally fishing outfit. A weight forward floating line is required under most circumstances. We suggest the Tarpon taper lines by Scientific Anglers or Rio as your standard fly line. *However, we also recommend bringing an additional spool or reel loaded with a sinking line as well.*

A full sinking 450 - 500 grain fly line is also suggested at times... Sinking lines are often necessary to blind cast or “dredge” in deeper water on deep edges or channels.

Note about Gel-Spun Backing for Trevally: We strongly recommend you invest in 60-80 pound gel-spun backing material for Giant Trevally fishing. Gel-spun backing is expensive, but well worth the investment. Losing a huge G.T. to broken backing is a true heartbreaker.

MILKFISH

RODS:

Perhaps the ultimate challenge in the saltwater flats world is hooking and landing a milkfish. Much is being learned about this resource, however a few things are certain... Anglers need at least a 10-12 Weight rod for fighting these fish on their ballistic runs and jumps.

REELS AND FLY LINES:

Reels with a superior drag that will accommodate up to 250 yards of thirty-pound Dacron or fifty-pound gel spun backing are suggested for your milkfish outfit. A weight forward floating line is required for milkfish. We suggest the Tarpon taper lines by Scientific Anglers or Rio as your standard fly line.

TRIGGERFISH

RODS:

Fishing for triggerfish can be a lot of fun on a low tide, so make sure you are prepared for these speedsters. There are several different species of triggers that can be easily taken on an 8-9 weight rod with an identical setup as for bonefish.

REELS AND FLY LINES:

Reels with a superior drag that will accommodate up to 175-200 yards of twenty-pound Dacron backing are suggested for your triggerfish outfit. A weight forward floating line is all that is required for all triggerfish. We suggest the Bonefish taper lines by Scientific Anglers or Rio.

OTHER SALTY SPECIES

(SHARKS, BARRACUDA, PARROTFISH, SURGEONFISH, ECT.)

If you are prepared with the above rods and reels for the primary species, you should be well equipped with the proper rods and reels for alternative species you may encounter.

Equipment Accessories

LINE CLEANER

Saltwater has a way of making fly lines sticky and dirty after a few days of use. Anglers should also bring along some sort of line cleaner to keep your fly line in good working order. Rio and Backcountry Laboratories both make excellent products. The staff at the Club will clean and dress your fly lines following each day on the water.

ROD CARRIER

Remember, we encourage our clients to check all of their fishing tackle and gear. However, for anglers who insist on carrying on rods should strongly consider investing in multi-piece rods (4-piece) that will fit in a quality rod carrier. This makes it simple to consolidate all of your rods into one case and is less alarming to airport security. **Our favorite is the Fishpond 4-piece carrier called the Dakota Bag.** Winston and Sage make quality products as well.

SPARE PARTS & LUBRICANT

Locate a very small fly box and stock up on any extra spare parts applicable for your reels. Today's quality fly fishing reels are very sophisticated and have a few moving parts including springs, o-rings, drag knobs, pawls, etc that will wear out after significant usage. It is also a good idea to have an old toothbrush for cleaning and some synthetic lubricant on hand as well.

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

It is very important to rinse saltwater and sand from the inner workings of your reels, rods, pliers, fly boxes, etc following every day on the water. Usually your guides or lodge staff will handle this for you. A quick freshwater rinse will keep saltwater from corroding and damaging bearings and drag plates on your reels, and keep all of your equipment in good working order.

Once you arrive home from your trip, you should take apart your reels and soak them in soft soapy warm water. A light coat of synthetic oil on the surface of your reels is also a good idea before storing them. With fly rods, make sure to wipe them down with some Windex or 409. This will keep the glass finish looking sharp and prevent rust from forming in the guides and reel seat.

COMPLEMENTARY RIGGING AND CLEANING AT TAILWATERS

Remember, you can bring on your rods and reels to the shop preceding or following any trip and we will rig and clean them up for you. It is always a good idea to check all of your knot connections and make sure that your backing is in good shape before heading on any fishing trip. It is a heartbreaker to lose an entire fly line or break off a once in a lifetime fish because of a lousy knot or weakened backing. Bring in your equipment and we will ensure your gear is in perfect working order. Buy a reel from us and we will throw in the backing for free.

Bonefish (Continued)**BONEFISH LEADERS & TIPPET MATERIAL:**

As most average bonefish in Seychelles are NOT leader shy, we recommend fishing 9' sixteen (16) pound test tapered leaders. There are times when you can get away with fishing twenty (20) pound test, so you should have additional leader and tippet material on hand. Although not mandatory, we always recommend using fluorocarbon tippet material as it is stronger and more abrasion resistant.

Leader Recommendations: 9' - 16lb - 20lb Monofilament or Fluorocarbon

Tippet Recommendations (1 Spool of Each - Fluorocarbon) - 15lb, 17.6lb, 20lb

PERMIT**FLIES:**

The Indo-Pacific Permit is a slightly different subspecies than what most anglers are accustomed to in the Atlantic and Caribbean, however behave exactly the same. A few years ago we considered permit as a "bonus" species, however we are seeing more and more permit in St. Francois the last couple of seasons. Make sure to have a handful of the following patterns in various weights and sizes just in case.

Casa Blanca Raghead Crab Color: Tan, Olive Size: 2, 4

Raghead Crab Color: Tan Size: 2, 4

Bauer's Flats Crab Color: Tan, Light Olive Size: 2, 4

Merkin Crab Color: Tan / Brown Size: 2, 4

Kung Fu Crab Color: Olive/Brn, Tan/Brn Size: 2, 4

Cathy's Fleeing Crab Color: Tan Size: 2, 4

Various Enrico Puglisi Crabs Color: (two-tone) Olive, Tan, Brown Size: 4, 6, 2

Various E. Puglisi Spawning/Mantis Shrimp Color: Tan, Root Beer, Olive, Pink Size: 4, 1/0

Other Good Permit Patterns to Consider: Turneffe Crab (Cream, Olive - #2, #4), Diving Crab (Sand - 1/0, #2), Stone Crab (Tan - #1, #4), EPP Crab (Tan, Olive - #2), McKnight's Crimp (Merkin - #4), Swimming Crab (Tan - #4)

PERMIT LEADERS & TIPPET MATERIAL:

We recommend fishing 10-12' fifteen (15) pound test tapered leaders most often --- and we strongly encourage the use of fluorocarbon instead of monofilament. There are times when you can get away with 17-20 pound test, while sometimes you will need to downsize to twelve (12) pound. For this reason, you should have additional leaders and tippet material on hand. We also always recommend using fluorocarbon tippet material as it is stronger and more abrasion resistant. It may be more expensive, but losing a permit to faulty tackle is heart breaking!

Leader Recommendations: 9' - 12-20lb Fluorocarbon (15lb majority)

Tippet Recommendations (1 Spool of Each - Fluorocarbon) - 12lb, 15lb, 17.6lb 20lb

TREVALLY

FLIES:

The majority of the fishing for trevally will be with 5-7 inch long baitfish tied on 2/0 - 6/0 hooks. We recommend the strongest hooks available, especially for Giant Trevally (Gamakatsu SL 12S, Tiemco SP600, Owner). The important thing is to be prepared with several varying baitfish patterns to accommodate water depth and location. Occasionally, trevally will eat a popper (especially the bluefin and smaller giant trevally), so be prepared with a few closed cell foam poppers in the arsenal as well. Even large offshore poppers will work well if you can cast them.

The following list of flies merely provides you with examples of consumer patterns you should bring. We encourage you be creative with your trevally baitfish patterns as different patterns, sizes, and materials may be more effective than others.

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| <u>Magnum Baitfish</u> | Color: Herring, Bunker | Size: 4/0 |
| <u>Robrahn's BW Epoxy Baitfish</u> | Color: Herring, Sardine, Shady L. | Size: 2/0 |
| <u>Robrahn's BW Epoxy Baitfish</u> | Color: Herring, Mackerel, Mullet | Size: 4/0 |
| <u>Sea Habit</u> | Color: Herring, Sardine | Size: 2/0 - 4/0 |
| <u>Big Eye Baitfish</u> | Color: Herring | Size: 2/0 |
| <u>Major Herring</u> | Color: Standard | Size: 3/0 |
| <u>Major Bunker</u> | Color: Standard | Size: 4/0 |
| <u>Super Mushy</u> | Color: Mackerel, Blue/Pearl | Size: 3/0 |
| <u>Mushmouth</u> | Color: Chrt/White, Blue/White | Size: 3/0 |
| <u>EP Baitfish</u> | Color: Mackerel, Sardina | Size: 3/0 |
| <u>Flutter Eel</u> | Color: Standard | Size: 4/0 |
| <u>Tarpon Snake</u> | Color: Black | Size: 4/0, 6/0 |
| <u>Various Clousers & Deceivers</u> | Color: Green, Blue, Chartreuse, Black, White | Size: 3/0 - 2 |

TREVALLY LEADERS & TIPPET MATERIAL:

Unless you are interested in setting IGFA records, we recommend simply rigging your trevally leaders with straight fluorocarbon. A 5-6' section of non-tapered fluorocarbon is super strong and easy to tie with a loop to loop connection onto your fly line. Trying to land a large giant trevally with a class leader is very difficult or near impossible. GTs are super strong, and the many coral heads will certainly break you off.

Leader Recommendations:

Bluefin Trevally: 40-50lb Straight Fluorocarbon
Giant Trevally: 80-100lb Straight Fluorocarbon

MILKFISH

FLIES:

Milkfish feed on algae, small plankton and other invertebrates flushing off flats and out of the lagoon on pushing and falling tides. Your guides will provide custom flies tied with various green materials such as marabou or deer hair on a sturdy Owner or Gamakatsu #2 hook. There are currently no commercially sold fly patterns for milkfish. Again, your guides will provide your milkfish flies when required.

MILKFISH LEADERS & TIPPET MATERIAL:

Your guide will also tie custom made shock leaders for you when targeting milkfish. Depending upon the conditions and what has been recently successful, milkfish leaders are usually made with 20-30lb fluorocarbon with a bimini twist. **Just make sure you are prepared with 20lb, 25lb and 30lb fluorocarbon tippet material and your guides will build your leaders for you.**

TRIGGERFISH

FLIES:

Triggers eat many of the same patterns as bonefish and permit, however concentrate on brining smaller crabs in differing dark colors and weights. Rust, orange and brown crab patterns with short legs are typically effective. Make sure you have crabs with light and heavy eyes to fish in accordance with depth and tidal current.

TRIGGERFISH LEADERS & TIPPET MATERIAL:

Same configuration as bonefish.

OTHER SALTY SPECIES

Seychelles is loaded with literally hundreds of different species --- many of which will eat a fly. There are over 300 different species of fish inside the St. Francois and Alphonse Lagoons! Just tie on a clouser minnow and throw it on top of a coral head and something "weird" will eat it.

In terms of alternatively targeted gamefish, you may encounter interesting species such as surgeonfish, parrotfish, batfish, grouper, mutton snapper, barracuda, and sharks. As a general rule of thumb, if you are prepared with the proper tackle for the mainstream species listed you should be prepared to target these other alternative species.

BARRACUDA & SHARKS

FLIES:

Barracuda will eat long needlefish and baitfish patterns stripped very quickly. Ideally, your cuda' fly has a tandem or trailer hook to increase the likelihood the hook will hold. Both lemon sharks and barracuda will sometimes eat poppers as well.

LEADERS & TIPPET:

A 4-5 foot piece of straight monofilament with a 10" wire "bite" tippet is required. We recommend a minimum of 35-40lb wire and our favorite brands are "Tyger-Wire" or Rio's new wire. Both are very easily knotable and super strong.

Common Bonefish Flies for Seychelles



BECK'S SILLILEGS



FOXEE CLOUSER



VEVERKA'S MANTIS SHRIMP



CHRISTMAS ISLAND SPECIAL



GOTCHA



GOTCHA CLOUSER



BONEFISH SCAMPI



CHILI PEPPER



CRAZY CHARLIE



PINK PUFF



BONEFISH BITTER



RAGHEAD CRAB



BUNNY GOTCHA



CATHY'S FLEEING CRAB



RAGIN CRAVIN



ROBRANH'S SILLILEGS GOTCHA



SUPER SWIMMING SHRIMP



SQUIMP

Common Permit & Triggerfish Flies for Seychelles



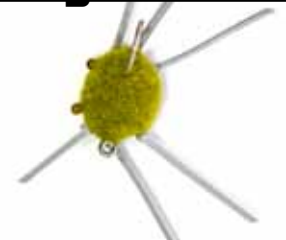
CATHY'S FLEEING CRAB



RAGHEAD CRAB



MERKIN CRAB



BAUER FLATS CRAB



SUPER SPAWNING SHRIMP



STONE CRAB



KUNG FU CRAB



BONEFISH BITTER

Common Trevally Flies for Seychelles



TARPON SNAKE



BW EPOXY BAITFISH



MAGNUM BAITFISH



MAJOR HERRING



EP BAITFISH



CLOUSER MINNOW

Common Milkfish Flies for Seychelles



Common Barracuda & Shark Flies



ARTICLES
REPORTS
REFERENCES
CHECK-LISTS



Seychelles Facts

The Republic of Seychelles (say-SHELLS or say-SHELL) (Creole: Repiblik Sesel) is a nation of islands in the Indian Ocean, some 1,600 km east of mainland Africa, northeast of the island of Madagascar. Other nearby island countries and territories include Mauritius and Réunion to the south, Comoros and Mayotte to the southwest, and the Maldives to the northeast. The Seychelles constitute an archipelago of about 115 islands, of which 33 are inhabited. The group of islands around Mahé consist of granite and are the largest and most populated of the country. The remaining outer group consists of smaller coralline atolls. The capital city, Victoria, is situated on Mahé, which is the largest island and home to about 80% of the total population, as well as the Seychelles' highest point, the Morne Seychellois at 905 m.

As the islands of the Seychelles had no indigenous population, the current Seychellois are composed of immigrants, mostly of French, African, Indian, and Chinese descent. French and English are official languages along with a French-based Creole. Most Seychellois are Christians, mostly Catholics. The latest census showed approximately 80,000 inhabitants.

About 90% of the Seychellois people live on Mahe Island. Most others live on Praslin and La Digue, with the remaining smaller islands either sparsely populated or uninhabited. Most Seychellois are descendants of early French settlers and the African slaves whom the British had freed along the coast of East Africa in the 19th century. Indians and Chinese (1.1% of the population) account for the other permanent inhabitants. About 1,703 (2000) expatriates live and work in Seychelles. Of those, about 35 are from the United States.

Seychelles culture is a mixture of French and African (Creole) influences. Creole is the native language of 91.8% of the people, however, English and French are commonly used. English remains the language of government and commerce. About 91.9% of the adult population is literate, and the literacy rate of school-aged children has risen to well over 98%. Increases are expected, as nearly all children of primary school age attend school, and the government encourages adult education.

Outer Islands

The Outer Islands is a collective term for five groups of coralline islands. The Outer Islands comprise 211.3 km² (46% of total) , but less than 2% of the population of the Seychelles.

- 1) Southern Coral Group, a collective term for Île Platte and Coetivy Island
- 2) Amirante Islands
- 3) Alphonse Atoll & St. Francois Lagoon
- 4) Aldabra Group (with Aldabra Atoll, Assumption Island)
- 5) Cosmoledo Group consisting of Cosmoledo Islands and Astove Island)
- 6) Farquhar Group (with Farquhar Atoll, Cerf, Providence, St Pierre Islands)

Brief History of Seychelles

The Seychelles islands remained uninhabited for more than 150 years after they became known to Western explorers. The island appeared on Portuguese charts as early 1505, although Arabs may have visited them much earlier. In 1742, the French Governor of Mauritius, Bertrand François Mahé de La Bourdonnais, sent an expedition to the islands. A second expedition in 1756 reasserted formal possession by France and gave the islands their present name in honor of the French finance minister under King Louis XV. The new French colony barely survived its first decade and did not begin to flourish until 1794, when Jean-Baptiste Quéau de Quincy became commandant.

The Seychelles islands were captured and freed several times during the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, then passed officially to the British under the Treaty of Paris (1814). From the date of its founding by the French until 1903, the Seychelles Colony was regarded as a dependency of Mauritius, which also passed from the French to British rule in 1814.

In 1888, a separate administrator and executive and administrative councils were established for the Seychelles archipelago. Nine years later, the administrator acquired full powers of a British colonial governor, and on August 31, 1903, Seychelles became a separate British Crown colony.

In March 1970, colonial and political representatives of Seychelles met in London for a constitutional convention, with the Seychelles Democratic Party (SDP) of James Mancham advocating closer integration with the UK, and the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) of France-Albert René advocating independence. Elections in November 1970 brought a new constitution into effect, with Mancham as Chief Minister. Further elections were held in April 1974, in which both major political parties campaigned for independence. Following this election, negotiations with the British resulted in an agreement under which the Seychelles became an independent republic within the Commonwealth on June 29, 1976. The newly knighted Sir James Mancham became the country's first President, with René as Prime Minister. These negotiations also restored the islands of Aldabra, Farquhar, and Des Roches, which had been transferred from Seychelles in November 1965 to form part of the new British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) to Seychelles upon independence.

In 1981, the country experienced a failed coup attempt by Mike Hoare and a team of mercenaries. An international commission, appointed by the UN Security Council in 1982, concluded that South African defense agencies had been involved in the attempted takeover, including supplying weapons and ammunition. Socialist rule was brought to a close with a new constitution and free elections in 1993.

Brief History of Alphonse Island

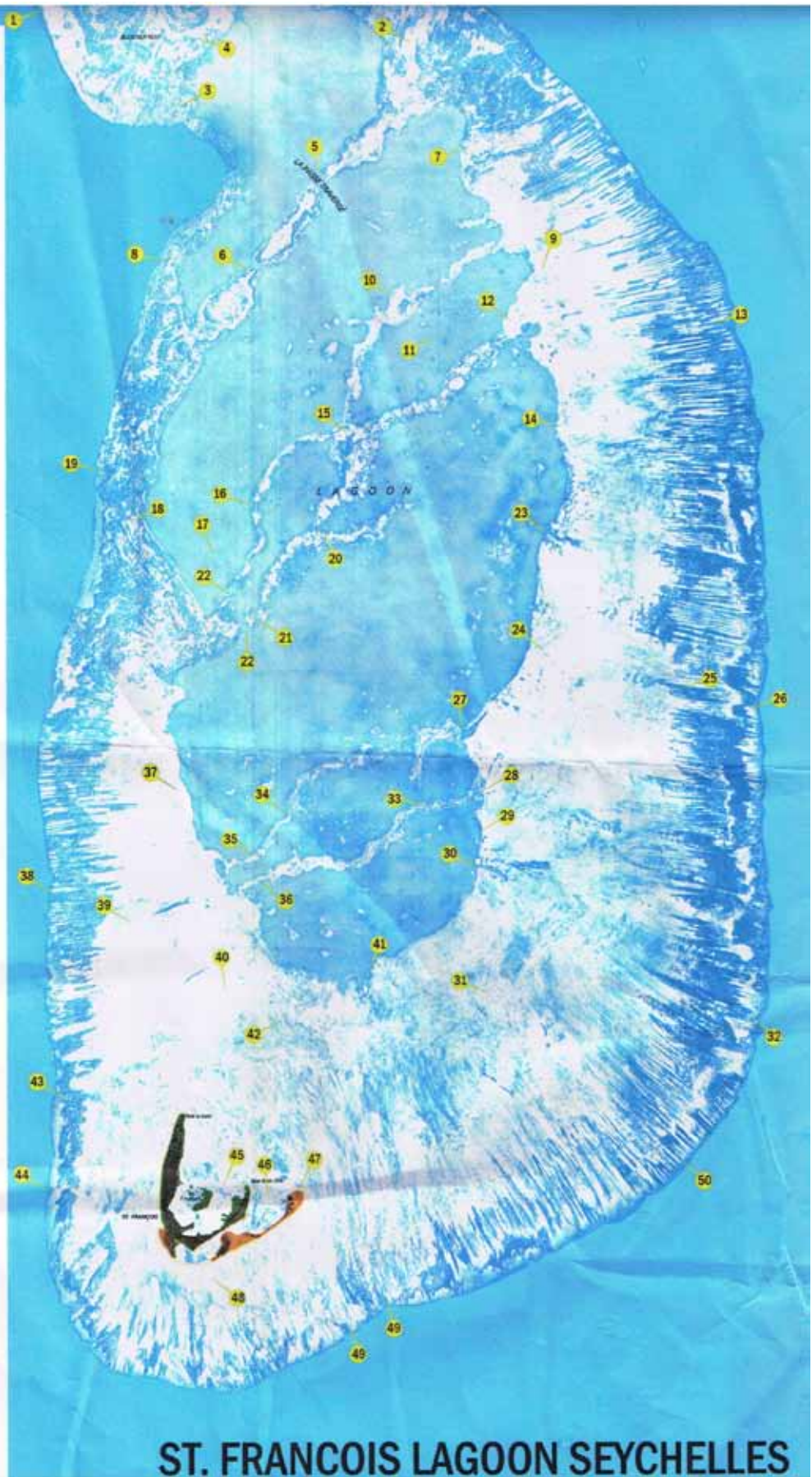
The islands of the Alphonse Group were noted on charts for the first time as 'San Francisco' in 1562. In 1730 Alphonse was renamed in honor of Chevalier Alphonse de Pontevez, commander of the French frigate Lys, when the island was sighted on his birthday. In 1770 French settlers established plantations on Alphonse, planting maize and salting fish for export to Mahe. When Seychelles fell to the British in 1810, Alphonse was "granted in privilege" to George Harrison, deputy to the British Agent in Seychelles.

Although slave trading was illegal in British territories, slaves were smuggled to Seychelles from Africa via remote islands such as Alphonse. There are a handful of tombs in the Alphonse graveyard including that of Henry Joseph, a liberated slave brought to Alphonse in the 1860's.

In 1862 Alphonse was sold to the Mauritian Dauban family, and ownership disputes delayed the group legally becoming part of Seychelles until 1881. In 1862, Alphonse had a population of 28 growing massive forests of coconuts for oil and exported coconut oil and turtle meat. Copra, the sun dried coconut kernels eventually replaced oil at the turn of the century. Most of the island's native vegetation has been destroyed since the introduction of the non-native coconuts. Massive guano deposits left behind by huge colonies of (exterminated) seabirds made Alphonse particularly fertile. Between 1925-1955, Alphonse exported over 1 million nuts annually.

In 1977, the outer islands were taken under government control in hopes of improving production and working conditions. The Alphonse Group has been managed by the IDC (Island Development Company) since 1983. When coconut production no longer proved viable in Seychelles, tourism replaced it as the major source of tourism for the country. In the late 1990s an airstrip was built on Alphonse and the Alphonse Island Resort was completed in 1999.

1. Bus stop
2. Helmut Knoll
3. Coral garden
4. Gods aquarium
5. La passe
6. Petit la passe
7. Tiger flat
8. Arnos flat
9. Mullet bay
10. Pancake flat
11. Invisible lagoon
12. Fields of gold
13. St Josephs
14. Bad lands
15. cross- roads
16. Ignoblis channel
17. Moorings
18. Tam tam flat
19. Tam tam surf
20. Dragons back
21. Nirvana channel
22. Tam tam channel
23. Judes
24. East edge
25. High way
26. Small wreck
27. Guantanamo bay
28. Delta
29. Andrew's train
30. Gravy train
31. East knoll
32. Lolli pops wreck
33. Top sticks
34. Milky way
35. Invisible flat
36. Betsy's flat
37. West edge
38. Wayne's bay
39. Donald's bay
40. One palm island
41. Pompano channel
42. Morning traffic
43. Rattrays
44. Beirut
45. Prawn beds
46. Cosmic lagoon
47. Nursery
48. back of the moon
49. Bagdad
50. Invisible wreck



Flats Fishing Techniques

As a general rule of thumb, all fish in different locations around the world respond differently to varying techniques. Furthermore, the fishing conditions on any given day may require a different presentation. Don't be surprised if every guide you fish with instructs a different cast or stripping length and speed. Odds are you will learn something new!

WORD ABOUT FIGHTING, HANDLING AND RELEASING FISH:

Forget everything you know about trout fishing when fighting big game in the saltwater! You want to apply substantial pressure on the fish at all times in accordance with your tippet strength. You must fight the fish with the strongest part of the rod. In order to do this, you should maintain the smallest angle possible with your rod tip in relation to the fish. In other words, never raise your rod tip high in the air. You want to nearly have your rod pointed at the fish with your pressure pulling or lifting in the opposite direction the fish is swimming. This will give you the most leverage and ensure the hook remains in place.

When you have the fish close at hand, never raise your rod tip and try to pull a heavy fish towards you in order to land him! This is called "high sticking" and will certainly result in breaking a rod tip. Instead, allow for enough slack in your line and leader (with minimal bend in the rod), reach for the leader, and pull the fish to hand manually.

Always fish with barbless hooks, as they do less damage to the structure of the fish's mouth and allow for an easier time unhooking and releasing fish. In a perfect world, you never "play" fish... rather you should land and release the fish as quickly as possible. You greatly increase the likelihood of survival the quicker you land, handle, and release the fish unharmed. Lactic acid build up is what eventually tires fish enough to land them. Depending on how much work was involved in the fight, it may take up to a full 24 hours before the effects of this incredible stress are relieved. During this recovery period, fish are susceptible to disease and most often are eaten by predators such as sharks and barracuda. Some conservative estimates indicate that as much as 25-35% of all bonefish caught by fly fishermen die as a result of improper fish handling. Also, if you notice a shark in the area while fighting a fish, your guide will most likely request you break the fish off your line so he can escape.

Ideally, unless the fish is a real trophy, you unhook the fish without ever touching his body. Heavily handling fish results in the loss of the fish's slime which protects him from disease. When handling, taking photos, and releasing fish, try to keep him in the water as much as possible. You have made the fish run a marathon, so don't make him hold his breath! Always wet your hands before touching a fish, especially if you are wearing sunglasses. Keep the fish wet until the photographer is ready, pick him up with good support under his belly, snap a few shots, and get him back in for a drink. When releasing the fish, you always want to ensure he has good equilibrium and is able to swim away efficiently under his own power. To do this, you should hold the fish by his tail, rock the fish back and forth running water through the gills until some strength is regained. The last thing to do before letting loose is to take a quick look around making sure there are no barracudas or sharks cruising close by.

PINCH THE BARBS ON YOUR HOOKS:

Properly pinching the barbs on your flies for ALL species helps to ensure you are able to release fish quickly and unharmed. It is also a good idea to sharpen your hook after every few fish. The tough, rubbery mouths of many saltwater species will dull a hook very quickly.

LEARNING TO TIE PROPER KNOTS:

You should not be intimidated by all of the sophisticated knots used when saltwater fishing. Know that your guide will handle tying all of your knots for you. However, Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company offers very affordable fly fishing lessons that include knot tying as part of the curriculum. Learning to tie your own knots is a fun and simple skill that will make you a more self sufficient angler.

BONEFISH

Under most circumstances, you want to present the fly approximately two-three feet in front of the general direction the fish is feeding. The depth and calmness of the water will dictate how closely you can drop the fly without spooking the fish. Once the fly has entered the water, you want to strip in any unnecessary slack and allow the fly to sink to the bottom. If you are fishing from the boat or have a strong current, make sure that slack does not build in the line while you are waiting for the fish to see your fly. Likewise, if you are fishing from a boat and are drifting away from your fly, your strips should be much smaller to avoid pulling the fly out of the feeding zone.

Once your fly and line have settled nicely without spooking the fish, you should provide a smooth and long “attention getter” strip. Mind you do not ever pull the fly out of the fishes line of sight with too long of a strip, but do your best to alert him of your fly’s presence. All stripping should be done with a stationary rod tip fastened downward pointed directly at your fly. Once the fish sees your fly, you should give short and smooth 6-12 inch strips that simulate a crab or shrimp trying to escape.

Oftentimes, the bonefish will aggressively swim toward your fly. Continue with slow strips as long as the fish remains interested until he stops over your fly. You will either see the fish tilt on your fly to eat it, or you will feel the line come tight. If the fish misses your fly, do not raise your rod or pull the fly in. Simply allow the fly to settle and start the stripping process over again. Odds are he will relocate your fly and regain interest.

When the line does come tight, continue to hold your rod tip pointed toward the fish and give a firm and deliberate strip set. When you set the hook, your strip should be a fraction more firm than your normal strips when trying to feed the fish.

NEVER RAISE YOUR ROD to set the hook as if fishing for trout. You will lose every fish! The most effective way to set the hook firmly is by using the proper strip set. Only when the fish begins his first run do you raise your rod. When the fish takes off, be very aware of your loose line as it runs through your fingers and out the guides. Avoid stepping on it or hanging on your rod handle. The art of “getting the fish



on the reel” is all about proper line management and is the difference between successfully landing a fish and breaking him off in the first run. It is also important to apply the proper amount of reel drag without breaking him off. The quicker you can land the bonefish the safer he is from predators and can be released unharmed.

Through experience you will begin to see more bonefish and recognize fish behavior and body language. Eventually you will learn when to strip slower or faster, stop stripping, and when to change flies.

PERMIT

Permit are the most unpredictable and frustrating species found in the world of fly fishing! They are also the most rewarding to catch. Although there are some basic techniques to become familiar with, every permit encounter will be vastly different than the next. You will see fish in different water depths, moving at different speeds, feeding on different foods, and generally showing unique behavior with each new scenario. For that reason, the presentation and technique required to catch them is always evolving.

Permit are usually found in both large schools as well as singles or smaller more solitary groups. It seems like the permit cruising or feeding alone are always the largest and most challenging. Either scenario requires delivering the fly towards the fish as closely as possible without spooking them. Ideally you have enough of a breeze to provide a small chop on the water that will help mask the disturbance of the fly plopping on the water. There are times where you can put the fly right on the fish, and times when you must lead your target by several feet. You never want to cast beyond the fish and pull the fly towards him. This allows the fish to see your leader or fly line. Also, a general rule of thumb is that no permit believes a fly being pulled toward them. Make sure your cast is the proper length and lead so you can pull the fly away from the fish.

After you have successfully delivered the fly, allow it to sink a bit (in accordance with water depth and weight of the fly). When fishing with a crab pattern, you want the fly to sink towards the bottom. When using a shrimp fly, you typically want the fly higher in the water column when you start striping. Similar to bonefish, the speed and length of your stripped retrieve is determined by a dozen variables. Always lean on your guide to provide this instruction with every encounter. Faster moving fish may competitively and quickly dart to your fly and pick it up. Most often, permit will methodically inspect their meal before committing the eating it. Under this scenario, the angler must keep a tight line and strip the fly to maintain interest. When the fish does decide to eat a crab fly, usually he will hover immediately over the fly and tilt its body upward to feed. Maintain slow

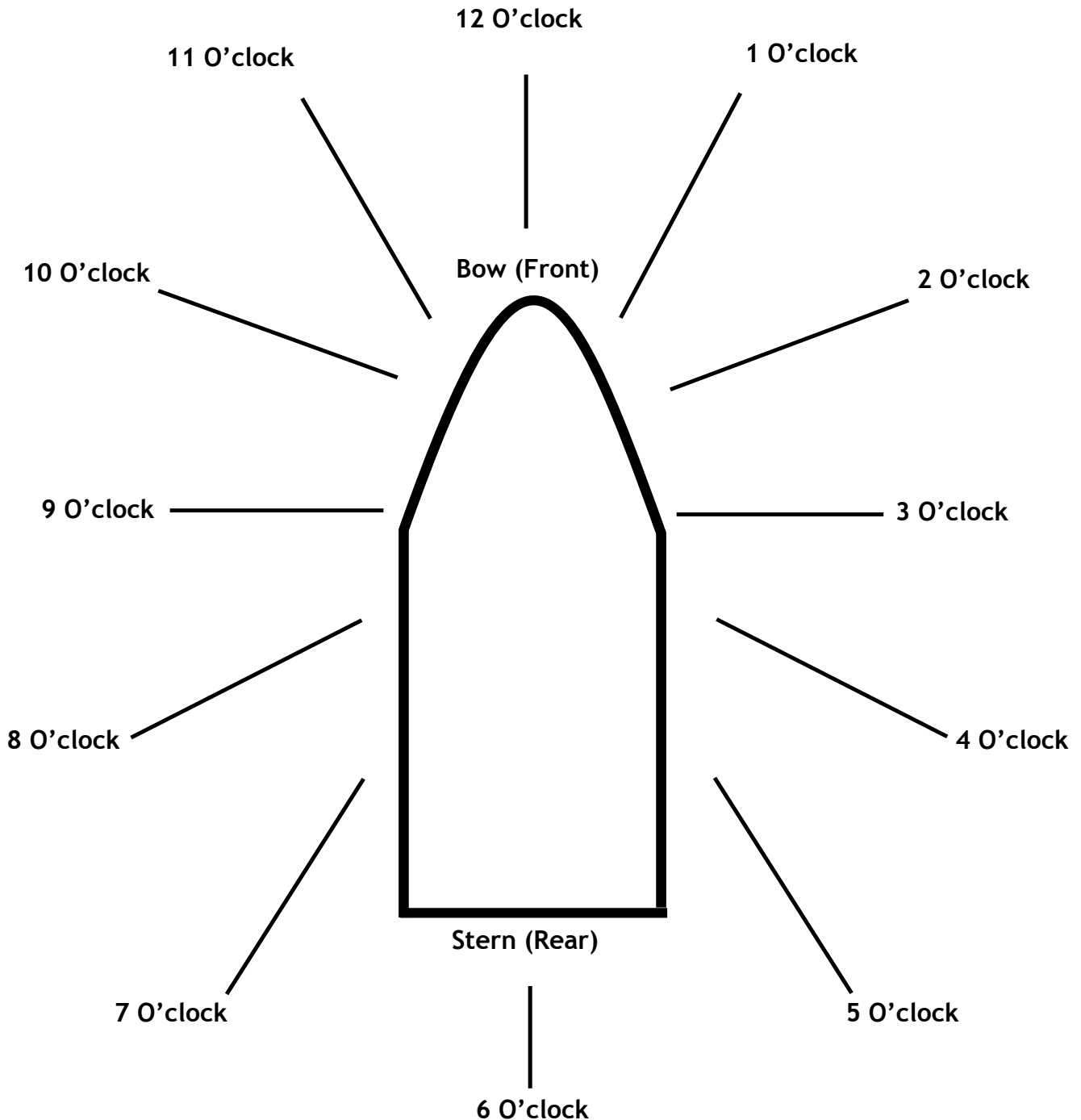
strips at this point so you are in constant contact with your fly. The moment you feel any resistance make sure to give a solid and deliberate strip set. Identical to bonefish, you NEVER want to raise your rod tip throughout the entire “feeding” process. Once the fish is on it may be a good idea to set the hook a few more times before (if there is time) or after he has made his first run.

Your drag should be set fairly lightly in order to withstand the immense power and torque of the permit when he realizes he is hooked. Once the line is on the reel and you are comfortable with steady pressure it is safe to crank down the drag a bit more. Unless there are significant coral heads or other potential entanglements around you, it is best to take your time fighting the fish properly than to “horse” him in. Expect a 15-30 minute fight on fish in the 10-20 pound class, and upwards of an hour with anything twenty pounds or bigger. Be prepared for a long battle and hope your hook stays home!



Clock & Distance Fish Location

On the flats, your guide will oftentimes spot fish before you do. When this happens, your guide will refer the numbers on a clock to give you the fishes general direction. For example, the bow (front) on the boat would represent 12:00 O'clock. Exactly perpendicular to the boat off of your right shoulder (starboard) would be 3:00 O'clock; perpendicular to the boat off your left shoulder (port) would be 9:00 O'clock, etc. In addition to the direction, the guide will also refer to a distance measured in feet. ***For example: "Okay, two fish coming at 1:00 O'clock --- 50 feet".***



Techniques For Seychelles Species

GIANT TREVALLY

The Giant Trevally (*Caranx Ignobilis*) is the true bad ass of all game fish in my opinion. His round head, monster shoulders, and elaborate fins are built for speed and power, and he has no predators other than large sharks and humans. He literally eats everything, and his incredible eye-sight combines with his quickness to make him a lethal hunter.

Happening upon cruising fish in the skiff or casting into the surf on a reef's edges are very effective methods for catching trevally. The key to catching these huge, powerful fish is to be ready and armed at all times with your tackle in perfect condition. Like any impressive trophy species, anglers need to dedicate a lot of effort and time into the cause. Although it is very possible to happen upon a GT while mindlessly fishing for other species, we recommend targeting "Geets" specifically when your guide suggests the conditions are adequate.

Trevally can be found almost anywhere... Most often you will encounter all sub-species of trevally on coral heads or in channels (casting from the boat with a weighted fly), or in shallow water on the flats or on the reef hunting for a meal. At the reef's edge during low tide, you will often find fish cruising back and forth looking for prey and waiting for the tide to push. The fish on the flat are much spookier than those found in deeper water, but generally speaking if anglers are capable of presenting the fly without spooking the fish off the flat, the odds of



an eat are high. Be sure to read up on the equipment lists for more specifics about how to adequately prepare your rod and reel setup for various types of presentations and the aforementioned scenarios.

While casting from the boat or on a traditional flat, you want to put the fly 6-8 feet in front of the moving fish to lessen the likelihood you will spook him. While on the reef, cast directly at him as GTs are on the hunt in this scenario and are very aggressive. Trevally are most apt to strike a very fast moving fly. Strip like mad to keep the fly moving or he will lose interest. When he eats the fly, continue stripping and setting the hook as hard as possible until he begins to take line rapidly. If you are on the reef or near coral heads and other entanglements, you must crank down your drag 100% and fight the fish firmly with the butt section of the rod... or you are wasting your time!

Do not attempt to tail trevally without protective gloves - they have a set of sharp spines running along their lateral line close to the tail. You will need a sturdy pair of pliers for hook removal. (Again, we recommend bending the barbs down on your hooks, even for trevally.)

Milkfish

Milkfish rip line off the reel twice the rate of a large bonefish and can jump like a tarpon! Fishing for Milkfish is completely a hit or miss endeavor. During certain times (most often during strong spring tides) milkfish will feed in a very vulnerable and easily recognizable fashion on the surface in channels and cuts between coral heads and flats. Under these circumstances anglers have a very high success rate of “feeding” the milkfish and hooking up. Milkfish feed on aquatic moss, tiny crustaceans, and algae free-floating in the tidal current. Lucky anglers encounter them feeding on or near the surface with mouths wide almost mindlessly vacuuming everything in their path. Although they will certainly move to avoid your fly, they will definitely not move to eat your fly.



Anglers fish with green and yellow algae-like deer hair or craft fur patterns tied on a #2 Gamu hook. If the planets align, your fly will incidentally get sucked in and off to the races you go. Ideally, your cast is at a 90 degree angle in front of the feeding school (either on foot or from the boat) and you being long and slow strips to keep the fly high in the water column. When the line comes tight, the angler should deliver a deliberate strip set (without raising the rod tip) to ensure the hook seats properly. Milkfish take an eternity to land and anglers should be prepared for at least a thirty minute - one hour fight! Their mouths are very delicate, and you should not use a boga-grip on a milkfish. Your guides will be equipped with the necessary fly patterns for milkfish.

Triggerfish



There are several species of triggerfish that one can target in the Seychelles. Most specimens weigh 8-12 pounds but larger fish have been landed. Typically triggerfish can be seen tailing like a permit, only much more noticeable due to their broad dark tails and flamboyant coloration. Their diet consists of a myriad of crustaceans and can be caught using a variety of crab or shrimp patterns in various colors. Rust and brown colored crabs in sized #4-6 seem most effective. The smaller hook sizes allow the hook to pass between the rows of gnarly teeth protruding from the trigger’s mouth and finding purchase in the flesh of their jaw. Don’t be discouraged if the fly comes undone and achieving a good hook set with a triggerfish is not easy and entirely luck. When the fish is hooked, keep maximum pressure on the fish at all times. Triggers will run for the nearest coral head and lodge their trigger tail inside a crevice making it impossible to move the fish. They are an excellent fight and a fabulous trophy. Bring your camera!

Fly Fishing Lessons with Tailwaters Fly Fishing

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR FLY FISHING VACATION!

Tailwaters offers private fly fishing instruction for everyone from the novice to the seasoned pro. These intimate lessons give the student the advantage of instruction custom or tailored to their needs, with the flexibility to schedule a time that suits today's busy lifestyle, both on and off-site. Allow the Tailwaters staff to help you to learn the art of fly fishing, or bring you angling skills to the next level!

For the **BEGINNER**, fly fishing may seem intimidating, but the sport is not as difficult as it may appear. Our experienced staff walks students through the first crucial stages of becoming a fly fisherman, and introduces them to the basic skills of this beautiful sport. We can teach the beginning fly fisherman (or woman!) everything they need to become a successful angler, from equipment, knots, and the basics of the sport, including the most important and recognizable aspect of fly fishing: the cast.



FFF Certified Instructor

Our **INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED** classes go beyond basic instruction to enable students to improve and hone their fly fishing skills. Lessons are customized to help them achieve any specific goals they may have. Whether it's working on the double-haul, learning new and effective ways of rigging equipment on one's own, or getting the 'rust off' for an upcoming trip, our knowledgeable staff will prepare students for any fishing adventure!

30-MINUTE SUPER-INTRODUCTORY LESSON

While not as in-depth as our standard private lessons, our 30-minute beginner lessons cover just the basics of the cast. This "super intro" option has been created specifically with the complete beginner in mind, and is designed to get the student casting their new rod efficiently enough to both start on the water and build a foundation for self-practice.

\$25.00 per student

Rates & Details

Single Full-Length Lesson:

\$75.00 per hour, single student

\$100.00 per hour, two students

\$125.00 per hour, three students

Four or more students priced on request

***Multi-lesson packages available

(Prices include use of Tailwaters equipment)

Location & Times

Lessons typically take place at Tailwaters Fly Fishing retail location on McKinney Avenue in Uptown Dallas, but can be arranged offsite as well.

Satellite Phone Rental

*Addicted to your cell phone?
Have a business deal in the pipeline?
Need to check in with the family?*

Many locations worldwide DO NOT have cell phone coverage and using the lodge's phone can be an expensive inconvenience for everyone. Rent a Satellite Phone from Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company.

We have two new model Motorola Iridium based Sat Phones for rent. Our satellite phone rental program offers rates that are very competitive, and is infinitely more convenient than shopping for a phone rental online.

Phone Rental Rates:

\$100 Per Week (7 day Minimum)

\$15 Per Additional Day

\$2.20 Per Minute

No Hidden Fees or Taxes

Phone Rentals are based on a minimum of 7 days. Customer agrees to pay a \$100.00 flat rate for the first seven days and \$15.00 per additional day. Other than shipping (only if required), there are no hidden fees or setup costs! This is a huge bargain.

Per-Minute Usage Rates: Renters are charged \$2.20 per minute of usage. Your rental phone will be pre-loaded with the amount of minutes you desire. Upon returning the phone, your usage will be calculated and charged accordingly.

How To Rent a Phone?:

Option #1: Pick Up at the Shop:

Contact David Leake at the shop: (david@tailwatersflyfishing.com or (214) 219-2500) to check availability and to coordinate your phone rental. You will be asked to complete a rental agreement and provide a credit card as a security deposit in case of loss or any damage to the equipment.

Option #2: Ship the Phone to You:

Contact David Leake at the shop: (david@tailwatersflyfishing.com or (214) 219-2500) to check availability and to coordinate your phone rental. We will email or fax you the rental agreement. You will be asked to complete the rental agreement and provide a credit card as a security deposit in case of loss or any damage to the equipment. Once completed, we will send you your phone via UPS or Federal Express.



Our Rental Kit Includes:

Motorola IRI9505A Satellite Phone
Plug-in Charger
Cigarette Lighter Charger
Multiple Adapters
Pelican Case Storage Box
User Guide
High Capacity Battery
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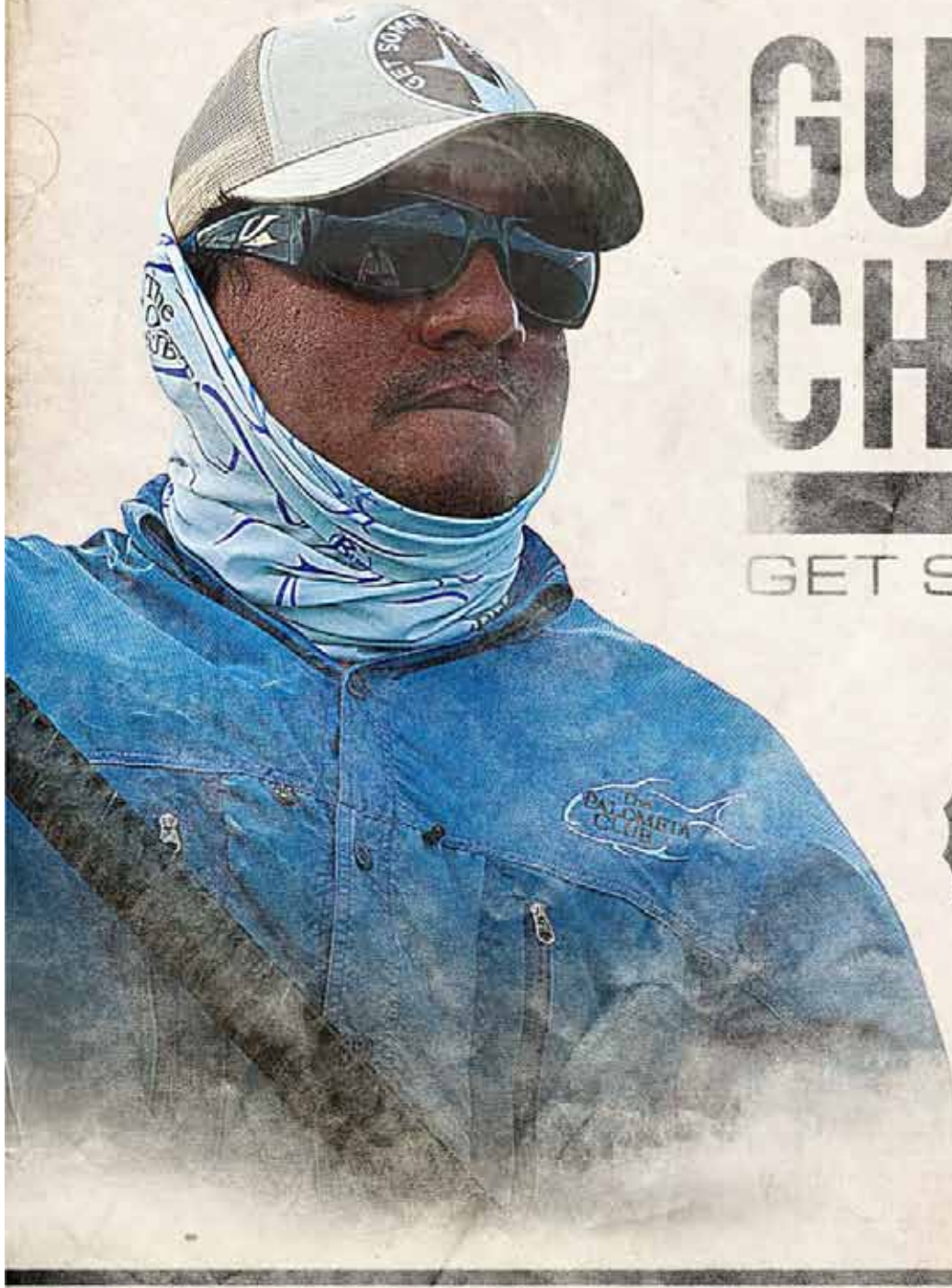


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DAVID LEAKE: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

(888) 824-5420 (214) 219-2500

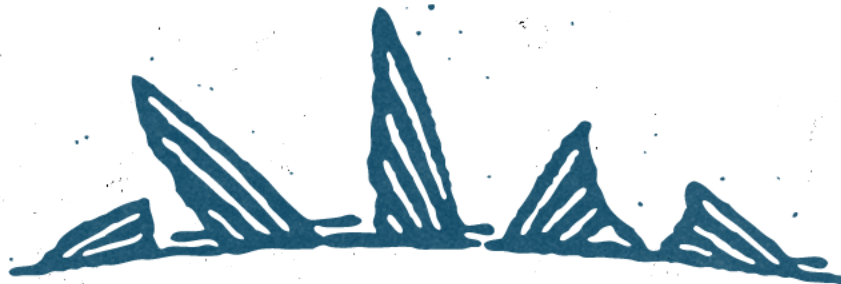
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