



2017 Ascension Bay Travel Planner

Thank you for joining us on an upcoming Ascension Bay trip! Please read this planner carefully and print it for your travels.

For those that have been on this trip before, we have a couple of changes for you to be aware of:

1. We now fish for +/- 3 hours on departure day. You will bring luggage with you in the boat on the last day, pickup will now be at the Boca Paila Bridge. Flights cannot depart Cancun earlier than 4:30 pm.
2. Shuttle fees are now included in the package price, so you can adjust your cash flow accordingly.

Seminar Dates at Canyon River Ranch and Red's Fly Shop

We are hosting two on-site seminars at Red's Fly Shop in preparation for these trips. They are very tactical in nature, we'll teach you what flies are best for which species, how to see fish better, how fast to strip the fly, casting techniques, proper knots and leader setups, and will take you through a complete "play by play" of a day on the flats.

December 10th, 2016 – Red's Fly Shop – 10 am

January 21st, -2017 Red's Fly Shop – 10 am

We have some great articles about preparing and packing for this trip on our blog, after you read this planner be sure to check it out, <http://redsflyshop.com/blog/everything-you-need-to-know>

Airline Flight Planning:

***your "listed" trip date includes travel days. i.e. If you are signed up for February 6th – 13th, you will travel on the 6th and fish the 7-12th, and depart the morning of the 13th.**

Most of our guests fly out of Seattle, WA – Alaska flights 208 and 209/211 are what our travel hosts will be on going to and from Cancun, Mexico.

In the event that your flights are cancelled or delayed, you will be individually responsible for your own shuttle to the lodge (about \$250-\$300) and any lost fishing time cannot be refunded. It is the discretion of the Red's staff host to delay the group to accommodate delayed flights or missing passengers. If you are on an arrival flight different from that of your host, please relay all flight info to your host in advance.

Arrival in Cancun: You need to land in Cancun Mexico prior to 4:30 pm on Day 1. After clearing customs we'll meet just outside. There are two exit terminals. If you cannot find your host, **not to worry**. They are rounding up the crew at the other terminal and will pick you up. The driver will most likely have a sign that says "Red's Fly Shop" and the service we use is A.G.I.

*anglers that choose to arrive in Cancun early must meet the Red's group at the Cancun airport at a Pre-determined time set by the host (3 pm is typical). We can arrange pickup in Tulum however as it is on the way and convenient for the remainder of the group.

Return Day: We now fish on departure day and get picked up by our shuttle closer to Tulum. This is a new and exciting itinerary upgrade. On the last day you will pack up in the morning and your luggage will ride along in the fishing boat with you. Try to be quick and efficient on the final day in order to maximize fishing time.

Departure times must be no earlier than 4:30 pm.

The Road to Punta Allen:

Use the restroom before you leave the airport terminal, as the first 1.5 hours to Tulum is on busy paved HWY and hard to find a good pit stop. There will most likely be a cooler full of Cervezas and some bottled waters in the van which we can pay the driver directly for. There will be a stop for dinner in Tulum.

The approximate 2 hour ride from Tulum to Punta Allen takes us over a VERY bumpy dirt road through the Mexican jungle along the edge of the coast. If anyone is sensitive to motion sickness, please sit up front or near a window in the middle. Anytime you need to take a pit stop, do so, and we recommend everyone stepping out to get some fresh air. Depending on conditions, we may be able to take boats part way in the dark and save some driving time. We always try for this.

Upon arriving in Punta Allen, you will be shown to your rooms. We recommend stringing rods up that night, as it will save a lot of time the next morning. The town generator shuts off at 11 pm, at which time the lodge's own generator kicks on and gives continual AC through the night if you choose to use it. Lastly, there is now internet service available downstairs at the lodge! It's slow, but steady. Just let our host know you would like to use the CPU and he'll open it up for you. If conditions are calm, the mosquitoes can be a nuisance in the evenings – bring some OFF and wear long pants/ sleeves if you need to.

Spending Cash and Cocktail Breakdown:

We recommend each participant bring about \$700- \$800 cash (\$550 for associated travel and fishing fees as outlined and the rest for airport food, luggage fees, and Duty Free). Dinner in Tulum (with about 2 drinks each and tip) costs about \$25 per person.

Tips: \$360 total (6 1/2 day trip) – 20's, 10's, and 5's are nice to have. Bar tabs range from 0 - \$250 depending! Beers are typically \$2 and you can have your fishing cooler well stocked. Wine and alcohol is available for purchase on the way from Cancun to Punta Allen.

Emergency Contact Information/Communication/Insurance

To stay current, we distribute the emergency contact number just prior to departure. There is no cell phone coverage in Punta Allen, and Wi-Fi is spotty at best. A Sat Phone isn't a bad idea if you absolutely have to stay in touch back home.

MedJet Assist Global Rescue

We have never had to use it, but we encourage you to purchase evacuation insurance in the event of a serious injury. Look into this for all the details, but for a small fee you'll be assured that you can get home and delivered to the hospital of your choice without going bankrupt.

<https://medjetassist.com/redsflyshop>

Packing Lists and Fishing Gear:

While it is "possible" to carry everything on if you pack light and tight, the vast majority of guests check a bag. Rods can be carried, on we sure like the Fishpond Dakota Rod/Reel case. This is the ultimate carry on for fly fishing trips. <http://www.redsflyfishing.com/Fish-Pond-Dakota-Carry-on-Rod-and-Reel-Case-p/dakota-mp.htm>

Your host will have a couple of "backup" rods and a good supply of flies. Anglers, however, need to be self sufficient as far as gear goes. Leaders, flies, rods, and lines are not easy to come by in this remote village so you must be prepared. We have put together two lists, the "Bare Bones Minimum" and the "Well Prepared Angler". Our typical guest usually falls somewhere in the middle and enjoys the experience so much, they continue the gear journey by making additions each year!

Gear Discount: We offer a 10% discount to all guests on regularly priced retail products. You can order over the phone anytime to receive this discount, mention that you are traveling to Ascension Bay with us and would like to use our "Destination Travel Discount".

Fishing Gear – The "Bare Bones" Minimum

[8 weight saltwater fly rod](#) and reel w/ [Saltwater fly line](#)

[Flats Sneakers or Wading Shoe](#) (NO felt as it is dangerously slick in the boat) We encounter lots of situations, but the best shoe is the Simms Zip-it Flats Booty

[Neoprene socks \(if you have a traditional flats boot, the Simms Zip-it Flats Booty\)](#)

[Forceps](#)

[Nippers](#)

[24 Saltwater Flies](#) (minimum)

Polarized sunglasses (Copper lens preferred w/ teathers)

[Guide Pants](#)

[Guide Shirt](#)

2 Tapered [Bonefish Leaders](#)
2 Tapered [Permit Leaders](#) (use Bonefish Leaders 12 pound test)
[Tarpon Leader](#)
1 Wire Leader for Barracuda
60 lb. Shock Tippet
[1X and 2X Flourocarbon Tippet](#)
[Waterproof Roll Top Bag](#)
[Hip Pack or Fanny Pack](#) (for wade fishing)
Good sunscreen
[Rain Jacket](#)

Fishing – The “Well Prepared” Angler

2 8 weight saltwater fly rods and reel w/ [Saltwater fly line](#)
10 weight saltwater fly rod and reel w/ [Saltwater fly line](#)
[Flats Sneakers or Wading Shoe](#) (NO felt as it is dangerously slick in the boat)
[Saltwater Pliers](#)
[Nippers](#)
[48 Saltwater Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Snook and Barracuda Flies](#)
2 pairs polarized sunglasses (Copper lens preferred w/ tethers – Amber color for cloudy days)
3 pairs [quick dry fishing pants](#)
3 guide [quick dry fishing shirts](#)
4 Tapered [Bonefish Leaders](#)
4 Tapered [Permit Leaders](#)
3 Wire Leaders
3 Pack – 60# Tarpon Leaders
3 Pack – 40# Tarpon Leaders
60 lb. Shock Tippet
[0X, 1X,2X,3X Flourocarbon Tippet](#)
[Waterproof Roll Top Bag](#)
Wateproof [Hip Pack or Fanny Pack](#) (designed for saltwater so that it can be rinsed clean)
Good sunscreen
2 Buffs (UV protection for your face and neck)
[Packable Lightweight Rain Jacket](#)

General Packing List for Flats Trips

Headlamp or flashlight
Insect Repellent
Sunscreen
YETI Type Beverage Cup
Water Bottle
Hat(s)
Flats Sneakers
Sandals or Flip Flops
Lib balm
Sun Gloves (optional)
Camera, batteries, charge cords

Passport
Lightweight fleece coat for evenings
Ear plugs (in case your bunkmate snores)
\$800+ Cash (spending, tips, money) – USD preferred 20\$ bills
Fishing Gear
Rain Coat – lightweight packable (leave your G3 or G4 at home)
Dry Bag for the boat
Ipod or MP3 Player w/ docking station for music at night (1 person in each group should bring this)
Medication (Advil)
Toiletries and personal effects

Other Notes and Gratuity:

All the water is bottled and readily available at all times, do not use the tap water for brushing your teeth. Coffee is typically on at 6:00 am every morning, breakfast at 7 am, and fishing starts at 8 am. Guides and guests will be paired up by the travel host. Tips will be handled by the travel host, he will collect cash the last night and distribute to each guide, chef, bar tender, and housekeeping. It works well to set aside money and put a rubber band around it. Beer is available for fishing coolers upon request and your host will coordinate. Lunches are included on each fishing day. Let the host know in advance if there are special dietary restrictions