



ALPHONSE
FISHING COMPANY
SEYCHELLES



Cosmoledo Atoll Liveaboard Trips - The GT Capital Of The World



Cosmoledo Atoll Liveaboard - Alphonse Fishing Co operates professionally guided trips to one of the most remote fishing destinations in the world, like Cosmoledo Atoll situated 560 nautical miles SW of Mahe. In past years, Cosmoledo has become known as the best GT fishery in the world and has become the benchmark for anglers searching for the ultimate saltwater flats destination full of hungry GT's. The sheer numbers and variety of fish species has amazed the fly fishing world, with anglers from across the globe queuing up to sample the ultimate fishing playground. It is a rare opportunity and a privilege to gaze into a world, which has changed very little in the years that have passed. Cosmoledo comprises of a larger white sand lagoon surrounded by 18 islands, numerous pancake flats and two main channels. Menai and Wizard islands occupy the Eastern and Western points and were named after the two ships that explored the atoll on the Moresby Expedition in 1822. South Island stands near the main entrance to the inner lagoon, while the second smaller entrance is just south of Menai. The Northern islands are interspersed with numerous islets and banks, all of which see good numbers of large fish.

Location - Cosmoledo Atoll is 560 nautical miles SW of Mahe and 18 nautical miles away from Astove Atoll.



The Fishing - Cosmoledo's large white sand flats, lagoon edges and channels are without question ruled by the notorious giant trevally, so much so that it is often referred to as planet earth's GT headquarters. GT's are however not the only species which can be found here in fantastic numbers. Bonefish, milkfish, the finicky indo-pacific permit and a host of triggerfish species all call Cosmoledo home and hence make this a truly special fishing destination. The team is split up into groups of 2 anglers per skiff and guide.

Flight Times - NB: Please check flight times as they vary. The flights leave Mahe from the IDC hanger and arrives on Astove or Assumption 3 hours later. It then departs Astove 45 minutes after arriving and will land back at the IDC hanger in Mahe approximately three hours after departure.

Getting There - Guests are expected to arrive in Mahe the day before their trip as any delay on the day of departure will certainly cause the trip to be missed. It's as important for return flights to be booked the next day after arriving back in Mahe as any delays may cause guests to miss their international flights. The group meets an hour before the scheduled departure time at the IDC hanger terminal. After the three-hour flight to Astove or Assumption Atolls, guests will be met by the Alphonse Fishing Co crew and transferred to the SY Lone Star. The yacht will then immediately depart on the three-hour sail to Cosmoledo Atoll, situated 18 nautical miles away. The group will spend the days fishing and exploring the islands, flats and channels of Cosmoledo Atoll. On the last evening the S.Y Lone Star will sail back to Astove or Assumption, where the IDC charter flight will collect the group for their three-hour flight back to Mahe.

Tender Boats and Guiding - The four purpose built Mini-Mahe skiffs are left on anchorage at Cosmoledo atoll, making for a slicker experience. These skiffs will be skippered by our experienced, world class and professional Alphonse Fishing Co guides. Each guide is a qualified skipper, has first aid experience and is extremely experienced with regards to all facets of fly fishing these remote saltwater destinations. Their passion and dedication is infectious and rest assured they will definitely go the extra mile in search of your fish of a lifetime.

Security - Even though the Seychelles waters are considered to be safe there will be security personal on board as a precaution.



Lone Star - An 85ft sailing catamaran with a 39ft. beam, which makes it one of the largest sailing catamarans in the Seychelles. This luxurious vessel was completely refitted in 2015 and features a host of facilities you wouldn't normally expect on an outbound trip to Cosmoledo Atoll. She is extremely stable, spacious and more importantly has a 1,85 meter draft that allows her to anchor inside the calm waters of Cosmoledo lagoon. She cruises at an average speed of 10 knots making her the perfect platform when operating trips between Astove, Assumption and Cosmoledo Atolls. The Lone Star offers five en-suite guest cabins situated on either side of the saloon relaxing area. All cabins and indoor areas are fully air conditioned, allowing guests a chance to relax in a comfortable environment after a long days fishing out on the flats. On the fore deck she is spacious and boasts two large trampolines as well as numerous sun loungers for relaxing while enjoying a sundowner in magnificent view of the surroundings. The stern of the vessel has a covered outside dining area with a set of stairs (sugar scoops) leading down to the water's edge. This feature also allows for a safe and comfortable transfer from the skiffs to the main vessel. The crew consists of four Alphonse Fishing Co guides, as well as six Lone Star crew who cater for your every need. The chef prepares a mix of Creole and international food, who can incorporate fresh fish on a daily basis if requested. We accommodate up to eight fly fishermen per trip, in either twin or single cabins, making it an extremely comfortable experience. Even though the Seychelles waters are considered to as safe, there will be security personal on board at all times as a precaution.

Wading - The hard white sand, turtlegrass or coral flats of Cosmoledo make for easy wading, thus separating it from other destinations in the world. As most of the fishing will be done whilst wading, good protective footwear is essential. Standard diver's neoprene booties with a reinforced rubber sole are not appropriate. More protective flats wading boots must be worn. There are a number of purpose made boots on the market, which are excellent. See suggested brands in tackle and gear list. Guests will not be taken onto the flats without proper footwear!

Dangers to watch out for whilst wading - Stingrays: some atolls host large numbers of stingrays on the flats. Most species have a poisonous, barbed spine near the base of their tails that they can use for defense. These spines can inflict a nasty wound, should an unwary wader inadvertently stand on a stingray. These often sedentary or slow moving fish are easy to see and avoid, and to date no anglers have had any problems with these docile creatures. Stonefish: found mainly in the shallows on the coral edges of reef flats, this fish is not only lethally toxic but is also very well camouflaged and will not move unless touched. A stonefish has 13 strong hollow spines through which it injects its poison and these will pass through a thin rubber sole with ease. For this reason all the wading should be done while wearing thick-soled wading boots. Cone shells: fish-eating cones live in crevices among the coral or half covered by sand awaiting their prey which they attack by shooting out a dart that injects a paralyzing poison. The poison from certain species can be fatal, however proper footwear will ensure your safety.



Sharks: Sharks are frequently encountered whilst wading in Seychelles, they are inquisitive, may pause for an instant and give you the once over but if you remain calm and quietly stand your ground, none of these magnificent creatures will bother you.

Standard Itinerary – Day 1: Charter flight departs Mahe at the IDC hanger, diverts to Alphonse and lands on Astove or Assumption 3 hours later. The group is then transferred to the Lone Star where orientation begins. S.Y Lone Star departs for Cosmoledo Atoll.

Day 2 - 6: Breakfast at 07h30, teams to be ready to leave the boat at at 08h30 fishing. Clients will choose between a packed lunch or lunch onboard. 17h30 - 18h00, head back to S.Y Lone Star.

Day 7: Breakfast at 07h30, teams to be ready to leave the boat at at 08h30 fishing. Clients will choose between a packed lunch or lunch onboard. 17h30 - 18h00, head back to S.Y Lone Star. If the clients are departing from Assumption, S.Y Lone Star will depart that evening. If the clients are departing from Astove, S.Y Lone Star will depart at the early hours of the morning to arrive at first light.

Day 8: S.Y Lone Star to arrive at Astove or Assumption at first light. Guests pack, settle bills and disembark 1 hour before the flight. The Charter flight will then depart, and possibly divert to Alphonse. The flight will land at the IDC Hanger in Mahe, 3 hours later.

Tackle & Gear - A comprehensive tackle and gear list will be sent along with this pre-trip info. Anglers use single-handed 9ft 9wt, 10wt & 12wt saltwater outfits with matching tropical floating lines. The guides will have 12 weight fly rods matched with Shilton SL7 reels and nine weight fly rods matched with Shilton SL6 reels, which can be rented on a weekly basis. There will be fly lines, flies, and various other items on sale should you run out. Any tackle that is needed can be ordered and delivered to location. Rod rentals need to be pre booked. ***Please note that all tackle needs to be paid in cash.***

Fishing Clothing - Lightweight long sleeve shirts and long pants that can be zipped off are recommended. Sunscreen with a minimum protection factor of at least 30 is required for any exposed skin areas. A buff and bandana is of great importance for sun protection of your face. Sun gloves will help protect your hands.

Fishing Season - The first part of the season traditionally runs from early November to mid December and the second part from late February to late April, with a break over the festive season. These are the peak periods as January is one of the rainiest months in the Seychelles. From May to October the strong South-Easterly monsoon winds blow incessantly. We stick to the fore mentioned dates to ensure all guests have an unforgettable fishing experience.



Weather - The Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid. During midday, temperatures hover near 90 degrees but there is usually a steady breeze to keep things comfortable on the flats. Evenings are also invariably warm with the exception of the first few weeks of the season, when there may be a strong, cooling breeze.

Hours of Daylight - Due to its proximity to the equator, there is no real twilight in the Seychelles. The sun rises quickly at around 6:15 a.m. and sets with equal swiftness at about 6:30 p.m. This varies by only minutes throughout the year, giving nearly a full 12 hours of daylight for 365 days a year.

From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance - All guests are required to obtain "From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance". Details will be requested prior to arrival on the Island. Alphonse Island Lodge Limited and its agents cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

Indemnity Form - *All guests are required to sign an indemnity form once on location.*

Travel Insurance - All guests are required to obtain travel insurance that will cover any costs incurred due to flight delays for any reason.

Inoculations & Health - No inoculations are legally required for entry. However, you may want to check with your local immunization and inoculation clinic for their recommendations on health precautions for travel to the Seychelles. Some travelers elect to protect themselves against hepatitis A with an immunoglobulin injection (short-term protection) or the longer lasting vaccine. Other inoculations may be required if you are planning a trip extension to parts of Africa.

Water Consumption - There is a desalination plant onboard, and the water from the faucets is safe to drink.

Strict Luggage Restrictions - Check in luggage is limited to 15 kg per person, and 5kg carry on luggage. This is a strict policy that allows us to deliver fresh food product to the boat. If it is not possible to load extra luggage, it will have to be repacked and left on Mahe until your return. Please adhere to the limits. It is suggested that lighter soft-shell luggage is used. Pack a separate bag with excess equipment to avoid having to repack on the airport. There is left luggage storage at the airport and you can arrange for your tour operator in Mahe will store excess luggage while you are at Cosmoledo.

Communication - The phones service is operated via satellite and there is no wifi. Communication cost: incoming/outgoing emails USD 35 per MB + VAT, Outgoing voice call USD 3 per minute or part of + VAT, incoming voice call USD 2 per minute or part of + VAT - the number is +870 773 137 397.



Currency - You do not need to change your € (Euros) or US\$ (US Dollars) into the local currency. The lodge accepts both currencies. Please bring sufficient cash to settle tackle bills, tips and other costs incurred. **No credit cards accepted.**

Electricity Supply - The Mayas Dugong has 24-hour electrical current (240 volt, 50 cycles AC) with British plug points. A European electrical current adapter (3-point, square-pin) is necessary.

Advice on Tipping - If you wish to show appreciation to the general boat staff, we suggest a \$ 200 per guest per week or USD 30 per day guideline. This is to be left with the Captain upon departure for equal distribution. For the Fly Fishing Guides a \$ 500 per angler per week, which is given to the fishing manager at the end of the week. ***All tips are to please be paid in cash.***

Includes:

- 7 Night package with all meals included
- Private charter flight
- Six days fully guided fishing
- Max Pax: 8 anglers (2 anglers to 1 guide)
- Tender boat and fuel
- Fishing License
- Landing Fees
- Soft Drinks, Water, Tea and Coffee

Excludes:

- International Flights
- Ground transfers on Mahe
- Park Fees
- Alcoholic drinks, laundry, items of a personal nature, telephone charges and internet
- Travel and medical insurance "from scene of accident"
- Trip insurance
- Tackle and flies
- Gratuities

Payment Terms - Reservations will be held for 2 weeks. We require a 50% deposit to confirm the booking, final payment is to be made 3 month prior to arrival



Cancellation Policy:

- A 10% fee shall be levied if cancellation is made more than 180 days prior to arrival.
- A 10% fee shall be levied if the reservation is moved to an alternative date within the same season
- A fee of 50% shall be levied if cancellation is between 180 and 90 days prior to arrival
- A fee of 100% shall be levied if cancellation is 90 days or less prior to arrival
- All cancellations & provisional bookings must be confirmed in writing

Indemnity & Insurance:

- All activities require the client to sign an indemnity once on location
- All clients require travel insurance to cover costs incurred due to flight delays for any reason
- All clients require "From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance"

Terms & Conditions - At time of quote flight charges, island fees and government taxes are correct but are subject to change without prior notice. Increases in any of these facets are out of the control of Alphonse Island Lodge Limited and will be transferred to the client. Service providers used such as airlines and charter boat operators are independent business concerns and are in no way affiliated to Alphonse Island Limited. Although all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour, Alphonse Island Lodge Limited cannot be held responsible in any way for bad or non-performance of service providers. While all possible efforts will be made to ensure the success of this tour, Alphonse Island Lodge Limited cannot be held responsible in any way for the cancellation in total or in part or non-performance in any way, due to bad weather, insufficient bookings or any other detrimental natural phenomenon/disaster, political unrest or war.

Should Cosmix LTD UAE be unable to provide S.Y Lone Star for the cruise, Cosmix LTD UAE will attempt to provide a similar vessel instead. Should Cosmix LTD UAE be unable to provide a similar vessel, or the Charterer does not accept the replacement vessel, a 100% refund of the cruise charter fee only, will be made to the client and no further claims from the client will be made on Alphonse Island Lodge Limited. In the event of S.Y Lone Star being hijacked by pirates, Alphonse Island Lodge Limited will in no way be liable for the safety and/or return of their guests. Likewise in any scenario in which certain costs for extracting or moving their guests are incurred, including but not limited to charter flights or other means of transportation off the Vessel or from an area, the guests agrees to meet any and all such costs and no claims will be made against Alphonse Island Lodge Limited for such expenses.

We hope the above information helps to enhance your fishing at Cosmoledo Atoll. Should there be any further assistance you require, please do not hesitate to contact us keith@alphonse-island.com