

Prepared for Blue Safari Fishing

BLUE SAFARI FLY FISHING SEYCHELLES

Astove Atoll

Astove is situated 1055km southwest of Mahé and forms part of the remote Aldabra Group of Atolls. It's a small and unique atoll that spans six kilometres from north to south and just under four kilometres from east to west at the widest points. The shallow lagoon has one small entrance, and due to its elevation a phenomenon occurs whereby the tide falls like a river for ten hours of the 12-hour tidal cycle and then turns to flood the entire lagoon in only two hours.

At a Glance

- Located 655 nautical miles southwest of Mahé in the Seychelles.
- Situated 9° south of the equator.
- Astove is comprised of a shallow lagoon surrounded by sheer drop-offs.
- One of the most remote and secluded inhabited islands in the Seychelles.
- Astove Island Lodge offers six single occupancy, air-conditioned ensuite rooms surrounding a central courtyard
- Accommodate up to six anglers per week.
- Scheduled flights depart and return to Mahé on Mondays

Highlights

- Best destination for targeting GTs while wading
- Healthy population of Triggerfish and Permit
- Strongest surf dwelling bonefish
- Home to the Famous Astove wall
- Worlds renowned diving and Snorkelling
- Easy beach access, with the ocean only meters away.
- Original Coral House
- Small Intimate lodge experience
- Impeccable service, cuisine, activities and experiences

Activities

Activities included in the rate (Guided):

- Kayak
- SUP
- Island walks
- Turtle nesting (seasonal)
- Beach sundowner
- Paulie's lunch
- Reef flats expedition

Astove Atoll

- Scuba diving
- Wall snorkelling and Paulie's island snorkelling
- Blue Safari experience
- Lagoon mangrove hike.

Independent exploration activities:

- Kayak
- SUP
- Snorkel

At additional charge:

- Guided flats fly-fishing

Astove Atoll Fishing

Astove has become synonymous with the largest flats-caught GT's in the Indian Ocean. Its shallow lagoon and small entrance, surrounded by sheer drop-offs makes the experience truly unique. Astove is small and is surrounded by coral flats with deep drop-offs on the flats edge allowing predators easy access. Not only does Astove have large GT's but it also has an equally impressive bonefish, permit, bluefin trevally, triggerfish, barracuda and milkfish population. With the numbers of permit caught ever increasing from season to season, if you are after achieving a "Grand Slam" this should certainly be your destination of choice.

The offshore fishing starts metres from the edge of the flats where you can test your tackle against species like yellowfin tuna, dogtooth tuna, wahoo and sailfish. The variety of grouper and snapper that can be caught while dredging adds a new dimension to the amount of species you may tick off your list.

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

Your charter flight departs Mahé Airport, diverts to Alphonse and lands on Astove three hours later. On arrival your group will be transferred to the lodge where orientation and tackle set up begins. After lunch you can start your fishing with an unguided session on foot before sunset.

Astove Atoll Fishing

DAY 2 - 7

Breakfast is at 07h30, fishing begins at 08h30 and lunch is taken in the form of a packed lunch which is enjoyed while out on the flats. You will arrive back at the lodge by 17h30 but are free to continue fishing unguided until sunset.

DAY 8

Breakfast is at 07h30, you can then pack, settle your tab and gratuities, and prepare for the three hour flight back to Mahé. The flight will land back at Mahé Airport.

Skiffs and Guiding

The lodge has two 20ft Mini-Mahé skiffs that have been specifically designed for fly fishing the outer atolls as well as offshore. There are three Mitzi skiffs situated inside the lagoon. They are skippered by our experienced Alphonse Fishing Co. Guides. Your fishing team will comprise of two guests fishing with a different guide each day.

Our Guides:

- Are professional, passionate and extremely experienced with all facets of fly fishing in these remote saltwater destinations.
- Are fluent in English [some speak French and Creole].
- Carry waterproof VHF radios and are in constant communication with each other as well as the base.
- Are qualified skippers, with STCW qualifications and have impeccable boat handling skills.
- Have first aid experience.
- Have pioneered many of the techniques in catching the various species that call Seychelles home eg: milkfish & triggerfish.

Seasons

6 pre - sold fly fishing packages available January - March

Wading

The hard white sand, turtlegrass or coral flats of the Seychelles make for easy wading, 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. A 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 check list at the end of this document.

Seychelles Species - Astove

Bonefish (Albula vulpes)

Astove has a healthy population of bonefish that frequent the flats in the 6 – 10 lbs range. Bonefish are consistently caught on a neap and spring tide and are a fantastic species to target in a group or by singling out tailing fish. The lagoon is home to more juvenile fish whilst the reef edge and under the ‘cliffs’ are home to the larger bonefish.

Moustache Triggerfish (Balistoides viridescens)

A colourful and energetic feeder that tails when feeding in the shallows, both up on the flats and on the reef edges. Known as a giant, titan or moustache triggerfish, it is the largest of the three species that can be caught at Astove. The Alphonse Guides were the first to develop the flies and techniques to deceive these fish, as well as introduced them as a much sought-after trophy for flats fisherman. Good catch's of Moustache triggerfish are seen every season on Astove.

Indo-Pacific Permit (Trachinotus blochii)

Also known as pompano, as its member of the Carangid family and a relative of the Atlantic permit. Astove has a healthy population of permit, which is spread throughout the entire fishery but most densely found in the upper section of the Astove lagoon. The Alphonse guides have near perfected the art of catching these fish, considered the Holy Grail of saltwater flyfishing!

Yellowmargin Triggerfish (Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus)

Triggerfish are opportunists, feeding mainly on small crustaceans, which make them the perfect species to target on a fly. Astove offers great opportunities when it comes to targeting yellowmargin triggerfish. These colourful characters, grow in excess of 15 lbs, have extended anal and dorsal fins that work in conjunction with each other but in different directions, giving them incredible acceleration.

Milkfish (Chanos chanos)

A finicky algae feeder and a ferocious aerobic fighter reaching lengths in excess of 180 cm and weights over 50 lbs. The Alphonse guides were the first to develop the flies and techniques to catch this sought-after trophy. The first milkfish ever caught on fly was on Alphonse and the Seychelles is still the best destination in the world to target this species, with more caught on our atolls than all the world's destinations put together. The milkfish at Astove are somewhat smaller than that of Alphonse and are prevalent in their numbers if conditions are suitable.

Seychelles Species - Astove

Giant Trevally (Caranx ignobilis)

A super predator that is found at all our destinations in good numbers with specimens as large as 120 lbs. Astove has less GT's than that of Cosmoledo, yet giant trevally numbers are consistent and average catch stats of approximately 20 per week. The GT's at Astove are generally larger than those of Cosmoledo.

Bluefin Trevally (Caranx melampygus)

Bluefin trevally are distributed throughout the tropical waters of the world with populations varying according to fishing pressure. Areas like Astove, that have shallow lagoons, support healthy populations of juveniles, which contribute immensely to the overall population. The typical size of fish would be from 18 cm to 80 cm, with an 80 cm specimen being a trophy.

Indo - Pacific Salfish (Istiophorus platypterus)

Sailfish are the fastest fish in the ocean and named after their large dorsal fin, which extends most of the length of its body. These acrobatic fighters are found from time to time in the deeper water that surround Astove .

Dogtooth Tuna (Gymnosarda unicolor)

Dogtooth tuna are a resident-pelagic fish that are found along the drop-offs and the 'wall' in good numbers at Astove. They patrol continental shelf drop-offs and frequent depths between 50 and 150 ft, which are found relatively close to shore around the atoll. These fish can be targeted by dredging with a heavy sink tip fly line and a Mega Clouser.

Barracuda (Sphyraena barracuda)

These fearsome looking creatures are extremely fast and jump when hooked. Larger barracuda, which grow to over 240 cm, are more or less solitary in their habits and hunt alone when on the flats. Although all of our destinations have great numbers of barracuda, they aren't commonly caught on Astove.

Wahoo (Acanthocybium solandri)

The Seychelles waters are known for their incredible numbers of wahoo due to the rich currents that flow close to the atolls. Reaching speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour, the wahoo is the third fastest fish in the sea. The wahoo that frequent the Astove waters range between 10 to 50lbs. At certain times of the year they migrate to follow shoals of baitfish, resulting in varied fishing throughout the season.

Seychelles Species - Astove

Yellowfin Tuna (Thunnus albacares)

Yellowfin Tuna migrate through out the Seychelles year-round following bait and particular ocean currents. As a result the tuna caught around Astove fluctuates, with the majority of catches being seen at the start and end of the season. When actively targeted offshore yellowfin tuna can be caught in good numbers surrounding Astove.

Tackle & Gear Checklist

Rod & Reel Loan

Fly fishing outfits consisting of Thomas and Thomas fly rods and Shilton reels, loaded with 300 yards of Cortland braided backing can be loaned at no charge. It's important that angler's pre book the rod hire to insure that we have sufficient stock. Anglers can either purchase fly lines in the shop or bring fly lines from home to accompany their respective hire rods. All rod breakages are for your account and will be billed at US\$150 per rod.

Tackle & Gear

Astove will have a range of fly lines, flies and various other items for sales should you run out. Any tackle that is needed can be pre-ordered and will be delivered to Astove for your arrival. All tackle sales may be settled at the end of your trip upon check out.

Recommended Bonefish & Permit Outfit

- 2 x 9-foot 9-weight fly rod (1 x Spare)
- 1 x High quality large arbor saltwater series reel, with a strong smooth drag to match the fly rod. Load the reel with two to three hundred yards of 50lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

Recommended Triggerfish & Milkfish Outfit

- 1 x 9-foot 10-weight fly rod
- 1 x High quality large arbor saltwater series reel, with a strong smooth drag to match the fly rod. Load the reel with three hundred yards of 50lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

Recommended Giant Trevally, Bluefin Travelly, Barracuda & Bluewater

- 2 x 9-foot 12-weight fly rod (1 x Spare)
- 1 x High quality large arbor saltwater series reel, with a strong smooth drag to match the fly rod. The reel should be loaded with three hundred yards of 80lbs braid.

Tackle & Gear Checklist

- 1 x High quality heavy weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.
- 1 x 750 grain sinking line for dredging

Terminal Tackle

- 1 x 15 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 20 lbs fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 25 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 100 lbs Shilton mono leader
- 1 x 130 lbs Shilton mono leader

Flies

It's critical all anglers carry a complete selection of flies tied the correct way with the correct materials and on the correct hooks. We recommend the following fly selection, which will cover all your fishing. A full selection of flies can be purchased on Astove.

Bonefish

- 4 x Gotchas #6
- 4 x Golden Knight #6
- 4 x Pillow Talk # 6
- 4 x Fleeing Crab Cream/Tan #8

Permit & Triggerfish

- 2 x James's Sand Prawn #2
- 4 x Spawning Shrimp #2
- 12 x Alphlexo Crab [White, Tan and Olive] #2
- 2 x Fishient Crab #2
- 4 x Bedhead Shrimps #2

Milkfish

- 4 x Milkydream Chartreuse #2
- 4 x Milkydream Olive Rams Wool #2

Giant Trevally, Bluefin Trevally & Barracuda

- 2 x GT Brush Fly [Tan] #5/0 SC15-2H
- 4 x GT Brush Fly [Black] #5/0 SC15-2H
- 2 x Flaming Lamborghini's #6/0 SL12S

Tackle & Gear Checklist

- 4 x GT Bucktail Deceivers # 8/o SL12S
- 4 x GT Barrel Popper #8/o SL125

Bluewater & Billfish

- 4 x Deep-throat Dredging Flies #8/o
- 1 x Pink, White & Purple Cam Seglar Sailfish Tube Tandem #8/o x 2.

Astove Coral House



Uninhabited since 1969, Astove makes for a wild experience. To ensure that the Atoll stays pristine, Astove Coral House only caters for six to 12 guests per week. In 1968 Astove was occupied by the Veevers-Carter family who established a coconut plantation. They constructed a number of buildings including a large main house, chapel, store and accommodation for the workers. The small settlement they created, forms the basis of the accommodation used today.

Surrounding a central courtyard, the Coral House has six charming and comfortable rooms. With ensuite bathrooms, the recently refurbished rooms offer relaxed accommodation in one of the most remote locations in the world. The key to the experience is how very little has been changed in the Coral House allowing guests a sense of how the Veevers-Carter family would have enjoyed the house.

Astove Atoll Experiences

One of the most remote inhabited islands in Seychelles, Astove Atoll features a rugged and dramatic landscape with limestone rock and sand dunes rising against the horizon. It's an environment which has had very little human impact placed on it in recent decades. The geographical isolation of Astove Atoll creates an atmosphere of undisturbed solitude where guests forget about the outside world and immerse themselves in all the natural wonders and unique experiences that the island has to offer.

Our activities are scheduled according to the best conditions during your stay. Some activities may only be possible once a week due to tides & will be scheduled by our activity team accordingly. Please always let us know if you have a particular interest in any so we can do our best to accommodate it.

Non - Motorised Experiences (Included)

Independent Activities

The Blue Safari team is at your disposal should you wish for activities such as bird identification walks or private picnic's. For those who like to explore independently there is much to offer. The paths surrounding the lodge pass through natural vegetation and immerses guests in the natural beauty of Astove, on request our team will provide dedicated routes to explore. Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and Snorkelling gear are available for guests wanting to explore the island independently.

Kayak and SUP's

Frequency: Daily

Kayaks and SUP's are a perfect and non-intrusive way to get up close to turtles and other marine species, allow guests to enjoy Astove from a new perspective. On a guided tour your knowledgeable guide will take you to the Astove "Wall" where you can peer down into the blue depth of the dramatic coral drop-off. With your guide to spot and identify countless turtle, fish, shark and ray species whilst paddling the water's edge.

Alternatively, your guide may take you into the calm quiet of the magnificent Astove lagoon where you will paddle it's azure water. Getting close up to mangroves and roosting seabirds in the tranquillity of nature.

Reef Flats Expedition

Immerse yourself in the reef flats in front of the lodge with a knowledgeable and insightful guide. On this expedition guests get to appreciate the untouched view of the rich seagrass beds and crystal clear waters, whilst spotting juvenile turtles, eels, crabs and molluscs deep under rocks and squeezed into crevices in the reef platform. This is an opportunity to see all types of nature come together with mind-blowing biodiversity on the macro scale.

Astove Atoll Experiences

Turtle Nesting Viewings

Despite being a small island, Astove has one of the largest populations of nesting green sea turtles. Guests visiting Astove spend their evenings a mere 10 minutes from where multiple female turtles lay their eggs. Spending an evening with a knowledgeable guide waiting for this natural phenomenon is a rare and special experience. During the excursion guests are educated about turtle ecology and reproduction as well as their conservation status.

Motorised Experiences (Included)

Astove Atoll Safari

An exploratory drive around Astove, your guide will familiarise you with your new home showing you the layout of the island, all the secret spots, best views and all the unique species that call Astove home.

Scuba Diving

Of a selection of great dive sites, “The Wall” of Astove is probably the best dive sites in the Seychelles and those few people that have dived here regard it as one of the best in the world. With the Wall and other sights a mere 5-10 minute boat ride from the lodge, diving is at your doorstep. The reefs are covered with a forest of gorgonian and black corals that extend down to great depths. Sightings range across the board from reef to pelagic fish, big predators and tiny macro life. The large marine turtle population means that you will see countless turtles both green and hawksbill; they are absolutely guaranteed during your trip. Schools of predatory fish such as giant and bluefin trevally patrol the drop off looking for prey.

All diving must be pre booked with the Blue Safari reservations team.

Astove "The Wall" Guided Snorkelling

On this guided excursion you will be taken along the length of the Astove wall which drops dramatically vertical from 1 – 2 metres to 50 m+. Snorkellers will see soft coral covered walls, crevices, cuts and overhangs that conceal big fish. Snorkellers can take full advantage of the proximity to open ocean at this dive site and therefore may have encounters with sharks and rays as well as large grouper, snapper, napoleon wrasse and tuna. Snorkelling equipment is complimentary and is available for all guests.

Astove Atoll Experiences

Paulie's Island Guided Snorkelling

On this snorkel venture to Paulie's island, a gemstone on the flats, you will snorkel in clear waters like never before. It is a shallow snorkel at moments and therefore brings you face-to-face with a variety of fish and numerous turtles that reside at the base of the rocks. Here you can see crabs hiding in all of the nooks and crannies. Snorkelling equipment is complimentary and is available for all guests use.

Blue Safari

This is your opportunity to make the most of your own personalised Blue Safari, speak to your guide to create the perfect trip. You may choose our traditional Blue Safari in the open ocean in search of our resident spinner dolphin, leaping tuna, flying fish, mating turtles or even humpback whales (when in season). Alternatively, join our guides on an adventure like no other, learning, exploring and discovering the coastline of Astove Atoll. You may encounter a number of craggy islets full to the brim with birdlife and come face to face with this unique habitat.

As you are able to hop-on and hop-off during this trip you may choose to have a perfect picnic in a secret spot looking over the fabulous ocean vista. This can be a full or half day excursion and as the skiff ride is yours, you are able to decide how far and wide you would like to explore this magical Atoll.

Lagoon Mangrove Nature Walk

Take this fantastic excursion across the lagoon and into the mangroves. With such a variety of mangroves on Astove this excursion may include venturing into the very top of the lagoon among the mangrove roots looking for all types of wildlife. For any nature lover this will bring endless delights. Our trained guides will be able to help you identify the various species surrounding you. Alternatively you may spend time at the edge of the lower lagoon mangroves, peering into the tree tops for interesting bird life or watching for sharks patrolling the mangrove edge. This is one of those increasingly rare environments that have the power to put you in touch with raw nature.

Motorised Experiences (additional cost)

Flats fly Fishing

Astove has become synonymous with the largest flats-caught GT's in the Indian Ocean. Its shallow lagoon and small entrance, surrounded by sheer drop-offs makes the experience truly unique. The lagoon is a sanctuary for both juvenile and trophy-size fish that feed on the shallow white sand flats that line the inside of the lagoon. Try your hand on a full or half day of fly fishing with one of our experienced Alphonse Fishing Co. guides in search of the various species Astove has on offer.

Astove General Information

Access Document

- [Blue Safari Seychelles access map](#)

Getting there

- The Seychelles is a four-and-a-half-hour flight from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha which will serve as a connecting hub for regular international flights from Europe, the United States, Africa and Asia.
- There are easy connections across to East Africa via Nairobi, and South Africa via Johannesburg.
- Astove Atoll is a three-hour flight from Mahé (the main island of Seychelles).
- The Alphonse Island reservations team will assist with all return flight reservations between Mahé and Astove at the time of booking.
- Flight times are subject to change. Please make sure you confirm your correct flight times with our reservations team.

Weather

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at $\pm 35^{\circ}$ Celsius [$\pm 90^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit]. The evenings are also invariably warm with the exception of the first and last 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 06h15, and sets with equal swiftness at about 18h30. This varies by only minutes throughout the year, giving nearly a full 12 hours of daylight for 365 days a year.

Conservation Donations & Environmental Levy

Conservation Donation

There is a mandatory conservation donation of \$30 per person, per night. This will be included in your confirmation invoice and is settled prior to arrival or on check out. Donations are complimentary for children 0 - 17 years. This goes to the Alphonse Foundation and funds the conservation centre on the island and our long-term projects, if you would like to contribute further to our special projects that is welcomed and can be settled on check-out

Environmental Levy

Please take note that the Seychelles Government has introduced a Tourism Environmental Sustainability Levy which will come into effect from the 01 August 2023. Establishments will charge and collect this levy from the visitors upon guests check-out. For more information, please refer to Seychelles Tourism Sustainability Levy. This levy is applicable for all guests over 13 years old.

Astove General Information

From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance

You are required to obtain “From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance”. Please supply these details prior to arrival on the Island. Alphonse Island Lodge Limited T/A Blue Safari Seychelles and agents cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

Indemnity Form

You are required to sign an indemnity form onsite, this will be provided to you upon arrival.

Passports & Visas - Entry into Seychelles

Passports & Visas

No visa is required for a holiday. - This applies to all foreign passport holders.

Entry Into Seychelles

Every visitor who intends to travel by air or sea to the Seychelles must have an approved, valid Travel Authorization or Disembarkation Information Form. Applications can only be made up to 29 days prior to your arrival date in Seychelles.

There are different requirements for travel to the Seychelles for citizens, permit holders and visitors. Please pay attention to the required documents that apply to you and / or your group. A yellow fever vaccination is needed if you are traveling to Seychelles from a yellow fever endemic region. If you are transiting through an airport of a yellow fever endemic region for less than 12 hours you do not need yellow fever vaccination. You will need this vaccination certificate to apply for your Travel Authorisation. Get in touch with our team if you are unsure of which countries fall within the yellow fever endemic region. Please note that all travellers must have a valid credit / debit card available to pay the fee. (€10 per application and you get your clearance within 9 hours).

For more information and to apply, please refer to the [SEYCHELLES IMMIGRATION WEBSITE.](#)

Before you apply, ensure you have all of your mandatory documents ready:

- Valid passport
- Selfie or passport-type photo
- Contact information
- Details of your arrival flight into Seychelles
- Details of your visit in Seychelles
- Details of accommodation for every night of your stay in Seychelles
- Details of your departure flight from Seychelles
- Travel insurance with medical cover for CV 19

Astove General Information

- Yellow Fever Vaccination (if you have visited a yellow fever endemic region prior to arrival in Seychelles)

Flights & Luggage

- Guests are expected to arrive in Mahé the day before their trip as any delay on the day of departure will certainly cause the trip to be missed.
- The domestic flights leave from the domestic terminal at Mahé Airport.
- Please always confirm flight times, as flights are subject to change.
- Check in starts 1 hour before your scheduled departure time and closes 30 minutes prior to take off.
- Please see weight limit restrictions in bold below
- On request, the Alphonse Team in Mahé will assist you with the storage of excess luggage while you are on Alphonse Island.
- It's as important for return flight to be booked a minimum of 4 hours after arriving back in Mahé as any delays may cause guests to miss their international flights.

Check-in luggage is strictly limited to 15 kg {33 pounds} per person, and 5 kg {11 pounds} carry-on luggage.

Suggested Fishing Packing List

Although a minimal amount of clothing is required when fishing the flats, it is important to follow the recommended list.

- 3 x UV proof flats shirt [soft natural colours – as bright colours alert fish!]
- 1 x UV proof zip-off pants [soft natural colours]
- 1 x UV proof short pants [soft natural colours]
- 1 x Rain jacket [must be lightweight]
- 1 x Sungloves
- 1 x Cycling / lycra shorts for wearing under your flats shorts to prevent chafing
- 1 x Flats wading boot, with thick soles and good ankle support [Please refrain from using neoprene booties. They do not offer adequate protection!]
- 1 x Gravel guards
- 1 x Waterproof fly box to prevent your flies from rusting.
- 2 x Polarized sunglasses [Costa Del Mar's 580 amber and green mirror lenses]
- 1 x Sunscreen [SPF 30+]
- 1 x Lip block
- 2 x Buffs
- 1 x Hat / cap
- 1 x Stripping gloves

Astove General Information

- 1 x Waterproof backpack
- 1 x Headlamp or torch
- 1 x Soft tissue for drying & cleaning lenses
- 1 x Pliers for removing hooks and squashing barbs

Our Fly shop offers a range of clothing suited for fishing these waters

Suggested Lesiure Packing List

- Loose Fitting Clothing
- 1 x UV Proof shirt for waterbased activities
- 1 x Polarized sunglasses
- 1 x Sunscreen [SPF 30+]
- 1 x Lip Block
- 1 x Hat/Cap
- 1 x Headlamp/torch
- 1 x Lightweight rain jacket
- 1 x Camera
- 2 x Swimming costumes
- 1 x Dry Bag [optional for activities]

Health & Safety

Water Consumption

We have a desalination plant on Astove, and water from the faucets is safe to drink. We do not stock mineral water and will only supply it if you specifically requested prior to your arrival.

Sun Protection Clothing

The climatic conditions in the Seychelles can be harsh for those that aren't accustomed to them. Light weight breathable fabrics are recommended. Sunscreen should ideally be SPF 50 for any exposed skin. A packing list will be supplied in your Pre-Trip Information.

Mosquitoes

Astove General Information

Astove has not been civilized for many years so there are mosquito's which need to be repelled. These mosquitoes do not carry diseases. There are very few mosquito's out on the flats. Mosquitoes are only encountered when in the Coral House so it's suggested that long lightweight pants and long sleeve shirts are worn in the evening when dining. If you have an allergy to mosquito bites please let us know as we will only carry Antihistamine cream and pills. All the air-conditioned rooms have mosquito netting so the windows can be opened at night. We have Peaceful Sleep mosquito repellent [non-DEET] on location.

Dangers to Watch Out For Whilst Wading

Stingrays: Some atolls host large numbers of stingrays on the flats. Most species have a venomous, barbed spine near the base of their tails that they can use for defence. 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, stone-fish are not only lethally toxic but are also very well camouflaged and will not move unless touched. A stonefish has 13 strong hollow spines through which it injects its venom and these will pass through a thin rubber sole with ease. For this reason all wading should be done 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 paralysing venom. The venom from certain species can be fatal, however proper footwear will ensure your safety.

Sharks: Frequently encountered whilst wading in Seychelles, sharks are in-quisitive and may pause for an instant and give you the once over, but if you remain calm and quietly stand your ground, these magnificent creatures will not bother you.

Communication

The communal area on Astove has complimentary Wi-Fi. There is also a phone service operated via satellite phone. Communication cost:

- Incoming/outgoing emails US\$41 per MB,
- Out-going voice call US\$4 per minute, incoming voice call US\$3 per minute.

We advise that you leave the contact details of Alphonse Island with your

Astove General Information

family and friends. The lodge satellite phone is only switched on at certain times for logistical updates so a message can be passed onto you at this time. Alphonse Island Number: **+248-4-22-9700** [GMT+04:00]

Electricity Supply

The Island has 24-hour electrical current [240 volt, 50 cycles AC] with British plug points. A European electrical current adapter [three-point, square-pin] is necessary.

Beverages

Should you have any special beverage requirements please let us know so we can ensure it is on location for your arrival. There will be a selection of beers, spirits, Champagne and wine on location as a part of all inclusion package.

Gratuities

Tipping is never mandatory. The below serve as a guideline based on average tips given. Tips are to be left at reception upon departure for equal distribution. Any gratuities will be appreciated by the staff and we thank you for your generosity.

- General Hotel Staff: ± US\$300 per person per week or US\$50 per day as a guideline.
- Fly Fishing Guides: ± US\$700 per angler per week or US\$110 per day guideline, which is given to the fishing manager at the end of the week. The Guides work on a rotational basis so your tip will be divided equally.
- Diving Staff: ± US\$25 per dive, divided up by the dive team and skippers.
- Activity Centre Team: ± US\$15 per day for the activity team if you have joined any activities.

Currency

You do not need to change your US\$ [US Dollars], € [Euros] or £ [Pounds] into the local currency SCR [Seychelles Rupees]. The lodge accepts Rupees, Dollars, Euros and Pounds. There is a card machine on Astove to settle payments, however we recommend carrying cash for on location tackle and beverage purchases as well as gratuities.

Duty Free Allowance

200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, one litre spirits and two litres wine.

Payable Services At Mahe International Airport

- Salon de Vallée de Mai Departure Lounge – for the comfort convenience of clients awaiting air connections upon departure. This service is complimentary to business class travellers.
- Meals in Mahé will be for your own expense.
- The Payanke Lounge is available for all travellers at Mahe Airport and can be booked by our team at additional cost.

Astove Atoll Documents & Links

PDF Documents

[Fly Fishing Package 2025 Rates](#)

[Leisure Package 2025 Rates](#)

PDF Documents

[Alphonse Foundation Brochure](#)

PDF Documents

[BSS Access Map](#)

Astove Atoll Terms & Conditions

Cancellation Policies

- 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.
- If a booking moved to an alternative year, the 10% fee and the applicable rate increase will apply. Bookings may only be moved more than 181 days prior to arrival.
- 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 and provisional bookings must be confirmed in writing.
- Bank fees associated with refunds are for the guests' account.

Payment Terms

- Reservations will be held for 2 weeks.
- We require a 50% deposit to confirm the booking.
- Final payment to be made 3 months prior to arrival.

Tariffs

- Inclusive of VAT in US Dollars
- Subject to availability
- All tariffs are subject to change, without prior notice, however rates quoted for confirmed bookings will be honoured.

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Indemnity & Insurance

- All activities require the client to sign an indemnity once on location.
- All clients are required to submit “From Scene of Accident Medevac Insurance” prior to arrival.
- It is highly recommended that guests take out travel insurance that covers part or full cancellation of a trip due to flight delays, health, weather or force majeure.

Blue Safari Contacts

Island

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Reservations

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