

Farquhar Atoll

Farquhar Atoll is the most southerly atoll in the Seychelles chain of islands lying just over 700km to the southwest of the main island Mahé. This remote atoll has a total area of 170.5 km², which is 18km north to south and nine km east to west. The atoll is made up of a large ear-shaped lagoon surrounded by 10 islands, vast turtle grass flats, coral fingers and outcrops making for a diverse and wild fishery.

At a Glance

- Located 38 nautical miles southwest of Mahé in the Seychelles.
- Situated only 10° south of the equator.
- Large ear-shaped lagoon surrounded by 10 islands, vast white sand flats, coral fingers and outcrops.
- One of the most remote inhabited islands in the Seychelles.
- Accommodate up to 10 fly fishers per trip.
- Similar time zone to Europe, African and Middle East.
- One of two Blue Safari Fishing Atoll's where you are able to target bumphead parrotfish.
- Scheduled flights depart from the Mahé domestic terminal each Wednesday.

Highlights

- Home of the bumphead parrotfish and bird eating GTs
- The most southerly atoll in the Seychelles islands
- Known for its diversity of species
- Easy skiff access
- Easy beach access, with the ocean only meters away
- Impeccable service, cuisine, activities and experiences

Farquhar Atoll Fishing

Farquhar is renowned for its exceptional saltwater fly fishing, offering a wide variety of fish species and diverse fishing scenarios both on the flats and offshore. It is one of the few places in the Seychelles where anglers can target bumphead parrotfish, known for their power and size. The fishing season starts in early October with active bird-eating giant trevally and runs until the end of April. Farquhar is famous for its diversity, including bonefish, permit, triggerfish, bumphead parrotfish, and giant trevally, as well as offshore species like sailfish, wahoo, yellowfin tuna, and dogtooth tuna.

Your Itinerary

DAYı

The group meets an hour before the scheduled departure time at the Mahé domestic terminal for check-in. The charter flight to Farquhar is one-hour forty-five minutes and on occasion is diverted to Alphonse island. On arrival the group is then transferred to the Farquhar Guest House for orientation and tackle set up.

DAY 2 - 6

Breakfast at 07h00, teams are to be ready to leave the camp at 08h00 for fishing. Lunch will be packed and enjoyed during your day out fishing. At 16h30 your team will head back to the camp. Pre-dinner drinks will commence at 18h00 and dinner will follow.

DAY₇

Breakfast at 07h00, teams to be ready to leave the camp at 08h00 for fishing. Lunch will be packed and enjoyed during your day out fishing. At 16h30 your team will head back to the camp. There will be time in the evening to de-tackle your gear with snacks and cold refreshments so you are able to pack your rods, reels and fishing gear away in preparation for departure the following morning.

DAY8

The departure time and the plan for your departure the next morning will be confirmed with you at dinner the evening before. The charter flight will depart from Farquhar and possibly divert to Alphonse, landing at the Mahé domestic terminal in Mahé one-hour forty-five minutes later.

Bluewater Fishing

Experience offshore fishing like never before... The unspoilt waters of the Farquhar Atoll are home to a vast variety of Bluewater species. The structure and sheer drop-offs are idyllic for species such as sailfish, wahoo, dogtooth tuna, and yellowfin tuna.

Farquhar Atoll Fishing

Skiffs and Guides

There are six purpose built Baymaster skiffs that are on anchorage on Farquhar Atoll. These skiffs will be skippered by our experienced, world class and professional Alphonse Fishing Co. Guides. Their passion and dedication is infectious and rest assured they will go the extra mile in search of your fish of a lifetime. Angling teams will be split up into groups of two anglers per skiff and guide

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 handing skills.
- Have first aid experience.
- Have pioneered many of the techniques in catching the various species that call Seychelles home eg: milkfish & triggerfish.

Seasons

10 pre - sold fly fishing packages available:

- October December
- February April

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

BoneFish (Albula vulpes)

Farquhar has an extremely healthy population of bonefish that frequent the flats in the six to nine pounds range. The Seychelles is renowned for world-class bone fishing and Farquhar atoll offers exactly that. High quality bone fishing is found on both neap and spring tides. Giving anglers the opportunity to test their skills at large groups and single tailing fish.

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 Farquhar. The Alphonse Guides were the first to develop the flies and techniques to deceive these fish, as well as to introduce triggerfish as a much sought-after trophy for flats angler.

Indo-Pacific Permit (Trachinotus blochii)

Also known as pompano, it is a member of the Carangid family and a relative of the Atlantic permit. Farquhar has a healthy population of permit. The permit on Farquhar tend to be found along the large white sand flats on the eastern side of the atoll. The Alphonse guides have near-perfected the art of catching these fish, considered the "Holy Grail" of saltwater flyfishing!

Yellowmargin Triggerfish (Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus)

Farquhar offers great opportunities when it comes to targeting yellowmargin triggerfish. These colourful characters will test even the most seasoned anglers' patience. With their tenacious and aggressive attitude and sometimes discerning taste, they can be a true trophy catch on the flats.

Milkfish (Chanos chanos)

A finicky filter feeder and a ferocious acrobatic 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. Whilst not particularly common on Farquhar, if milkfish are found they are often inside the lagoon or offshore feeding on scum lines.

Giant Trevally (Caranx ignobilis)

Farquhar has become synonymous with being the only place on the planet where GT's have been recorded to feed on birds. As a result it has fast become a popular destination for targeting some of the biggest GT's the Seychelles has to offer. Consistent numbers of fish are caught by guests every season both on the flats and off shore.

Seychelles Species

Bumphead Parrotfish (Bolbometopon Muricatum)

Farquhar is one of the few atolls on the planet where targeting bumphead parrotfish on the flats is a realistic expectation, with large numbers of these fish calling Farquhar home. It is not uncommon to find groups of up to 50 fish tailing together on the vast turtle grass flats that Farquhar is famous for. Incredibly powerful and strangely gorgeous, these fish are often what draws most anglers to Farquhar.

Bluefin Trevally (Caranx melampygus)

Bluefin trevally are distributed throughout the tropical waters of the world with populations varying according to fishing pressure. Areas like Farquhar, 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)

The sailfish is the fThe sailfish is the fastest fish in the ocean and named after its large dorsal fin, that extends most of the length of its body. These acrobatic fighters are found in the deeper water that surrounds Farquhar in good numbers astest fish in the sea and named after its large dorsal fin, which extends most of the length of its body. These acrobatic fighters are found in the deeper water that surrounds Farquhar in good numbers.

Dogtooth Tuna (Gymnosarda unicolor)

Dogtooth tuna are a resident-pelagic fish that are found along the drop-offs in good numbers at Farquhar. 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 240cm, are more or less solitary in their habits and hunt alone when on the flats. Farquhar is home to some incredible specimens.

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 Farquhar waters range between 10 to 50 lbs.

Seychelles Species

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 Farquhar fluctuates, with dispersed catches throughout the season. When actively targeted offshore yellowfin tuna can be caught in good numbers surrounding Farquhar.

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

The lodge will have a range of fly lines, flies and various other items for sale should you run out. Any tackle that is needed can be pre-ordered and will be delivered to the lodge 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 meters of 50lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

Recommended Triggerfish, Bumphead Parrotfish & 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 meters of 50lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

Recommended Giant Trevalley, 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 12-weight fly rod. The reel should be loaded with three hundred meters of 80lbs braid.

Tackle & Gear Checklist

• 2 x High quality heavy weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

Terminal Tackle

- 1 x 15 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 20 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 25 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 30 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 130 lbs Shilton mono leader

Flies

It's critical all anglers carry a complete selection of flies tied on the correct hooks. We recommend the following fly selection, which will cover all your fishing and species on offer. A full selection of flies can be purchased on Farquhar and pre-ordered fly packs can be made up for your convenience.

BoneFish

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

Permit, Bumphead Parrotfish & Triggerfish

- 2 x James's Sand Prawn #2
- 4 x Spawning Shrimp #2
- 12 x Alphlexo Crab [White, Tan and Olive] #2
- 4 x Fishient Crab 1/0
- 4 x Bedhead Shrimps #2

Milkfish

• 4 x Milkydream Chartreuse #2

Giant Trevalley, 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/o Sl12S
- 4 x GT Bucktail Deceivers # 8/o SL12S
- 4 x GT Barrel Popper #8/o SL125

Tackle & Gear Checklist

Bluewater & Billfish

- 1 x Pink, White & Purple Cam Seglar Sailfish Tube Tandem #8/0 x 2.
- 4 x Mega Clousers

Farquhar Atoll Guest House



Property Overview

The total island land mass is 7.5 km with a serviced concrete landing strip situated on the most northerly island. The main group of islands form a long curve which describes the eastern side of the atoll. The largest of these are Isle du Nord and Ile du Sud, with the smaller Manaha gaps and islands between them. Further south is Goelette and to the open western side of the atoll lies the small group known as Trois Îles. The large ear-shaped lagoon provides easy access to the countless flats, channels and surf zones which make Farquhar such a diverse fishery.

The Guest House can accommodate 10 anglers per week in six air-conditioned rooms facing the Farquhar lagoon and provides full housekeeping, including laundry. The communal area includes a dining area, a fully stocked bar, and snorkeling gear for guests. A chef prepares Creole and international dishes with fresh fish and produce from Alphonse Island's garden. Guests can enjoy sunset events, daily bell ringers, and encounters with marine life in a pristine, picturesque setting.

Farquhar Atoll Guest House

Farquhar Atoll 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.
- Cosmoledo Atoll is a one-hour boat transfer (18 nautical miles) from Astove Atoll; which 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 Farquhar at the time of booking.
- Flight times are subject to change. Please makes sure you confirm your correct flight times with our reservations team.

Weather

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at ±35 ° Celsius [±90 °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 o6h15, 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 Donation & Environmental Levy

Conservation Donation

There is a mandatory conservation donation of \$30per 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 o - 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.

Accident Medevac 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 and agents cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

Indemnities

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 <u>SEYCHELLES IMMIGRATION WEBSITE</u>.

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
- 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
- I x Hat / cap
- 1 x Stripping gloves
- 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

Health & Safety

Water Consumption

There is a desalination plant at the Camp and the 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.

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, how-ever proper footwear will ensure your safety.

Sharks: Frequently encountered whilst wading in Seychelles, sharks are inquisitive 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 Farquhar 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 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 Camp has 24-hour electrical current [240 volt, 50 cycles AC] with British plug points. A European electrical current adapter [threepoint, square-pin] is necessary.

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.

Currency

You do not need to change your US\$ (US Dollars), € (Euros) or £ (Pounds) into the local currency. We accept US Dollars, Euros and Pounds and all major credit and debit cards. We do not accept American Express.

Duty Free Allowance

200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, 1 litres spirits and 2 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.

PDF Documents		
Fly Fishing Package 2025 Rates		
PDF Documents		
Alphonse Foundation Brochure		
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PDF Documents

BSS Access Map

Farquhar 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.

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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