

WELCOME TO EL PESCADOR

Answers to all your questions.





Photo: Scott Morrison

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO EL PESCADOR...

- SUGGESTED PACKING LIST4
- GETTING HERE5
- LOCAL TRANSFER5
- BAR6
- BIKES6
- CHECK IN & CHECK OUT6
- COMMUNITY6
- CONSERVATION7
- CURRENCY7
- DINING8
- DRESS CODE8
- HISTORY9
- KAYAKS & CANOES & PADDLE BOATS10
- LAUNDRY10
- MASSAGES & SPA SERVICES10
- OFFICE, GIFT & FLY SHOP10
- PETS10
- POOL & OCEAN11
- SAFETY & SECURITY11
- SMOKING11
- TELEPHONE11
- TIPPING12
- TOURS & ACTIVITIES12
- TRANSPORTATION12
- WATER & ICE12
- WIFI13
- WILDLIFE & BUGS13

GUIDED FLATS FISHING AT EL PESCADOR...

- FISHING DIRECTOR15
- A CUSTOMARY FISHING DAY16
- WHAT ARE YOU FISHING FOR?17
- THE FISHING18
- YOUR GUIDES19
- TIPPING19
- CASTING LESSONS19
- PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR GEAR20
- DEMO GEAR20
- BOAT LUNCHES20
- FISHING LICENSES20
- MARINE PARK FEES21
- CATCH & RELEASE21
- FLY FISHING GEAR SUGGESTIONS22
- SPIN FISHING GEAR SUGGESTIONS24

LAND AND SEA ADVENTURES...

- FLATS FISHING27
- REEF FISHING & BEACH PICNIC27
- DEEP SEA FISHING27
- SCUBA DIVING28
- SNORKELING28
- SNORKELING TO BACALAR CHICO29
- SNORKELING & MANATEE WATCH29
- SNORKELING TO CAYE CAULKER29
- CATAMARAN SNORKELING TO CAYE CAULKER30
- CATAMARAN SUNSET SAILING30
- CATAMARAN SNORKELING TO MEXICO ROCKS30
- BLUE HOLE FLY OVER30
- KAYAK SAN PEDRO LAGOON30
- SPA SERVICES31
- PARASAILING31
- YOGA31
- ATM CAVE31
- CAVE TUBING & ZIP LINE OR BELIZE ZOO OR XUNANTUNICH31
- LAMANAI (BY BOAT OR BY AIR)31



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Jess McGlothlin Media

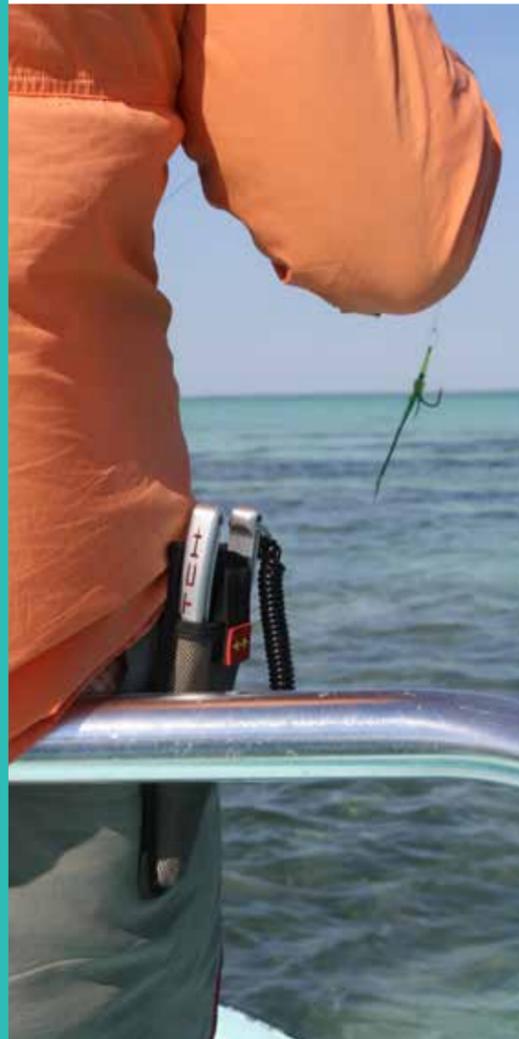


Photo: Scott Morrison

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Belize is a tropical country where the average temperature is 84 F during the day and 75 F at night, year round. Dress is informal at the lodge so bring light comfortable clothing. Consider packing the following:

- Passport (must be valid for no less than six months after intended period of stay in Belize.)
- Photocopy of Passport (packed separately)
- Airline e-tickets
- Itinerary with contact numbers
- Emergency Medical and Travel insurance docs
- Credit card (EP accepts Visa and Mastercard)
- Cash for tips
- Hats with brim
- Sun gloves
- Face protector (buff or bandana)
- Long sleeve shirts for fishing (SPF fabric-quick dry)
- Long pants for fishing (SPF fabric-quick dry)
- White socks (tops of feet get burned in the boats)
- Underwear
- Casual pants, shorts
- Casual shirts, short sleeve, t shirts
- Light sweater or fleece
- Bathing suits
- Sandals or walking shoes
- Lightweight rain gear (jacket and pants) for those tropical showers (a MUST June-January)
- Bug repellent with deet
- Camera, cords & chargers
- Cell Phone & chargers
- Laptop or Tablet and chargers (lodge has Wi Fi)
- Sunblock SPF 30+
- Toiletries
- Prescription meds
- Non-prescription Meds
- Eyeglasses (and spare)
- Polarized sunglasses (and spare)
- Waterproof boat bag
- Binoculars for spotting birds
- Mask, snorkel & fins (only available for rent on guided excursions)
- Fishing gear as detailed on fishing pretrip info
- Hand towel/rag for use fishing

GETTING HERE...

All visitors to Belize must travel on a valid passport (non-expired). The passport must be valid for the intended period of stay in Belize. To enter the country of Belize as a tourist for a period of 30 days or less, citizens of the United States, Commonwealth realms, European Union Member States (EU) and Caribbean Community Member States (CARICOM) do NOT require a visa.

Children under 18 years of age traveling with one parent require an original notarized letter of authority from the other parent indicating travel consent. For additional information: <http://www.belize-immigration.org/immigration/visa/>

Please note that upon departure from the Belize International Airport (BZE), there is per person departure tax. Generally this fee is included in the price of your ticket. If not, it is payable at the airport in USD cash or credit card. Please check with your airline to confirm if the departure tax is included in the price of your ticket.

LOCAL TRANSFER

Guests fly to Belize International Airport (BZE). **Please book your flights to arrive and depart BZE between 6am – 6pm.** Please then send us your individual names and roundtrip flight information so we may book your local Tropic Air transfers and forward you the ticket confirmation. Our local Tropic Air flights take 15 minutes and depart hourly between BZE – SPR. Tropic Air allows for 2 bags per person, up to 50lbs per bag. Upon arrival at BZE proceed through Immigrations, collect your baggage and continue through Customs. The Customs line to the far right has a green sign that states “No Goods to Declare.” You will want to go through this line. After clearing Customs please continue into the main terminal. Go directly to the Tropic Air Counter, which is the first counter, on the far left. El Pescador will arrange for your local roundtrip transfers between the Belize International Airport and El Pescador. This is included as part of the package or may be booked a la carte if you have booked on a nightly lodging only rate.

At the Tropic Air counter, please present your confirmation for the quick, 15-minute flight to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. A Representative of El Pescador will meet you at the Tropic Air baggage claim area. A taxi will transport your luggage and you for the 2 blocks to the pier where the EP Representative will escort you to the lodge by boat 2-1/2 miles, 7 minutes (in inclement weather, by land taxi).

If you miss your Tropic Air connection, you will automatically be placed on the next available flight. If your International flight has been quite delayed and you are not scheduled to arrive until after 5pm, please call El Pescador at 226-2398 (Internationally 011-501-226-2398) and we will reschedule your flight.





Photo: Jim Klug

BAR

Our bar offers a full selection of top shelf liquors, wine and beer. It is open from 12pm until the last guest leaves or until midnight, whichever occurs first. Only alcohol purchased from El Pescador's bar may be consumed in any public area of our property, including the restaurant. If you have a request for a specific wine or alcohol please notify the front desk. We will do our best to accommodate you (if prior to arrival, please email info@elpescador.com). We are committed to not using any single-use disposable containers for any beverages. Therefore all of our beer and soda is in reusable glass bottles.

There is a pool table, foosball table, a fly tying area and other games located in the bar for your enjoyment. Many international cigars are available for purchase in San Pedro and a nice selection of Cuban cigars are sold in the bar. Please be sure to sign your bar tab each evening before leaving. The legal drinking age in Belize is 18.

BIKES

Bikes are a great way to explore the island! They are on a complimentary first come, first serve basis. Bike locks are also available and must be used if you plan to leave the bike unattended. Please coordinate with the front desk. Bikes are not available for use after 5:30pm as there are no lights on the road or on the beach.

CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

Check in is at 2pm and check out is by 10am on day of departure. If you would like a late check out, please ask the front desk if we are able to accommodate your request.

COMMUNITY

We are dedicated to improving our island community. We believe that the most practical way to improve the quality of life on Ambergris Caye is to invest in our children's education. To that end, El Pescador organizes sponsorships to local schools. Our students have GPAs that make us very proud and have even earned a few awards! We are honored to be a part of their future success.

We also continue to support environmental and scientific organizations such as Bonefish & Tarpon Trust and Ambergris Caye Citizens for Sustainable Development. They help us to protect bonefish, tarpon and permit as well as their habitats.

To learn more and to join us in support of these worthwhile organizations please visit www.bonefishtarpontrust.org and <https://accsdbz.wordpress.com/> and www.theislandacademy.com



Photo: Gilbert Rowley
Capture Adventure Media



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison

CONSERVATION

Please know that your comfort is of utmost importance to us. However our beautiful island has finite natural resources. We ask that you please respect the resources and conserve water and electricity wherever you can.

Please do not flush any toilet paper, tampons, diapers, paper towels, or any other items in the toilet. A trash bin is provided in each restroom and will be emptied daily by housekeeping.

Upon check in, you were given a complimentary water bottle. We are committed to not using any single-use disposable containers for any beverages. Please use your water bottle on all excursions, as disposable cups are not provided.

Please close all windows and doors if you are using your air conditioning.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the environment by using less energy and creating less waste, we offer a solution. During your stay, we will change bed linens and towels every few days, while still refreshing your guestroom daily. If you do not wish to participate in this program, please contact the front desk and your linens and towels will be replaced daily.

CURRENCY

El Pescador Guests will not need cash while at the lodge as we will run a tab for you. The local currency is the Belize dollar, which is worth half the US dollar. US dollars in pristine condition (no tears, rips or writing) are accepted everywhere; change may be given in Belize dollars. For your convenience, please carry small bills to cover minor expenses. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at the lodge. There are a few ATMs in San Pedro Town that dispense Belize dollars (a maximum of BZ\$500 per day).





Photos: Scott Morrison



DINING

Our goal is to create the best menus using products from our local fisheries and farms. Our chef uses fresh, seasonal local fruits, vegetables, meats and seafood. All of our breads and desserts are homemade. Please let us know if you have any food allergies or any special dietary concerns, which we will be happy to accommodate. Please also let us know if you have any special requests or are celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.

Breakfast: A la carte menu. Served from 6am–9am.

Lunch: A la carte menu. Served from 12noon–1pm.

Bar Snacks: A la carte menu. Bar opens at 12pm and hors d'oeuvres are served from 2 - 5pm.

Dinner: Pre Fixe. Served at 6:45pm. (In addition to the prefixe menu, local grilled fish fillet as well as a vegan option are offered every night. If you would like one of these options, please let the Chef know by 10am.)

***Reservations:** If Guests are not on a meal plan, please make reservations in the office. We request that dinner reservations be made no later than 10am. No reservations are necessary for breakfast or lunch.

DRESS CODE

Clothing at the lodge is comfortable, casual and informal. Shorts, T-shirts, bathing suits, SPF clothing to protect from the sun and sandals are encouraged. No formal dress (sport coat, etc) is necessary. The island's motto is "No shirt, No shoes, No problem."

HISTORY

El Pescador marks its beginnings as an undeveloped beachfront owned by a Dr. Curran of California. The land was purchased sight-unseen in 1972 by Juergen and Kathleen Krueger from an aerial photograph of the island. As Juergen was forming plans for the lodge design, he developed a rapport with the local Mennonites due to his ability to speak their Platt Deutsch language. Krueger negotiated with the Mennonites for the best lumber for the construction of the lodge. In May of 1973, a barge arrived with the lumber to begin construction. Krueger obviously got what he was looking for. To everyone's amazement, the hardwood was so dense it sunk as it was off-loaded from a barge at the beach and a human chain was necessary to complete the task of getting it onshore. On September 4, 1974, the first guests checked into the newly finished main lodge (today this is rooms #1–10). The two parties checking in had arrived on the same flight and there was nearly an argument over who got to sign the guest register first.

In 1997, the world-renowned fishing lodge was purchased by brother and sister, Logan and Ali Gentry, after Logan had enjoyed the flats fishing vacation of a lifetime as a guest of El Pescador. They ran the lodge together for 5 years enjoying many adventures. Logan passed away in a boating accident in May, 2002. We miss him every day. El Pescador continues to be a testament to his entrepreneurship, joy of life, nurturing of friendships, love of sport fishing and stewardship of nature. In 2004 Ali's parents, Chris and Steve Spiro, joined her in Belize to take over the operations of El Pescador so Ali could spend more time with her 3 wonderful daughters, enjoying the gift of raising them in such a unique paradise. In 2015, Chris, Steve, Ali and her daughters moved to Richmond, VA to continue the girls' education. Ali, Chris and Steve remain the lodge owners and still frequently visit their Belize home to maintain their leadership roles and support for the El Pescador family.





Photo: Orvis

KAYAKS & CANOES & PADDLE BOARDS

Kayak, canoes and paddleboards are available for complimentary use. The sit-on-top kayaks may be used on either the lagoon side or the ocean side. However, the sit-in models may only be used on the lagoon side. They are on a first come, first serve basis. We require using a PFD (personal floatation device) that is available at the front desk. For safety reasons, we cannot allow their use if the wind is 15 knots or greater. Please coordinate with the front desk for both the PFDs as well as the kayak, canoe or paddleboard of your choice. There is no lifeguard on duty. Please use at your own risk. No children under 18 may use without adult supervision.

LAUNDRY

Laundry and ironing services are available for a nominal fee per item. If you need laundry done, please fill out the laundry slip located in your bedside table. Please place the items in the laundry bag provided with the completed slip on top and leave it just inside your door. Your housekeeper will collect it in the morning when she refreshes your room and will return it the next day. Keep in mind that we use brackish water for washing, which may not be desirable for your laundry as it can leave rust stains.

MASSAGES & SPA SERVICES

Massages, manicures, pedicures and facials are available by appointment. Enjoy a fabulous deep tissue massage from one of our specialists who are consistently commented on as being "the best massage I've ever had." Please see the front desk to make arrangements.

OFFICE, GIFT & FLY SHOP

Our office hours are 6am–9pm. We carry sun block, insect repellent, fly fishing tackle, clothes, jewelry and various other gift items. All purchases may be signed and put on your tab to be settled at the end of your stay.

PETS

There are lots of them. At El Pescador you will meet our dog, Nala, and our cat Dora. They are all friendly. We ask that you do not feed them. They may tell you otherwise, but they do get plenty to eat! Please do not allow them to enter your room or villa.



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Orvis



Photo: Orvis

POOL & OCEAN

There is no lifeguard on duty. Please swim at your own risk. No children may swim without adult supervision. Guests are welcome to swim in the pools anytime but if you swim after dark, please be respectful of others. Please do not swim in the ocean after dark. Please also do not swim between the dock and the reef ever as it is a boating channel and therefore unsafe for swimmers.

SAFETY & SECURITY

In-room safes are available for storage of your valuable items. Please lock all doors and windows to your room/villa at all times. Please do NOT leave items unattended outside of your room or villa (including the verandahs).

If you have left your fishing rods on the rod rack near the restaurant to dry, please return them to your room before 6pm. All rods look alike first thing in the morning and anglers may mistakenly take the wrong rods. If you would like to fish with your rods, please secure them in your room/villa. El Pescador can not be responsible for loss, theft or breakage of any rods or reels or tackle of any kind, at any time, whether in the boats or on the property.

There are security guards on the property each evening. They wear an El Pescador family shirt and carry flashlights. If you are in need of assistance when the office is closed between 9pm–6am, they can help.

SMOKING

Preferred areas for smoking include the outdoor bar seating area, around the pools, room balconies and villa verandahs. Please do not smoke in any other area, including the dining palapa and please always be respectful of others. Please do NOT smoke in any room or villa or any other indoor area of the lodge. There is a cleaning fee assessed for smoking inside. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our smoking policy, please visit our front office for more information.

TELEPHONE

Your personal cell phone will most likely work. Please contact your specific provider regarding your international roaming and data plan.



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Scott Morrison

TIPPING

Tipping is a personal decision based on service. Please don't reward us if you are not fully satisfied. Also, please let us know as soon as possible if you are not pleased with something so we have an opportunity to correct it for you.

Our lodge staff includes front desk, housekeepers, bartenders, boat drivers, maintenance & security, servers & kitchen staff. It is customary to leave a tip of US\$25 per guest, per day upon check out to be pooled and divided equally for all lodge staff to encourage teamwork. It is not necessary to tip management. There are gratuity envelopes included in your check out paperwork, as well as in the office.

As a general guideline, it is customary to leave US\$100 per boat/per day to be given to your fishing guide directly. If a fishing guide apprentice is in your boat, it is not necessary to tip the apprentice. (S)he is there to learn and is not part of your guiding service.

All tour guides appreciate a 15–20% tip on the cost of the excursion.

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

(See **Land & Sea Adventures Section in this booklet for more information.**)

We offer many exciting activities including diving, snorkeling, jungle tours and Maya Ruins to name a few. There is a complete list of island and mainland activities in this book as well as at the front desk. Our front desk can make all of the necessary arrangements. Please confirm all activities before 5pm, as most offices close at 5pm and therefore it's not possible to make or change arrangements after that hour.

TRANSPORTATION

Land taxis are available for hire. Transportation by boat is also available via the Coastal Express (which runs on a schedule, posted in the office). Please inquire at the front desk for assistance. Golf carts may be rented directly at the El Pescador front desk. You must have a valid driver's license. If going to San Pedro via golf cart, please bring cash as there is a BZ\$5 per golf cart fee each way for the toll at the bridge.

Walking and biking are also great ways to explore the island during the day. Please do not walk or bike at night as there are no lights on either the road or on the beach.

WATER & ICE

A pitcher of potable drinking water is provided in your refrigerator and will be refilled once daily. Please do not drink the tap water. There is also an ice tray in the freezer portion of your refrigerator. If you need more water, we offer refilling stations in the bar, office and restaurant. We use filtered water for all cooking, ice and drinking.



Photo: Scott Morrison

WI-FI

El Pescador offers complimentary WI-FI internet access. Please bring your own laptop, phone or device. The routers are above the bar and office respectively and work well around the bar, pool and office area. There are also routers on the north and south side villas. The connections are named PESCADOR GUEST 1, PESCADOR GUEST 2, PESCADOR GUEST 3 and PESCADOR Villas North and PESCADOR Villas South. The password for all of them is 123456789.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not have the bandwidth capacity for uploads, downloads or streaming of any kind. Streaming music, videos, movies, video calls/facetime, satellite radio, uploading photos, SKYPE etc. will not work well, or at all. Our service is the very strongest internet available on the island. It is provided for email and basic web pages only (weather, news). Islands in third world countries have wonderful fishing, diving and nature based activities, but do not have wonderful internet speeds or bandwidth capacity.

WILDLIFE & BUGS

Yes, we have mosquitoes. Not every day and not all day. They are more active at dusk and dawn. If you are sensitive to them you should wear repellent with deet. It is wise to close doors and turn off inside lights during times that the bugs are active. If our trade winds become calm you may notice little bites from creatures called no-seeums. Bug repellent will also keep them at bay. Birds, snakes, lizards and raccoons—we have plenty! We do not have rabies on the island, so never-fear if you see a raccoon during the day time. There are no venomous snakes on the island and the old saying holds true... "They are more afraid of you than you are of them." There are iguanas around the lodge. You are most likely to encounter them sunning themselves on a stump in the heat of the day. We have lots of geckos; you may even encounter one indoors. They eat the bugs that like to eat us. Geckos are a good thing! You are likely to encounter bats at dusk and dawn; if one enters in your room or villa please let us know so we may remove it. They are harmless and like the geckos, they eat the bugs that eat us! We have black scorpions—not brown ones. Black ones have a sting like a bee sting (unless you are allergic, it is not a problem). Scorpions are rarely indoors, but if you encounter one it will probably be in a damp/wet item. To reduce the possibility of seeing one, please do not throw wet towels, bathing suits or shoes in a heap on the floor which is very appealing to a scorpion. Try to keep things dry and tidy.

GUIDED FLATS FISHING AT EL PESCADOR

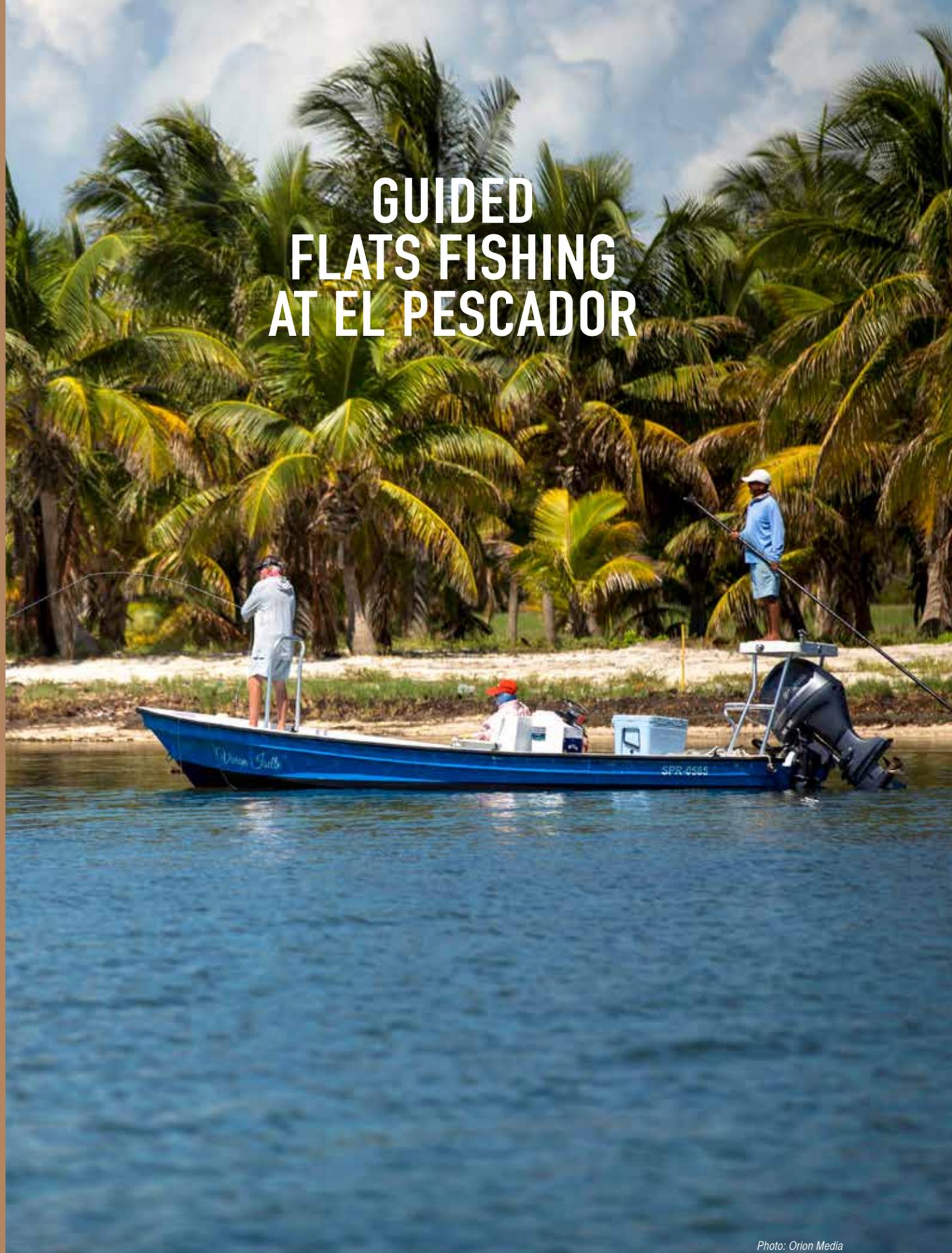


Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Jim Klug

FISHING DIRECTOR

Our Fishing Director's addiction to fishing is a valuable resource for our guests. Please take advantage of the daily casting clinics offered on the dock each afternoon to get your casting to the next level. We offer a detailed fishing orientation on the evening of your arrival. The orientation will cover all aspects of your upcoming adventure; where you will be fishing, what kind and size of fish you could encounter as well as logistics such as how to order your boat lunch, gear selection and recommended guide tips. This is your opportunity to communicate all of your questions and angling desires in order to help us ensure a great fishing experience. If you arrive early enough we will help get your rods, reels and tackle rigged for the next morning's fishing. If you have any questions about knots, gear selection, casting etc. please do not hesitate ask your Fishing Director and/or guide for assistance.



Photo: Orvis



Photo: Scott Morrison

A CUSTOMARY FISHING DAY

We will facilitate introductions with your guide on your first fishing day in the area around the fly shop and office at the agreed upon start time (usually 6:30 or 7am). The standard fishing day is 8-10 hours. If you would like to fish more than 10 hrs, please pay your guide US\$50 in cash for each additional hour. Early or late departures are available on all subsequent days and can be arranged directly with your guide. The next fishing day's departure time is agreed upon with your guide before he departs El Pescador the day prior (for example, if you and your guide would like to depart at 6am on Wednesday, the time to decide this is Tuesday afternoon before he leaves the lodge). If you depart before the office opens at 6am, please make sure to have all necessary gear from the night before. We require all guides to be back no later than 5pm for safety reasons.

A typical day's schedule:

- Breakfast starts at 6am
- Guides will be ready to depart at the agreed upon time.
- Make a mutually agreed upon plan for the day with your guide before departing the dock. If you filled out a pre-trip questionnaire the guides will have read that information and will discuss it with you. Please inform your guide of the following:
 - What are your fishing expectations for the trip?
 - What are your angling strengths and weaknesses?
 - What type of angling help (casting, spotting fish, etc.) would you like from your guide?
- Show your guide your tackle, flies, line, leaders, lures, etc. to see if it will be necessary to supplement with items from the El Pescador fly shop prior to departing the dock.
- Enjoy a boat lunch or a shore lunch while fishing (fill out the boat lunch slip the night before, in the bar)
- Return to the dock after your fishing day has ended.
- Evaluate the day with your guide —make a tentative game plan for the next day's fishing (understanding weather may change the plan). Please set a departure time with your guide.
- Set Realistic Expectations—Keep it Fun!
- Bar opens at 12pm and hors d'oeuvres are served from 2 - 5pm
- Pool, DIY fishing, biking, massage...?
- * Casting lessons on the dock from 3-5pm
- * Fishing orientation on the screened porch at 5pm
- Dinner served family style at 6:45pm



Photo: Orvis



Photo: Jim Klug

WHAT ARE YOU FISHING FOR?

We have a very diverse fishery; the more direction you give your guide and Fishing Director regarding your goals, the better able we will be to fulfill them.

We fish 400 square miles of in-shore, shallow water sight casting flats from the Mexican border in the north, to Belize City in the south, to the barrier reef in the east, and to the Belizean mainland in the west. The good news is that we have 400 square miles of water to fish; the bad news is we have 400 square miles of water to be fished which can mean long boat runs to the further flats. Bonefish and permit flats begin at our front door, while tarpon flats begin 30 minutes away. Fish seem to be a bit easier to catch in more remote areas. Our guides have unlimited gas budgets so they may take you wherever they think your best fishing opportunities will present themselves. Tarpon flats typically require the longest runs, some can be 1.5 hrs away. Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve (BCNPMR) is protected and part of UNESCO World Heritage Site on the northern part of Ambergris Caye. It is a great fishery and takes 1-1.25 hrs to reach the nearest border of the park. If you do not want to take the time to reach these further flats, please let your guide know while you are making your plan for the day that you would like to fish closer to the lodge.

The three targeted flats species; tarpon, bonefish, and permit share very similar traits and feeding habits. They are all fantastic fighters and each species poses its own challenges with hooking and landing. Average bonefish are in the 1-3 lb range with a large bonefish around 5lbs and a trophy bonefish being 7-8 lbs. Bonefish can be found in large schools and as singles or in pairs. On average, permit are in the 5-8 lb range. However, some larger permit (15-30+ lbs) are found as singles and in pairs as well. We have 2 types of tarpon; resident, that live here year round and migratory tarpon that arrive in May/June and depart in September/October annually. Our resident juveniles (under 20 lbs) are in mangroves lagoons, our nursery. Our 20-75 lb residents are found on the flats, while the migratory tarpon "the BIG GIRLS" are primarily found in channels in the southern part of the fishery during the migratory months and can reach 100-150+ lbs. These 3 species are our primary targets at El Pescador. However, there are countless other species that are worth targeting on the fly or with conventional tackle. There are seemingly endless supplies of snappers, barracuda, snook, ladyfish, groupers, 6 different species of jacks, cobia, and on and on.



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison

THE FISHING

Typical set up in the boats for flats fishing is to have one angler ready to cast on the bow, the guide poling at the stern, and the second angler helping spot fish from the middle of the boat. Teamwork is essential for success. Anglers generally rotate turns on the bow by fish caught or time, to be established by the anglers. Your guide may stake out in a likely spot or pole the boat while looking for fish. Once a fish is spotted your guide will generally call time and distance to the location, i.e. bonefish 50 feet 10 o'clock. On the flats we use a clock system to establish direction of the fish, the bow of the boat always acting as 12 o'clock.

Although there are exceptions to every rule in saltwater, flats fishing is typically not a numbers game. This is the most difficult fishing there is and for that same reason it can also be the most rewarding. You have just a moment to make an accurate cast to a moving fish, the wind is blowing, the boat is rocking, the fish are spooky... it's tough! Rather than concentrating on the numbers of fish caught, focus on the individual and unique experiences that each chance at landing a fish has to offer. The "relationship," between the angler and each fish the fly is presented to is the backbone to the flats experience, and the main reason seasoned anglers continually return to the salt. Enjoy the interactions with your guide; they are all seasoned and experienced anglers who have been raised on Ambergris Caye and spend tremendous amounts of time on the water (El Pescador guides average 250 days guiding per year).

It is important to have realistic expectations: if a grand slam happened all the time, it wouldn't be special. One goal might be to leave a better angler. Enjoy the sun, the birds, the fish and most importantly the complete experience. Have fun! On the other hand, El Pescador is the center of the universe for a grand slam; it is a noble, elusive goal and many anglers' dream.

Regarding light tackle game fish, few compare to those on Caribbean flats. Here at El Pescador we are able to offer access to arguably one of the most diverse fisheries in the world within a stone's throw to the second largest barrier reef on the planet and surrounded by nearly 400 square miles of pristine flats, we are located in a fisherman's paradise. It is our mission to make sure you are provided with everything you need for a safe and fun fishing experience that helps to achieve your goals and dreams. We at El Pescador hope you will feel like part of our family when you leave. Sharing the flats with family and friends is some of the best fun we know. We look forward to having you experience this incredible fishery with us.

Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison

YOUR GUIDES

All El Pescador guides are native San Pedranos born and raised on the island and all speak English. We pride ourselves on having some of the most experienced guides in Belize. Many of our guides have been with us for over 30 years. Now our second and third generation of El Pescador guides is in full swing! Most of them have been trained by their fathers and uncles with whom they typically spend a decade learning the craft before becoming a Captain of their own flats boat. Our guides' encyclopedic knowledge of this fishery comes from a lifetime dedicated to learning where the fish are and how they behave. El Pescador guides are talented casters and will be happy to provide instruction during your fishing day.

Communication is key to success. Communicate with your guide throughout the day. Do you want to bonefish all day? Is there a chance for permit or tarpon? Are you interested in different species? If you would like help or advice, please do not hesitate to ask. Maybe you change your mind during the day and want to see if a different opportunity is available, ask away! If you have been tarpon fishing for 3 hours without a bite and you feel like you need a tug desperately, ask to go catch a bonefish! If you enjoy wading, just ask the guide. The point is that the guide will not know what you are feeling unless you tell him.

All El Pescador guides have obtained a Belize Port Authority Boat Master's license, are licensed Belize Tourism Board Tour Guides and are First Aid certified. Every guide's boat has PFDs, a fire extinguisher and a cell phone for emergencies.

El Pescador guides receive continuing education annually on various topics of interest ranging from angler service, to local flora and fauna, to poling, casting instruction and even photography.

TIPPING

Tipping is a personal decision based on service. Please don't reward your guide if you are not fully satisfied. Also, please let us know as soon as possible if you are not pleased with something so we have an opportunity to correct it. We recommend US\$100 per boat, per day given directly to your guide in cash at the end of each fishing day. We have a fishing guide apprentice program at the lodge and sometimes you will be fortunate enough to have an apprentice aboard for an extra pair of eyes or a helpful hand. It is not necessary to tip the apprentice. (S)he is there to learn and is not part of your guiding service. If you do not wish to have the apprentice on your boat for any reason, please let the Fishing Director know.

CASTING LESSONS

Complimentary fly-casting lessons are available daily from 3-5pm on the casting platform of the dock. If you want to learn or work on something specific, please just ask the fishing director. You will be tired after 8-10 hours on the boat, but please try to spend a few minutes to work on something new. The guides are great teachers but they tend to focus on finding you fish. On the dock, we can work of some skills that need time to develop, like a double haul or getting rid of a tailing loop. If you would like help with knot tying or fly tying, please do not hesitate to ask. We want to help you be a better angler and achieve your goals.



Photo: Jim Klug



Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison

PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR GEAR

Do not forget your polarized sunglasses, a hat (to protect eyes and ears), sun block (reapply often), sun gloves, face protector (buff), rain gear (a must), and flats booties for those who wish to wade. We recommend that you take no more than 6 rods total in the boat daily so that each rod has a place in the boat's rod holder which will help keep them from getting damaged.

The saltwater is very corrosive and rinsing your gear is essential. There is a freshwater hose and rod bath located on the dock, next to the casting pier. After rinsing your rods, you may place them on the rod drying rack located on the verandah in front of the dining pavilion. Please take them back to your room and do NOT leave them out after 6pm. The safety and location of your rods is the angler's responsibility. All rods look alike first thing in the morning and anglers could mistakenly take the wrong rod(s).

Please also be careful of rod tips in the numerous ceiling fans. They seem to be magnets for fly rods.

El Pescador can not be responsible for loss, theft or breakage of any rods or reels or tackle of any kind, at any time, whether in the boats or on the property. Please secure your gear in your room/villa.

DEMO GEAR

We are proud to offer a fully stocked fly shop featuring a complete selection of saltwater flies, lines, leaders, tippet, etc. Demo fly and spin fishing equipment is available free of charge on a first come first serve basis; please coordinate with your Fishing Director and guide regarding your needs. Please bring the gear that you own and allow us to supplement with our demo gear. But, do not feel compelled to purchase new rods and reels for the trip.

BOAT LUNCHES

Every afternoon before dinner, please place your lunch order with the bartender for the next day of guided fishing. You may choose from a freshly BBQ'd shore lunch or a variety of packed options. Soft drinks and beer are included with all guided fishing. For safety reasons, we limit each angler to 6 alcoholic beverages in the boat per day. El Pescador guides may not drink alcohol while guiding. Please do not offer them a beer/drink as it puts them in the uncomfortable position of having to say "no" to a guest. If you would like to enjoy a drink with your guide please feel free to do so, after he has returned you safely to the lodge and your guided fishing for the day is completed.

El Pescador has joined the international effort to lessen our impact on the environment by adopting policies that will start us toward the ultimate goal of sustainability and responsible stewardship of our environment. We realize that our efforts are a small contribution to the overall agenda of lessening negative environmental impacts, but El Pescador is proud to be contributing to the cause. In your boat lunch there is no styrofoam or single-use disposable plastic. All disposables are "green" products made out of corn and are fully biodegradable in 4 months. Please remember to bring your complimentary water bottle, which you received at check in, on all excursions as disposable cups are not provided.

FISHING LICENSES

Belize is proud to have been the 1st country in the world to protect bonefish, tarpon and permit as Catch and Release species. The legislation states that "bonefish, permit and tarpon may not be possessed by any person or establishment in Belize, except in the act of catch and release." The proceeds from your fishing license go towards education and enforcement of this Law and protection of our fishery. The cost is US\$10 per day, US\$25 per week or US\$50 per year / per angler. No license is needed for those under the age of twelve. These may be purchased online at <https://apps.coastalzonebelize.org/>. Thank you for your support.



Photo: Scott Morrison

MARINE PARK FEES

Hol Chan Marine Reserve: In 2015 the Ambergris Caye Wetlands Committee succeeded in expanding the Hol Chan Marine Reserve to include most of the flats on the west side of Ambergris Caye. The result is that almost all of our sight casting flats have been protected as a marine reserve! The park fee to enter Hol Chan is US\$10 per day or US\$25 per week / per angler. No license is needed for those under the age of twelve.

Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve (BCNPMR) is protected and part of UNESCO World Heritage Site on the northern part of Ambergris Caye. It is a great fishery and takes 1.25 hrs to reach the nearest border of the park. The park fee is US\$5 per person, payable in cash directly to the park ranger; so please have a little cash onboard each day in case you choose this option.

CATCH & RELEASE

Although catch and release fishing is a valuable conservation tool that can lead to more and bigger fish in the fishery, just because a fish swims away doesn't mean that it lives to be caught another day. The tips below for increasing the chances that a released bonefish survives are based on scientific research focused on bonefish conducted by Bonefish and Tarpon Trust. Be a responsible angler—use Best Practices for Catch and Release.

Fight Time: Shorter fight times increase survival because a fish fought to exhaustion is more vulnerable to predators. Conversely, a fish reeled in too quickly may thrash about, increasing its chances of injury. Tackle should match conditions and the size of the fish so that the fish can be landed quickly, but not until their head can be lifted slightly above the water surface and their movements controlled. Always land a fish before it is exhausted and loses equilibrium when released (cannot swim, nose dives, or rolls over). If a bonefish loses equilibrium after you land it, revive it until it can swim upright, then shorten the fight time on future fish. High water temperatures may negatively impact bonefish survival after release; in warmer water, reduce fight time and handling time.

Handling: Minimize handling of all fish; slime and scales can be removed or damaged with excessive handling, thereby greatly increasing the risks of infection. In addition, recent research has shown that mechanical lip-gripping devices can cause damage to mouth tissue if the fish struggles against the device, so their use is best avoided. If you have to handle a fish, use clean, wet hands and gently support the fish from beneath the head and belly. Nets, mechanical lip-gripping devices, and wet cloths can cause injury to the fish. Use hemostats, pliers, or a hook-removal tool to quickly remove the hook while keeping the fish in the water, and have your pliers ready and available to facilitate a quick release. Avoid exposing fish to air and gravity (possible organ damage), especially when taking a photo. Please keep 1/3 of the fish (the entire belly) in the water at all times. If you must remove the fish from the water, limit it to a maximum of 3 seconds. Touching the gills can cause damage and impair the ability of a fish to breathe.

Predators: The survival rate of released fish decreases severely when predators such as sharks and barracudas are abundant because these predators often attack a bonefish soon after it is released. In fact, fish that lose equilibrium are six times more likely to be attacked by predators. When predators become abundant and appear to be attracted to your fishing activity, consider moving to another fishing location.



Photo: Scott Morrison

FLY FISHING GEAR SUGGESTIONS:

Rods: Nine foot fly rods are the norm for flats fishing at El Pescador. Rods in the 7–8 wt. range are perfect for our bonefish, 8-10 wt for permit and 10–12 wt are the right choice for tarpon. A lighter bonefish rod (7 wt) is great fun when there is little or no wind and an 8 wt rod has more than enough muscle to deliver a fly in even the stiffest of gales. An 8 wt rod could double as a small permit rod but many anglers prefer to have the larger rod, 9 or 10 wt, rigged up and in the boat because our permit can approach 30 lbs. The ideal rod for our resident tarpon up to 75 lbs is a 10 wt. But, when fishing migratory tarpon, a 12 wt is needed for the 100–150+ lb fish.

Reels: Should be anodized, corrosion-resistant saltwater models that will hold a full fly line, plus approximately 200 yards of backing. Reels equipped with high quality, smooth, drags are essential to prevent break-offs from the blistering runs of a hooked fish. Large arbor reels are recommended as they help pick up line faster and allow the drag tension to remain constant regardless of how much line is out.

Lines: A weight forward saltwater floating line is ideal for most of the sight fishing you will encounter. There may be times when an intermediate sinking line or an intermediate sink tip line is the answer for tarpon or permit fishing. Anglers should also bring along some line cleaning supplies since saltwater has a way of making them sticky after a few days use.

Leaders:

Tarpon

Custom Fly Leader Leader #1–9' long straight 60 pound or 80 pound for fish over 70 pounds
 Leader#2 is 9' long - 30 pound class tippet with 60–80 pound bite tippet
 Tippet material. 60 and 80 pound for bite tippet, 30 pound. for class tippet (flouro or mono)

Bonefish

Tapered Leaders 9' long–12 pound (flouro or mono) we go heavy in case you run into a permit!
 Tippet material. 12 lb

Permit

Tapered Leaders 10'-12' long–16 to 20 pound (flouro or mono)
 Tippet material. 16 lb, 20 lb



Photo: Orion Media



We have a Fly Shop on-site with a selection of special flies that work well at El Pescador.

Tarpon: Sizes 1/0–3/0. There are some nice innovative patterns out there for tarpon. Think about materials that move for the bite! There is controversy as to whether tarpon flies should be tied on J-hooks (standard) or circle hooks. If you are new to tarpon fishing, circle hooks provide a good bet for hook ups. More experienced tarpon fishers generally prefer the J-hooks.

Tarpon Bunnies .. 1/0 - 3/0..... Chartreuse, Tan, White, Black, Purple, Olive
 Black Death 1/0 - 3/0
 Tarpon toads 1/0 - 3/0..... Chartreuse, Tan, White, Black, Purple, Olive
 Cockroach 1/0 - 3/0..... Standard, olive, orange, white (variety)
 Deceivers..... 2/0 - 3/0..... Various colors, White/Red, White/Green, Black/Green

Bonefish: Bonefish can be found on a variety of flats from 6 inches deep to 6 feet deep. Approximately 40% of the flies should have bead chain eyes, 50% should have barbell eyes, and 10% should have plastic eyes or no eyes at all. While fishing over turtle grass you will want some with weed guards. Sizes 4, 6 & 8 in colors tan, white, orange, pink and olive green with contrast. To keep you from having to buy too many flies we have only listed the most commonly used patterns. If your guide has a particular favorite not mentioned below, or if you can't find some of these before your trip, there is a good chance that it will be available for purchase at the lodge.

Gotchas	#6 & #8	Standard
Crazy Charlie	#6 & #8	Tan, white, pink
Christmas Island Special	#4, #6 & #8	(Various colors)
Clousers	#6 & #8	(Various colors)
Shrimp patterns	#6 & #8	(Various colors)
Small crab patterns	#6 & #8	(Various colors)

Permit:

Christmas Island Special	#4, & #6	(Various colors)
Avalon Fly	#4 & #6	Standard
Mantis Shrimp	#4 & #6	(Various colors)
Raghead Crab	#4 & #6	(Various colors)
Shrimp patterns	#4, & #6	(Various colors)
Crab patterns	#4 & #6	(Various colors)

Barracuda:

Sizes 2/0 with tandem hooks. Wire leaders.
 Braided Needlefish or variations

Note: Jack Crevalle will readily take a #4 in a variety of shrimp patterns stripped fast! Deceivers will work if you have time to change flies.



Photo: Scott Morrison

SPIN FISHING GEAR SUGGESTIONS:

	Bonefish	Permit/Snook	Small Tarpon	Big Tarpon, Grouper etc.
Rods	Lt – Med Lt 6.5 ft – 7.5 ft for 1/4 – 1/2 oz. lure	M Lt – Med 6.5 ft – 7.5 ft for 1/4 – 5/8 oz. lures	Med 6.5 ft – 7ft for 3/8 – 1oz. lures	Med Med – Hvy 5.5 – 7 ft 5.5 – 6.5 ft
Line wt	8-10 lb. mono	12-15 lb. mono	15-25 lb. mono or braid	50 lb. braid
Amount	150 yards	175 yards	200 yards	250 yards
Reel	A quality spinning reel that can handle the rigors of saltwater fishing and hold at least 170 yards of 10 pound line. Example: Shimano Stradic ST4000FH or equivalent.	A quality spinning reel that can handle the rigors of saltwater fishing and hold at least 170 yards of 10 pound line. Example: Shimano Stradic ST4000FH or equivalent.	A quality spinning reel that can handle the rigors of saltwater fishing and BIG fish, and hold at least 200 yards of 15 -25 pound line. Example: Penn Spinfisher #5500 or equivalent.	
Leader	12 – 15 lb.	15 – 20 lb.	60 lb. mono	80 lb. mono or

Extras: wire leader 10-40 lb., swivels, sleeves, Gamakatsu octopus J and circle hooks (sizes 2 through 5/0).

Lures: Please note that we do NOT sell lures for permit, tarpon, jacks, barracuda or other large predators. Please bring them with you if you wish to spin fish.

Species	Lure/size	Colors
Bonefish	1/8 – 1/4 oz. flat or wiggle jig heads 1/8 – 1/4 oz. flat or wiggle bucktail jigs Bring some Gamakatsu octopus hooks in circle and J styles (size #1) for bait fishing, barrel swivels (SM, MD, LG) and split shot in a variety of sizes	Any and all (will be tipped with shrimp) White, pink, tan
Permit	1/4 – 3/8 oz. flat or wiggle jig heads As with bonefish, bucktail jigs are effective for permit on the flats. Bring an assortment of colors (white, pink, tan and brown) in 1/8, 1/4, and 1/2 ounce weights. The “D.O.A. Crab” and the “D.O.A. Shrimp” in olive, tan, cream, and mottled colors are very effective. Also, bring Gamakatsu octopus circle and J hooks (in size 1/0 and 2/0 for bait fishing with live crabs. Bring barrel swivels (SM, MD, LG) and split shot in a variety of sizes and weights.	Any (will be tipped with crab or shrimp)
Tarpon, Jacks, & other large predators	Bring some Gamakatsu #4/0 & 5/0 circle hooks, as live bait is the most common fishing practice when using conventional gear for tarpon in Belize. The following is a list of some lures that are effective if live bait is not your thing. Rapala Cd-11 Sink or similar 4 – 7” Rapala CD-14 Mag Sink or similar 4 – 7” MirrOlure 52M series plugs (slow sinking) MirrOlure Top Dogs Yo_Zuri Crystal minnows Berkley Power bait 5” Power Jerk Shad Body Jig Heads 1/2 oz.	Red, White, Orange Red, White, Orange Red/white and blue/silver Red/white and blue/silver Angler choice! Olive, Tan, and Chartreuse White or Red Heads
Barracudas	Tube Lures – Tandem hooked	Green, Pink

We provide dead shrimp for bait free of charge, and live bait can be caught during part of your fishing day (our live wells do not keep bait alive overnight.)



Photos: Scott Morrison

LAND & SEA ADVENTURES AT EL PESCADOR



Photos: Scott Morrison

ACTIVITIES ON AND AROUND OUR ISLAND: FLATS FISHING

Depart EP 6:30 or 7am – return 3pm (times vary and can be coordinated with your fishing director and guide). (See Flats Fishing Section in this booklet for more information.)

El Pescador, means “The fisherman” and we specialize in light tackle, shallow water flats fishing for bonefish, permit and tarpon. Our guides are English speaking and experienced in guiding both fly and spin fishermen. One or two anglers per boat/guide.

REEF FISHING & BEACH PICNIC

Depart EP 8:30am – return approximately 12noon for half day or 3:30pm for full day.

Fish the reef for your “catch of the day.” Your guide will BBQ your freshly caught fish on a secluded beach. You may enjoy wading, shelling or simply relaxing in the sun while your picnic is prepared. Spend the afternoon snorkeling or try more fishing! Includes boat, fishing gear and guide for 8 consecutive hours, lunch and drinks. Up to 4 anglers per boat/guide.

DEEP SEA FISHING*

Depart EP 8am – return approximately 4pm *Weather Dependent

Ambergris Caye’s location 1/2 mile from the barrier reef makes it an ideal place to fish outside the reef in the deep blue sea. Depending on the season and the currents, different species are biting at different times. Fish for wahoo, dorado, barracuda, tuna, kingfish and if you are feeling lucky, maybe a billfish! Includes boat, fishing gear and guide for 8 consecutive hours, lunch and drinks. Up to 4 anglers per boat/guide.



Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Scott Morrison

SCUBA DIVING*

Time varies depending on destination. *Weather Dependent

Come experience the underwater wonders of Belize with experienced dive masters. The Belize barrier reef is the largest in the western hemisphere and is host to a variety of species and many wondrous aquatic lives. Local dive masters will guide you through this fascinating underwater kingdom. With years of experience, they will introduce you to a nautical realm so wondrous you're sure to come back year after year. These dive masters specialize in small groups to make your dive or snorkel trip more enjoyable. Serving smaller groups allows your dive master to provide personal attention and safety measures that will ensure a dramatic dive you will remember for a lifetime. Ambergris Caye offers some of the most beautiful diving in the world. Enjoy the numerous fish and beautiful coral at the dozens of dive sites along our barrier reef, or venture out to some of the breathtaking atolls for an all day trip.

Rate includes weights, belt and tank(s). Personal gear such as BCD, regulator, mask, snorkel, fins, lights for night dives and wetsuit are not included, but are available for rent. Park fees, if applicable, are not included.

Local diving: 1, 2 and 3 tank local dives plus night dives

Full Day trips: The Blue Hole (3 tanks) & Turneffe Elbow (3 tanks)

PADI Courses: You must be certified to dive. If you are not certified, and would like to dive, we also offer courses. PADI dive instructors offer a variety for the novice to the experienced diver. Length of course varies from half a day to one week. Resort Course, Refresher Course, e-learning, Referral Course, Open Water Course, Advanced Open Water, Rescue, Medic First Aid and Dive Master.

SNORKELING

Time and cost varies depending on destination

Enjoy the underwater wonders of the Belize Barrier Reef, host to a variety of species including sharks, rays, eels, grouper, parrot fish, trigger fish, sea horses, turtles, shrimp, sea fans, coral and many other wondrous aquatic lives.

Half day trips include Hol Chan Marine Reserve & Shark Ray Alley, Mexico Rocks and Coral Gardens.

SNORKELING TO BACALAR CHICO

Depart EP 8:30am – return approximately 5:00pm

Make 3 snorkeling stops on the way up the coast of Ambergris Caye to the border with Mexico and the beautiful, remote Bacalar Chico marine reserve, UNESCO World Heritage site. This spot offers excellent opportunities to collect seashells or, for those who brought along a fishing rod, wade unguided for bonefish or the elusive permit. Enjoy a delicious beach picnic of seasonal fresh seafood cooked over coconut husks. Full day trip includes a BBQ lunch and water.

SNORKELING & MANATEE WATCH

Depart EP 8:30am – return approximately 4:30pm

Visit a secluded mangrove island, Swallow Caye, outside of Belize City, which is a natural habitat for the endangered West Indian Manatee. Take pictures and view the rare and beautiful manatee. Stop for a picnic lunch at Goff's Caye, a small island with opportunities for snorkeling. Visit our neighboring island of Caye Caulker and enjoy another snorkeling stop at Calabash Point. Full day trip includes lunch and drinks.

SNORKELING TO CAYE CAULKER (Charter)

Depart EP 8:30am – return approximately 4:30pm

Motor to our neighboring island of Caye Caulker. Along the way enjoy snorkeling stops at Hol Chan marine reserve and Shark Ray Alley. While in Caye Caulker, have lunch and stroll through this small, one street village. On your return trip stop to snorkel in beautiful coral gardens. As this is a chartered trip, there may even be opportunities to fish so bring along your fishing gear if so desired. Full day trip includes rum punch and drinking water and three snorkeling stops. It does not include lunch.

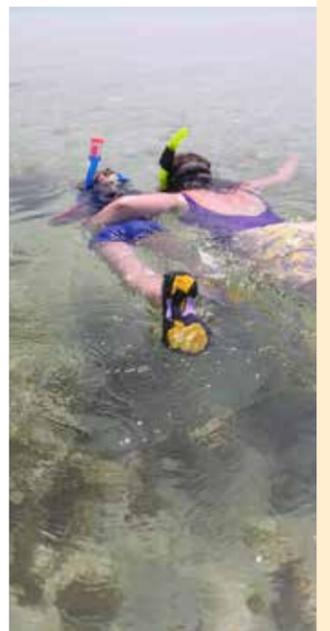


Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Orion Media



Photo: Scott Morrison



CATAMARAN SNORKELING TO CAYE CAULKER

Depart EP 8:30am – return approximately 4:30pm

Sail to our neighboring island of Caye Caulker, located 10 miles south of Ambergris Caye. Enjoy this quaint, one street village. Along the way enjoy snorkeling stops at Hol Chan marine reserve and Shark Ray Alley. Full day trip includes sodas, rum punch and two snorkeling stops. It does not include lunch.

CATAMARAN SUNSET SAILING

Depart EP 4:30pm – return approximately 7:30pm

Wind down for your day while you enjoy sailing on a catamaran to watch the sun set over the clear Caribbean waters.

CATAMARAN SNORKELING TO MEXICO ROCKS

AM departs EP 8:30am – return approximately 4:30pm

Escape to the northern side of Ambergris Caye. Enjoy a full day of sailing while stopping at our preferred snorkel stops Habaneros, Mexico rocks and Mata Grande ship wreck. Mid-day enjoy a feast of local BBQ. Enjoy the tranquility and peacefulness of the less inhabited side.

BLUE HOLE FLY OVER*

Flying time: 1 hour. Tuesday and Wednesday departure at 11am. Sunday departure at 1pm. *weather Dependent.

See the world famous Great Blue Hole the way it was meant to be seen ... from the air! Fly to Lighthouse Reef Atoll, and make several fly-bys of this natural wonder of the world. While en route, you will see the Belize Barrier Reef (the longest in the Western Hemisphere), and the Turneffe Atoll. Be sure to keep a watch on the water below for Manatees, Rays, Sharks, Dolphins, and other wildlife.

KAYAK SAN PEDRO LAGOON

Times vary depending on destination. Usually departs EP around 8am.

A 2 or 4 hour guided interpretive kayaking tour of the San Pedro lagoon. Experience the beauty of mangrove lagoons, birds, fish, flora and fauna.



SPA SERVICES

Available by appointment. Please schedule with the front desk.

Enjoy a fabulous deep tissue massage, facial, manicure, or pedicure from one of our specialists. Spa services may be conducted in the massage room, in your room or villa, on the dock or even on the beach!

PARASAILING

Time varies depending on individual or group. Group discounts are available.

This excursion gives you a birds-eye view of our beautiful island. Ride with comfort and ride with trust with the most experienced crew in Belize.

YOGA

Daily classes (Monday – Saturday 9am and on Sunday 10am)

A yoga practice is offered daily at Ak Bol yoga retreat which is located just under 1 mile south of El Pescador, on the beach. The classes generally run for about an hour and a half. These practices are appropriate for all levels—from beginner to advanced. Yoga mats are included. Walk down the beach or use one of our bikes to get to practice.

ACTIVITIES ON THE BELIZE MAINLAND:

ATM CAVE (AIR/LAND)

Depart EP 6:30am – return approximately 5pm

Experience the cave of the stone sepulcher, a subterranean cathedral in the heart of Cayo that features rare artifacts and mineralized human remains that date back hundreds of years. Trip includes round-trip airfare on Tropic Air, fully guided tour by expert tour operator PACZ, land transfer to and from the cave, entrance fees, and lunch. Swimming required.

CAVE TUBING & ZIPLINE or BELIZE ZOO or XUNANTUNICH (BOAT/LAND)

Depart EP 6:30am – return approximately 6pm

Travel by boat to the mainland where you will choose either ziplining through the rain forest, a visit to the Belize Zoo or exploring the Maya ruin of Xunantunich in the morning. After lunch, enjoy a refreshing tubing adventure down a river and through ancient Maya caves. Return to the island via boat. Full day tour includes a light breakfast, lunch, water and soda. Park fees not included.

LAMANAI & NEW RIVER EXCURSION (BOAT/LAND)

Depart EP 6:30am – return approximately 6:00pm

An exceptionally clear and unspoiled river leads you to the New River lagoon and the ancient Mayan City of Lamanai (submerged crocodile). Tour temples and carved stone monuments nestled in the tropical jungle. The excavations done at Lamanai show a variety of structures including temples, residences and palace buildings. Birdwatchers—this one's for you! Full day tour includes a light breakfast, lunch, water, soda and rum punch. Park fees not included.

LAMANAI & NEW RIVER EXCURSION (AIR/LAND)

Depart EP 7:15am – return approximately 3pm

This trip gives you the ability to visit one of our most unspoiled Maya archeological treasures as detailed above without experiencing such a long day. The rate includes the park fees.

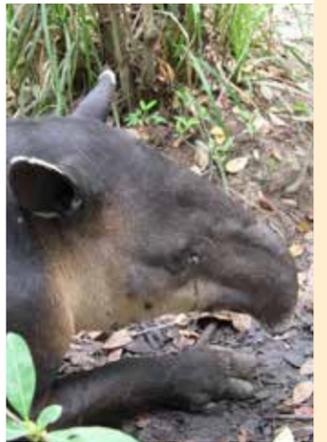


Photo: Scott Morrison



Photo: Scott Morrison

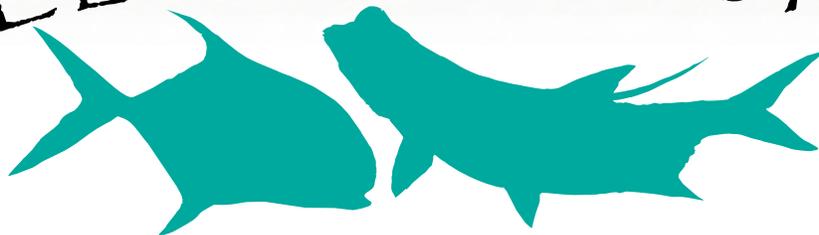


Photo: Scott Morrison

Photo: Jim Klug



EL PESCADOR



B E L I Z E