

An underwater photograph showing a diver in a white wetsuit holding a large, silver fish. The water is clear and blue, with many smaller fish swimming around. The diver's legs and fins are visible. The scene is set in a shallow, clear water environment with some seaweed on the bottom.

R

RIPP SPORTING

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

Cosmoledo Atoll

ECO CAMP

WELCOME TO YOUR ULTIMATE FISHING EXPERIENCE...

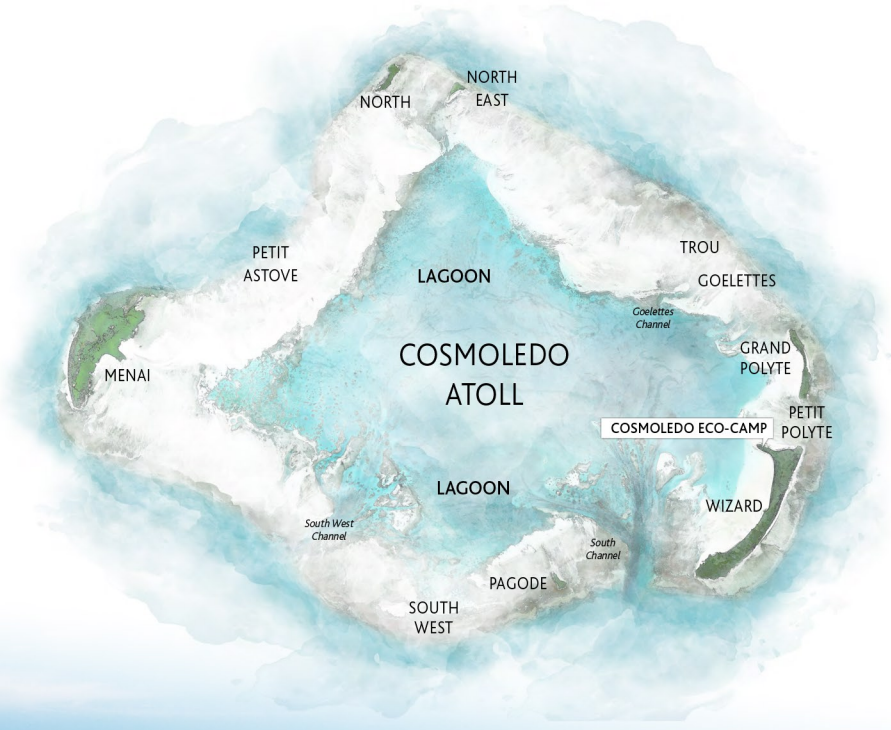
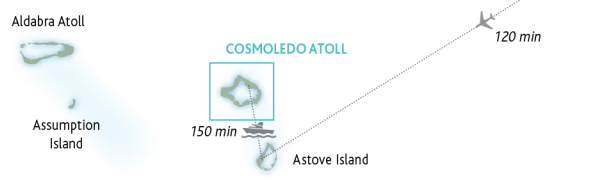
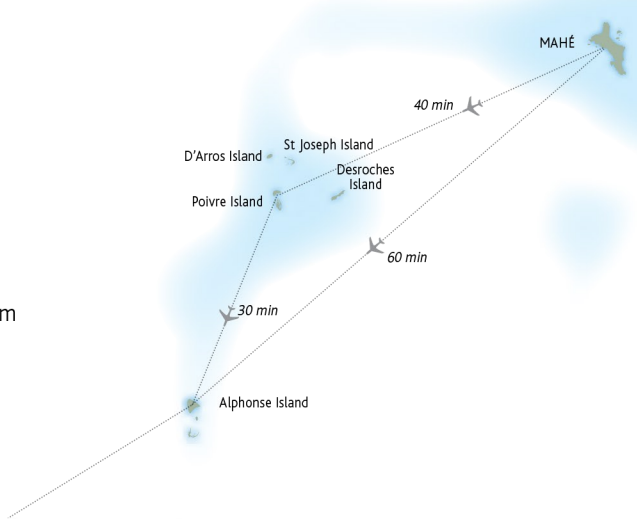
www.rippsporting.com



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO/FROM SEYCHELLES

Cosmoledo Atoll

Located 1 030 km southwest of Mahé, Cosmoledo Atoll is situated a stone's throw away from the world heritage site of Aldabra, which is often referred to as the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean. Menai and Wizard Islands occupy the eastern and western points of the atoll and were named after the two ships that explored the atoll on the Moresby Expedition in 1822. South Island stands near the main entrance to the inner lagoon, while the second, smaller entrance is just south of Menai. It's a huge atoll measuring 17 km from north to south. The perimeter of the atoll is covered with vast, wadeable sand flats dotted with islands of various shapes and sizes, all of which is the perfect habitat for its fish population.



COSMOLEDO ATOLL

The GT Capital of the World

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT WHILE FISHING AT COSMOLEDO ATOLL

In past years, Cosmoledo has become known as the best GT fishery in the world and has become the benchmark for anglers searching for the ultimate saltwater flats destination full of hungry GT's. However GT's are not the only species which can be found in fantastic numbers. Bonefish, milkfish, the finicky indo-pacific permit as well as a host of triggerfish species all call Cosmoledo home, making this a truly special fishing destination. The sheer numbers and variety of fish species has amazed the fly fishing world, with anglers from across the globe queuing up to sample the ultimate fishing playground. It is a rare opportunity and a privilege to gaze into a world, which has changed very little in the years that have passed.



YOUR ITINERARY...

DAY 1: Your charter flight departs Mahé from the IDC hangar, diverts to Alphonse Island and lands on Astove three hours later. The group is then transferred to the transfer vessel where orientation begins. The transfer vessel departs for Cosmoledo Atoll.

DAY 2-6: Breakfast at 07h00, teams to be ready to leave the camp at 08h00 for fishing. There is a choice between a packed lunch or lunch at the camp. At 17h00 your team will head back to the lodge.

DAY 7: Breakfast at 07h00, teams to be ready to leave the camp at 08h00 for fishing. There is a choice between a packed lunch or lunch at the camp. 17h00, your team will head back to the camp. There will be time in the evening to de-tackle your gear with snack and cold refreshments so you are able to pack your rods, reels and fishing gear away in preparation for departure the following morning.

DAY 8: The departure time of the transfer vessel and the plan for your departure morning will be confirmed with you at dinner the evening before departure day. You will be transferred to Astove by the transfer vessel where you will meet the Astove team who will transfer you to the airport. The Charter flight will then depart, and possibly divert to Alphonse, landing at the IDC Hangar in Mahé three hours later.



TENDER BOATS & GUIDING

There are five purpose built Mini-Mahé skiffs that are on anchorage at Cosmoledo Atoll. These skiffs will be skippered by our experienced, world class and professional Alphonse Fishing Co. Guides. Each guide is a qualified skipper, has first aid training, STCW qualifications, speaks English and are extremely experienced with all facets of fly fishing in these remote saltwater destinations. 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.

COSMOLEDO ECO CAMP



Cosmoledo has a single Eco Camp situated on Wizard Island; where nature meets creative, eco-friendly hospitality.

The camp consists of eight double/twin en-suite Eco Pods with a central communal dining and entertainment area. The rooms are made up of custom designed, upcycled beach cottages and the communal dining and entertainment area is a large tent with bare sand floors that are committed to the conservation, preservation and protection of the natural resources of Cosmoledo.

Each Eco Pod can be catered for as a double or twin set up and has all the amenities and modern luxuries one can expect. From being en-suite to fully air conditioned, each room boasts a front veranda with a seating area and a well appointed outdoor shower. The rooms are tailored in fresh neutral colours accentuating the island and her ocean, drawing in serenity, outdoor adventure and a sense of becoming-one with your surroundings.

The dining and entertainment area are equipped with all the necessary features to make your stay one of comfort-in-style, including an

exceptional dining area and a fully stocked bar. Nature enthusiasts, divers, anglers, single travellers and couples alike dine together for breakfast lunch and dinner. A full house buffet breakfast is served between 07h00 and 08h00, lunch between 12h00 and 13h00 and dinner will be served between 19h30 – 21h30. The chef prepares a mix of Creole and international dishes and incorporates fresh fish on a daily basis, with fruit and vegetables which are farmed in the Alphonse garden.

The Eco Camp is fully equipped with snorkelling and dive gear as well as stand up paddle boards and kayaks that are available for all guests to use. Quiet picnics on secluded beaches, sunset cruises, mesmerising encounters with captivating marine life and experiencing the true essence of an untouched paradise, all in picture-perfect surroundings that will enhance every sensation.



IMPORTANT POINTS

Please Take Note...

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.

THE FISHING SEASON AT COSMOLEDO

The first part of the season traditionally runs from early November to late April, with a break over the festive season. Due to Cosmoledo being a further 2° south of Alphonse Island, the south-easterly monsoon winds blow insistently from May to October. We stick to the fore mentioned dates to ensure you have an unforgettable fishing experience.

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 DONATION

There is a conservation donation of US\$175 per week [US\$25 per day]. This will be included on your confirmation invoice and is settled prior to arrival. All packages exclude this conservation donation which is given to the Island Conservation Society for the preservation of nature in the Seychelles.

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

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You are required to obtain travel insurance that will cover any costs incurred due to flight or trip delays for any reason.

INDEMNITY FORM

You are required to sign an indemnity form before boarding the transfer vessel.

INOCULATIONS & HEALTH

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

FLIGHT TIMES

NB: Please check flight times as they vary. The flights leave Mahé from the IDC hangar and arrive on Astove three hours later. It then departs Astove 45 minutes after arriving and will land back at the IDC Hangar three hours after departing Astove.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

Your check in luggage is strictly limited to 15 kg [33 pounds] per person, and 5 kg [12 pounds] carry-on luggage. This is a strict policy that allows us to deliver fresh food produce to the boat. If it is not possible to load extra luggage, it will have to be repacked and left in Mahé until your return.

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE LIMITS. It is suggested that lighter soft-shell luggage is used. Pack a separate bag with excess equipment to avoid having to repack at the airport. Excess luggage can be left with an Alphonse representative at the hangar.

FISHING CLOTHING

Lightweight long sleeve shirts and long pants that can be zipped off are recommended. Sunscreen with a minimum protection factor of at least 30 is required for any exposed skin areas. A buff is of great importance for sun protection of your face. Sun gloves will help protect your hands. A packing list is supplied at the end of this pre-trip documentation.

COMMUNICATION

The phone service is operated via satellite and there is Wi-Fi.

Communication cost: Incoming/outgoing emails US\$41 per MB, Outgoing 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 lodge 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.

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.

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 Seybrew beer and a selection of spirits and wine on location. It's important to remember that when you are on Astove, it is a "dry island" so we request that you do not give any alcohol to the local staff.

GRATUITY GUIDELINE

If you wish to show appreciation to the general staff, we suggest a US\$300 per guest per week or US\$45 per day guideline. This is to be left with the camp manager upon departure for equal distribution.

For the Fly Fishing Guides a US\$650 per angler per week, which is given to the head guide at the end of the week.



Diving Team: ± USD20 per dive for the diving team, which is given to the lodge manager at the end of the week and will be divided up by the dive team and skippers.

Activity Team: ± USD10 per day for the activity team if you have joined any activities, which can be left with the camp manager upon departure for equal distribution.

All tips are to please be paid in cash.

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. Please bring sufficient cash to settle tackle bills, tips and other costs incurred. It's important to remember that there will be no credit card facilities on location so it's best to carry cash for on location tackle and beverage purchases as well as gratuities. All credit card purchases will be done manually.

DUTY FREE ALLOWANCE

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

CANCELLATION POLICY

Should you need to cancel your trip, at this stage of the booking, a fee of 100% shall be levied. This cancellation must be confirmed in writing.

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

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.

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, stonefish 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 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.



TACKLE & GEAR

Check List

TACKLE & GEAR

The lodge will have a range of flylines, 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.

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. Fly lines will need to be purchased from the shop and it is recommended that you pre-order a fly pack for your trip, which would include all the flies you would need for the various different species on offer. There is a full range of flies that are custom tied for Alphonse Fishing Co. destinations on the right hooks and with the correct material. It's important that angler's pre book the rod hire as well as tackle to insure that we have sufficient stock. All tackle sales may be settled at the end of your trip upon check out with the lodge. All rod breakages are for your account and will be billed at US\$150 per rod.

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

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 130 lbs Suffix Zippy soft mono
- 1 x 80 lbs Cortland fluorocarbon leader
- 1 x 100 lbs Cortland fluorocarbon 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 Cosmoledo and pre-ordered fly packs can be made up for your convenience.

BONEFISH

- 4 x Gotchas #6
- 4 x Christmas Island Special [Orange] #6
- 4 x Pillow Talk # 6
- 4 x Fleeing Crab Cream/Tan #8

PERMIT & TRIGGERFISH

- 4 x James's Sand Prawn #2
- 4 x James's Sand Prawn #4
- 12 x Alphlexo Crab [White, Tan and Olive] #2
- 4 x Fishient Crab #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 Fiamino Lambo
- 4 x GT Barrel Popper #8/0 SL125

BLUEWATER & BILLFISH

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

CLOTHING & ACCESSORY

Check 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
- 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

We hope this information helps to enhance your fishing experience at Cosmoledo Atoll. Should there be any further assistance you require, please do not hesitate to contact us on

info@rippsporting.com