

ASTOVE

ALPHONSE FISHING CO.  
SEYCHELLES



*The "WALL"*

# *Astove Atoll*

## FACT SHEET

THE ULTIMATE FISHING EXPERIENCE...

[www.alphonsefishingco.com](http://www.alphonsefishingco.com)

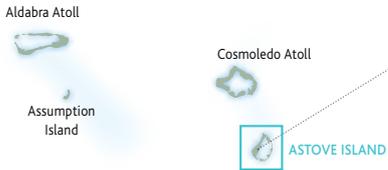
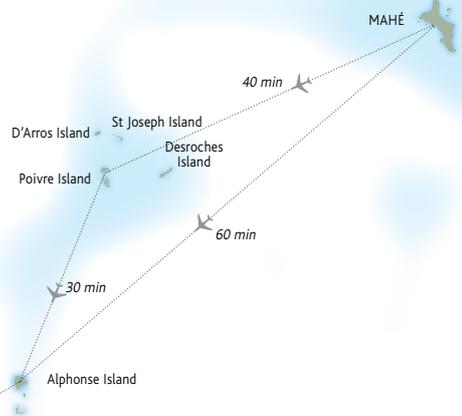
APRIL 2020



**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS**  
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO/FROM SEYCHELLES

# Astove Atoll

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



120 min

ASTOVE CORAL HOUSE

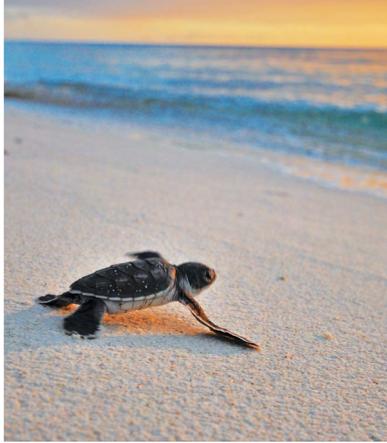
ASTOVE ATOLL

LAGOON

## AT A GLANCE

- Located 665 nautical miles southwest of Mahé in the Seychelles.
- Situated only 9° south of the equator.
- Astove is comprised of a shallow lagoon, surrounded by sheer drop-offs.
- One of the most remote and secluded inhabited islands in the Seychelles.
- Astove Island Lodge offers six single occupancy, air-conditioned en-suite rooms surrounding a central courtyard.
- Accommodate up to six fly fishermen per trip.
- Similar time zone to Europe, African and Middle East.







# ASTOVE ATOLL

## *As Remote as You Can Get...*



Astove Atoll has a rich but desolate history and has been the cause of countless shipwrecks dating back to 1500 AC. It has been said that ships used to pass by in the hope of rescuing and then enslaving abandoned souls on the island. It's also a famous atoll because Jacques Cousteau filmed the acclaimed underwater documentary *The Silent World* along the edge of the "Wall".

The "Wall" of Astove is breathtakingly beautiful and is best described as looking down into the Grand Canyon. It consists of the flat and reef dropping a vertical 90 degrees from ankle deep water to over 1000 metres over a short distance. The "Wall" is still known as one of the best dive sights on this planet.



The terrain varies from hostile shore breaks on the windward side, to flat calm coral flats on the outside and snow-white sand flats inside the lagoon. Its unique lagoon system is home to countless aquatic and seabirds as well as the endemic Caspian turn, dimorphic egret and red-tailed tropic bird along with a population of over 150 giant Aldabra tortoises.

### GETTING THERE

- The Seychelles is a four and a half hour flight from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha which all serve as a connecting hub for regular international flights from Europe, the United States, Africa and Asia.
- Direct flights to the Seychelles from Paris, Bombay, Nairobi, Mauritius, Antananarivo, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa, Reunion, Colombo, Dar-Es-Salaam and Frankfurt.
- Astove Atoll is a three-hour flight from Mahé (the main island of the Seychelles).
- Scheduled flights depart and return to Mahé each Monday.
- Scheduled Flights depart from the IDC Hangar, Pointe Larue, Mahé.
- Flight times are subject to change. Please make sure you confirm your correct flight times with our reservations team.
- 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. It's as important for return flights to be booked the next day after arriving back in Mahé as any delays may cause guests to miss their international flights.
- The Alphonse Island reservations team will assist with all return flight reservations between Mahé and Astove at the time of booking.





# ASTOVE ATOLL

*The Wildest Fly Fishing Destination on this Planet!*

Astove has become synonymous with the largest flats-caught GT's in the Indian Ocean. Its shallow lagoon and small entrance, surrounded by sheer drop-offs makes the experience truly unique.

This lagoon is a sanctuary for both juvenile and trophy-size fish that feed on the shallow white sand flats that line the inside of the lagoon.

Astove is small and is surrounded by coral flats with deep drop-offs on the flats edge allowing predators easy access.

Not only does Astove have large GT's but it also has an equally

impressive bonefish, permit, bluefin trevally, triggerfish, barracuda and milkfish population. With the numbers of permit caught ever increasing from season to season, if you are after achieving a "Grand Slam" this should certainly be your destination of choice.

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



## A TYPICAL DAY

*On a Fishing Expedition to Astove*

### DAY 1

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

### DAY 2-7

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

### DAY 8

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

## BOASTING THE LARGEST GT ON THE PLANET!!!!

**REGULAR CATCHES :** bonefish | moustache triggerfish | milkfish | giant trevally | barracuda | bluefin trevally | permit | jobfish  
bohar snapper | yellowlipped emperor | sailfish | yellowfin tuna | dogtooth tuna | wahoo | yellowmargin triggerfish





# ASTOVE ATOLL

## *Equipped for the Ultimate Fishing Experiences*



**TACKLE & GEAR**

Astove will have a range of flylines, flies and various other items for sales should you run out. Any tackle that is needed can be pre-ordered and will be delivered to Astove for your arrival.

## FLEET & GUIDES

### SKIFFS

The lodge has four 20 ft Mini-Mahé tender boats that have been specifically designed for fly fishing the outer atolls as well as offshore. There are two Mitzi skiffs situated inside the lagoon. They are skippered by our experienced Alphonse Fishing Co. Guides.

### OUR GUIDES

The Alphonse Island Fishing Co. guide team along with the Island Conservation Society ensure the fishery at Astove is protected from over fishing. The Guides are conservationists at heart and some of them also hold qualifications in the field of ecology.

#### ALL ALPHONSE FISHING CO. 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 on Alphonse.
- Are qualified skippers, with STCW qualifications and have impeccable boat handling skills.
- Have first aid experience.
- Have pioneered many of the techniques in catching the various species that call Seychelles home eg: milkfish & triggerfish.

Angling teams will be split up into groups of two anglers per skiff and guide (with guides rotating each day).



**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 expedition, 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 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 from Astove. All rod breakages are for your account and will be billed at US\$150 per rod.



# ASTOVE ISLAND LODGE



## Maximizing Your Fishing Experience

Uninhabited since 1969, Astove makes for a wild experience. To ensure that the atoll stays pristine, Astove Coral House only caters from six to 12 guests per week.

In 1968 Astove was occupied by the Veevers-Carter family who established a coconut plantation. They constructed a number of buildings including a large main house, chapel, store and accommodation for the workers. The small settlement they created, forms the basis of the accommodation used today.

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

Guests will enjoy the attentive service as well as superb dining. The menu frequently comprises of a full English breakfast, a buffet lunch or packed picnic lunch to enjoy on location, and a buffet dinner served in the indoor or outdoor dining area. The food is inspired by the traditional Seychellois Creole-cuisine with freshly caught fish being the key ingredient.

Evening sundowners are enjoyed most evenings at a beautiful spot on the beach, allowing everyone to gather and discuss the events of the day.

With picture-perfect beaches, edged by palm trees and with not another soul in sight, Astove Atoll is wonderfully unique.

Astove forms part of the Aldabra Group of Atolls and is one of the most remote inhabited islands in Seychelles.



## ESSENTIALS & AMENITIES

Air-conditioned | En-Suite | Beach Towels | Laundry Service | Mosquito Repellent

## LODGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Original Coral House which has been refurbished for your comfort.
- Single/double air-conditioned en-suite accommodation.
- Easy beach access, with the ocean only meters away.
- Large lounge area.
- Indoor and outdoor dining area.







# SEYCHELLES SPECIES

## The Finest Saltwater Fly Fishing on the Planet

### FLATS FLY FISHING



**BONEFISH** *Albula vulpes*

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



**YELLOWMARGIN TRIGGERFISH**

*Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus*

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



**MOUSTACHE TRIGGERFISH** *Balistoides viridescens*

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



**MILKFISH** *hanos chanos*

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



**INDO-PACIFIC PERMIT** *Trachinotus blochii*

Also known as pompano, as its member of the Carangid family and a relative of the Atlantic permit. Astove has a healthy population of permit, which is spread throughout the entire fishery but most densely found at the upper section of Astove lagoon. With the numbers of permit caught ever increasing from season to season, if you are after achieving a "Grand Slam" this should certainly be your destination of choice. The Alphonse guides have near-perfected the art of catching these fish, considered the Holy Grail of saltwater flyfishing!



**GIANT TREVALLY** *Caranx ignobilis*

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



# SEYCHELLES SPECIES

## BLUE WATER FLY FISHING & GAME FISHING



**BLUEFIN TREVALLY** *Caranx melampygus*

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



**BARRACUDA** *Sphyrna barracuda*

These fearsome looking creatures are extremely fast and jump when hooked. Larger barracuda, which grow to over 240 cm, are more or less solitary in their habits and hunt alone when on the flats. Although all of our destinations have great numbers of barracuda, the largest specimens are caught at Alphonse due to the incredible population of bonefish that they feed on.



**INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH** *Istiophorus platypterus*

The sailfish is the fastest 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 Astove in good numbers.



**WAHOO** *Acanthocybium solandri*

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



**DOGTOOTH TUNA** *Gymnosarda unicolor*

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



**YELLOWFIN TUNA** *Thunnus albacares*

Astove is surrounded, at close proximity, by sheer drop-offs and ledges. Yellowfin tuna tend to follow the bait as they migrate through the Seychelles waters therefore Cosmoledo usually has good numbers of yellowfin tuna year round.



# THE FINER DETAILS

## Things to Take Note of...

### INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

#### RATES INCLUDE

- 7 Night package with all meals included
- Private charter flight
- Six days fully guided fishing
- Max Pax: 6 anglers (2 anglers per 1 guide & skiff)
- Soft drinks during activities, water, tea and coffee
- Wine with dinner
- Laundry

#### RATES EXCLUDE

- International Flights
- Accommodation and transfers on Mahé
- Beverages
- Rod & reel rental (\$65 per outfit per week or \$25 per outfit per day)
- Telephone charges
- Travel and medical insurance
- Tackle and flies
- Gratuities and items of a personal nature
- Conservation donation of US\$175

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### WEATHER

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at  $\pm 35^{\circ}$  Celsius ( $\pm 90^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit). 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 ASTOVE

The first part of the season traditionally runs from early November to late April, with a break over the festive season. Due to Astove being a further  $2^{\circ}$  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 once on Astove.

#### INOCULATIONS & HEALTH

No inoculations are legally required for entry. However, you may want to check with your local immunization and inoculation clinic for their recommendations on health precautions for travel to the Seychelles. Some 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 lodge. 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. See packing check list at the end of this document for more information.

#### ACCOMMODATION

You will be accommodated in one of six single en-suite air-conditioned rooms that surround the central courtyard area. The lodge has a lounge and an indoor and outdoor dining area. The bathrooms have a shower, toilet, basin and the same amenities, towels and facecloths you would find at Alphonse.

The lodge is managed by an Alphonse Fishing Co. Manageress, staffed by Alphonse Fishing Co. staff, and is operated in a way to maximize your fishing

time. The menu comprises of an English breakfast, a packed lunch of your choice and a Creole-style buffet dinner served in the inside dining area.

#### ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

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

#### COMMUNICATION

The phone service is operated via satellite and there is no 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. You are able to buy an international telephone card whilst on the island for your use.

We advise that you leave the contact details of Alphonse Island with your family and friends. The Astove satellite phone is only switched on at certain times for logistical updates so a message can be passed onto you at this time.

Alphonse Number: +248-4-22-9700 (GMT+04:00)

#### WATER CONSUMPTION

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

#### 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.

#### MOSQUITOS

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

#### GRATUITY GUIDELINE

If you wish to show appreciation to the general staff, we suggest  $\pm$ US\$250 per guest per week or US\$35 per day guideline. This is to be left with the Astove Manageress upon departure for equal distribution. For the Fly Fishing Guides  $\pm$ US\$650 per angler per week or US\$110 per day guideline, which is also given to the Astove Manageress at the end of the



week. 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 SRC (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.

### DUTY FREE ALLOWANCE

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

### 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, 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 in-quisitive and may pause for an instant and give you the once over, but if you remain calm and quietly stand your ground, these magnificent creatures will not bother you.



### PAYMENT & BOOKING INFORMATION

#### CREDIT CARD EXCHANGE

The following credit cards are accepted:

- MasterCard • Visa

American Express is not accepted.

#### CURRENCIES ACCEPTED

- Seychelles Rupee • USD • Euro • GBP

#### CANCELLATIONS

- A 10% fee shall be levied if the reservation is moved to an alternative date within the same season.
- A fee of 10% shall be levied if cancellation is more than 180 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.

#### PAYMENTS

- Reservations will be held for two weeks.
- A deposit of 50% of the total package charge is required to confirm your booking and the balance is payable in full three months prior to arrival.
- All extras will be settled at the hotel on departure.

#### TARIFFS ARE QUOTED

- Inclusive of VAT in US Dollars
- Subject to availability

#### TARIFF CHANGES

All tariffs are subject to change, without prior notice, however rates quoted for confirmed bookings will be honoured.

#### VAT [a Government tax]

A Government Tax [VAT] of 15% is applicable on all items payable.

### BANKING DETAILS

**Beneficiary** Alphonse Island Lodge LTD  
**Bank Name** Mauritius Commercial Bank [SEY] LTD  
**Bank Address** Victoria Branch  
P O Box 122, Mahé, Seychelles  
**Account No** 00000 254557  
**SWIFT CODE** MCBLS CSC  
**IBAN** SC53 MCBL 0607 0000 0000 0025 4557 USD



**ALPHONSE**  
FISHING COMPANY  
SEYCHELLES

### CONTACT DETAILS

#### ISLAND

**Telephone** +248 422 97 00  
+248 422 90 30

**E-mail** info@alphonsefishingco.com

#### RESERVATIONS

**E-mail** reservations@alphonsefishingco.com

#### MARKETING

**E-mail** marketing@alphonse-island.com

**Postal Address** Alphonse Island Lodge  
P O Box 378, Victoria, Mahé  
Republic of Seychelles

**Website** www.alphonsefishingco.com

**Facebook** alphonse.island

**Blog** www.alphonse-island.com/en/blog



Astove & Alphonse Fishing Co. are part of the Blue Safari Seychelles Collection