



ASTOVE

ALPHONSE FISHING CO.
SEYCHELLES



PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

Astove Atoll

WELCOME TO YOUR ULTIMATE FISHING EXPERIENCE...

www.alphonsefishingco.com

JANUARY 2020

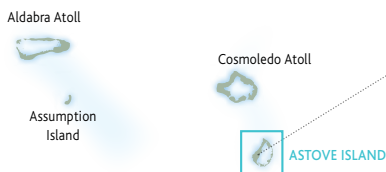


INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO/FROM SEYCHELLES



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.

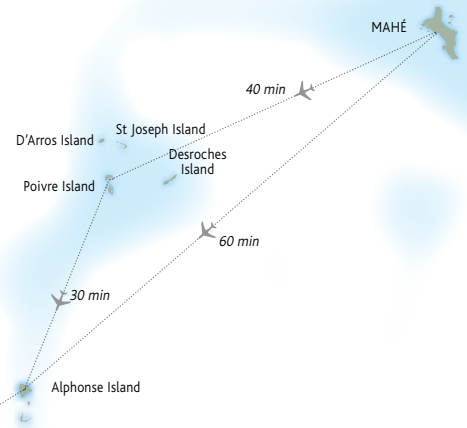


120 min

ASTOVE CORAL HOUSE

ASTOVE
ATOLL

LAGOON





ASTOVE ATOLL

The Wildest Fly Fishing Destination on this Planet!

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FISHING AT ASTOVE ATOLL

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.

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

YOUR ITINERARY...

DAY 1: Your charter flight departs 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 un-guided 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.

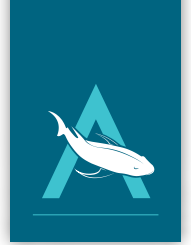
DAY 8: Breakfast is at 07h30, you can then pack, settle your tab and gratuities, and prepare for the three hour flight back to Mahé. The flight will land back at the IDC Hangar.

SKIFFS & GUIDING

The lodge has four 20ft 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.

Your fishing team will comprise of two guests fishing with a different guide each day. Each guide is a qualified skipper, has first aid experience, STCW qualifications, speaks English and are extremely experienced with all facets of fly fishing in these remote saltwater destinations.





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). 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° 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 WiFi.

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 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 Island 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 mosquitoes 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 a 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 a 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 SCR [Seychelles Rupees]. The lodge accepts Rupees, Dollars, Euros and Pounds. We accept all major debit and credit cards. We do not accept American Express.

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, how-ever proper footwear will ensure your safety.

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





TACKLE & GEAR

Check List

TACKLE & GEAR

Astove 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 Astove 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 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.

RECOMMENDED BONEFISH & PERMIT OUTFIT

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

RECOMMENDED TRIGGERFISH & MILKFISH OUTFIT

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

RECOMMENDED GIANT TREVALLY, BLUEFIN 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 fly rod. The reel should be loaded with three hundred yards of 80lbs braid.
- ☐ 1 x High quality heavy weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.
- ☐ 1 x 750 grain sinking line for dredging

TERMINAL TACKLE

- ☐ 1 x 15 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- ☐ 1 x 20 lbs fluorocarbon tippet material
- ☐ 1 x 25 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- ☐ 1 x 130 lbs Suffix Zippy soft mono

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 Alphonse.

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
- ☐ 4 x Fleeing Crab Cream/Tan – Orange Legs #2
- ☐ 6 x Alphexo crab (White, Tan and Olive) #2

MILKFISH

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

GIANT TREVALLY, BLUEFIN TREVALLY & BARRACUDA

- ☐ 4 x GT Brush Fly (Tan) #5/0 SC15-2H
- ☐ 4 x GT Brush Fly (Black) #5/0 SC15-2H
- ☐ 4 x Not Your Average Popper (NYAP) #8/0

BLUEWATER & BILLFISH

- ☐ 4 x Deep-throat Dredging Flies #8/0
- ☐ 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

OUR FLY SHOP OFFERS A RANGE OF CLOTHING SUITED FOR FISHING THESE WATERS

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

reservations@alphonsefishingco.com / +248 422 9700 [GMT+04:00]

www.alphonsefishingco.com



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