



Providence Atoll - Seychelles

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Providence Atoll, Seychelles - 10.167°S 51.133°E

1 Overview

Cost 2015/2016 season: US\$11,500 per person sharing ex Mahe

Group Size: 12 anglers & 4 guides (3 anglers to boat and guide).

Trip Duration: 6 Days Fishing/ 7 Nights

Peak Season: mid Oct – mid Nov | April

FlyCastaway was the first outfitter to explore the fly fishing opportunities on Providence in 2004. Since 2009 we have not been able to fish this truly wild fishery, we are however very excited to now return back to our former crown jewel after so many years of absence. Providence Atoll is just short of being the most southerly atoll in the Seychelles and contains two major land masses, namely Providence North and Cerf Island. This remarkable atoll has remained largely untouched, with fewer than a thousand people having visited this tropical wilderness in the last century. After guiding on Providence from 2004 – 2009 the FlyCastaway guides are now convinced that Providence is the most exciting and diverse fly fishing destination they have ever encountered. The sheer size and amount of fish holding area makes both the flats and offshore angling potential almost limitless. It is a true fly fishing wilderness!

Providence offers fly fishermen the opportunity to wade and sight fish a possible 46 kilometers of pristine sand and Turtle grass flats, an enormous lagoon system as well the numerous channels which link these structures with the Indian Ocean. Anglers can expect to target record size Giant Trevally, Bonefish, Triggerfish, Indo Pacific Permit, Milkfish as well as Bumphead Parrotfish. Due to its size and diversity we will now be placing five of our extremely talented and experienced guides on this remarkable atoll, together with five tender boats to be used exclusively on Providence. These tenders will surely improve both flats accessibility and help maximize the fantastic offshore fishery Providence is blessed to have!

Guests are expected to arrive in Mahe the day before the charter flight to Farquhar. The group will meet an hour before the scheduled departure time at the domestic terminal (next to the international terminal). The flight from Mahe to Farquhar is one hour forty five minutes onboard a private chartered Beechcraft 1900. Guests are then transferred in true island style via tractor and trailer on a short fifteen minute ride to the slipway from where they are transferred to the mothership, which carry them across to Providence (6-8 hours) plus will be their home and base for the week's fishing.

Maya's Dugong is an extremely well equipped expedition vessel and will be our base on Providence. It boasts the most experienced crew in the region. The 150 foot vessel can sleep 14 guests in 7 double cabins and she is the ideal vessel for long range fly fishing expeditions. The spacious vessel's large public areas and facilities allow for maximum enjoyment of guests' time onboard Maya's Dugong. A huge dining salon and lounge hosts guests in air conditioned comfort for meals and entertainment, and the outdoor leisure deck provides opportunities for al fresco dining and also serves as a comfortable lounge area.



There is also plenty of open deck space onboard for sun bathing and relaxing, and a spacious bridge and observation deck allow guests to take in the adventure with a captain's eye view of all the surroundings.

2 The Fishing

2.1 The Average Day

Typically anglers will be up early and after a quick breakfast head out to the flats to fish the first tide. After the session they'll be collected and returned to the boat for lunch before heading out later the afternoon for the second fishing session. During the midday break anglers can snorkel, or just laze around and re-hydrate in an air-conditioned environment. There is however an option to stay out on the flats with a packed lunch if the prime tidal movement coincides with the lunch break. The following day's activities and schedule will be planned the night before between the guides and the captain. If you have any preferences please feel free to mention it to the guides. Current tidal movement and the species anglers wish to target will be taken into consideration

2.2 Flats

Providence has two major land masses namely Cerf Island in the extreme south and North Island at the most northern part of the atoll. The seemingly endless flats not only surround both these islands but run uninterrupted the entire 40 odd kilometers in between. They are primarily made up of Turtlegrass, with the larger white sand flats being found around the islands. Most of the flats are hard, making them ideal for wading. Fishing on these flats for species such as Bonefish, Permit, Milkfish, Giant Trevally, Triggerfish, Great Barracuda and Bumphead Parrotfish must rank as the best in the world at present. The guides will lead you onto the flats and help you identify the desired target species, the areas which they frequent and the explain the correct techniques with which to catch them.

2.3 Bluewater

Deep water begins very close to shore at most of the anchorages and it is possible to fish these waters from the tenders. Here the most common species encountered are Dogtooth Tuna, Giant Trevally, Barracuda, Wahoo, Yellowfin Tuna, Sailfish and the occasional Striped Marlin. Standard tackle is a 14 – 15 weight, usually rigged with a 700 grain or heavier line and/or an intermediate billfish taper. Surface fishing in blue water with the aid of teasers is also possible with large baitfish imitations from sizes 6/0 and upward being recommended. All FlyCastaway guides are experts in rigging, teasing and the handling of blue water fish.



3 Details

Cost: 2015/16 Season: USD\$11,500 per person sharing excluding Mahe

Single supplement: Special Request

Max Pax: 12 anglers

Inclusions:

- Return flight Mahe-Farquhar-Mahe
- 7 nights full board shared accommodation onboard
- All meals
- Landing fees
- 6 days guided fishing (3 anglers to a boat and guide).

Exclusions:

- International flights
- Overnight accommodation on Mahe
- Ground Transfers on Mahe
- Tackle & Flies
- Gratuities (This is purely discretionary however based on industry standards one can expect to pay USD\$500 pp for guide tips based)
- All drinks including soft-drinks, beers (local and imported), spirits (local and imported), wine (imported) and bottled water are available for purchase on board. A GST of 15% will be charged on all goods purchased on the mother ship.
- Mandatory emergency medical evacuation policy (FlyCastaway recommends Global Rescue)
- Travel Insurance
- Personal Expenses

Location: 400 nautical miles S of Mahe

Getting there: Based on a standard seven day package - The group will leave Mahe for a one hour forty five minute flight onboard an IDC chartered Beechcraft 1900 heading for Farquhar Atoll. Farquhar is the closest island to Providence that harbors an operational airstrip. The mother ship will meet the group at Farquhar, upon arrival anglers and gear will be transferred to the boat. Once everyone has settled into his or her cabins the mother ship will leave for Providence 6- 8 hours away.

On arrival at Providence Atoll, the group will spend the next six days fishing and exploring the islands, flats and channels of Providence Atoll. After fishing on the sixth day the mother ship will start heading back to Farquhar. The following day the group will fly out of Farquhar and head back to Mahe.

Target Species: Bonefish, Giant Trevally, Indo-Pacific Permit, Triggerfish, Bumphead Parrotfish, Milkfish, Barracuda, Bluefin Trevally, Sailfish, Yellowfin Tuna and Wahoo etc

Fishing Season: Mid October – mid November & April



Weather: Temperatures range between 30° - 35°C with high humidity.

Tender boats: Panga style skiffs

4 Safety and Piracy

A risk assessment performed by an international security company has concluded that the risk of attack is extremely low. Also in their conclusion they, approved the decision to take a small armed security force on board and it was stated that this would bring the security level of the operation to a satisfactory level.

According to official sources there has never been a successful piracy attack on a vessel with an armed security force onboard. The security personnel will be located on the upper deck in order not to interfere with the clients' living place.

In addition to the safety precautions undertaken by the mother ship there are 4 drone planes based in the Seychelles with a Swedish coast guard patrol plane. There are Seychelles European, Japanese, Indian, American and Russian Coast Guard vessels in and around Seychelles waters at all times.

There is also three major centers setup around the Indian Ocean; Seychelles, UAE and Tanzania that collect and relay all information on potential piracy. The Seychelles Coast guard has also just received their new aircraft to help the fight against piracy! The mother ship is equipped with VMS, tracking device that can ensure early detection of suspicious activity. Although every possible step and measure has been undertaken to avoid acts of piracy, it remains a risk undertaken by each angler on the trip. All clients / participants are required to sign the "Providence Terms and Conditions" waiver located in attachments

5 Pre Trip

Tackle & Gear: Single-handed 9ft #9wt & 12wt saltwater outfits with matching tropical floating lines. A comprehensive tackle and gear list along with an order form (should you wish to purchase your tackle through us) is issued after your booking has been confirmed. The guides will also carry limited stock of suitable flies and other terminal tackle, should you run out.

Wading: The hard white sand, turtlegrass or coral flats of Farquhar make for easy wading, thus 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. 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 list. Guests will not be taken onto the flats without proper footwear!

Recommended Reading

- Bonefish Fly Patterns by Dick Brown (ISBN: 1-558 21-392-9)
- Practical Fishing Knots by Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh (ISBN: 1-558-21-102-0)



- Fly Fishing in Saltwater by Lefty Kreh (ISBN: 1-558-21-590-5)
- www.flycastaway.com

Time Difference: GMT +4

Flight time from UK: 11 hours to Mahe

Passports: Everyone travelling to Seychelles must have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the end of travel

Visa Requirements: UK, US, EU, USSR and RSA passport holders do not require a visa for entering into the Seychelles for vacation purposes.

Medical & Health Requirements: Mandatory emergency medical evacuation insurance

A Yellow Fever certificate is required if travelling from a Yellow Fever infected area.

Currency: The currency of Seychelles is the Seychelles Rupee (SCR). US Dollar or Euro are however widely accepted and are the preferred currency for gratuities and expenditure on Farquhar.

Gratuities: The recommended gratuity for the guides is USD\$500 pp per week, and for the lodge staff/boat crew is US\$150pp per week. (Please note that this is only a guideline for guests interested in tipping the guides and the boat staff. All gratuities are up to the discretion of the individual guest.)

Credit Cards: VISA is the most widely accepted on Mahe.

Travellers Checks: Travellers' checks are also widely accepted, particularly at hotels, shops and restaurants. Checks issued in US dollars and British pounds are preferred and less likely to incur additional exchange fees.

Currency Exchange: Banks are available for all arriving flights in the airport for currency exchange. We recommend exchanging only a moderate amount of money.

Language: Creole, English and French are spoken widely. All FlyCastaway guides speak English.

Satellite Phone & Communications: There is no cell phone reception on Farquhar. The guesthouse is however equipped with a satellite phone which can be used by guests at an additional cost of USD\$4 per minute.

GSM: There are two GSM network operators in Seychelles: Airtel (Telecom) and Cable & Wireless. Both networks are GSM 900. As of this writing, only C&W has any roaming agreements, and only with BT Cellnet in the United Kingdom. Both offer prepaid services; for about USD 40 you can get a GSM card and make international calls to any country, anytime for about USD 1.50 per minute.

6 Images

Images: Due to the large amount of high quality images we have taken on Providence, we feel it far more appropriate for you to view the images of both the fishing and the mothership on our website

www.flycastaway.com

7 Standard Terms and Conditions

Booking Procedures



- All reservation made more than 12 months in advance requires an initial deposit of 20% of the total amount due to be received within 14 days of invoicing.
- Twelve (12) months prior to departure 50% of the total amount is due.
- All reservation made less than 12 months in advance requires an initial deposit of 50% of the total amount due to be received within 14 days of invoicing.
- Three (3) months prior to departure 100% of the total amount is due.
- If a booking is made less than 90 days prior to departure full payment is due immediately.

Cancellation

- If a cancellation is made 12 months or more prior to departure the 50% of the deposit will be forfeited.
- Cancellations made 12 to 6 months prior to departure, 50% of charter rate shall be forfeited.
- Cancellations made 6 months or less prior to departure, full individual charter rate shall be forfeited.
- Reservation for which payment are not received as on time as per the terms are subject to cancellation by FCA 7 days after notification.
- In case of cancellation by FlyCastaway money received will be paid back in full excluding bank charges.
- Rates are subject to change without prior notice

Conditions

All Cancellations must be made in writing. Deposit will only be refunded if a replacement can be found. Reservation for which payment are not received as on time as per the terms are subject to cancellation by FCA 7 days after notification. *Once a deposit is received, all revisions are subject to a €100 handling fee. *All prices are subject to availability of bookings, change by service providers, and are quoted at low season fares. *Rates are subject to change. *The ship/lodge reserves the right to cancel a sailing/trip due to bad weather conditions.

At time of quote flight charges, island fees and government taxes are correct but are subject to change without prior notice. Increases in any of these facets are out of the control of FlyCastaway and will be transferred to the client. Service providers used such as airlines and charter boat operators are independent business concerns and are in no way affiliated to FlyCastaway (FCA). Although all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour, FCA cannot be held responsible in any way for bad or non-performance of service providers. While all possible efforts will be made to ensure the success of this tour, FCA cannot be held responsible in any way for cancellation in total or in part or non-performance in any way, due to bad weather or any other detrimental natural phenomenon/disaster, political unrest or war.

All guests must have a comprehensive medical emergency evacuation insurance policy, as well as travel insurance policy to cover them for the duration of the trip. It is the right of the live-aboard service provider to cancel any booking without refund, if the client is not adequately insured. In this case, adequate

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insurance means: an insurance that covers emergency medical evacuation from the scene of the illness or accident, to the nearest best hospital and then back to your hometown. Cancellation and curtailment insurance cover is also recommended. Furthermore all guests will be required to sign and return the Reservation and Indemnity Form prior to the trip.