



St Brandon's - Cargados Carjagos Shoals

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St Brandon's (Cargados Carjagos Shoals) - 16°35' S 59°37' E

1 Overview

Cost 2015/2016 season: USD\$7500 per person sharing ex Port Louis, Mauritius

Group Size: 8 Anglers

Trip Duration: 9 Nights & 7.5 Fishing Days

Peak Season: Sept - Dec | Apr – June

If wading and sight casting to double digit Bonefish, tailing Indo-Pacific Permit and a host of Trevally species on powder white sand flats in the Indian Ocean appeals to you....then look no further, St Brandon's Atoll is the destination for you. St Brandon's (Cargados Carajos Shoals) is a group of over 50 small islands, coral ridges and vast sand flats which is cut by three major passes and extends 50 km from north to south. Situated 268 nautical miles north-east of Mauritius's main island this area is rich in fish stocks, flora and fauna. This magical atoll has quickly risen to iconic status in the world of saltwater fly fishingand for good reason. The flats fishing for Bonefish, Indo-Pacific Permit and a host of Trevally species is simply world class!

Previous seasons on St Brandon's were run as a live-aboard mother ship operation onboard MY Gryphon, as foreigners were not permitted by the Mauritian authorities to stay on land. The last 5 years of hard work have however finally paid off and we are excited to announce the beginning of a new era in this project, the St Brandon's land-based experience! The high-speed transport vessel 'Patrol One' will ferry guests to and from the atoll. 'Patrol One' consistently does the crossing in 16 hours, which allows for 7.5 fishing days in our standard 9 night program. This is a full extra days fishing at a more affordable rate!

Guests will be accommodated in a comfortable guesthouse on Raphael Island situated in the fish rich northern part of the atoll. Although the guesthouse is by no means luxurious, it is clean, comfortable and considering it's remote location, is all a travelling angler needs to enjoy the finest trophy Bonefish, Permit

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Ryan Hammond +27 72 501 9444 ryan@flycastaway.com

Gerhard Laubscher +27 82 334 3448 gerhard@flycastaway.com



and GT fishing available in the Indian Ocean. To top it off, there is a highly productive, easy wading, flat just meters away from the front porch!

The Patrol One is a 73ft two deck wave piercer trimaran designed to handle rough seas at high speed. A crossing to St Brandon's on this cutting edge vessel takes between 14 and 16 hours (10 hours less than the previously used MY Gryphon) and roughly between 12 and 14 hours on the way back. It offers a large external cockpit, an adjacent galley, a dinette and a bridge area capable of seating the skipper and seven passengers in aircraft style plus one extra seating arrangement. There are four cabins containing 8 single/bunk beds for those who would prefer to lie down during the crossing.

The Patrol One will depart Port Louis at approximately 15:00pm on the start day of the trip and will arrive on Raphael Island at +/06:00am the following morning. Guests will then be transported by tender boat onto the island, following which they will settle into their rooms, have some breakfast and after receiving a briefing from the head guide and tackle set up, will head off onto the flats for the remainder of the day. Guests will then spend the following 6 full days out on the flats. On the day of departure back to Mauritius (8th day), guests will have the opportunity to fish until around 14:00pm, following which they will come back to the guesthouse for late lunch and to pack up their things. The Patrol One will then head back to Mauritius at around 17:00pm, arriving in Port Louis sometime between 05:00am - 07:00am. Although every effort is made to stick to this schedule, weather and other factors associated with remote locations of this nature can affect timing. We ask all guests to go into this trip with an open mind towards the logistics, appreciating how remote a venue St Brandon's really is and what a privilege it is we are allowed to fish it!

Based on this schedule guests are asked to fly into Mauritius the day before the start date of the trip (to ensure there is a time buffer built in for missed flight connections, flight delays/lost luggage etc. Should you however prefer to fly into Mauritius on the morning of the departure date we kindly ask you to notify us of your intentions and proposed flight times before booking flights. Return international flight can be booked which depart after 14:00pm on end date of the trip. Should you however wish to book a flight that departs Mauritius earlier, guests are kindly requested to contact us before doing so.

2 The Fishing

On arriving at St Brandon's no time is wasted as the guides put their vast Indian Ocean experience and planning into practice as you venture out to spend your days exploring the multitude of pure white sand flats and broken coral islands, which contain Bonefish, Indo Pacific Permit and host of Trevally species.

This most certainly is the most spectacular bonefishing you will ever encounter as on most tides anglers can expect to see shoals of these shallow water speedsters as well as enormous singles and doubles. Over the past few seasons we have landed Bonefish of up to 87cm fork length and weighing 15lbs.

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Ryan Hammond +27 72 501 9444 ryan@flycastaway.com

Gerhard Laubscher +27 82 334 3448 gerhard@flycastaway.com



St Brandon's is also the most productive Indo-Pacific Permit fishery in the Indian Ocean. When specifically targeting these gloriously finicky fish, guests are afforded multiple shots per day. Over the past seasons our guides have refined their tactics for the Permit of St Brandon's and enjoy nothing more than watching their clients lean into sizeable specimens.

St Brandon's isn't a place where anglers are going to get shots at GT's everyday but it is certainly the place to break the 100 cm mark. The fish are all large and you catch more over a meter than under. We have in fact seen and hooked fish well over the 150cm. Large Bluefin Trevally are also around in good numbers and we frequently land fish between 15-20lbs. Other notable fish species one can encounter on the flats include Golden, Yellow Dot and Green Spot Trevally.

All FlyCastaway trips to St Brandon's are led by a team of world class professional fly fishing guides. During your stay on St Brandon's there will be four guides including one head guide, allowing for a 2 guest to 1 guide fishing scenario. Each guide is a qualified skipper, has first aid experience and is extremely experienced with regards to all facets of fly fishing the remote saltwater destinations of the Indian Ocean. Their passion and dedication is infectious and rest assured they will definitely go the extra mile in search of your fish of a lifetime. All FlyCastaway guides are fluent in English.

3 Video & Blogs

Video:

<http://vimeo.com/channels/661063> and <http://vimeo.com/55942142>

Blog/Fishing Reports:

<https://flycastaway.wordpress.com/category/st-brandons>

4 Details

Cost:

USD\$7500 per person sharing ex Port Louis, Mauritius (9 night, 7.5 day fishing package)

Single supplement:

Not at this time

Max Pax:

8 anglers (2 anglers to 1 guide)

Inclusions:

- Return transport to St Brandon's from Mauritius
- Full board and accommodation at Raphael Island guesthouse based on two people sharing
- 7 days fully guided fishing (2 anglers to a boat and guide)

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- Fishing licenses
- Tender boats & fuel
- Soft drinks, water & local beers

Exclusions:

- International flights from your home to Port Louis, Mauritius
- Ground transfers on Mauritius
- Meals and accommodation in Port Louis or any other en route cities
- Spirits, wine, items of a personal nature
- Gratuities for guides and boat staff (although gratuities are purely discretionary, based on international standards guests can expect to pay USD\$550 each for guides and USD\$150 for boat and guesthouse staff)
- Travel & medical insurance (medevac insurance is mandatory – FlyCastaway recommends Global Rescue)
- Tackle & flies

Location:

268 nautical miles north-east of Mauritius's main island

Getting there:

Guests need to fly into the main island of Mauritius and preferably overnight before the Patrol One departs Port Louis for a 14-16 hour motor to St Brandon's.

Target Species:

Bonefish, Indo-Pacific Permit, Giant Trevally, Bluefin Trevally, Golden Trevally & Greenspot Trevally.

Fishing Season:

September to December and again from April through to June.

Weather:

Temperatures range between 25°C - 30°C. Wind averages 15knots.

Tender Boats:

4 x 17ft locally built mono-hulls which carry 2 x 15 HP 2-Stroke Yamaha engines

5 Pre Trip

Time Difference:

GMT + 4

Flight time from UK: 12 - 14 hours

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Tackle & Gear:

Single-handed 9ft #9wt & #12wt saltwater outfits with matching tropical floating lines. The guesthouse will have 4 x 12 weight G-Loomis Crosscurrent Fly Rods and Wade Caranx Reels and 4 x 9 weight G-Loomis Crosscurrent Fly Rods and Wade Albula Reels which can be rented on a weekly basis (fly lines excluded).

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.

Passports

Everyone travelling to Mauritius 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 Mauritius 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 Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR). US Dollars are however widely accepted and are the preferred currency for gratuities and expenditure on St Brandon's.

Gratuities:

The recommended gratuity for the guides are US\$500 per person per trip, and for the boat and guesthouse staff US\$150pp per 9 night trip. (Please note that this is only a guideline for guests. All gratuities are up to the discretion of the individual guest.)

Currency Exchange

Local currency is not required unless you are planning an extended stay. Most restaurants, hotels and shops accept Forrex.

Language:

English is the official language of Mauritius, but the most widely used is French. All FlyCastaway guides speak English.

Satellite Phone & Communications

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The FlyCastaway guides do carry a satellite phone when on St Brandon's, which will be available for guests to use should an important matter arise. Please note guests will be billed for their time on the phone, which needs to be paid in USD\$ before departing the atoll.

Whilst on the main island of Mauritius the international access code is +230. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 001 for the United States). City/area codes are not required. The entire island is covered by the mobile network, added to which the local mobile phone operators use GSM networks which are compatible with most international operators. Handsets and SIM cards can be purchased at the airport. Internet cafes are widely available.

6 Standard Terms and Conditions

Booking Procedures

- All reservations made more than 12 months in advance require an initial deposit of USD\$1000 to be received within 14 days of invoicing.
- All reservation made less than 12 months in advance require 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 is not received on time as per the terms is subject to cancellation by FCA 7 days after notification. *Once a deposit is received, all revisions are subject to a USD\$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

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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 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.