

BONEFISH/FLATS ESSENTIALS

Clothing & Sun Protection

- Lightweight supplex flats type clothing recommended.
- Long pants and shirts should be considered for sun protection.
- Sun gloves.
- Buff and/or flats hat.
- Flats booties (very important – coral will ruin your trip).
- Packable and breathable rain jacket (for passing showers or wet boat rides).
- Light/pale colored clothing will help you blend in and keep you cooler from intense sun.
- 30 SPF or better sun block and lip balm.
- Bug repellent.

Rods & Reels

- 9 foot 4 piece (for travel) 7-9 weight rods for bonefish.
- 9 foot 4 piece (for travel) 9-10 weight rods for barracuda/tarpon/permit/etc.
- Machined & anodized large arbor reels with 150+ yards of backing.

Lines & Leaders

- Tropical bonefish lines preferred. Sci Angler, Rio, Airflo and Wulff all make good tropical bonefish lines. Ask us about preference and the differences.
- 9-10 foot leaders bonefish leaders.
- We prefer to build them with Mason butt sections tapered down to flourocarbon tippet.
- Because flouro is much thinner than traditional mono, we generally use nothing less than 16# tippet (unless it has too heavy of a diameter).
- Use this simple design for standard to heavy wind conditions - 2' 30# Mason (heavier than 40# Maxima), 2' 40# Maxima, 2' 30# Maxima, 2' 20# Maxima, 2' 18-20# Flouro (We like Seaguar Grand Max).

- Because the leader above will turn over aggressively, for light wind days we may eliminate the Mason and use 20# flouro for 4th section and 16-18# for 5th section.
- Cuda & sharks - 8-12" knotable wire for cuda and 24"+ for sharks. Use same aggressive leader above and eliminate 5th section. Sometimes in a pinch (hard to switch rods) use a 10" section of wire attached to a fly with a slip loop on the other end so if you see a cuda you can quickly hook it to your bonefish fly and pull slip loop tight.
- Tarpon - 15-20# class tippet attached to 6' 30 pound maxima and 12" 60-100# shock.

Flies

- Bonefish - #2-8 Spawning shrimp (ask us about our special sprimp, we have a very deadly pattern we tie), gotchas, charlies, clousers, etc. Mostly shrimp patterns, but bring some crabs as well. Match the bottom with you flies, the Bahamas have a lot of fairly light bottoms, but there are also plenty of dark bottoms and grass flats on certain islands (weed guards over grass is a must!)
- Tarpon - #2-2/0 Tarpon patterns such as toads, cockroach, worms, etc. Also large spawning shrimp and crab patterns can work well. Tans, olives, chartreuse, yellow, black, etc.
- Permit - #2-4 Crabs and spawning shrimp
- Cuda - #1/0 Crease flies (great surface action), needlefish patterns, deceivers, clousers in chartreuse, yellow, silver, white, red, etc.

Gear & Tackle Needs & Ideas

- Medium sized gear bag, ideally waterproof. Simms and Mangrove both manufacture great waterproof gear bags.
- Waterproof waist/fanny pack. Simms makes very good ones.
- Fly boxes - I like to have 1 small one that will fit in a pant or shirt pocket and some medium/large ones for your gear bag with the bulk of your flies. Waterproof C&F style we find is best.
- Camera & waterproof case or zip lock (if not waterproof)
- Lanyard (put the tools below on it – wear under your shirt to keep it out of the way)
- Nipper/zinger
- Hook file
- Nail knot tool
- Forceps

- Pliers with cutter for wire
- BogaGrip

Vision

- Quality sunglasses will pay off. Glass lens have much better clarity and are much more scratch resistant. Below is based off of Smith Optics (some manufactures amber lens may be more of a redish color for example)
- Amber (yellowish) is your best sight fishing lens especially in low light.
- Copper & Brown are good all around choices and excellent for bright conditions.
- Stay away from really dark lens as you will lose the ability to sight fish as well.
- Bring lens cleaner and clothes. They also make lens cleaning cloth with cleaner that come in a foil pack.

Essentials & Travel Ideas

- Passport.
- Airline tickets (usually E-tickets nowadays).
- Enough cash for tips, bar, spending (hard to spend) and secondary flight to your island.
- Reading material.
- Snacks.
- Laptop.
- Phone & charger.
- I-pod, headphones, charger.
- Kindle & charger
- Toothbrush & paste, etc.
- Medications (Your daily meds + Tylenol, Asprin, Advil, etc).
- Small first aid kit (Neosporin, alcohol swabs, gauze, band-aids, etc).

Traveling Recommendations

- **From TSA website:** Fishing Rods are permitted as carry-on and checked baggage. However, please check with your air carrier to confirm that it fits within their size limitations for carry-on items. Ultimately, it is the carrier's decision as to whether or not

it can be transported as carry-on baggage. ****Expensive reels or fragile tackle such as flies should be packed in your carry-on baggage.****

- Go to TSA website and print out carry-on regulations in case you run into problems during your travels through check points. **Keep in mind, TSA governs here in the US. Regulations may be different traveling home from an international location such as the Bahamas.** Use the link below here.
http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/editorial_1188.shtm
- Rods - TSA regulations allow fishing rods as a carry-on. I have never had a problem carrying my rods on the plane. 4 piece rods will make this easy and a 4" diameter rod tube will make carrying multiple rods easy. Simply place your rods in the tube in their socks. You should be able to get between 4-6 rods this way depending upon the tube. This essentially will become your personal item. Carry both ways.
- Reels - TSA also allows expensive fishing reels as a carry-on. Going to your destination I would carry on. When coming home from the Bahamas/Belize, etc. it may be best to check them. I have heard some people losing reels when they were asked to check them instead of carrying them on. Always hide them well in your checked bag if you do.
- Flies - TSA also allows flies as a carry-on. Same as reels, I would carry on traveling to your destination and check coming back. If you have a lot of flies, carry some on and check some on the way to your destination.

Make sure to print and use this to check off the items.

We wish you the very best of luck on your fishing trip!

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