



St Brandon's - Cargados Carjagos Shoals

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

1 Overview

Group Size: 8 Anglers

Trip Duration: 9 Nights & 6.5 Fishing Days

Peak Season: Oct-Dec | Apr-Jun

If wading and sight casting to double digit Bonefish, gloriously finicky 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. The magnificent condition of the coral and the lobster infested outer reefs is proof that other than a small population of Creole natives who live on Raphael Island in the north this area has had very little human interference. 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! For many years foreigners were banned from visiting her shores, but thankfully the red tape has finally been cleared to legally allow FlyCastaway to use the luxurious MY Gryphon for live aboard trips to St Brandon's.

Guests are requested to fly into Mauritius the day before departure and fly out the day after or late on the same day. There are 12 daily international flights into Mauritius and the airport is 45minutes away from Port Louis, which is the capital. Once everyone has settled into their cabins, the fully rigged and stocked Gryphon departs in a north-easterly direction along the Mascarene ridge on a 24 hour motor for St Brandon. The trip is a pleasant one as the stabilizers steady the roll and time flies as the card games and DVD's are paused thanks to the occasional sound of screaming reels.

The Gryphon is a 96 ft motor yacht which is based out of Port Louis and boasts a top speed of 13 knots, has stabilizers, a large indoor and outdoor living area as well as a fully rigged game fishing aft deck.

Boasting a 23ft beam and a 7,5ft draft she can accommodate up to 8 fly fishermen, 4 FlyCastaway guides, as well as a crew of 4 who cater for your every. A large and spacious vessel boasting two stabilisers which make her extremely stable, she has a top speed of 13 knots. She is very comfortable and the perfect base with which to explore St Brandon's in luxury. It would be difficult to find a better boat from which to do the crossing as she has all the extras like a TV, DVD player and card table to help pass the time.

All meals are served in the dining room with the chef preparing a mix of Creole and international food. Although the Gryphon does have a selection of wine and spirits on board for sale, we do however recommend all clients bring there own bottle of preferred spirits as we cannot guarantee availability at the time of your trip. All mineral water, softdrinks and local beers are included in the price which has been quoted.



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, all of which are infested with naive bonefish.

This most certainly is be 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 season we have landed Bonefish of up to 87cm fork length and weighing 15lbs.

St Brandon's is also the most productive Indo-Pacific Permit fishery any of us have witnessed. When specifically targeting these gloriously finicky fish, guests are afforded multiple shots per day. Over the past season 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.

The GT fishing can be quite varied. Some days you can see over 100 fish and at other times none at all. St Brandon's isn't a place where you 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 and we have caught some truly world class specimens.

Other notable fish species one can encounter on the flats include Golden, Yellow Dot and Green Spot Trevally.

St Brandon's flats are primarily made up of white compacted sand which makes for easy wading, thus separating it from other destinations in the world. As most of the fishing will be done via wading, good protective footwear is essential. Although the sand flats are easy on the feet, there are certain areas we fish which are made up of broken coral or littered with coral bommies, so having standard diver's neoprene booties with a reinforced rubber sole are not appropriate. We recommend wearing proper flats wading boots. 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!

All FlyCastaway trips to St Brandon's are led by a team of world class professional fly fishing guides. During your stay on the vessel there will be four guides including one head guide onboard. Each guide is a qualified skipper, has first aid experience and is extremely experienced with regards 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.

FlyCastaway St Brandon's Atoll 2011/12

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3 Details

Cost:

€6700 per person sharing ex Port Louis, Mauritius (9 night, 6.5 day fishing package)

Single supplement:

Available

Max Pax:

8 anglers (2 anglers to 1 guide)

• **Inclusions:**

Full board and accommodation on board the MY Gryphon for nine nights based on two people sharing an ensuite bedroom

- Six and half days fully guided fishing (2 anglers to a boat and guide)
- 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
- Travel & medical insurance.
- 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 Gryphon departs Port Louis for a 26 hour motor to St Brandon's.

Target Species:

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

Fishing Season:

October 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

4 Pre Trip

Time Difference:

GMT + 4

Flight time from UK: 12 - 14 hours

Tackle & Gear:

Single-handed 9ft #9wt & #12wt saltwater outfits with matching tropical floating lines. The Gryphon will have 8 x 12 weight G-Loomis Crosscurrent Fly Rods and Shilton SL7 Reels and 8 x 9 weight G-Loomis Crosscurrent Fly Rods and Shilton SL6 Reels which can be rented on a weekly basis.

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.

Dangers to watch out for whilst wading

- Stingrays – some areas on the atoll host large numbers of stingrays on the flats. Most species have a poisonous, barbed spine near the base of their tails that they can use for defence. These spines can inflict a nasty wound, should an unwary angler 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, this fish is not only lethally toxic, but is also very well camouflaged and will not move unless touched. A stonefish has 13 strong hollow spines through which it injects its poison and these will pass through a thin rubber sole with ease. For this reason all wading should be done wearing appropriate wading boots.
- Cone shells – cone shells 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 paralyzing poison. The poison from certain species can be fatal, however proper footwear will ensure your safety.
- Sharks – although small sharks are frequently encountered whilst wading, they present the least danger of all. Sometimes inquisitive, they may pause for an instant and give you the once over but if you remain calm and quietly stand your ground, none of these magnificent creatures will bother you. To date there are no reports of any anglers or guides having been bitten by sharks in these waters



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)
- Bonefishing by Dick Brown (ISBN:1-55821-203-5)
- Bonefishing by Randall Kaufmann (ISBN: 1-885212-13-15)
- www.flycastaway.com

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 is travelling from a Yellow Fever infected area.

Currency:

The currency of Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR). US Dollar or Euro are however widely accepted and are the preferred currency for gratuities and expenditure on the MY Gryphon.

Gratuities:

The recommended gratuity for the guides are US\$60.00pp per day, and for the boat staff 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.)

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 and crew of the MY Gryphon speak English.

Satellite Phone & Communications

The MY Gryphon is equipped with a satellite phone which can be used by guests at an additional cost.



Whilst on the main island the international access code for Mauritius 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 whole island is covered by the mobile network; the local mobile phone operators use GSM networks, which are compatible with most international operators. Handsets and SIM cards can be hired at the airport. Internet cafes are widely available.

Electricity

230 volts, 50Hz. Square three-pin plugs and round two-pin plugs are commonly used.

5 MY Gryphon

Technical details

BUILDER:	Martinolich
YEAR:	1976
REFIT:	2009
BUILDING MATERIAL:	Stainless Steel
LOA:	29.3 Meters
BEAM:	6.9 Meters
DRAUGHT:	2.3 Meters
SPEED:	11.5 Knots at 1750 rpm, 13 Knots at 2000 rpm
ADDITIONAL:	Stabilizers
RANGE:	4000 NM
ELECTRICITY	380 v, 220 v, 24 v (No converters required)
PLUG POINTS:	2 prong UE or 3 prong UK
GUEST ACCOMMODATION:	4 x Staterooms (Sleeps 8 guests)
FLAG:	Mauritian
OTHER FACILITIES:	TV, DVD, stereo, ice machine, washing machine, dryer

6 Images & Video

Images

Due to the large amount of high quality images we have taken on St Brandon's, we feel it far more appropriate for you to view the images of both the fishing and the Gryphon on our website:

www.flycastaway.com/destinations/our-destinations/st-brandon-s-atoll-mauritius

Video

Coming soon



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.

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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.