

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

Caño Negro/ Green Forest Fishing Lodge

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY *WELL IN ADVANCE* OF YOUR TRIP!

PER PERSON PRICING

4 DAYS FISHING - \$3995, 6/7 DAYS FISHING - \$5295 (air charters included). Four day minimum, double occupancy. Example of a four day sequence is: afternoon of fishing on day of arrival, fish three full days, then fish the morning of your departure day, returning to Santa Cruz after lunch.

INCLUDED

All meals, double accommodations, airport transfers, soft drinks, local liquors, beer and wine, laundry, guides, boats, all local permits, and round-trip air charter to and from the fishing area.

NOT INCLUDED

Commercial air travel, airport taxes (approx. \$25), visa (approx. \$135), gratuities to fishing guides and fishing camp staff (around \$300 total), flies and tackle, items of a personal nature (such as phone calls), and hotel or meals in Santa Cruz (as required by itinerary). Hotel will cost around \$100 per room.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS—IMPORTANT!

Travelers to Bolivia must have a visa to enter the country. You can either obtain your visa before you travel or you can obtain your visa when you land in Santa Cruz. **We would suggest that you obtain your visa prior to your departure to avoid the possibility of not having the correct items and to avoid delays at the airport when you land in Santa Cruz. It is best to do the application process 45-60 days prior to your departure. It usually takes 2-3 weeks to receive the processed visa back from the Consulate/Visa Service.**

The Consulate fee is currently \$135 for a tourist visa. Tourist visas are valid for five years.

If you choose to obtain your visa prior to the trip, you will send the following information to CIBT Visas and they will work with the Bolivian Embassy to obtain your visa.

1) Your passport with at least six months of validity beyond your date of departure and it must have two blank visa pages side by side, 2) completed visa application, 3) visa processing form, 4) two passport photos in color, 5) copy of flight itinerary, 6) proof of lodging (our office will provide this for you), 7) yellow fever certificate, 8) notice of sufficient funds (copy of recent bank statement), and 9) consulate fee and service fees. The complete instructions, including the application form, visa processing form and fees can be found at www.cibtvisas.com or you can call them at (800) 929-2428.

If you do not get your visa prior to the trip you will need to travel to Bolivia with the following items.

1) Your passport with at least six months of validity beyond your date of departure and it must have two blank visa pages side by side, 2) one passport photo in color, 3) the completed visa application form, 4) proof of lodging, 5) yellow fever certificate, and 6) approximately \$135 in US dollars for the visa fee.

Our office can provide you with the visa application form. It is a standard tourist form, with blanks for name, address, passport number, date of birth, etc. We will also provide you with the proof of lodging.

Note: There have been instances where airline check-in persons have not allowed travelers to board a flight to Bolivia without these items in their possession.

GETTING THERE

Santa Cruz, a surprisingly international city with a population of 1.3 million is the center of commerce in this agricultural and petroleum boom region. Its low crime rate, thriving economy and extensive oil and gas production has attracted many American, European and Japanese businessmen. Travel to Santa Cruz is easy. American Airlines has daily one-stop overnight flights from Miami which arrive early in the morning. COPA Airlines offers one-stop flight service from Houston or Miami. Flights back to Miami usually operate early morning or late evening. A departure tax of approximately \$25.00 is assessed upon departing Santa Cruz.

We strongly suggest you check your luggage from your home city to Miami (not to Santa Cruz), collect the luggage in Miami and re-check it to Santa Cruz. We also suggest you get to Miami four hours prior to your departure.

TRAVEL SEQUENCE/LOGISTICS

Guests are met upon arrival in Santa Cruz, and transferred directly to the charter aircraft terminal for their 2.0 hour flight to Caño Negro Lodge. Arrival is in plenty of time for lunch and an afternoon of fishing, weather permitting. Then on the last fishing day, guests will have a morning of fishing followed by lunch and a 2.0 air charter back to Santa Cruz to either their day room at the Los Tajibos hotel (if the flight home is late that night), or to the Los Tajibos hotel for an overnight (if their flight home is the next morning).

NON-EMERGENCY/EMERGENCY PHONE CONTACTS

ROD & GUN RESOURCES: 800-211-4753 BOLIVIAN ADVENTURES: 011-591-7767-0890
LAS PALOMAS LODGE: 011-591-7709-5852

BAGGAGE REQUIREMENTS

It is standard procedure to have your bags weighed before getting on the charter flight (40 lb. maximum allowed—you will be asked to lighten your load if your luggage is overweight).

It is requested that everyone bring soft-sided bags with minimal casual clothing with one rod case. Please do not bring hard luggage—it will not fit on the charter aircraft. There is daily laundry service, so keep clothing to a minimum.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to have your medications and two full changes of tropical clothing in your carryon luggage, and travel in fishing/tennis shoes.

CAMPS & ACCOMMODATIONS

Caño Negro/Green Forest Lodge is a traditional vaulted ceiling, thatched roof wood-constructed facility on the Rio Caño/San Simon system. The new lodge features four spacious, double occupancy air-conditioned rooms with private baths, large dining and bar/lounge areas overlooking the spring-fed lagoons of the Caño Negro river. **Please note that the generator is turned off each night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Temperatures late in the evening/early morning will usually in the mid to upper 60s, but will occasionally go into the mid 70s.**

FOOD & BEVERAGES

The lodge provides both quality and ample meals throughout your stay. A breakfast buffet is typically served from 6:30 to 7:00 each morning. Pastries, eggs, toast, fresh fruit, bacon, cereal and fresh coffee are all standard fare. Guests usually return to the lodge for a full hot lunch or may request a cooler with various cold cuts, cheeses, breads, fruit, etc. for lunch on the river.

Appetizers are served as soon as all guests return from the day's fishing, followed by dinner. A mixture of Bolivian and American foods are featured in the dinner menus. Fresh fish, beef, pork, and chicken are accompanied by an assortment of delicious soups, salads, rice, bread and mixed vegetables. The camps supply bottled water, soft drinks, local liquor, beer (limited for safety reasons to six per person during the fishing day) and wine with dinner. **Bring your own specialty liquor.**

POWER SOURCE/BATTERIES

The lodge has diesel generators that produce 220-volt electricity. You may need a converter (depending on your electrical device) and you will need an adapter – European two-prong and three-prong plug ins. The generators at the fishing lodge go off at 10 pm and are turned back on at 6 am.

LANGUAGE

Spanish is spoken in Bolivia. The guides only speak some fishing English, but the lodge has a full-time bilingual host.

LAUNDRY

All dirty clothes should be left at the foot of your bed before you go out in the morning. The laundry personnel will pick up the clothes and wash them while you're out and return them to your room, usually the next day. If the day is rainy, laundry may not come back until later, as all clothing is air-dried.

CURRENCY

Most Latin American currencies fluctuate against the U.S. dollar, so it's pointless to list even approximate exchange rates. Bolivian hotels and shops readily accept U.S. dollars, so there is really no need to exchange money, even for gratuities.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Import allowances restrict import of excess amounts of liquor and tobacco, so keep them to a minimum (one carton of cigarettes or 25 cigars, and 2 liters of alcoholic beverages maximum). Beer, local liquor, soft drinks and wine are included in the weekly rate at all lodge/camps.

GUIDES

The Bolivian guides are hard working individuals who really aim to please. They do not speak English very well, but will be able to help you select the right flies, tie on flies and leaders, and help with fishing techniques and assist with handling the fish.

GRATUITIES

The suggested gratuities at the hunting and the fishing camps, for the bird boys, guides and staff are \$60 per day per guest. Approximately 1/3 can be given directly to the bird boys or fishing guides and 2/3 to the camp host to be divided among the staff. **Please do not bring traveler's checks for tipping purposes. Tens and twenties are appreciated and most easily divided among the staff.**

HEALTH-INSECTS

This lodge is located in a remote area. Those who have serious health problems should think twice about going to such a location with limited medical attention available. The lodge uses bottled water and also has its own deep well for water, therefore water-born contagious diseases are uncommon. **Do not drink the tap water in any hotel rooms or public areas!**

The fishing and hunting areas have some mosquitoes and biting gnats (no-see-ums). **Be sure you have some long-sleeved clothing and bring insect repellent**—use a product with at least 30% D.E.E.T. or Geraniol (Bug Band brand). Also, clothing with insect shield works well.

REGARDING INNOCULATION

A Yellow Fever vaccination is required to enter Bolivia. For further information regarding inoculations/precautions for travel to Bolivia, we suggest you contact a local international medicine physician or the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Travelers can get up-to-date information on health precautions by calling (toll-free) 888-232-3299. The CDC's web site address is www.cdc.gov.

WEATHER

Semi-tropical temperatures prevail in the fishing area with daytime highs in the 80s to mid 90s. At night, the temperature drops to a very pleasant 65-70° F. Rain may occur occasionally throughout the week, **so bring along a good quality, light-weight rain suit.**

CLOTHING

We recommend wearing loose fitting, lightweight cottons or synthetics (Orvis, Patagonia, ExOfficiado insect shield). Long pants and long sleeves are best to protect from sunburn and hide ankles and wrists from biting insects (no-see-ums). You might consider purchasing some of the new bug-resistant clothing. **The lodge has daily laundry service, so please don't over pack (remember weight restrictions) and ALWAYS place a full change of fishing clothes in your carry-on luggage.**

BOATS AND MOTORS

The fishing boats vary from aluminum sleds to local custom-made wooden boats. They are quite adequate for the various river and lagoon conditions, and are equipped with outboard motors, casting decks, comfortable seats, and ample coolers to store drinks and lunches. The aluminum jon boats have casting areas and screened floors to prevent fly line tangles and hangups.

TACKLE, CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

FLY FISHING TACKLE

The aggressive jungle species are well suited to fly fishing. There are still many fly fishing world records to be set. Eight through ten-weight three or four-piece travel fly rods are recommended. Reels should have a smooth drag, hold at least 100 yards of 30-lb. backing, and be spooled with weight forward bass taper or salt water floating or clear intermediate sink tip lines such as Orvis floating "Wonderline", Rio or similar. Bring a 200-300 grain fast sink tip line for payara. Use 30-40 lb. monofilament for leader/tippet. When fishing for payara and pacu, use 15-30 lb. plastic coated, bronze color, steel leader (Tyger Leader (906) 932-3650). **Take two fly rods and reels.**

FLIES – 8 total topwater, 40-80 total underwater flies – BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY

Rainey's Bubblehead Poppers (topwater)	2 to 3/0	red, white, yellow, chartreuse, blue or combinations
Gaines' Popper (topwater)	2 to 3/0	red, white, yellow, chartreuse, blue or combinations
Minnow, deceiver and Clouser patterns (or similar) (Underwater)	2 to 3/0	chartreuse/white, blue/white, red/white, orange/white, yellow/white, all with flash.
Spuddler or Clouser type payara flies tandem hooks with weighted eyes (underwater)	3/0 to 4/0	black/red, silver grey/red, blue and olive, all with flash.

For flies, call Feather-Craft Fly Fishing (800) 659-1707 or J.W. Smith 800-211-4753. Or visit: http://www.feather-craft.com/weecs.php?store=feacraft&action=category_view&target=318

CLOTHING

- travel clothes
- two light-weight long-sleeved shirts
- two pair light-weight fishing pants
- one pair shorts or swimsuit
- several polo or tee shirts
- light-weight rain jacket
- fishing/boat/tennis shoes
- fishing hat, preferably with long bill
- fishing gloves, socks, bandana

FISHING ACCESSORIES

- amber polarized sun glasses
- line clippers or scissors, small knife
- hook sharpener (important for payara)
- fishing pliers
- clear plastic tackle boxes for flies
- reel lubricant
- small towel
- tape measure
- extra line and leader material
- fly line cleaner if fly fishing

PERSONAL ITEMS

- cash for camp tips, etc.
- passport and photocopy of first two pages
- sun screen and sun block lip balm
- insect repellent with DEET or Geraniol
- small first aid kit and Band-Aids
- individual medications
- personal items and toiletries
- small flashlight and batteries
- waterproof gear bag or large zip lock
- camera with extra batteries
- travel dictionary English/Spanish
- credit cards and personal checks

For payara, pacu, peacock bass and exotic catfish mounts, we recommend: Ron Kelly, Artistic Wildlife Gallery, (214) 663-5299 www.fishcreations.com