



PERMIT ON THE FLY ASCENSION BAY, MEXICO



CASA VIEJO CHAC

Permit. The Holy Grail? Well, before travelling to catch these tremendous fish, I had my doubts, but by the end of the first day, that had all changed, and respect was gained by these merely sensational saltwater fish.



Ascension Bay is one of the best locations for Permit fishing in Mexico. The flats are in addition perfect for bonefishing and there are countless lagoons and channels for Tarpon and Snook. Great fun can also be had targeting everything from Barracuda to Shark with your fly rod, and the entire experience this part of Mexico offers, is simply the best value for money saltwater flyfishing available.

Location

Punta Allen, Mexico

Dates

8th - 15th May 2012
16th - 23rd May 2012

Technical

Saltwater flats

Cost

\$ 1900 per rod
includes 6 full days fishing,
all meals, accommodation,
guiding.
Excludes alcohol, flights
and gratuities

Expansive sandy flats, rising temperatures, good fishing and cold beer. The bay provides superb sport for fly anglers through most of the year, however various factors dictate that May, although getting warmer is a prime month for Permit, and can ensure quieter weather on the ocean side, making the larger Tarpon more accessible.

Gear

#6 - #10 single handed
rods & performance reel

Flights

Cancun

Mavungana have secured prime weeks again in 2012 to this Grand Slam destination. 8 rods enjoy superb accommodations right down on the tip of Punta Allen, with direct access onto Ascension bay with Casa Viejo Chac's specialised skiffs. Their guide team is extremely experienced, and as far as shots at Permit go, you will have plenty. What happens from there, is up to the lord of anglers, your skills and the mood of this mind blowingly fickle fish!

Mavungana Tip!

Prepare yourself, make sure you can cast your fly with your ten weight onto a tea saucer before you travel. Its really going to make the difference



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CATCH THE HOLY GRAIL ON FLY, WE DARE YOU TO TRY

The low down:

You will cast a fly at Permit. Plenty of them. That's a fact. Catching them is a whole different story. We can assure you, you will enjoy frustration, excitement and exhilaration all in the same breath, while casting at large Permit yards in front of you. Most anglers on a given week manage to land their Permit, and good casters are rewarded for their efforts. The operation run by Manual is clean and simple, and immensely good value for money. The rooms are spacious and air conditioned, and the food is darn good, Mexican style. Tequila is cheap and good, and sipping a Mexican beer on a flat out in the middle of Ascension bay, with the sun shining on your back and nothing else around, is worth the trip alone. There is a fair bit of travel by boat to the fishing each day, simply due to the size of the bay, but birdlife, and the sheer spectacle of it make it all very bearable. It's just a great set up, and superb Permit destination.

The fishing:

We have selected some prime weeks, however the Bay is in essence fishable most of the year. Our timings are matched to good all round fishing for all species, but with focus towards Permit. Daily, after a hearty Mexican breakfast, you will stroll down to the boats, and head off with your guides. There are a senior guide plus trainee to each boat, and two anglers per boat. You will fish the entire day returning to the lodge between 4 and 5pm to enjoy sundowners and relax before dinner. Fishing varies, but you will pole the flats with the skiff while your guides spot fish. A phenomenon in itself. These guides have eyes like hawks, and their ability to spot fish is unbelievable. As they find fish, you will hop off the skiff onto the flats, wade and then have your crack. On occasion you will cast from the boat when fish push out to deeper water.

The bonefish are plentiful but small, however use the right gear and they are plenty of fun and readily take the fly. Always nice to get a few under the belt. There are large schools of them, and they are always around. Don't expect a world record here, but enjoy catching one of the stronger fish pound for pound on a fly rod.

The Tarpon fishing is underrated here, and there are massive fish caught. Conditions mean that there are limited opportunities to fish the ocean side of the bay, another reason for focussing our efforts in May. There are endless lagoons and mangroves where good Tarpon of 10 - 40lbs are landed regularly, with the odd monster hooked and lost. If you can drag yourself away from the Permit, there are many other species to target with a fly rod. You can tally up double figures of species, including a Shark, Snook, Barracude and Snapper on fly.

In the end, we focus on the Permit. They are just magical fish to chase with a fly rod. On our last expedition, over two weeks, there were only two clients that did not land a permit. We landed 23 in the two weeks, with fish up to 20lbs. Where in the world can you do this for the price.





What's in and what's not:

Phenomenal value for money. Costs include all accommodations, meals, guiding, use of boats and fuel. You will have to cover your bar tab for the week, but you will do well to drink up a tab of more than \$100 for your week. Trust us, we've tried.

You will be asked to tip at the end of the week, and there is a total charge for the local transfers to and from the lodge of around \$100 per person.

Other Travel Info:

Flights are into Cancun. We will be collected and transferred by air conditioned minibuss and transported down to Punta Allen. A drive of about 4 hours. The return is a little easier and quicker as we depart Punta Allen by boat early in the morning.

Weather:

Temperatures are hot and humid. There are not that many completely still days, and so sea Breezes tend to keep the worst of the heat away, but be prepared for South African north coast summer temperatures. You are in the sun for most hours in the day, so the right clothing goes a long way to help. The lodge is very cool, and rooms are air conditioned. Lunches are taken out on the flats, but in the shade of islands, and a nice swim will cool you off in a flash. Rain showers can come, but are rarer through May.

Communications:

There is on/off mobile reception, but local access to internet at local internet cafe's. There is no internet at the lodge itself.

Equipment List:

Pack for hot weather. You will require less clothing than you think need, to pack light.

- Single handed rods in #6/7 weight for bonefish
- Single handed rods in 8-10wt for Permit and 12wt for the Tarpon and bigger toothy critters
- Reels with a good drag system that will tolerate saltwater
- Floating fly lines, with intermediate tip lines as back up.
- Tippet material. 60lb, 40lb, 20lb, 18lb, 12lb.
- Knotable wire for steel trace for the toothy critters
- 'Selection of flies for all species. Mavungana can supply you with a 'ready to go' pack of flies prior departure
- UV protection flats shirt, long sleeve
- Lightweight flats pants, zipp offs being ideal
- Cap, or long peak sun hat
- Flats booties
- Lightweight rain coat for those that dont like to get wet
- Polarised sunglasses are essential. Bring 2 pairs
- Flats pack.
- Small floating waterproof fly box for the flats.
- Camera. Waterproof advised
- Boat bag, or wet bag, to keep all your gear in on the boat
- Light evening wear for the lodge. Its nice to get out of your fishing gear and something light and very casual.
- Insect repellent. Mozzies are rare, but bring spray
- Good pair of saltwater pliers, sciccors/nippers.

