

# ORVIS WOODBRIDGE TRIP TO BELIZE El Pescador Lodge, June 13-18, 2015

Ambergris Caye

With Store Manager Capt. Duber Winters

This special Orvis event is limited to only 20 anglers and their guests, so claim your spot early and get a free Helios rod and a 15% Orvis Travel VIP Merchandise Discount Card.

This part of Belize is one of the best places to get a saltwater "Grand Slam": bonefish; permit; and tarpon in one day. The flats are extensive and the lodge is well located so you don't have to travel far to be on the fish, although they go on endlessly north to the border with Mexico.

El Pescador caters to fly-fishers, but there are some great non-angling activities available as well. There's excellent snorkeling, an extensive



barrier reef, a dive shop and the option to take excursions to Maya ruins on the mainland. You are free to arrive a couple days early or extend your trip if you want to experience more of Belize.

It's a good place for your first saltwater trip and there's an on site coach to help you master sight casting on the flats. The large numbers of bonefish mean your chances of success are excellent, and light tackle gear is available.



# Lodging on the Beach

It's a very good location for a group with mixed abilities. The experienced anglers can head off to the more technically challenging flats while the beginners can work on technique – and catch bonefish – closer to the lodge.

El Pescador is nestled on the Bahia del Punta Arena with an immaculate beach graced with palms and flowering tropical plants. The lodge,

built in the colonial style, features a long verandah overlooking the beach and barrier reef.



You will have the option of staying in a standard room in the main lodge or upgrading to one of the lodge's very nice beachfront villas. Regardless of your choice, all of the air conditioned rooms are comfortable and have a nice view of the beach. There are two double beds in each room, so sharing a room with another angler is easy. However, private rooms are also available.

There's a pool for a refreshing dip. The intimate, well-stocked bar features an exquisite fresh fruit rum punch and is the perfect place to swap stories after a day's activities. Hors d'oeuvres are served in the evening. Buffet style meals are a delightful blend of both local and American dishes.

# Trip Dates and Prices: Saturday – Thursday Itinerary June 13-18, 2015 (5 nights, 4 days fishing)

\$2840 per angler, double occupancy room, 2 anglers per guide \$1490 per non angler, sharing a room with an angler \$615 per person, private room supplement \*

\*Guests traveling alone, or requesting a private room, pay the private room supplement.

Private guide option is not available on this departure.

A \$300 deposit will hold your space.

Book early and each angler will receive a free Helios II 908-4 tip-flex saltwater rod\*\* and a discount card good for 15% off of Orvis merchandise!

# - Trip can easily be extended to include more fishing, or a unique jungle extension at an Orvis eco-lodge. Call Orvis Travel at 800-547-4322 for details.

### Included:

- Local flights from Belize City to San Pedro and transfers to the lodge
- guided fishing from flats boats (2 per boat is standard)
- lodging in an air conditioned en suite room
- all meals at the lodge and boat lunches
- beverages including local beer and rum
- local sales and hotel taxes

### Not included:

- international flights to Belize City
- marine park fees (optional) & fishing licenses
- guide & staff tips, imported liquors
- fishing equipment (available for rent/purchase)

**\*\*** If you prefer, we will send you a \$500 Orvis gift card instead of the rod. You can then use the gift card in conjunction with your Orvis Travel VIP discount for the purchase of your choice. Your rod or gift card will be sent after final payment has been received.



#### The Fishing

Ambergris Caye is conveniently located amidst some of the most productive bonefish, permit and tarpon flats in the Caribbean. The area has long been a favorite of anglers chasing the coveted tropical saltwater grand slam. Although still a difficult feat, even for highly skilled anglers, many would agree that El Pescador is probably home to more grand slams than any other lodge in the Caribbean.

The flats extend for miles, providing ample opportunities and a wide variety of species. The nutrient rich ecosystem provides a tremendous amount of food to the bonefish, permit, tarpon and numerous other fish that inhabit the flats. From extremely large schools of small bonefish to incredible schools of permit and tarpon exceeding 150 pounds, variety is what fly fishing in this part of Belize is all about.

**Bonefish** are the most numerous game fish available in Northern Belize. Many experienced professional and amateur anglers caught their first bonefish with an El Pescador guide. The fish are plentiful and there are always options available to anglers of all skill levels. The average bonefish weighs in at around 2 pounds but there are larger fish available, and fish over 10 pounds have been landed. Most of the bonefishing around Ambergris Caye is done while casting from the



platform of a Mexican style panga flats boat. The elevated position of the angler and guide makes spotting fish easier and oftentimes the boat can get closer to the fish than a wading angler can. There are some flats that are hard bottomed and well suited to wade fishing. However, anglers spend most of their time fishing from the boat.



**Permit** are a popular attraction for anglers visiting Belize. Although never easy to catch, if you are willing to put in the time and effort, this is one of the best places in the world to connect with this special fish. Permit sizes range from 5 pounds to over 40 pounds with the average fish landed running around 10 pounds.

**Tarpon** are available year round in smaller numbers. The resident fish that are found in the mangrove creeks from October – April typically range from 15 - 40 pounds and are a lot of fun on a fly rod whenever they are encountered. Most of the tarpon fishing this time of year involves blind casting in deeper channels with sinking lines. In

approximately late April through early October the larger migratory tarpon move into the area looking for baitfish schools on their annual migration through the Caribbean. This provides the best opportunity to sight fish for tarpon. It is not unusual to see fish over 100 pounds and larger fish are caught every year.

The unique geography of the area allows El Pescador's well trained guides to find fish throughout the day by switching locations and species as the tide fluctuates. In addition to bonefish, permit and tarpon, these guides are well trained and eager to pursue other species including jacks, snapper, barracuda and the occasional snook.



### The Guides

All of El Pescador's guides were born and raised on Ambergris Caye. Many of the guides have been working at El Pescador for over 20 years, and all are expert anglers. The guides have an encyclopedic knowledge of the fishery, coming from a lifetime dedicated to learning where the fish are and how best to catch them on a fly. El Pescador's guides are happy to help teach you some of their secrets and will work hard to maximize your opportunities for success.

Many of the small inns and resorts on Ambergris Caye offer to arrange day trips with independent guides. However, ask anyone in Belize if they are a fishing guide and you will most likely get a confident "yes". The same individual may also claim to be an expert carpenter or SCUBA dive instructor. All guides are not created equal, so it is important to choose carefully. If fishing is an important part of your vacation to Ambergris Caye, there is no substitute for the well organized fishing program and friendly professional guides at El Pescador.

# **Other Activities**

- Snorkeling: the waters are crystal clear, there's a major barrier reef close to the lodge, and a marine park.
- Dive: there's a dive shop and they arrange a variety of daily dives, including trips to the Blue Hole offshore.
- Mayan ruins: daytrips to the mainland can be arranged to visit the impressive ruins.
- Birding/kayaking: tours are available along the protected



- available along the protected mangrove coast as well as along the beach.
- Sailing: daytrips and sunset cruises are available.

**Ambergris Caye, Belize** is the largest of the 200 islands that dot the coast of Belize. The second largest living barrier reef in the world is just off shore. In Mayan times, Ambergris Caye was a trading post, with a population of 10,000. The narrow channel between Mexico and Belize was dug by the Mayans for a trade route from the Bay of Chetumal to the Caribbean Sea.

# **Getting There**

Arrive at Belize International Airport where you will go through customs and immigration. Proceed to the Tropic Air counter, where your tickets will be waiting for you. Your flight will take you to San Pedro airstrip on Ambergris Caye, where an Orvis Travel representative will be waiting to escort you to the lodge by boat.



There are daily flights from several US cities to Belize City, and you can easily connect directly to San Pedro in one day.



### **Trip Itinerary:**

### Day 1 (Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>): Arrival

Fly to Belize City. You can arrive anytime before 4:30 PM and connect to San Pedro on local flight (included in trip price), transfer to the lodge by boat.

Settle into your room, take a swim and enjoy a cocktail before dinner.

## Days 2-5 (Sunday - Wednesday): Fishing and relaxing in the sun.

After an early breakfast, head for the fishing grounds with your guide aboard a Panga (a Mexican-styled skiff, with a casting platform on the front, and a v-shaped hull). The boats are well stocked with food and cold drinks, so you can enjoy a full day chasing fish.

If you don't want to fish, the staff will arrange a number of activities and excursions, including snorkeling, diving and daytrips to the mainland. As the tropical sun sets, hors d'oeuvres are served at the bar, followed by a relaxed buffet dinner at 6:30.

After dinner, you can relax, swim in the pool, walk on the beach or enjoy the bar, which is kept open by the resident staff until the last guest retires.

### Day 6 (Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>): Depart El Pescador.

After breakfast, you'll be taken back to the San Pedro airstrip for flights back to Belize City and flights home. You should be able to catch any flight to the US departing Belize City after 9:30 AM. It is also possible to stay longer or visit another Orvis Travel destination in Belize. Contact Orvis Travel if you would like to extend your trip.

### Extensions

Some guests will choose to stay at the lodge for a few more nights, so they can get in more fishing, or take advantage of the other activities available at El Pescador. Please contact Orvis Travel for pricing and availability. Rates are set by the lodge, so booking your extension with Orvis Travel will save you time, and we will ensure that every detail of your trip goes as planned.



Although it is certainly possible to extend your stay at El Pescador, many anglers visiting Belize choose to spend some extra time exploring the inland jungles and Mayan Mountains of Western Belize. Belize is a small country with a tremendous amount of ecological and cultural diversity, all close by. A short drive or flight from Belize City puts visitors in mountainous pine forests, or tropical jungles. Orvis Travel has relationships with the best eco lodges in the country, and we will be happy to help you arrange a memorable stay to help you round-out your Belize adventure. Below are some options to consider. We will be happy to discuss these options with you, to help find the best fit.

www.orvis.com/travel



**Blancaneaux Lodge** – Located in the Mayan Mountains about a 2 ½ hour drive from Belize City, this luxury resort boasts excellent food, sophisticated accommodations, personalized service and a variety of guided activities. The Lodge is owned by Francis Ford Coppola and is set high in the remote Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, making it a great base for adventure. Orvis Travel packages include transfers, meals, accommodations and a variety of specially selected private tours. 3 night inclusive packages start

at around \$1300 per person, double occupancy. Visit <u>www.orvis.com/blancaneaux</u> or call Orvis Travel for complete details.

**Chan Chich** – Built on top of an ancient Mayan site, this unique resort offers naturalists unparalleled access to 130,000 acres of pristine tropical forest surrounding the lodge. Although many guests choose to stay for an entire week, shorter stays are also available, which combine nicely with a few days of flats fishing or exploring the country's coast. Most guests arrive by overland transfer with a stop at Lamanai, a Mayan site,



along the way. At the end of your stay, a 30 minute air taxi flight will get you back to Belize City in time to make your international flight connections. Orvis Travel packages include transfers, meals, accommodations and a variety of specially selected private tours. 4 night inclusive packages start at around \$1400 per person, double occupancy. Visit www.orvis.com/chanchich or call Orvis Travel for complete details.



#### Machaca Hill Rainforest Canopy Lodge -

Southern Belize's only eco-resort that is also an Orvis Endorsed fly fishing destination. Although most guests visit Machaca Hill to enjoy the area's tropical nature and the lodge's luxury accommodations, anglers might consider booking a day or two of fly fishing with one of the lodge's expert guides. The lodge is situated on a hillside above the Rio Grande on a 12,000 acre private

reserve where guests can observe tropical birds in the canopy. Nearby is the Port of Honduras Marine Reserve, one of the best places in the world to catch permit on a fly rod. Activities include everything from making traditional Mayan chocolate to African style safari drives with naturalist guides. Orvis Travel packages include air and ground transfers from Belize City, meals, accommodations and a variety of activities. Guided fly fishing can be added for an additional cost. 4 night inclusive packages start at around \$1500 per person, double occupancy. Visit <u>www.orvis.com/machaca</u> or call Orvis Travel for complete details.

800-547-4322

#### **Planning Materials**

Orvis Travel staff have been visiting and sending guests to El Pescador for many years. When you book your trip with us you will be provided with up to date planning materials that include specific information about the lodge, transportation and what to take. An Orvis Travel representative will be available to answer your questions and to help you plan your vacation.



# Reserving your space is easy!

Call Orvis Travel and place your \$300 deposit by credit card. 1 800 547 4322

**Sign up online** at <u>www.orvis.com/resform</u>. Once you have completed the reservation form you can call us with your credit card deposit.

If we are unable to confirm space, your card will not be charged.

**15% discount on Orvis merchandise when you arrange your trip through Orvis Travel**. You will receive a "VIP customer card" for booking a trip through Orvis Travel and it entitles you to a 15% discount on Orvis merchandise from the time you book until long after your trip is over.

When you book through Orvis Travel you will never pay a booking fee and will save on every purchase. We also supply you with a detailed packing list so you know exactly what to take.

**Please note:** Trip leader participation is often based on a minimum group size. In the unlikely event that the minimum group size is not met, there is a possibility that the trip leader may not go on the trip. Orvis Travel will not cancel your trip because of the absence of a leader. Orvis Travel will still work closely with you to make sure you have a great experience.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### **Reservations, Deposits & Payments**

The deposit is 25% of the trip price unless stated differently in the itinerary. Deposits may be made by check or credit card: Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card.

The balance of the trip cost is due 90 days before departure, except where specified differently on individual itineraries.

A signed reservation form and release are required prior to departure.

All prices must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Deposits are not transferable from one trip to another. Prices quoted are based on foreign exchange values and tariffs currently in effect and prices are subject to change. Orvis Travel reserves the right to adjust prices accordingly until the time of departure.

#### Planning information

When your reservation is confirmed, you will receive planning information to guide you through trip preparations. Details about arrival and departure, clothing and equipment, trip cancellation insurance, preand post- trip extensions, visas and documents and activities are included in the planning information.

#### Cancellation and Refund Policy

If you must cancel your reservation, the following fees apply:

<u>days prior to trip</u>	fee
+ 90 days	\$300 per person
60-90 days	80% of land cost
59 days or less	100% of land cost
Cancellation fees cannot be waived for any reason,	

including health, business or personal emergencies, or weather

#### We strongly urge you to purchase trip cancellation insurance.

No refunds will be made for unused portions of a trip, including late arrival or early departure. Guide fees and hotel costs are not refundable if unused as outlined in the itinerary. Orvis reserves the right to modify an itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control. In the unlikely event that Orvis must cancel a tour, all payments received to date will be refunded, which constitutes a full settlement.

Orvis is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation of any canceled trip, including airline tickets and visas fees.

#### **Cancellation Insurance**

Your planning information includes an application for travel insurance covering cancellation for medical reasons, trip delay, medical expenses, lost baggage and medical evacuation. We urge you to obtain this coverage. Share policies

Trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms & cabins are limited. If you request a single room, a single supplement will apply as noted in the itinerary. We will confirm the single room as early as possible, but in some cases it may not be earlier than 30 days prior to the trip. If you request a roommate, we can usually pair you with another guest of the same gender, and no single supplement will apply.

If you request a roommate, and one is not available, we will only charge you the single supplement if required by the lodge or facility used in the trip.

Children under 18 must share a room with a parent or other family member. In some cases this may be waived. Passports and documents

International trips require a passport. Check your passport early and make sure it has six months validity at the time of travel. A visa is needed in some countries and we will send you complete details and instructions.

#### Arrival and Departure

Group transfers from a central location such as an airport are described in the itinerary, and are included in the land cost.. Transfers are not included in the land cost if you arrive early or leave after the scheduled departure day.

#### Equipment & clothing

You will receive a detailed list of appropriate gear with your trip planning information.

#### **Airline reservations**

The land cost of your trip does not include airfare. Limitation of liability

This section defines Orvis Travel's responsibility with regard to all travel arrangements made by Orvis Travel, including individual travel and pre- and post- trip extensions. Please read it carefully.

Upon sending your deposit to Orvis Travel, you acknowledge that you have read and understand all the terms and conditions outlined here, and agree to be bound by them.

All trips that involve outdoor sporting activities such as shooting or fishing, or travel through remote places by vehicle, boat, small plane or on foot, put you at risk for accidents and serious injuries in the normal course of the activity. That is the nature of travel to such destinations and you acknowledge that you accept these hazards as a condition of participation.

Orvis Travel, its Owners, Employees, Associates and Agents give notice that they act only as the agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers providing means of transportation and/or other services and assume no responsibility howsoever caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service resulting directly from: acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, terrorism, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit or hotel services over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.

Baggage and personal effects, including items purchased, guns, fishing equipment or sporting goods are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times and no employee/agent of Orvis Travel, its subsidiaries, affiliated or associated companies is authorized to accept these for storage, safekeeping, or transportation.