



## TURNEFFE FLATS FISHING OVERVIEW

If you are like most of our guests, there are several factors to consider when deciding on a saltwater fishing destination. We want to make it easy for you to get an accurate feel for Turneffe Flats, and provide an overview of what many avid anglers agree is one of the finest saltwater flats experiences anywhere.

Please also visit our website ([www.tflats.com](http://www.tflats.com)) for additional information, including perspectives from our recent guests. Feel free to call toll-free (1-888-512-8812) with any remaining questions you may have.



**The Setting:** Turneffe Flats is located 30 miles off the coast of Belize on picturesque Turneffe Atoll, the largest and most biologically diverse coral atoll in the Western Hemisphere. Now protected as Belize's newest and largest marine reserve, Turneffe Atoll is remote and beautiful, yet easily accessible via our 50-foot transfer boat. Offering miles of unspoiled gin-clear flats, prolific turtle grass habitat and coral reefs teeming with of marine life, Turneffe's unique fishery is undoubtedly one of the finest in the world.

**Fishing Overview:** Turneffe Atoll is noted for its abundance and variety of saltwater fly fishing. Plentiful bonefish, permit and tarpon make Turneffe Flats one of the rare spots in the world where you have a legitimate shot at a **Grand Slam** all year. In addition, there are a number of other game fish, creating a unique diversity of saltwater fly fishing options.

**Bonefish:** Turneffe bonefish are plentiful, both on the oceanside flats and in the mangrove-lined lagoons. Bonefish are resident on the oceanside flats all months of the year. On a typical day of fishing these flats, you will see and fish to hundreds of bonefish in the 3-5 pound range with shots at bigger fish – some over 10 pounds. These fish tend to be in larger schools. However, there are ample singles and doubles if you are interested in more challenging casting. Bonefish on the inner flats and lagoons are not as numerous, but they tend to be larger.

**Permit:** Many anglers come to Turneffe Flats primarily to pursue the plentiful permit that are found on the bars and flats throughout the atoll. You can expect plenty of shots at 10-20 pound permit with some fish in the 30-40 pound class. Turneffe permit may be more plentiful than in other areas, but they are just as challenging to catch. The opportunity to consistently sight fish for permit with our excellent flats guides makes Turneffe Flats second-to-none for the avid permit anglers.

**Tarpon:** The tarpon migration is generally from late April through September although there are some resident tarpon throughout the year. Most tarpon jumped are 60-90 pounds with some huge fish of 150 pounds or more. Most of our tarpon fishing is to rolling fish from the bow of our skiffs.

**Other Game Fish:** The oceanside flats abound with other species as do the lagoons, creeks and channels. Barracuda, snook, bar jacks, horse eye jacks, jack crevalle, triggerfish, mutton snapper and cubera snapper are all prolific and add to the angling experience. We recommend that you come prepared to try for some of these other species during your stay.

**Turneffe Guides:** All of our guides are all English-speaking Belizeans with extensive knowledge of all of the water we fish. Several have been guiding on the flats for decades. They are accomplished boatmen and fly casters and will gladly help you with the technical aspects of saltwater fly fishing if you desire assistance. Two anglers generally fish with each guide, although private boat/guide packages are available.

**Proximity:** Some of our best flats are located just minutes from the resort so long, rough boat rides aren't necessary. We also access the entire atoll and some of the bars, creeks and lagoons are a 40-minute run if you wish to venture further. This makes it very feasible to fish for tarpon and permit in the morning and then boat to the oceanside flats for an afternoon of bonefish. There is also a wadable flat right in front of our cabanas that is home to a large school of bonefish and an occasional permit.

**Fishing Schedule:** An average fishing day at Turneffe Flats is about eight hours. However, this schedule is quite flexible. During tarpon season, many anglers opt to start shortly after sunrise and take a rest during the day. If you are a hardcore angler, you can wade the flats in front of the lodge early in the morning, go out with your guide for the day, and come back to the lodge flats and fish until sundown.

**Wading:** The oceanside flats are firm-bottomed and make for easy wading – even for a novice angler. These flats have sharp corals and shells so it is essential to wear good wading boots. Most of the inner flats are fished from the bow of our custom 16-foot Dolphin Super Skiffs poled by the guides.

**Lodging:** Our accommodations include eight large seaside cabanas, two spacious three-bedroom villas, and one two-bedroom villa. Our seaside cabanas have a panoramic view of the Caribbean and the reef. The Reef Villa and Pelican Villa are also located on the beach and have wonderful views of the reef, and the Garden Villa is set back from the beach and has beautiful view as well. All rooms are air-conditioned and most are furnished with two beds. All rooms have private bathrooms.

**Dining:** Three delicious meals daily feature a mixture of Belizean and international cuisine including seafood, beef, chicken and pork dishes. Served family-style in the main lodge, our meals offer options for different palates and always include fresh fruits, freshly-baked breads and pastries. A comfortable lounge area and well-stocked bar in the main lodge provide a focal point for evening gatherings.

**Other Activities:** Sightseeing, superb snorkeling and scuba diving are other reasons people visit Turneffe Flats. You may want to set aside some time for snorkeling, and we also offer combination fishing and scuba diving packages. Our Atoll Adventure Package is very popular with non-fishing partners and offers fully guided daily activities such as snorkeling, sightseeing, dolphin and manatee searches, and birdwatching.



**Getting to Turneffe Flats:** Commercial flights arrive in Belize City. You will be met by our representative and transported to the Radisson Marina where you will board our boat for a beautiful 90-minute ride to Turneffe Flats.



Certificate of Excellence  
2019

