

# WOODLAND PLANTATION

WEST POINT A LA HACHE,  
LOUISIANA



## WOODLAND PLANTATION TACKLE & TRAVEL PLANNER

GPS Coordinates: 29°35'2.06"N 89°49'40.18"W

[WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM](http://WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM)

**Trip Questionnaire:** Once you have arranged your travel details, please click on the link below. This will take you an electronic questionnaire form that we ask you to complete and submit to The Fly Shop. Please be sure to click the **“Submit”** button at the end of the form. The information provided will help us -- and the outfitter best coordinate your trip. THANK YOU!

Trip Questionnaire: [Click Here](#)

**Airport Rental Car Companies:**

Once you have collected your luggage at the baggage claim area, you will want to walk outside the baggage claim area and head to the right. At the end of the baggage claim area you will walk down a covered pathway about five minutes to the rental car pickup building where you will check-in before heading up some escalators to the 2nd or 3rd floor to find your vehicle. The pickup procedure is very simple. We have provided you with driving directions and a map to the Woodland Plantation. However, it is a good idea to ask the rental car company representative for directions out of the airport and onto Interstate 10 Eastbound.

If you would like to Reserve A PRIVATE DRIVER

**Ground Transportation Services:**

- Darin LeCount: (601) 513-7800
- Limolivery: (504) 561-8777

Simply look for your driver holding a sign or an iPad with your party's name on it at the baggage claim. He will escort you immediately to the vehicle and begin the drive to the Woodland Plantation.

Note on Gratuities for Driver: Your driver has normally already been paid in full, however we recommend a \$20-\$40 gratuity each way for your driver if he or she provided quick and safe service.

**Important notes about rental cars versus private drivers:**

All anglers who are booked with spin fishing guides out of Venice are instructed to meet at the Cypress Cove Marina each morning - 45 minutes from Woodland Plantation. All spin fishing guides live downriver close to Venice and will not come up the road each day to pick up at Woodland. For that reason, all spin fishing anglers must have a rental car to drive to/from Venice. Your guides will provide you with more instruction and timing. We will provide driving directions from Woodland to the Cypress Cove Marina when we send you the travel and tackle planner.

Fly fishing on the east side – Taking the ferry:

During the Spring and Summer months there can be times when you guide would rather meet anglers on the east side of the river. This involves taking a ferry across the Mississippi from the west bank to the east side at West Pointe a la Hache – approximately one mile south of Woodland on Highway 23. Guides will often request anglers take their own vehicle to the east side to meet them to save time and get you on the water sooner.

**Call your guide upon arrival in New Orleans:**

You must call your fishing guide the afternoon prior to your fishing day. This will allow you to coordinate the meeting time the following morning (usually around 6:00-7:00 AM depending upon the time of year). We will provide you with all guides' phone numbers on your detailed personalized itinerary.

**Note on Arrival Time at the Woodland:** If you and your party are delayed, or for any other reason anticipate not arriving at the Woodland Plantation until after 7:30 PM, please call the Plantation and alert them to your estimated arrival time. This will allow them to organize your dinner service accordingly.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE WOODLAND PLANTATION FROM AIRPORT RENTAL CAR OFFICES:

### [Driving Directions from New Orleans Airport \(MSY\) to Woodland Plantation](#)

Make sure to inquire with your rental car representative how to direct yourself to the on ramp for Interstate Highway 10 Eastbound.

1. Take Interstate HIGHWAY 10 for approximately seven (7) miles eastbound.
2. KEEP RIGHT at take Interstate Highway 10 towards New Orleans Business District.
3. After approximately 3 miles look for westbound lanes for US 90 Business W (keep left on Interstate 10). Follow the signs for EXIT 234A TOWARD WESTBANK/ SUPERDOME /CLAIBORNE AVE.
4. Continue for approximately 5.5 miles.
5. Take EXIT #7 towards LA-23 / LAFAYETTE (RIGHT EXIT).
6. At stop light you will take a LEFT and go under the overpass. You are now on LA HIGHWAY 23 / BELLE CHASE PARKWAY.

NOTE: Click your trip odometer as you go under overpass. The Woodland Plantation is approximately 31 miles from the intersection of WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY & LA-23 / LAFAYETTE.

You will pass several oil and gas facilities en route through the little town of Myrtle Grove. The Woodland is approximately eight miles from Myrtle Grove.

7. When you are approximately eight miles from Myrtle Grove you should notice a large highway sign that reads **“WOODLAND PLANTATION”** with an arrow pointing left. You will notice the Woodland well-lit at night on your left on the northbound (east) side of the road. You will pass the Woodland for approximately .1 miles before taking a U-Turn around into the northbound lane. The main drive is on your right.

Upon arrival, temporarily park your vehicle in the main drive next to Spirits Hall (the church-like building), and head into the office for check-in procedures.

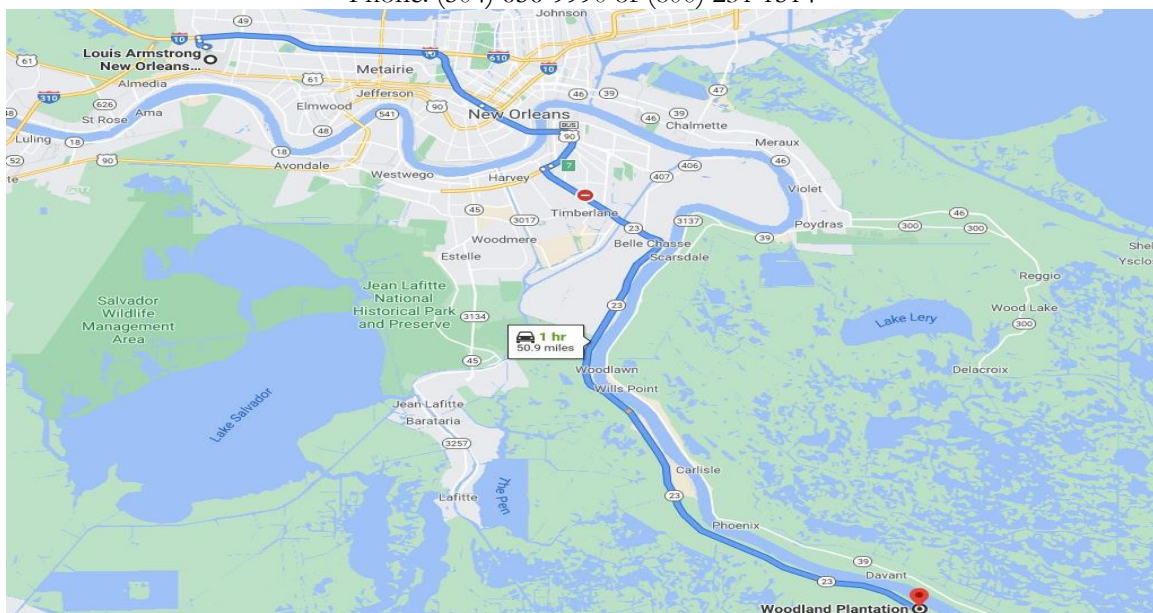
### IF YOU GET LOST: **WOODLAND PLANTATION**

Foster Crepple (Owner)

21997 Highway 23

West Pointe a la Hache, LA 70083

Phone: (504) 656-9990 or (800) 231 1514





## NEW ORLEANS GUIDE TO HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

The food experience and nightlife that New Orleans has to offer is second to none, and there is not a better corner of town to take advantage of this unique and exciting place than in the French Quarter. Unlike any other, it is well known for its versatile offerings such as historic bars, amazing local seafood, Cajun cooking, and the notorious Bourbon Street and its clubs, daiquiri bars and craft cocktail lounges. No matter how you prefer to spend your evenings out, the French Quarter has you covered.

There are numerous hotels right in the heart of the French Quarter that offer superb accommodations for traveling anglers looking for a single overnight, or for longer stays to tour New Orleans. Those listed below are our top recommendations. When we travel through NOLA, we look for good service with easy access to the airport and the best of what the town has to offer. The lists below are our go to trusted favorites.

New Orleans Hotels	Location	Rates	Reservations
Wyndham New Orleans	French Quarter	\$	1(877)999-3223 or go online
Ritz Carlton	French Quarter	\$\$\$\$	1(504)524-1331 or go online
Hotel Monteleone	French Quarter	\$\$	1(504)523-3341 or go online

Restaurant and Nightlife	Location	Features
Acme Oyster House	French Quarter	Oysters, crawfish boils, po-boys
Felix's Restaurant and Oyster Bar	French Quarter	Oysters, crawfish boils, po-boys
GW Finns	French Quarter	5 Star Seafood
Jean Lafitte Bar	French Quarter	Oldest bar in the French Quarter
Carousel Bar - Hotel Monteleone	French Quarter	Classic Rotating Carousel!

\* The Acme Oyster House is a very popular restaurant, off Bourbon Street, often with a line to get in. There are no reservations. It is worth the wait, our favorite in The French Quarter. (504)522-5973 or check them out @acmeoyster.com

\* The Wyndham New Orleans is right in the heart of the French Quarter, near Bourbon Street, and it is plenty comfortable at a ridiculously good price. This is our favorite hotel when overnighing in New Orleans.

[www.wyndhamhotels.com](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com) New Orleans French Quarter, or call 1(877)999-3223 for reservations.

**The French Quarter is an easy Uber ride from the airport**, about a 20 minute drive and \$30 fare. Once you get downtown, everything is super close and convenient and within comfortable walking distance of your hotel!



**Checking in at The Woodland Plantation:**

Upon arrival at the Woodland Plantation, you will want to park your car and walk into the side entrance of Spirit's Hall adjacent to the main drive. Spirit's Hall is the renovated church (you cannot miss the stained glass windows) on your left as you pull into the drive. You will check in, get your keys to your room, clean up, and head into the main dining room for appetizers, cocktails, and dinner, usually served around 7:30 PM. We recommend you string up your fishing rods the night before and get your gear ready for the fishing day tomorrow morning!







If you are meeting your guide at Cypress Cove Marina in Venice, below are the driving directions from Woodland Plantation.

Link to Directions: [CLICK HERE](#)

### **Checking out (Important):**

Checking out of the Woodland on your last fishing day. Make sure to coordinate your checkout procedures with Foster the night before departure. Anglers are always in a hurry to make it back to the airport following a full day of fishing. Invariably, guests forget to settle up for the bar tab and house gratuities. You should also have your bags packed and out of your room preceding departure for fishing the last morning. Depending on the number of guests arriving that day, you may not have the ability to take a shower before heading home. Again, communicate with Foster the night before on all of these issues and he will do his best to accommodate you.

If you are staying an extra night, it is a leisurely check out of the Woodland Plantation following breakfast and return to New Orleans for your flight home. Make sure to settle up for the bar tab and distribute gratuities for the house staff.

## **REDFISH TACKLE**

### **MANDATORY ITEMS**

- You need good polarized glasses and a GOOD RAIN JACKET year-round!
- Fall and winter trips can be MUCH COOLER on the water than you might expect from looking at the weather forecast. Make sure to dress in layers and be prepared to be chilly on the water – especially during morning boat runs.
- There is ZERO wading opportunity on the marsh. During the autumn and winter you just want insulated and water resistant shoes that are boat friendly. During the Spring and summer months most anglers have sandals or are barefoot.

### **ROD/REEL:**

At least two quality set ups with your choices lying between 7 thru 10 wt. Please have the appropriate line, backing and a reel designed for saltwater use.

### **FLY RODS:**

Multi-piece 7, 8, 9 or 10 wt. fly rods in 9 foot lengths are our favorite choices. We like fast tapered saltwater rods that have been specially designed to handle windy conditions and deliver heavy flies accurately. Remember, most presentations are in the 10-40' range, having a rod that makes short casts accurately is equally as important as having loads of power. We also always recommend bringing a backup rod in case of breakage. Good brands to choose from include:

- Scott Fly Rods
  - R.L. Winston Fly Rods
  - Sage Fly Rods
  - Hardy Fly Rods
- Fly Rods for a March – September trip are 7-8 weights with floating lines.
  - Fly Rods for an October – February trip are 7-8 weights with floating lines as well as a 9-10 weight for the bigger “bull reds” that can be found this time of year.
  - Consider bringing a 10 weight year round for chances at Jack Crevalle and big black drum

### **FLY REELS:**

Reels specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing are highly recommended. Smooth, sealed disk drags, plenty of backing capacity, and sturdy machined aluminum anodized frames are features to search for in a reel. Brands to consider include:

- Abel Reels
- Hardy Reels
- Galvan Reels
- Hatch Reels

### **FLY LINES:**

100% of all redfish applications require a standard weight forward floating line, so do not bother with bringing any sort of sinking lines. We suggest the Redfish taper lines by Scientific Anglers or Rio. Nearly all presentations are at very short distances, so anglers want a heavy front tapered fly line for a little more assistance turning over heavier flies in windier conditions. Fly lines can easily break on debris or oyster beds so make sure to bring additional floating lines as backup.

### **LOANER RODS & REELS:**

Although we encourage our guests to bring their own rods and reels, our guides can provide anglers with both fly-fishing and spinning outfits free of charge. Please give us plenty of advanced notice if you intend to borrow any gear from our guides.

**Remember, all flies and leader material are provided free of charge by our guides. There is no need to bring any flies with you unless you want to fish your own patterns.**

**LEADERS:**

Louisiana Redfish are not leader shy. Fluorocarbon leaders are the best choice. They sink quickly, and are more abrasion resistant than mono. Tapered saltwater leaders in 20 lb. test in 10' lengths are what to bring. In addition, bring spools of 15 lb. and 20 lb. Fluorocarbon tippet. Change the leader out entirely when the old one is too short or too thick.

**REDFISH FLIES:**

Remember, all flies and leader material are provided free of charge by our guides. There is no need to bring any flies with you unless you want to fish your own patterns.

Southern Louisiana Redfish are not very picky when it comes to fly selection. They feed on various kinds of baitfish, mullet, large crabs, shrimp, and any other easy meal that comes in their path. You will want a selection of both heavily weighted flies as well as lighter flies as well. For the most part, you can use heavy flies without fear of spooking fish. Just have a nice cross section of clousers, toads, spoon flies, spawning shrimp, and two-tone crab patterns.

- Clouser half and half: Baitfish, Chartreuse, Gray | Size 1/0
- Flashtail Minnow Clouser: Chartreuse/White, Purple/Black, Olive/White | Size 1/0
- E.P. Crabs Color: (two-tone) Olive, Tan, Brown | Size: 4, 2, 2/0
- E.P. Spawning Shrimp Color: Tan, Root Beer, Olive, Pink | Size: 2, 4, 1/0
- E.P. Mantis Shrimp Color: Tan, Root Beer, Olive, Pink | Size: 2, 4, 1/0

**BOAT REFRESHMENTS & LUNCH:**

Your guides are responsible for stocking the cooler and providing drinks. If you have a specific beverage you would like, please pass along this request to your guide. Lunches are provided by the Woodland Plantation. Your bag lunches will be set in the dining room during breakfast. Anglers are responsible for picking up lunch and taking it to your guide to put in the boat's cooler. Don't forget your lunch.

**FISHING LICENSE:**

**You must Purchase a Fishing License.** Please purchase your Louisiana RS/NR (Resident/Non Resident) Charter Saltwater fishing pass online prior to your trip at the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife. It is very convenient to click on the link below, choose "Licenses and Permits", existing customer or New customer, and agree to the information. Select (0148) RS/NR CHARTER SALTWATER PASS 3 DAY, enter in your start day and purchase your pass. If you have more than 3 days fishing you will have to purchase a quantity of two. There is a \$2.00 convenience fee. [Buy License Here](#)

RS/NR Charter Saltwater pass 3 day. \$20/3 days + convenience fee.

NOTE: Children under the age of 16 are not required to buy a fishing license. Simply print your receipt and/or enter your license number into your phone for proof of purchase. You don't need the actual fishing license in hand given the timing of your trip.

**GUIDES**

The Guides are all experienced captains and fly fishing guides. They know how to navigate the labyrinth of sloughs, backchannels and bayous to get to the best spots depending on the time of year, weather, tides etc. They are also great fish finders with excellent eyes. It is pretty rare that you will spot a fish before they do. Listen to their instructions on distance and direction of fish and they know the best flies for the area. Listen closely to their instructions or have the angler in the middle relay the message to the caster on the bow. Don't always leave it up to the guide on when to switch anglers on the bow and who get the shots. Volunteer to switch to keep yourselves fresh and alert.



**FISHING DAYS:**

A made to order breakfast is served in Spirit's Hall usually starting around 6:00 AM. There are coffee makers inside the common areas of each guest house if you are an early riser and would like to start a pot of coffee. While you are finishing up breakfast, your guides will arrive and begin prepping boats and gear. Your bagged lunches will be placed in the dining room. Don't forget to take your sack lunch with you and give it to your guide to be placed in the boat cooler.

Depending on conditions, guides usually drive ten minutes south of the Woodland to a private boat launch in Port Sulphur. Guides may drive as far south as Empire or Venice, or take the ferry at West Point a la Hache to the marsh on the east side of the river. From the launch, anglers run anywhere from ten minutes to over one hour to begin fishing. Lunch is taken in the boat. It is typically two anglers/boat and guests usually rotate casting opportunities at the bow of the boat while the other angler helps with spotting fish and line control on the deck. Most scenarios only one angler is fishing at any given time. There are no wading opportunities while Redfishing. You will NOT need any wading boots or a hip pack. The fishing day is usually 8-9 hours long and anglers are typically back at the Woodland Plantation between 4:00-5:00 PM.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

The "Big House" is the main building and was the picture on the Southern Comfort bottle for over 75 years. This Historic antebellum two story Mansion features broad front and back porches, key hole designed French doors and is authentically furnished with fine antiques. You can feel the history inside this building and it is as though you are stepping back in time as you walk around. It has 9 guestrooms all with private baths and can sleep up to 14 people.

The Little house features a lounge area with a couch, dining table, a kitchen with a sink and small fridge. There are 3 bedrooms with 6 beds and three baths. A full wrap around porch with rocking chairs situated for the perfect relaxing/viewing combination.

The Magnolia Store has 4 rooms, the Store Room, Millie Davis room and Coleman suites one and two. This cabin features 6 beds and three baths.

The Old Cabin is a duplex cabin with a queen and single bed with its own bathroom in one room and a king bed and private bath on the other side.

The Overseer's House is a small raised cottage has a common area with 3 beds and two baths.

The Woodland Plantation has over twenty bedrooms and can accommodate groups as large as forty-five guests. Their team of guides typically run 5 to 6 skiffs with 10 to 12 fly anglers, but depending on availability (and if booked far enough in advance), can handle up to twenty fly anglers at a time. Their conventional guides can handle more fishermen than the Plantation can accommodate.

**ALCOHOL:**

The Woodland Plantation has a well-stocked bar located in Spirits Hall and can provide you with a variety of beers and they can make almost any cocktail imaginable. They have plenty of choices for wine to enjoy with your dinner or a pre-dinner glass on your porch. Alcohol is not included in the package price and all guests are responsible for their bar tab at the end of your stay. You can check on your bar tab at any time with Foster or one of the bartenders/servers. At the end of your stay, you may pay your bar tab with cash or credit card. The Woodland accepts VISA, MasterCard & American Express. We recommend a standard 15-20% Gratuity on your bar tab for your waiters and waitresses.

**MEALS:**

Most people come for the fishing and leave, talking about the fabulous cuisine. The Woodland Plantation and the kitchen staff take southern hospitality seriously; you come as a guest and leave as family. They do a wonderful job of making you feel at home during your stay. A full Southern breakfast is served every morning. Fresh fruit, fried bread pudding, eggs, bacon, sausage, cheese grits, hash browns, and Eggs Benedict are a few dishes you will typically see. All meals are served in the Spirits Hall dining room and bar, a renovated church built in 1883 and moved to the property in 1998 from 14 miles south of the Woodland Plantation.

The Kitchen staff puts together some incredible dinners you would expect at any high end fishing lodge or restaurant and typically with a southern/creole flare. Oysters on the half shell, fried shrimp, gumbo, blackened redfish or “puppy drum,” beef, pulled pork and every other Cajun masterpiece imaginable. Homemade desserts range from pecan pie to bread pudding or ice cream. Boat lunches are usually sandwiches or creatively presented leftovers, however make sure to request the muffuletta sandwiches.

**DRESS ATTIRE AT THE WOODLAND PLANTATION:**

The atmosphere is very laid back at the Lodge. You’re on vacation! Please feel free to wear whatever is comfortable during the day.

**BOAT REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH:**

Your guides are responsible for stocking the cooler and providing drinks. If you have a specific beverage you would like, please pass along this request to your guide. Lunches are provided by the Woodland Plantation. Your bag lunches will be set in the dining room during breakfast. Anglers are responsible for picking up lunch and taking it to your guide to put in the boat’s cooler. Don’t forget your lunch.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The Woodland Plantation does have internet access on the computer in the lobby of Spirits Hall. Simply ask management or one of the girls to log you on. There is a wireless connection in Spirits Hall, but in our experience is not easy to log onto. There is no internet access inside the Big House, Little House, Magnolia Store, Overseer’s House, or any of the condos. Cell phones will work well at the Woodland Plantation, and often work in many of the areas fished.

**MAID & LAUNDRY SERVICE:**

The lodge has daily housekeeping/room service. There is no laundry service at this time.

**BOATS:**

All our Captains we use are outfitted with top of the line skinny water flats skiffs such as Hell’s Bay, Burton, East Cape, Maverick or Ranger boats that are perfect for poling in shallow water hunting Redfish.

**GRATUITIES:**

Tipping is a personal decision based on good service and is completely at your discretion. The following recommendations are simply for your understanding of what the expected tip is for a satisfied guest. Feel free to tip a bit more if you are very impressed with a particular guide. Many clients will happily offer a larger gratuity to guides who help them catch a special trophy fish or work hard through difficult conditions. All tips should be given in cash.

**FLY FISHING GUIDE GRATUITIES:**

We recommend around approximately \$100-\$120 per boat/per day (\$50-\$60 per person/per day when sharing a guide). If you are fishing solo you should plan on \$100-\$120. Gratuities to guides may be distributed any way

you prefer. If you are planning on switching guides throughout your trip, we recommend giving a tip directly to your guide at the conclusion of each fishing day. If you are planning on fishing with one guide for your entire stay, we recommend simply waiting till the conclusion of your last day of fishing.

#### **SPIN FISHING GUIDE GRATUITIES:**

We recommend similar tips for spin boat charter captains, however also suggest you add an additional \$50-\$60 per person for a 3rd or 4th angler.

1-2 Anglers: \$100-\$120

3 Anglers: \$150-\$180

4 Anglers: \$200 - \$240

#### **WOODLAND PLANTATION STAFF GRATUITIES:**

We recommended \$10-\$15 per room/per night for the house staff payable at the conclusion of the trip when you check out. You should give your staff gratuity to the owner, Foster Crepple, or the manager on duty when you are settling up for any extra expenses such as your bar tab. This tip will be dispersed to the cooks, maids, waiters, and support staff on your behalf. Also feel free to give additional gratuity to any individual around the house you were particularly impressed with. In addition to the house staff gratuity, we recommend a standard 15-20% Gratuity on your bar tab for your waiters and waitresses.

#### **AIRPORT AND GROUND TRANSFER GRATUITIES:**

We recommend a gratuity of \$15-\$25 per person for your drivers (if applicable) as well as baggage porters at the New Orleans airport (\$1-\$2 per bag).

#### **CLIMATE:**

Louisiana, the Bayou State, has an average elevation of only 30 meters above sea level and New Orleans, the lowest at 2.5 meters below sea level. The state has vast areas of coastal marshes and swamps, wet savannas, and the elevated regions of longleaf pine forest and bald cypress. The Mississippi River forms a large part of the eastern boundary. The geography has two divisions, the uplands in the north, and alluvial swamplands, marshlands, beaches, barrier islands on the coast. The Gulf of Mexico, Red and Ouachita rivers and other minor streams called bayous constitute the main water bodies.

Summers are hot and humid in Louisiana, with frequent afternoon thunderstorms that bring intense tropical downpours. The June to September period has average high temperatures above 90°F (32.2°C), while nights remain below 70°F (21.1°C). The high humidity and dew point make the heat feel like 120°F (48.9°C). Winters are mild in the south with day highs often above 66°F (18.9°C), while the north sees colder days below 59°F (15°C). Nights occasionally register below freezing, with average low temperatures between 37°F (2.8°C) in the north and 46°F (7.8°C) near the Gulf. Cold fronts from the north can push night temperatures below 20°F (-6.7°C) in the north. Spring and autumn are milder than the summer.

The average rainfall in Louisiana ranges from 48" in the north to 75" in the south. Rainfall occurs throughout the year, with a predominantly wet season from April to September and the dry season from October to March. October is the driest month, while May is the wettest, with even 20" (508mm) during the month and up to 10" (254mm) in a single day.

#### **TIME ZONES**

The Woodland Plantation is on Central Daylight time.



## **CLOTHING & GEAR**

### **CLIMATE AND GENERAL CLOTHING:**

Generally speaking, the southern Louisiana marsh has a very mild climate most of the year. However, if you are fishing in the autumn or winter months you should be prepared with cold weather gear. Make sure to check the weather forecast prior to packing and of course ask us for details if you have any questions about what to pack. When packing, keep in mind that the lodge dress code is extremely casual. Clean and dry fishing clothing is always acceptable at the dinner table. Other than your fishing related clothing, a couple of tee-shirts, and a pair of casual shorts or pants, we recommend only one set of street clothes for travel days. Pack lightly!

### **WINTER FISHING (DECEMBER 1 - MARCH 1):**

Be prepared for cold weather! Make sure to have long pants, fleece jackets and/or vests, rain jacket, long underwear, a warm hat, and proper gloves. Temperatures can easily drop below freezing in the winter, and early morning boat runs can be frigid. Although you should also be prepared for milder conditions, you can never have too many clothes during the winter months. Dress in layers to accommodate changes in weather as well.

### **SPRING FISHING (MARCH 1 - MAY 15):**

You can expect a combination of cooler days and milder days during the spring months. Typically, anglers experience cooler mornings that dictate a jacket and long pants in the morning followed by warmer conditions as the sun comes up. Be prepared with layered clothing to shed and put back on accordingly.

### **SUMMER FISHING (MAY 15 - SEPTEMBER 30)**

The key to staying comfortable on the marsh in the summertime is to remain cool while protecting yourself from the sun. Lightweight clothing with plenty of ventilation is recommended. Odds are you will probably get wet when running in the boat or during a rain shower. You want your fishing clothing to shed water and dry quickly in the humid air.

### **FALL FISHING (OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 1):**

Fishing in the early fall (September - mid October) can still be quite warm. Similar to the springtime fishing, come prepared for both cooler and warmer weather. By November 1st we recommend you bring some warmer jackets and expect to wear long pants almost every day. When the first major cold fronts arrive in November temperatures can plummet quickly from day to day. Be prepared for both mild and cold weather fishing as anything could happen with your forecast.

### **LUGGAGE:**

We recommend roller style, soft-sided duffle bags for nearly all our travels. Ideally you have a bag that adheres to airline size restrictions but is still large enough to fit a couple of rod tubes, tackle, boots and other gear. If you have a particularly large bag, we advise you to communicate with your commercial carrier as well as the TSA regarding any baggage weight restrictions that might be applicable.

We carry many excellent sets of luggage by Fishpond, Patagonia and Simms. These bags are the ideal size, bulletproof, and are equipped with efficient roller systems. Some models also have separate compartments for storing wet boots and/or waders or even rod tubes. Don't forget to mark your luggage with appropriate personal identification bag tags, supplied by The Fly Shop®.

### **LIGHTWEIGHT SHIRTS:**

Fishing shirts should be cool and dry quickly, have breathable flaps that allow air to circulate through, and should be easy to pack and maintenance-free. Skwala, Patagonia and Simms make several different models and styles both in short and long sleeves. If you are bothered by the sun, we recommend the long sleeved versions, especially in late Spring and early Summer. Proper fishing shirts also should be equipped with chest pockets for storing small items like tippet material or a cleaning cloth for sunglasses and camera lenses.

**SHORTS:**

Fishing shorts should also be made of a synthetic quick dry material. We suggest shorts with pockets and belt loops for accommodating pliers. Skwala, Patagonia and Simms make excellent models.

**LONG PANTS:**

Sun protection, rather than warmth, is the primary function of long pants when fishing in Louisiana late spring/early summer. Patagonia, Skwala and Simms make great pants and shorts specifically designed for fishing. They will protect you from the sun, are wind resistant, and dry quickly. Some pants have removable pant legs that zip off to become shorts. Most styles of pants are also suitable for wearing at the lodge or on your travel days. If your trip is in the winter, you will want some insulated pants that are wind and water-resistant.

**LONG UNDERWEAR (Fall/Winter/early Spring Months):**

Long underwear serves as your base layer of clothing throughout the winter season. You will want multiple pairs of both tops and bottoms to rotate throughout the week. Patagonia's quick-dry base layer and heavier top and bottom are a great choice for any situation. Patagonia Capilene is a favorite synthetic long underwear in both short and long sleeved models. The light and mid-weight models are used most on the average autumn or winter trip, however plan on having a few varieties of weights according to various temperatures. Simms also makes some wonderful woolen and synthetic base layers as well.

**INSULATING THERMAL LAYER (Winter/early Spring Months):**

Fleece jackets, vests, pullovers, soft shells, and pile jackets are your second major layer of clothing for both your upper and lower body during the winter. Again, wear synthetic materials rather than wool or cotton as they are lightweight, dry quickly, and wick moisture away from your body. Patagonia and Simms produce a variety of styles, weights, and colors. This is important for cold early morning boat rides.

**SUNGLOVES/FINGER GUARDS:**

Sun-gloves made by BUFF, Simms or Glacier Gloves are great for protecting your hands from the sun. We also recommend finger guards for protecting your fingers if you are not wanting to wear gloves.

**GLOVES:**

For Winter, late fall and early spring fishing it is a good idea to bring some gloves. Fingerless insulating gloves are great for boat rides and cold days. We have had the best success with synthetic or wool gloves, rather than neoprene which retain water. Simms half-finger and mitt gloves are probably the best on the market.

**ADDITIONAL CLOTHING & SHOES:**

Tee-shirts, shorts, and lightweight pants will round out your everyday attire. Flip-flops, sandals, or tennis shoes are ideal for wearing around the lodge. There are no wading opportunities on the marsh. You will NOT need any wading boots or a hip pack.

**BOAT SHOE:**

The Woodland Plantation's use of skiffs aids you to accessing fish in shallow waters, stalls movement due to tide fluctuation, and is a very stealthy way to fish the area. When bow surfaces get wet due to crossing windy bays, this can take a toll on angler's traction and movement on the boat. With any situation where demanding casts are a must, your balance and footing are the concrete foundation leading to successful casts. When it is hot, many anglers prefer to simply go barefoot. However, many anglers also enjoy wearing comfortable sandals

or rubber-soled shoes for more traction and/or sun protection. During the cooler months, you definitely want some shoes that will accommodate warm socks and are water resistant.

Guests at the Woodland Plantation are fortunate to enjoy a solid 8-9 hours fishing every day on the boat. These long days add up fast to wear and tear on your feet, back, and overall posture. For those with flat feet that result in painful hours standing on the bow a boat shoe with good support is an absolute must!

#### **RAIN GEAR:**

A high quality, lightweight rain jacket and pants is another essential piece of clothing while in the Marsh in the summer. A heavy duty rain jacket is necessary for late fall/winter/early spring times. Patagonia and Simms both make great lightweight/regular rain jackets that will keep you dry during rainstorms or while crossing choppy water on a lengthy boat run.

#### **POLARIZED SUNGLASSES:**

This is your most important piece of equipment for any type of sight fishing. Redfishing is primarily all sight-fishing. Without the ability to see the fish you are stalking, you put yourself at a great disadvantage. Copper and Brown lenses are the best choice for this type of fishing. Yellow lenses are great for mornings, late afternoons, and cloudy conditions. Always bring two pair of polarized sunglasses in case you lose or break a pair. Smith, Oakley and Costa Del Mar make a variety of stylish frames to choose from. We can special order bifocal or trifocal lenses for many of these frames with enough advanced notice. A lanyard or “croakie” is also invaluable in order to keep from dropping or losing your glasses.

#### **HAT:**

Bring two hats or caps for sun protection. If you are sensitive to the sun, make sure to bring a hat that covers your head as thoroughly as possible. Hats that have dark colors underneath the brim help to reduce glare from the water aiding in spotting fish.

#### **SUN PROTECTION:**

The sun is very intense even on cloudy days. Pack some sun block and lip balm with a minimum of 30SPF UVA/UVB. There is a product on the market called Smart Shield that is a totally organic bug repellent/sunscreen and actually works well. There is also a product on the market called a BUFF that has become fashionable with serious anglers on the trout stream as well as in the tropics. It is a comfortable, lightweight, and breathable garment that functions similar to a bandana and will keep UV rays off of your head, neck, and ears. We carry several models and styles.

#### **INSECTS:**

Unfortunately, the areas around the Woodland are home to mosquitoes... particularly in the evening. Surprisingly, there are no mosquitoes in the marsh. However, during the fall and winter months swarms of tiny gnats can be a huge annoyance! A good quality insect repellent with DEET will keep mosquitoes and gnats away.

#### **BOAT BAGS:**

A boat bag is important for carrying your tackle and gear with you on the boat each day. Running in the boats over open water oftentimes sprays mist into the boat, so you should have some type of waterproof or water resistant bag with you in the boat for storing cameras, lenses, tackle, flies, extra reels, spools, sunscreen, rain jackets, spare reel parts, bottled water, snacks, or anything else you don't want to carry on you while fishing. Patagonia makes a wonderful 99% waterproof bag called the Great Divider. It is also the exact dimensions of the under seat storage area on an airplane.

We often use the Great Divider as our carry-on luggage. Simms and Fishpond make very comparable product in several sizes as well. Everything stays dry, salt free, and out of the humidity.



**PLIERS & BELT:**

Although your guide should be equipped with pliers, we recommend a quality pair of corrosion resistant pliers as an essential tool when fishing... especially for big Redfish. Pliers by Loon, Dr. Slick and 3-Tand aid in hook removal, cutting heavy monofilament, and tying big game knots. All pliers should be kept in a sheath and have a check-chord to avoid dropping them overboard. Don't forget to bring a synthetic belt to be worn in order to accommodate your pliers' sheath.

**TOOLS & GADGETS:**

Items like nippers, hemostats, and hook hones are necessities in every fishing pack. The tools can be kept on a retractor or on a lanyard. A Leatherman multi-tool is also a nice extra to have in the boat bag.

**LENS CLOTH:**

While poling in a boat searching for Reds, it seems like glasses are always getting wet when landing unruly fish or on boat runs. This can be quite frustrating if you are not prepared with a quality lens cleaning / drying cloth. Consider taking one of Chum's Lens Cleaning Kits or something comparable to wipe the water and sweat off of your glasses. Tip: Always grab some toilet paper, Kleenex, or a napkin and store it in a shirt pocket within an empty leader package to keep it dry. The freshwater in the cooler is always a good spot to rinse your lenses as well.

**TRASH BAGS & ZIPLOCS:**

Always throw in a couple of small trash bags for packing any wet or dirty gear for the trip home in order to keep mildew from spreading through your clothing. Having some Ziploc baggies on hand are also a good idea for keeping camera equipment or papers dry in your boat bag. Another great option, that many of us here use on our own trips, is the TFS Laundry/Wading Bag. These fold flat and are great for bringing home dirty laundry.

**FIRST AID KIT & TOILETRIES:**

A simple first aid kit with Band-Aids, alcohol wipes, Imodium, waterproof tape, and Dramamine for motion sickness is always a good thing to have on hand. The lodge provides shampoo and soap but does not have other personal items like razors, deodorant, shaving cream or toothpaste. Make sure to bring your own.

**FLASHLIGHT OR HEADLAMP:**

A flashlight or headlamp can be an invaluable item to have while travelling or walking back to your cabin after dinner. Our favorite is the Loon Nocturnal headlamp. Headlamps are great for reading at night while your roommate is sleeping, and free up your hands to get organized in the dark.

**OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

Measuring Tape

Camera and storage cards

Battery operated Alarm Clock (cell phone)

Extra Batteries and chargers

Knife or Leatherman Tool

**EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES****LINE CLEANER:**

Marshy flats mud and saltwater has a way of making fly lines sticky and dirty after a few days of use. Anglers should also bring along some sort of line cleaner to keep your fly line in good working order. Rio and Scientific Anglers both make excellent products.

**ROD CARRIER:**

For anglers who prefer to carry on rods, you should strongly consider investing in multi-piece rods (4-piece) that will fit in a quality rod carrier. This makes it simple to consolidate all of your rods into one case and is less alarming to airport security. Our favorite is the Fishpond 4-piece carrier called the Dakota Bag. It holds numerous rods as well as room for reels and other carry-on approved tackle. The Patagonia Travel Rod Roll is another great option for carrying multiple rods.

**SPARE PARTS & LUBRICANT:**

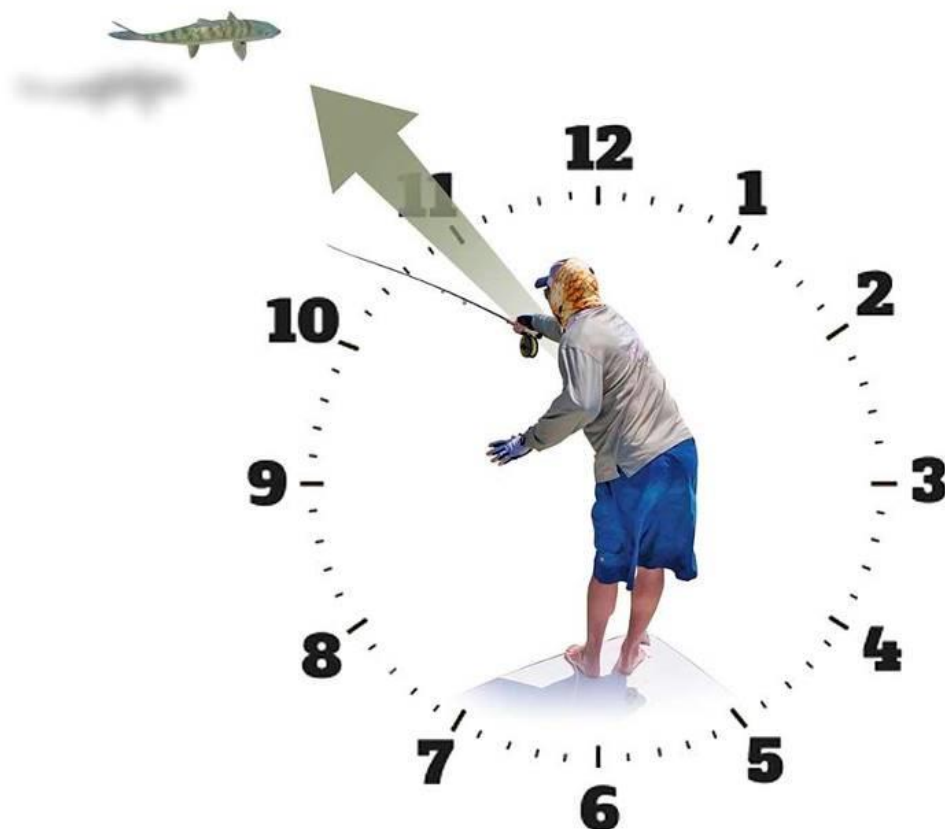
Locate a very small fly box and stock up on any extra spare parts applicable for your reels. Today's quality fly fishing reels are very sophisticated and have a few moving parts including springs, o rings, drag knobs, pawls, etc. that will wear out after significant usage. It is also a good idea to have an old toothbrush for cleaning and some synthetic lubricant on hand as well.

**MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE:**

It is very important to rinse dirt and sand from the inner workings of your reels, rods, pliers, fly boxes, etc. following every day on the water. A quick freshwater rinse will keep reels working correctly and keep all of your equipment in good working order. Once you arrive home from your trip, you should take apart your reels and soak them in soft soapy warm water. A light coat of synthetic oil on the surface of your reels is also a good idea before storing them. With fly rods, make sure to wipe them down with some Windex or 409. This will keep the glass finish looking sharp and prevent rust from forming in the guides and reel seat.

**Using the Clock To Spot Fish:**

On the flats, your guide will often spot fish before you do. When this happens, your guide will refer the numbers on a clock to give you the fish's general direction. For example, the bow (front) of the boat would represent 12:00 O'clock. Exactly perpendicular to the boat off of your right shoulder (starboard) would be 3:00 O'clock; perpendicular to the boat off your left shoulder (port) would be 9:00 O'clock, etc. In addition to the direction, the guide will also refer to a distance measured in feet. For example: "Okay, two fish coming at 11:00 O'clock --- 50 feet".



## Woodland Plantation Clothing & Equipment ✓ List

### Must have Items

- ☐ Hat with bill and neck protection (a dark underside on hat bill is best.)
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses (copper or brown) - take an extra pair! Lens Cleaner
- ☐ Long sleeve shirts (light colors, light weight such as The Fly Shop, Simms or Patagonia)
- ☐ Insulating thermal uppers (Fleece jacket, pullovers, vests, softshell) for fall and winter months.
- ☐ Long underwear (multiple pairs of both tops and bottoms) for fall and winter months.
- ☐ Buff Face Mask (great for sun protection of face, neck, ears, nose, etc.)
- ☐ Long pants (light colored, quick dry material) a couple of pairs
- ☐ Raingear (very light weight and packable for summer) Heavy duty for Fall/Winter fishing.
- ☐ Cash (for tips), credit card
- ☐ Airline tickets and itinerary

### Optional Items

- ☐ Short sleeve shirts (Spring and summer months) Long sleeves are better for sun protection
- ☐ Bandana (always a handy item for neck protection, lens cleaner, rag etc.)
- ☐ Shorts (Summer fishing)
- ☐ Sandals, flip flops or travel shoes
- ☐ Deck/Boat shoes (no laces, non-skid) Crocs are excellent!
- ☐ Sunscreen (at least SPF 30+, waterproof, PABA-free, UVA, UVB)
- ☐ Tools: Nippers, good pliers and hook sharpener.
- ☐ Lip balm with sunscreen (highest SPF you can get)
- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET
- ☐ Camera, extra batteries, charger and memory cards
- ☐ Waterproof boat bag (to carry camera, other gear while in the boat)
- ☐ Small flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Zip-lock bags
- ☐ Garbage bags for laundry.
- ☐ Smart Phone and charger
- ☐ Sun gloves, Striper fingers, Flexx Rap Tape
- ☐ Gloves (winter fishing)
- ☐ At least 2 rod/reel/line set ups. 8-9 wt
- ☐ Passport and travel documents
- ☐ Notebook and pen
- ☐ Copy of this Travel planner
- ☐ Emergency telephone numbers
- ☐ Toiletries, including bandages, roll of athletic adhesive tape
- ☐ Aspirin, other over-the-counter medications like antacids
- ☐ Prescription medications (packed in your carry-on bag)
- ☐ Prescription glasses



## Woodland Plantation Emergency Contact Information

If you have any problems during your trip with missed connections, or want to leave an emergency number for family members or office:

### **The Fly Shop:**

530.222.3555 / 800 669 3474 / [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com)

### **WOODLAND PLANTATION**

21997 Highway 23

West Point a La Hache, LA 70083

Foster Crepple (owner): (800) 231-1514 or (504) 656-9990

