

EAST END LODGE

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND, BAHAMAS



The Fly Shop

TACKLE & OUTFITTING GUIDE

GPS Coordinates: 26°38'48.05"N | 77°56'34.48"W

WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM



Trip Questionnaire: 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!! Click [HERE](#)

Getting to East End Lodge

East End Lodge’s three-acre property is a 45-minute scenic car ride from Grand Bahama International Airport (FPO) in Freeport. The lodge will provide shuttle service to and from Grand Bahama International (FPO) with your accommodation package. U.S. Customs and Immigration are located at the airport to pre-clear departing passengers for U.S. destinations.

Grand Bahama International also services private aircraft, and private charters can be arranged. Several major airlines serve Freeport on a daily basis including American Airlines, United, US Airways, Silver and Bahamasair. There are daily non-stop flights from cities such as Ft. Lauderdale (FLL), Miami (MIA), Atlanta (ATL), Charlotte (CLT) and Philadelphia (PHL) (in the winter months). In season (November through May), there are often direct flights from major U.S. cities to Grand Bahama International in Freeport (FPO).

Arrival & Departures:

Round trip transportation between the airport and the lodge is included in the price of your package. You will be met upon arrival at the Freeport Airport and transferred the one hour to the lodge.

Contact Numbers

East End Lodge, Bahamas

(561) 354-8005 | info@eastendlodge.com

The Fly Shop®

(800) 669-3474 | (530) 222-3555 | travel@theflyshop.com

Bahamas Emergency assistance

In case of emergencies involving the death, injury, welfare, or arrest of an American citizen in The Bahamas or the Turks and Caicos Islands, please call (242) 328-3496 or (242) 311-1181 x9 during business hours, and (242) 357-7004 at all other times. (Please note that the Duty Officer who answers this number will not be able to assist with visa or routine passport matters.)

General Travel Information

Passport Information:

All visitors to the Bahamas are required to have a valid passport. For US citizens, a passport is the only document that will gain you entry to the country. A passport must also be accompanied by a return or onward journey ticket and proof of funds to support your visit.

Currency & Credit Cards:

The Bahamian Dollar is the primary form of currency in the Bahamas and has a rate of exchange of one-to-one with the U.S. dollar. Every hotel, resort, lodge, restaurant, guide, and tour operator, however, will gladly accept U.S. currency. U.S. credit cards are accepted at most hotels, resorts, lodges, and larger business



operations, although many establishments will add a 4-5% service charge. Be sure to contact your credit card company prior to your trip to tell them that you will be traveling in the Bahamas.

Bahamian Departure Taxes:

When leaving the Bahamas at the end of your stay, there is a US\$15.00 Tourist Departure Tax that each person must pay. Be sure to save at least that much in cash, as payment of this tax (cash only) is required to depart the country. These days, many airline tickets include this departure fee in the original purchase price, so be sure to ask.

General Information

Guide Gratuities:

Guide tips should be a minimum of \$100 per boat per day. Tipping for guides can be done at the dock each day or at the end of the week. If guides are tipped at the end of the week, you will need to indicate what amount is intended for each guide and on which day. If you intend to tip at the end of the week, be sure to let your guide know that at the end of each day. The best time to give the guide his tip is at the dock just before getting out of the boat. It's helpful to be prepared, have cash handy and if possible, to discuss tipping with your fishing partner before reaching the dock.

Lodge Staff Gratuities:

Tips for the lodge staff are collected once at the end of your stay, and are pooled and divided among the entire lodge staff, including the cooks and housekeeper. Lodge staff tips vary widely but have averaged roughly \$25 to \$35 per angler per day.

Electrical:

The electrical outlets are AC 110 volts (same as the U.S.) and most appliances will work fine.

Communications:

Guests of East End Lodge have complimentary Wi-Fi access. Moreover, many U.S. cell phones remain functional on the island, depending upon the service provider. Contact your cell phone carrier for more details.

Insects:

Mosquitoes and "doctor flies" in the Bahamas are prominent during the rainy season, from April through September. Year round, tiny biting "No See'ums" can also come out at dawn and dusk and whenever the winds are exceptionally calm. Wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts while fishing will deter these insects.

General Tackle & Equipment

Wading Pants:

Lightweight pants are strongly recommended for both sun and insect protection.

Chest, Back, or Fanny Pack:

You may be wading for hours and the boat will be just a spec on the horizon. Be sure to bring a wading pack to carry your flies, leaders, tippet, clippers, a water bottle, camera, etc.

Tools:

Pliers, hemostats, knot tying tool, snips, hook sharpener.



Rain Gear:

Lightweight and breathable is the best for the climate. Bring your rain gear with you on the boat everyday no matter how clear it looks. Squalls pop up quickly and the boat ride can be wet.

Sunglasses:

Polarized glasses with amber or copper lenses are the most popular, and having an extra pair in your boat bag is always the smart thing to do.

Multiple rods

We strongly suggest that you have an arsenal of fly rods strung-up, handy and ready to fish. Most of the flats fishing you'll encounter is what we call "opportunistic fishing." This means that at any given time, on any given day, on any piece of water, you may see bonefish, permit, tarpon, barracuda or jacks and it may all happen in a matter of minutes or all at the same time. The idea here is to be ready for anything at any time. If you have three or four rods, bring them with you. Have the rods ready to fish, one with a bonefish fly, and another with a permit crab, or maybe a 'cuda fly, and another with a tarpon streamer or shark fly. If you are wading the flats, have your guide take one of the other rods along. At the least, it will double as a great fish pointer.

Bonefish Tackle

The big draw on Grand Bahama is the sight fishing for bonefish. The Bahamas offers some of the best bonefishing in the world. Bonefish range in size from 2 - 15 pounds. On the average, bonefish will be in the 4 - 5 pound range. Smaller bonefish (1 - 2 pounds) tend to swim together in large schools, a natural defense against sharks, barracudas and other predators. Large bonefish travel alone or in pairs. We have found that most times when fishing to big schools of moving bonefish, the largest fish tend to be in the back of the pack. Bonefish are active feeders and a variety of flies and fishing strategies are effective in taking them. One of the nice things about bonefishing is that the proper equipment needed to catch them successfully is also one of the most common fly rod weight and size. The following suggestions and recommendations should help in assembling your bonefish tackle.

Fly Rods:

We suggest 9', 4 piece travel rods in 7, 8 and 9 weights. We prefer fast tapered rods that generate high line speed. Rods that have been especially designed for the rigors of saltwater fly-fishing are the best choice. In that category, we like rods built by Sage, Scott, and Winston. Traveling with a spare rod is always good idea.

Fly Reels:

Fly reels specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. Features to look for are smooth drags, plenty of backing capacity, and a sturdy, machined, aluminum, one-piece anodized frame. Large arbor reels are a great choice and retrieve line and backing very quickly. Models to consider include those built by Hardy, Galvan, Hatch, and Abel.

Fly Lines:

A weight forward floating line designed for the tropics is extremely important. Scientific Anglers and Rio each produce excellent lines for bonefishing. These lines are specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing and have a special core that provides the proper stiffness to allow excellent shooting while resisting tangles, even in tropical heat. They are extremely accurate lines, and the running portion is a large diameter and floats on top of the water, making it a pleasure for wade fishing. Traveling with a back-up fly line is a smart thing to do. It weighs almost nothing, takes up little space in your luggage, and won't spoil before your next trip.



Flats Boots & Socks:

There are often daily opportunities to get out of the boat and wade the flats. Most flats are hard white sand, so either the hard sole boot or softer neoprene boot will work fine. We are often asked about what socks work best, and strongly recommend the Simms lightweight neoprene socks.

Leaders:

We typically fish 9' - 12' tapered saltwater leaders made from clear monofilament or fluorocarbon, with 12 - 20 lb. test are the most popular choices. 12lb. leaders are common, but there are situations where you want to go heavier, 16lb. to 20lb, making the release quick and easy. You should bring along some tippet material, clear monofilament and fluorocarbon in spools of 12, 16 and 20-pound test. Fluorocarbon leaders and tippet are great choice as they are nearly invisible in water, perfect for spooky fish in very clear water.

Bonefish Flies:

Day in and day out, year after year the standard Gotcha has proven to be a “go to” fly. If it were the only fly you brought you would do just fine. Spawning Shrimp patterns in varied weights are an important fly on Grand Bahama, as well as the Bully Special. You could ask any guide on Grand Bahama what the single best fly is and each one will tell you something different. The important factor in your fly selection is to have flies varied sizes and weights to meet the specific situation. The guides on Grand Bahama tend to favor larger flies, so be sure to have some #2's and #4's in your box.

Bring the usual suspects; Gotchas, Charlies, Puffs, spawning shrimp and crab patterns, etc, in white, pink, pearl, brown, and tan in sizes #2 and #4. Be sure to bring a few crab patterns tied in size #6. Also bring a few weighted flies for fishing the deeper edges and high tides. If you do get a couple refusals change the fly. You might have to change the pearl Gotcha that worked all morning to a pink one in the afternoon. One school of fish will hit a certain pattern aggressively and next school might refuse it. On another day the only fly that works is a natural buggy looking fly like a mantis shrimp or tan crab pattern.

If you search the web, you can find endless resources on tying any of these bonefish flies, and You-Tube is a good source. There are basically two color groups; the pinks/pearls and the naturals like brown, tan, or blonde. Bonefish are fond of rubber legs, and they are common additions to many patterns. On the natural colored flies, try adding a few strands of copper or gold flash in the wing or tail.

Experienced anglers agree that sometimes having the right fly can make the difference between a good trip and a great one. Having a broad selection of bonefish flies will help to insure a successful trip. An important aspect of fly selection is sink rate. When tying or purchasing bonefish flies, vary the sink rate of your flies by including some with no eyes, bead chain eyes, and lead barbell eyes. This allows you to fish different depths of water and to fish tailing (cast close with light fly) and fast cruising fish (cast well ahead with quick sinking fly), effectively.

As a general rule, use light colored flies on a sand bottom, and dark colored flies on turtle grass or rubble bottoms. In nature, overt visibility can make any animal prey. Most prey on bonefish flats are well camouflaged. Try smaller flies for fish that are spooky or tailing on shallow flats in calm weather conditions. On deeper flats, or in windy conditions, larger flies work well, especially on fish that are cruising fast. Larger flies should typically be cast further away from bonefish.

Subtle earth tone flies, (tan, brown, olive, green, gold, yellow) work best on sunny, bright days in shallow water when bonefish are spooky. Bright flies, (pink, orange, chartreuse) typically work best on cloudy or overcast days, and especially at sunset.

Bonefish Flies:

- Gotchas - #2, 4 & 6... an absolute must have fly!
- Bunny Gotcha - #2, 4 & 6



- Orange Butt Gotcha - #4, 6 & 8
- Bonefish Clouser - #4 & 6; tan/white, & chartreuse/white
- Mini Puff - #4 & 6; pink & tan
- E.P. Spawning Shrimp - #4; bead chain and lead eyes, tan and translucent
- Squimp - #2, 4 and 6
- Miheves Flats Fly - #6
- Beck's Sili-Legs - #6; tan
- Bully Special - #4 & 6
- Bonefish Junk - #4
- Spawning Mantis - #2; tan/orange

Tarpon Tackle

Although tarpon are not what most fly fishers are chasing in the Bahamas, they are available. Tarpon in the Bahamas are most often seen in and around creeks or around freshwater springs and blue holes. Most tarpon in the Bahamas range in size between 30 - 60 pounds; however, bigger fish are not out of the norm. Big tarpon, up to and over 100 pounds, are often sighted. If you have a "Big Gun" (10 - 12 weight fly rods) bring it, as it may come in handy and there is no use leaving it at home.

Fly Rods:

Fast action 9', 4 piece travel rods in 10, 11, & 12 weights are standard. The Sage, Scott, and Winston rods are excellent choices.

Fly Reels:

A heavy-duty saltwater reel is a must here. Look for a reel with a smooth drag, plenty of backing capacity (minimum 200 yards of 30-lb. backing), and a sturdy one-piece, machined, aluminum anodized frame. Models to consider include those built by Nautilus, Galvin, Hatch, and Abel.

Leaders:

Leaders for tarpon can be simple, or complex. The knots used in building class tippet tarpon leaders take some practice to learn, and it can be very rewarding to acquire those skills. We often build a simple tarpon leader with 8 foot of 40# fluorocarbon followed by 2 feet of 60#, 80#, or 100# bite tippet. Pre made tarpon leaders are available as well.

Fly Lines:

Ninety percent of tarpon fishing is done with a weight forward floating line and Scientific Anglers Mastery Tarpon Taper is one of the best. In some situations where tarpon are holding or feeding in deeper water, and intermediate line is an excellent option, as it will take your fly down into the strike zone.

Tarpon Flies:

In general, tarpon flies for the Bahamas should be tied on 1/0 through 3/0 size hooks. Slight variations in shape and color can be all that is needed to entice tarpon into striking. Flies to consider are:

- Tarpon Rabbit Toad - #1/0; purple/black, tan, chartreuse
- Cockroach - #1/0 & 4/0
- Bigeye Tarpon - #3/0; orange/grizzly, sand devil, yellow
- Black Death - #3/0
- Tarpon Toad - #2/0; yellow, chartreuse, red/black



Permit Tackle

Permit frequent the waters of the Bahamas in good numbers, and it's not uncommon to see them on the flats while pursuing bonefish. Permit in the Bahamas range in size from 3 - 40 pounds. Most often you will sight permit in deeper water (4 to 6 feet), along the edge flats or at the top of a high tide change. They call permit the fish of 10,000 casts, and casting to one of these sickled tailed ghosts is about as exciting as it gets. We recommend taking a 9 or 10 weight rod, and having it rigged and in the boat.

Fly Rods:

We suggest 9', 4 piece travel rods in 9 or 10 weights. We like fast tapered fly rods that generate high line speed. Rods that have been especially designed for the rigors of saltwater fly-fishing are the best choice. In that category we like the Sage, Scott, and Winston rods.

Fly Reels:

Fly reels specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. Features to look for in reels are smooth drags, plenty of backing capacity, and a sturdy, machined, aluminum, one-piece anodized frame. Large arbor reels are a great choice and take up line and backing very quickly. Models to consider include those built by Hardy, Galvan, Hatch, and Abel.

Fly Lines:

Scientific Anglers and Rio each produce excellent tropical floating lines designed for permit fishing. They cast permit crabs and shrimp flies with ease, and are very accurate.

Leaders:

Fluorocarbon leaders are your best choice for permit as they are virtually invisible in water, and abrasion resistant. Nine to twelve foot leaders and tippet in sixteen and twenty pound test are standard.

Permit Flies:

Permit flies typically represent a variety of crab and shrimp imitations.

- Raghead Crab
- Casa Blanca Raghead Crab
- Cathy's Fleeing Crab
- Spawning Mantis
- Enrico's Spawning Shrimp
- Squimp #2

Barracuda & Jacks

Barracuda in the Bahamas get big, and they are very aggressive. They attack a fly at an unbelievable rate of speed, and often skyrocket into the air when hooked. When hooked, few fish can match a 'cudas initial run for speed and sheer violence...hold on!

Jacks are very fast, pull like a freight train, and will destroy both surface poppers and streamers. Watching them blow up on your popper while you strip it as fast as you can is a sight to remember. Endurance is their strong point, and no jack gives up without a fight that you will remember.

Fly Rods:

Flies for these fish are often large streamers and poppers, so 9', 4 piece travel rod in a 9 or 10 weight are good choices We like fast tapered fly rods, that generate good line speed. Fly rods that have been especially



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Leaders:

Leaders for barracuda and jacks can be simple. We often build a leader with 8 foot of 40# fluorocarbon for jacks, and add a bite tippet of 40 lb. Rio Powerflex Wire Bite Tippet for barracuda.

Barracuda & Jack Flies:

- In-Shore Popper - #3/0; chartreuse
- Tandem Cuda Fly - #2/0
- Cuda Killer - #4/0

Bonefish Behavior

Bonefish are the target species on Grand Bahama Island and have three basic modes of behavior.

Feeding:

Bonefish feed on the bottom, and through the water column. While feeding on very shallow flats their wavering tails are often visible out of the water. In deeper water their tails are not visible but the fish can still be seen. While bonefish are feeding, the condition of the surface of the water affects their feeling of security. Bonefish are more nervous in calm water. Conditions determine how best to present the fly. On most days there is a slight chop or ripple on the surface and the fly must be presented three to five feet in front of them. On very still days the fly should be cast further from the fish and stripped back into his area of awareness.

Mudding:

During the warmer months very large schools of bonefish will often back off the shoreline into about 5 to 10 feet of cooler water. As they grub for food, they stir up the bottom creating a visible cloud of mud, referred to as "milk". This cloud of mud moves as the bonefish move and makes these bones feel quite secure because they are not visible to predators. Often the angler can catch one fish after another without spooking the school. It is generally not a common practice to fish muds because the desired challenge of sight fishing is eliminated. However, guides will fish muds with you at your request, and this can be good for beginners to feel the first lightning-fast tug of a bonefish.

Traveling:

Traveling bonefish are intent on changing location, but are very aware of their surroundings and not necessarily interested in feeding. When casting to traveling bonefish place your offering well ahead of the fish and let it settle. Your guide will tell you when the fish is in range and when to strip.

Bonefishing 101

On the flats, your guide will be standing on the poling platform and poling the boat while scanning for fish. You will be standing on the front deck of the boat with your rod in one hand and your fly in the other.

When you are not fishing from the boat, you will be wading the flats. When wading, walk slowly and stop often to look for fish. If you see the fish moving in a specific direction, move quietly into position so you will

be able to present the fly in front the fish. You usually have more time than you think to make a precise presentation.

Bonefish are almost always moving, and movement is often the first sign of fish. Scan the water slowly from side to side, within the range that you can cast. The guide will be looking further out, responsible for finding fish at a distance and poling the boat into good casting position. Look for the flash of an exposed tail, nervous water, a wave or wake on top of the water, or the shadow of a cruising fish. When casting to a fish that is moving towards you, land the fly in front of the fish, let it sink while the fish moves towards it, and begin stripping when the fish is close to the fly.

Typically the guide will see the fish before you, and will put the boat in position for your cast. You will hear him direct you to the fish by saying something like “10 o’clock, 40 feet, going left”. Point your rod where you think he is directing you, and he will often help by saying, “more left” or “more right”, and tell you when to cast.

If you do not see the fish, do not cast until your guide asks you to. He will put the boat in position for the cast, tell you how far to cast and in which direction, and when to cast. Follow his directions in when to begin stripping your fly.

After you cast, let the fly sink to the bottom and make your first strips long and slow to get the fishes attention. Now you are going to “read the fish” by observing its behavior. If it moves quickly to your fly and stops, it probably ate your fly. Make a long strip to set the hook. If there is no resistance, stop, let the fly sink, and begin stripping again. If you do feel resistance, **pull on your line to set the hook without lifting your rod**, and prepare to “clear your line” as the fish runs. The first run often takes all the line quickly off the deck, and it is important that you guide the line off the deck and onto the reel. Your drag has been preset, so hold your rod tip high and enjoy the run! Occasionally the fish will turn and run towards you. If you can’t strip fast enough to keep a tight line, push your rod tip into the water and the drag of the fish pulling the line through the water will keep tension on the hook. Bonefish have tough mouths and having sharp hooks is important. Check your hook point regularly by pulling it across your thumb nail. If it digs into your nail, it’s sharp. If it drags across your nail without sticking, it’s time to sharpen the point.

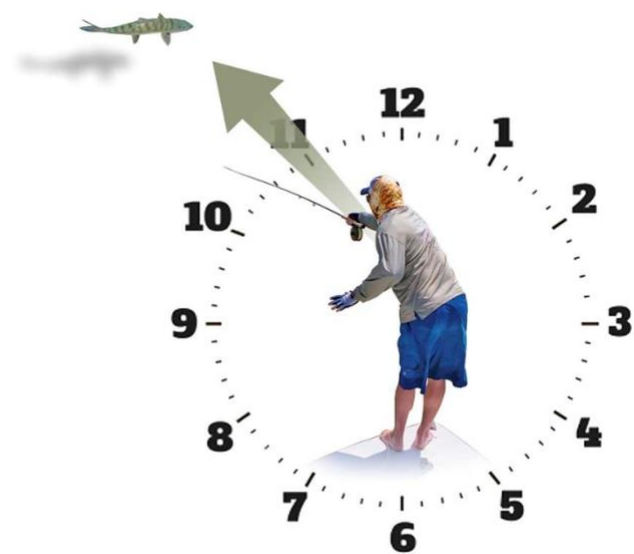
Be certain to pinch down the barbs on your hooks. This makes it easier to release fish with minimal handling, and also minimizes the risk of injury to yourself and others.

You & Your Guide are a Team:

Please introduce yourself and get to know your guide. Discuss which species you want to fish, how you want to fish (wading or from the boat), your abilities and fishing experience.

Encourage you’re the guide check your equipment, knots, leaders, tippet material, flies, rod and reel, etc.

On the flats, the guide will often spot fish before you. When this happens, your guide will refer the numbers on a clock to give you the fish’s general direction. For example, the bow on the boat would represent 12:00 O’clock. Perpendicular to the boat off of your right is 3:00 O’clock;





perpendicular to the boat off your left is 9:00 O'clock, etc. In addition to the direction, the guide will also refer to the distance and the direction that the fish is swimming. For example: "1:00 O'clock --- 50 feet, going left".

When you first step up on the casting platform, strip out some line and make a short cast as the guide watches. Ask the guide how far you just cast. Next, make a medium cast. Then, make a long cast. Make sure you are both agree in judging distance.

If your guide spots a fish and you do not see it, don't cast until you see that fish. Point your rod in front of you as if a pointer on a chalk board and have your guide direct your rod to where he sees the fish. Your guide might say, "2 o'clock, more right, keep going, stop!" That is where you should concentrate your vision and again do not cast until you see the fish, or your guide instructs you to do so.

Setting the hook in saltwater fishing is very different from what most of us have learned in freshwater. You want to learn and practice the "Strip" strike or set. This is done NOT by lifting the rod tip as in trout fishing, but by keeping your rod pointed at the fish and pulling on the line, or stripping. In this way, the hook is either buried in the fish with the static line driving the hook, or at least the fly will remain in front of the fish for another chance. Lifting the rod tip will likely pull the hook out of the mouth of the fish without a hookup and spook the fish from the area. Each species of fish has subtle variations of the strip set to maximize your hookup rate with each take.



East End Lodge Clothing & Equipment Checklist

- Hats
- Polarized sunglasses and a backup pair
- Neck gaiter
- Long sleeve fishing shirts
- Evening wear shirts
- Raingear (light-weight for thunder showers or wet boat rides)
- Wading pants
- Sun gloves
- Shorts and swimsuit
- Wading socks (we recommend the Simms light neoprene socks)
- Wading shoes or booties
- Sandals or flip flops
- Belt
- Sunscreen
- SPF Lip balm
- Insect repellent (DEET as the active ingredient is best)
- Line dressing & cleaner
- Lens cleaner
- Forceps, pliers, hook file, line clipper
- Reel lube / oil
- Zip-lock® bags and garbage bags
- Small flashlight or headlamp
- Athletic tape or finger guards
- Toiletries
- Camera & battery charger and storage cards
- Small binoculars
- Wading pack and boat bag
- Airline tickets
- Notebook & pen
- Passport
- Book / magazines
- Cash and credit cards
- Emergency contact numbers
- Prescription glasses
- Pre-trip information
- Aspirin, prescription drugs
- 2 copies of passport (packed separately in Zip-Lok baggies)