

# NORTH RIDING POINT CLUB

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND, BAHAMAS



*The Fly Shop*

TACKLE & OUTFITTING GUIDE

GPS Coordinates: 26°35'44.97"N | 78°26'7.13"W

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

Freeport is the second largest airport in the Bahamas, and there are numerous daily connecting flights into Freeport through Nassau, Orlando, Atlanta, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and more. Part of the Club's attraction is the ease in scheduling any one of the frequent flights to Freeport. It's best to schedule your flight to arrive in the early afternoon, and a morning departure. After collecting your luggage in the small, modern airport, you will proceed quickly through customs and on to the Club.

After exiting the Bahamas customs area, a porter will greet you. Tell them that you are going to North Riding Point Club and they will point you in the direction of the driver. The driver will be wearing an NRPC hat and shirt with the NRPC logo on the breast pocket. It is a short, twenty-minute drive to the Club. Airport transfers are included in your package.

The hustle and bustle of Freeport disappears during the short ride to North Riding Point where the lovely lodge blends comfortably with the rural, "out island" countryside. You'll arrive at the lodge before dinner in time for a stroll on the beach, a swim in the pool, or cocktails on the porch.

Please make your flight accommodations as soon as possible to secure seats and the best fare. We recommend giving Alicia at Holdy Tours a call for help with flight information and fares at 1-800-446-1111. She books the majority of the travel for The Fly Shop's travel staff, and many other anglers traveling to all parts of the world.

### **A Day at North Riding Point Club**

Your coffee is available in your room, and the front deck overlooking the water is the perfect place to start the morning. Breakfast is served in the dining room, and the buffet includes yogurt, granola, fresh fruit, coffee, fruit juices, with eggs and meat to order. The guides are waiting after breakfast to load their skiffs with your gear, ready to trailer to one of the several ramps on the island. Driving time to the launch sites vary from fifteen to thirty minutes, and runs to the flats are typically 10 to 20 minutes. The flats on the north shore of Grand Bahama offer opportunities to fish for some of the largest bonefish in the Bahamas, many exceeding the ten pound mark. There are the occasional shots at permit, tarpon, barracuda, jacks, and sharks, and we recommend you bring the appropriate tackle. Rigging a few rods and being ready for permit, bonefish and other species is the way to go. The Club's guides are some of the most competent, experienced professionals in the Bahamas.

Lunch is generally shared aboard your skiff, prepared by order. They have specialty sandwiches available, cold drinks and sides. After returning to the Club, a swim in the pool or at the beach is in order. Shortly, appetizers and cocktails are waiting in the dining room, and a fabulous dinner focused on fresh seafood and prime meat is ready. The food is first class, and you will not go away hungry.

#### **Visa & Documents:**

A valid passport is required for all travelers, and must be valid for six months beyond the arrival date. All travelers must have return or continuing tickets to pass through customs. A visa is not required for



Americans, Canadians or most European countries. Residents of other countries should contact the Bahamian embassy in their country to double check that a visa is not required.

You will complete an immigration card upon arrival. It will be checked at your first point of entry and a copy will be given to you. Be careful not to lose this copy as it must be given to Immigration upon departure. For charter flights only, there is a departure tax payable at the airport upon departure; the tax is \$25 for most points of departure.

## Contacts

### North Riding Point Club

Paul Adams, Manager | (242) 727-4250 | [paul@nrpcbonefishing.com](mailto:paul@nrpcbonefishing.com)

### The Fly Shop®

(800) 669-3474 | (530) 222-3555 | [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com) | [www.theflyshop.com](http://www.theflyshop.com)

### U.S. Embassy, Nassau

(242) 322-1181 | emergency after hours telephone (242) 357-7004

## General Information

### Electrical:

The electrical outlets are AC 110 volts (same as the U.S.) and most appliances will work fine. Make sure that you have plenty of spare batteries for cameras and other small appliances, as the cost for replacements in the Bahamas is high.

### Insects:

Mosquitoes and “doctor flies” in the Bahamas are prominent during the rainy season, from April through September. We recommend wearing long pants and long sleeves while fishing and insect repellent will deter these bugs.

### Gratuities:

Gratuities come in two forms: daily tips for guides at the end of each day, and a single tip for the lodge staff at the end of your stay. The economy is primarily cash-based, so the preferred method for tipping is in cash. US dollars and Bahamian currency are interchangeable on the island, and either works fine.

**Guide Gratuities:** Guide tips average \$100 per boat per day. Tipping for guides can be done at the dock each day. It's helpful to be prepared, have cash handy and if possible to discuss tipping with your fishing partner before reaching the dock. When preparing for your trip, it's helpful to come with a sufficient amount of cash to cover tipping each day, and to allow for the possibility of an exceptional tip for an exceptional day.

### Staff Gratuities:

Tips for the 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 average \$30 per angler per day.

### Alcohol:

All beverages, wine & spirits are included in the package. Guests are welcome to bring along any additional alcohol or specific brands that they prefer.



### **Fishing at North Riding Point Club:**

North Riding Point Club is deluxe by any standards, but the emphasis remains focused on the outstanding fishing, superb guides, state of the art skiffs, and miles upon miles picture-perfect flats loaded with trophy bonefish. The guides are all experienced, seasoned professionals who understand the intricacies of Bahamian bonefishing. The majority of the fishing is done from the boat, but wading opportunities exist if you prefer. The Hell's Bay Marquesa skiffs are powered by 90hp Yamaha outboards, have padded seats, a leaning bar on the casting platform, dry storage lockers, and communication is by cell phone. The Club's location offers access to a huge expanse of flats on the north side of Grand Bahama Island and outer cays which harbors incredible numbers of trophy bonefish.

### **Weather:**

Cooled by the prevailing south-easterly trade winds in the summer and warmed by the surrounding waters and the Gulf Stream in the cooler months, Grand Bahama is rarely uncomfortably hot or cold....Although similar in latitude to Palm Beach, Florida, the winter temperatures average 10° (F) warmer than Florida and the summer highs are generally somewhat lower than those found on similar Florida latitudes due to the moderating effects of the surrounding waters. The average daily highs and lows rarely differ by more than 12 degrees (F), with monthly rainfall averaging about 2 inches in the winter and 6 inches in the summer, primarily in the '20-minutes-and-they're-gone' afternoon showers.

### **Non-Angler Options:**

North Riding Point Club is the perfect destination to take a non-angler, with a beautiful beach right in front of your private cabana. A driver is always available for a ride into Freeport, which offers endless activities including golf, a casino, restaurants, shopping, swimming with dolphins, horseback riding, and scuba trips.

## **Personal Gear**

You'll need an assortment of personal gear for your days on the flats, and a boat bag to keep them in.

### **Boat Bags:**

Your boat bag will contain all your gear for the day in the boat and in transfer to and from the dock. Anglers often prefer some organizing dividers inside, and quick access pouches on the outside. It needs to be large enough to hold your rain jacket, fly boxes, sunscreen, extra leaders and tippet, camera, and back up glasses and fly lines. Fishpond, Patagonia, and Simms offer quality boat bags.

### **Wading 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, snack bars, camera, etc. The design is your choice, with sling, fanny and backpack the most common. Fishpond, Umpqua, Patagonia and Simms offer proven models in these designs.

### **Tools:**

Pliers, hemostats, leader snips, hook sharpener, release tool.

### **Rain Gear:**

Lightweight and breathable is the best for warm climates. 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 for flats fishing, and having an extra pair in your boat bag is a darn good idea.



## Tackle & Equipment

### 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 offer some of the best bonefishing in the world. Bonefish range in size from 2 - 15 pounds. On the average, bonefish will be in the 3 - 5 pound range. Smaller bonefish (1 - 2 pounds) tend to swim together in large schools, a natural defense against sharks, barracuda and other predators. Large bonefish often 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 strongly suggest 9', 4 piece travel rods in 7, 8 and 9 weights. Fast action rods that generate high line speed are the most popular, and 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. Traveling with a spare rod is always a good idea.

### Fly Reels:

Reels designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. Features to look for are smooth drags, sufficient backing capacity, and a machined, anodized aluminum, one-piece frame. Large arbor reels are a great choice, quickly retrieving line and backing. Proven saltwater reels are manufactured by Hardy, Abel, Hatch, and Galvan.

### Fly Lines:

A weight forward floating line designed for the tropics is extremely important. Scientific Anglers and Rio make excellent floating saltwater fly lines. These lines are specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing and have a specifically designed 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 strongly suggested. It weighs almost nothing, takes up little space in your luggage, and won't spoil before your next trip.

### Flats Boots & Socks:

There are daily opportunities to get out of the boat and wade the flats. If you prefer wading, your guide can have you on foot most of the day. This means that you'll need a pair of quality flats boot for both foot protection and comfort. Quality boots that fit well are important, and proven models are made by Simms. Simms lightweight neoprene socks will add an additional layer of protection, absorbing the friction from sand that gets inside your boots.





## Tarpon Tackle

Although bonefish are what most fly fishers are chasing in the Bahamas, tarpon are available. Tarpon in the Bahamas are most often seen in and around creek, freshwater springs and blue holes. Most tarpon in the Bahamas range in size between 30 - 60 pounds. Big tarpon, up to and over 100 pounds, are often sighted in the spring and summer. If you own a 10, 11 or 12 weight rod, bring it to Grand Bahama if you intend to hunt tarpon.

### 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, and a sturdy one-piece, machined, aluminum anodized frame. Models to consider are built by Hardy, Hatch, Abel, and Galvan.

### Fly Lines

Ninety percent of tarpon fishing is done with a weight forward floating line and the Scientific Anglers Amplitude Tarpon Taper is one of the best. A good second choice in a tarpon line is a full sinking intermediate line, and we fish the S.A. Sonar in this situation.

### 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. You can also purchase Hand-Tied Tarpon Leaders from Rio.

If you would like to tie your own tarpon leaders, some good reference books are Lefty Krey's "Fly Fishing in Saltwater" and "Practical Fishing Knots by Lefty Kreh and Mark Sosin." We like to use clear, stiff monofilament or fluorocarbon when constructing our class leaders.

### 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.

- 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 - 30 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. We recommend taking a 9 or 10 weight rod if you are after permit, and having it rigged and ready 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 rods built by Sage, Scott, and Winston.

### **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. Reels to consider include those built by Abel, Hardy, Galvan, and Hatch.

### **Fly Lines:**

The Scientific Anglers and Rio make a couple of our favorite permit lines. They cast permit crab 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 highly abrasion resistant. Fluorocarbon 9' leaders and tippet in 16 & 20 lb. test are standard.

### **Permit flies**

There are a lot of permit flies these marketed these days, and here are a few of them that have hooked permit.

- Squimp - #2; tan
- Rag head Crab - #2; tan, olive
- Contraband Crab - #2, 4; olive, tan
- Casa Blanca Raghead Crab - #2; tan, white
- Avalon Permit - #4
- Puglisi's Spawning Shrimp - #4; tan, translucent
- Puglisi's Bead Chain Spawning Shrimp - #4; tan

## **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 weights are good choices. Your permit rod is also a barracuda rod. Fast tapered rods that generate good line speed like those built by Sage, Scott and Winston are good choices.

### **Fly Reels:**

Fly reels specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. The same reel that you brought for permit, your 9 or 10 weight will perform well for barracuda fishing.

### **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.



### **Flies for Barracuda & Jacks:**

- 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 and have three basic modes of behavior.

### **Feeding Fish:**

Bonefish feed on the bottom, and through the water column. While feeding on very shallow flats their Dorsal fins and shimmering tails are often visible out of the water. 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 light wind chop on the water's surface and presenting the fly three to five feet in front of them is successful. On very calm days the fly should be cast further from the fish and stripped back into his area of awareness.

### **Mudding Fish:**

During the warmer months very large schools of bonefish will often back off the shoreline into 3 to 8 feet of cooler water. While feeding on the bottom they stir up silt, creating a visible cloud of mud. This cloud of mud moves as the bonefish feed, making them feel quite secure because they are not visible to predators. Fishing muds can be an excellent experience for beginners, allowing them to have repeated opportunities to hook and handle multiple bonefish.

### **Traveling Fish:**

Traveling bonefish are intent on changing location, typically quite aware of their surroundings and not necessarily interested in feeding. When casting to traveling bonefish, present your fly well ahead of the fish and let it settle. When the fish is in range of seeing the fly, make a few short strips showing the fly to the fish, and let it settle again to the bottom. Hopefully the fish will stop and feed in your fly.

### **Bonefishing Technique:**

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

Another method 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. From the skiff, 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 dark 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:**

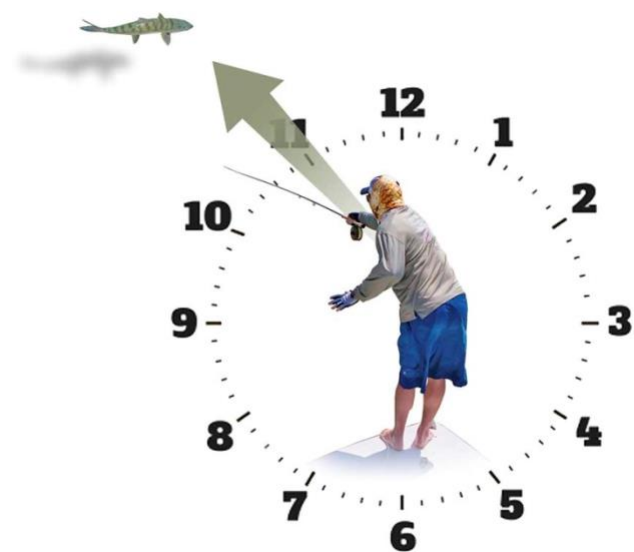
Please introduce yourself and get to know your guide. Discuss which species you want to fish, how you want to fish (wading or from the boat), your abilities and fishing experience.

Encourage your to guide check your equipment, knots, leaders, tippet material, flies, rod and reel, etc. 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 agreeing in judging distance.

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”.

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 not done 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.

## North Riding Point Club Clothing and Equipment Check List

- \_\_\_ Hat with bill (the bill should have a dark underside)
- \_\_\_ Polarized sunglasses, 2 pair, amber or brown
- \_\_\_ Buff® or comparable neck sun gaiter
- \_\_\_ Lightweight long sleeve fishing shirts
- \_\_\_ Evening wear shirts
- \_\_\_ Lightweight breathable raingear
- \_\_\_ Lightweight fishing pants
- \_\_\_ Sun gloves
- \_\_\_ Shorts and swimsuit
- \_\_\_ Wading socks (we recommend the Simms light neoprene socks)
- \_\_\_ Wading shoes or booties (should have heavy sole for maximum protection)
- \_\_\_ Sandals or camp shoes
- \_\_\_ Belt
- \_\_\_ Waterproof sunscreen SPF 30+ UVA/UVB
- \_\_\_ Lip balm with sun protection
- \_\_\_ Hand lotion
- \_\_\_ Insect repellent (DEET as the active ingredient is best)
- \_\_\_ Pocket knife
- \_\_\_ Line dressing & cleaner
- \_\_\_ Forceps / pliers, hook file, line clipper
- \_\_\_ Reel lube/oil
- \_\_\_ headlamp
- \_\_\_ Roll of athletic tape or finger guards
- \_\_\_ Toiletries
- \_\_\_ Camera
- \_\_\_ Small binoculars
- \_\_\_ Wading pack
- \_\_\_ Airline Tickets
- \_\_\_ Notebook & pen
- \_\_\_ Passport
- \_\_\_ 2 Copies of passport (packed separately in Zip-Lock baggies)
- \_\_\_ Reading material
- \_\_\_ Cash and credit cards
- \_\_\_ Emergency Contact Numbers
- \_\_\_ Prescription glasses and extras
- \_\_\_ Pre-trip information
- \_\_\_ Aspirin, prescription drugs