

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions are answered in detail below. Please review these and let us know if your question is not here or answered clearly.

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- ❖ **What comes with standard rate?** Standard rate includes a bunk in one of our bunk rooms, your rigged hobie kayak, food and beverage during your stay at Los Buzos including unlimited national beers, and transport to and from our pick up location in Panama City (Hotel Milan) and Los Buzos.
- ❖ **What is the Resort Upgrade Package?** This package is for those who wish to bring a spouse and/or child, or those who want to fish hard then enjoy more of Resort atmosphere afterwards. In cooperation with Hotel Playa Cambutal, the original luxury property on our beaches we can now offer this full service, beach front option with a fantastic beach front pool and beach bar. Anglers are picked up by shuttle for the 1 mile shuttle to the lodge in time for the early continental breakfast, rigging, and launch. Non-Anglers have a more leisurely continental breakfast at the hotel later as well as lunch from the hotel provided menu. All dinners are together - some nights at the lodge and others at the resort, as has always been our custom. The unlimited beer option is only available at the lodge, all beer and alcoholic beverages at the Resort bar are cash or room charge.
- ❖ **Can I get a private room?** Our lodge capacity is tied to our number of beds so the only way to get a private room is to book the Resort Option for two or to book both beds in a two bunk room. A discount of 30% off of the second person fee will be applied to a single person renting the second bunk to get a private room - resulting in a price of \$2550 to get a 2 bunk room alone. In some cases to accommodate this request it is required to use the original lodge rooms across the street.
- ❖ **How many bunks are there per room and how are they assigned?** We have bunk rooms with two, four and 6 bunks all with adjacent common bath facilities. Some two bunk rooms have a double bed below with a twin above, the others are twin over twin. the overflow facility across the street (original lodge) has some twin side by side with private bathrooms. We strive to keep groups/people travelling together in rooms together. Room assignments are based on the order in which reservations are received so if you have specific requests its best to book early.
- ❖ **What are the meals like at the lodge?** Breakfast and bag lunches are put in the kayak center approximately 2 hours before launch time each day (generally around 5:00 am). The continental breakfast generally consists of cereals, granola bars, fresh cut local fruit (mango, papaya, pineapple seasonally), toast, jam, fresh brewed coffee, and sometimes fresh pastries when available. Lunches are put in the cooler at the same time and location for anglers to pack their dry bag for the day. Sack lunches consist of Peanut Butter & Jelly, Ham/Turkey and Cheese, or Fresh Tuna Salad Sandwiches with chips or other individually wrapped snacks. Afternoon snacks are served when the fishermen come in consisting of fresh guacamole, salsas, bean or cheese dips, served with chips and plenty of cold beer, tea or water. Dinner is served family style each night as a group including the guides. It generally consists of fresh fish and seafood specialties caught that day or the day before prepared in a variety of ways including sashimi, smoked, grilled, baked and fried along with local vegetables such as chayote, zucchini, broccoli, cabbage, and asparagus and starches consisting of rice, beans, yucca, and llame. Seafood nights are broken up with Pizza night at a local Resort on Tuesday where all the locals turn out, Chicken or Pork Chops and the national dish of Panama San Cocho - a rich brothy chicken soup/stew served over rice (if you see these too often it brings your fishing skill into question). Some nights feature homemade desserts, most often our own creation Panalimon pie, or homemade ice cream.
- ❖ **Beverages and is the beer really all you can drink?** Absolutely we keep several cases of our great national beers Panama and Soberana in the lodge coolers at all times. Also Iced tea is available and our deep water well produces some of the best water you will ever drink. Liquor, Soft Drinks, and Mixers are available for sale by the bottle. Feel free to make a special request in advance. We dont stock bottled water as our deepwell water is amazing. In general Panama does not require drinking bottled water as the water quality here is very high - exceeding the US in worldwide water quality rankings. All alcoholic beverages at the beach bars under the Resort Option are cash or room charge only. Beer cannot be taken from the lodge to the Resort Pool.

- ❖ **What about the trip from Panama City to the Resort?** Depending on the group size we will make the trip from the city to Los Buzos by SUV, Van, or Mid Sized Bus. Although 6 hours long, we make every effort to turn this trip into a mini tour of Panama. We will pass the stunning and very surprising modern Panama City beachfront condo towers, Casco Viejo the old town on the UNESCO World Heritage List that Captain Morgan raided three times, cross the Panama Canal just above the major entry port, pass the tourist resort area of Playa Blanca and enter the Azuero Peninsula home to the best of Panama's boutique resorts, fishing, retirement Villages and more. Drinks including beer are available during the ride and a couple of stops will be made along the way for lunch and breaks. We generally arrive just before one of our stunning sunsets and in time for dinner and rigging for the next day.
- ❖ **What can I do if I want to take a day off from fishing?** Kayakers and non-anglers alike are welcome to enjoy unlimited access to our stand up paddleboards (SUPS), Single and Tandem paddle kayaks in the bay, Hiking on our adjacent 400 acre mountain/jungle ranch , miles of nearly uninhabited beaches, and surfing (board rentals and lessons extra), and of course our large selection of shaded hammocks and reading lounges. Also available at additional cost are the massage center, Horseback Riding on our adjacent 400 Mountain/Jungle private ranch, Surfing Lessons and Surf Board rentals.
- ❖ **Can I bring my own gear?** Absolutely anyone is welcome to bring their own gear and tackle. If you forget something or want to try some of our set ups we have it for sale at competitive prices on site. We stock a full line of jigs, poppers, hooks, leaders, and rigging tackle in our center at US prices. Managing partner Adam Fisk is happy to consult with you in advance of your trip to help you know exactly what you need to bring. I highly recommend that you take advantage of his knowledge of our fishery - most who don't arrive severely under sized for some of our aggressive species.
- ❖ **What if I want a change up from the paddle out fishery in front of the kayak center?** We run mother ship trips each day to a variety of different locations 6 to 10 miles away. Most anglers do at least one of these each week. They consist of two or three kayaks loaded onto the panga and a run to a remote area where the kayakers are put in the water with the boat remaining in support, with a cooler, catching bait and spotting for the kayak anglers.
- ❖ **What if I want to only fish from a Panga?** The kayak group rate can be converted to panga only fishing by adding \$150 each day of panga fishing. This rate includes the use of rental tackle and some basic lures and bait rigs. Using this formula you can also mix and match kayak and panga trips. There is also the option to "ride along" fish on mother ship trips for only \$100. You will go with a pair of kayakers and fish from the panga, but the panga stays with the kayakers and remains in support of them. This is only available for single anglers and is based on available capacity on scheduled mother ship trips.
- ❖ **Where do I fly in?** Panama City Panama, Tocumen Airport, known as the Hub of the Americas with direct flights to all regions of the US and many in Europe and abroad. We highly recommend Copa Airlines from Panama when they serve your region. You will find their non-code shared flights much more like the old days of the US Carriers.
- ❖ **How many days is the trip?** Trips run from Saturday noon departure in the city to the following Friday 7:00 pm estimated arrival back in the city, so 6 nights total in Los Buzos. Due to customs clearance, airport transfers and ticketing it is almost impossible to have Saturday arrival and Friday Departure flights. It is highly recommended to fly in Friday and fly out Saturday to avoid any chance of missing our shuttle or your return flights. If you try a same day connection please discuss with us in advance so we can confirm its feasibility and your options should you miss the shuttle
- ❖ **Do you do trips year round?** We are happy to say we are now open year round aside from a few holiday closings. **June through September and mid December to mid January** are our all around fishing months where the conditions and fish are almost always cooperative. **October and November** we call our extreme season - the fishing is still great plus the migratory wahoo are usually much more abundant this time of year. But this season often brings the large swells the surfers love creating more challenging conditions. This is the perfect time for kayak fishing and surfing combo trips - since the conditions should always be epic for one or the other. **Mid January through May** is the windy season. Offshore trade winds often eliminate our "paddle out front" option and mother ship trips to the east. BUT, we take this season to fish further west beyond our lodge which is the normal "end of the road". In this nearly

uninhabited 22 miles of coastline the 100 ft break is less than a mile offshore and the mountains rise directly from the beach creating a wild and little explored coast line. We limit the groups to 4 to 6 max during this season as we are often transporting down coast by specialized 4WD jeeps, trucks and vans and launching from remote river mouths and coves. We also run shore fishing and combo trips where we can catch many of our species including Roosters from the rocky shores. This is also a good season to encounter Black Marlin and Pacific Sails moving back and forth between Hannibal Bank just to our west and Zane Grey Reef to our east, especially with the Panga options .

- ❖ **What are my other expenses?** Other expenses outside our fee that should be budgeted are rooms, meals, and entertainment for any nights in Panama City. We have a special rate at Milan of \$45 for a single room with double bed, or \$74 for a King Suite with wet bar and dining area that is great for couples or multi day stays. Milan holds reservations for us without prepayment so you just need to let me know what you want when you reserve and you pay upon arrival. There are many great restaurants and bars within walking distance and also some other nice hotels. We do caution about booking other Hotels too far removed from our pick up site as they may require you to leave early to reach our pick up location - traffic can be brutal in the city. Also budget two ground transfer from the Airport for around \$60 total. Finally for those who ask our tipping recommendations we recommend a range of 10% to 20% of the trip total to be divided between guides, support staff, boat captains, and mates. You can add the tips in advance if you wish to do so by credit card.
- ❖ **Will I be in Robert Field's video?** If you land one of the trophy fish we are sure to put you on you are very likely to end up in one of Robert's video features. Not only does Robert schedule "Field Days" here for two weeks each, twice per year, but all of our guides film constantly and try their best to capture action year round for every guest. We also encourage guests to bring their own Go Pros and share their footage and we will assist in mounting their cameras. All of this footage goes into the same database used for our marketing videos, done seasonally by Robert as well as his features on Yak Fish TV. Your role is to land the fish of your lifetime and sit for an interview about your experience while here, and we will surely do our best to make you an internet sensation!
- ❖ **What time of year is best?** All of our seasons have benefits. The January weeks book up the fastest because they are the gap between the rainy season and windy season where it is still green, cooler and the bite still versatile - but usually little or no wind. The rainy months June Through September generally produce the hottest tuna bites and are the only season (along with extreme season) when the migratory wahoo come through. July through September also brings the Humpback whale migration just offshore of the lodge which can be breathtaking. August/September bookings also have a shot of hitting our Indian Summer which is my favorite time of year. A month or more of dry season like weather and beautiful days - but with a reliable hot bite, cool evenings, and rarely any wind.
- ❖ **What gear do you have for rent/purchase?** For those who want to travel light, you can come with a book bag (taking advantage of discount carriers) and get everything you need here. Our kayak comes equipped with with a kage gaff and depth sounder. We recommend you bring your own Handheld marine radio. Beyond those items our **Rental Gear Package** includes a **Shimano TLD 25** filled with 65 # Diamond braid and a 80# Sufix mono top shot (for big game and live baiting), A **Penn 113h** loaded with 65 # Diamond braid (for jigging and digging out big snappers), a **Shimano 8500** baitrunner loaded with 65# diamond braid for casting poppers and jigging, and small spinner for catching bait. Our terminal tackle center stocks jigs, poppers, diving plugs, rat-l-traps, cedar plugs, mono leader, flourocarbon leader, hooks and swivels all in sizes and colors recommended and proven in our fishery. All of these are sold at US retail prices.
- ❖ **What is the maximum/minimum number for a group?** There is no minimum group size at Los Buzos. The group rate is based upon four or more in a group - but singles, twos or threes have the option of using set dates throughout the year where we aggregate groups (we take the risk of group size so you can book now) or booking a "small group" of three or less and paying a transportation surcharge of \$150 each for the small group transportation increase. Maximum or remaining available group sizes are listed on the Calendar.
- ❖ **What can my spouse/kids do?** We are happy to host spouses and children who enjoy fishing or the other activities such as horseback riding, hiking, beachcombing, surfing, and paddle boarding that we have available here. The new Resort Package provides an excellent option for non anglers to have a fantastic vacation of their own without fishing. The lodge itself remains first and foremost a fishing lodge. Service while the fishermen are offshore is predominantly self-service as our days start early and end late. We have helpers to coordinate horseback rides, hikes, surfing etc who often join in on the fun as well. But for

those seeking pool side service in a tourist resort atmosphere you definitely want to take advantage of the Resort Package. When anglers are at the lodge during the day we treat you like family - you know where the fridge is, the beach is in front of you, and the hammock is by your room.

- ❖ **Why do I need to fly in a day early and leave a day late?** Allowing adequate time for customs clearance, airport transfer, ticketing, and arrival times it is very difficult to do same day arrivals and departures. A successful same day itinerary would require an arrival time of 8:00 am or earlier on Saturday and a departure time of 10:00 PM or later the following Friday. We transport by group and can't hold a group for someone who is late arriving, or make everyone leave unreasonable early to make a departure. With typical airline delays and the nature of a cross country trip it is best not to have a same day connection. Private transport for a late arrival would be very expensive, as would a missed flight upon return.
- ❖ **I'm a senior, will I be alright in a kayak?** We have had excellent results with Seniors into their 70's on our trips. If you are fit enough to ride a bike along flat roads and comfortable in the water you will generally do well. In our short training session in front of the lodge we will have you get out of the kayak and back into it from the water without using the bottom - that is the basic required skill.
- ❖ **How much is a deposit?** Deposits to reserve a spot are 50% of the trip. The balance is billed about 30 days prior to your trip. At that time we suggest you include any other activities or extras you want to pay by credit card or reserve in advance. All payments on site are cash only. We bill to your email address using PayPal, which can be paid with major credit cards.
- ❖ **What can I catch there?** Our main targeted species year round are Yellow Fin Tuna, Rooster Fish, many types of Snappers including giant Cuberas, Groupers, Bluefin Trevally, African Pompano, Sierra Mackerel (bigger and much better eating than their Atlantic cousins) and Almaco Jacks. Wahoo are here seasonally in migrations from July through December, Black Marlin and Pacific Sails migrate back and forth through near shore depending on currents and we catch the occasional Mahi. We also have huge Jacks of several varieties, Bonito, and Skipjack Tuna in large numbers.
- ❖ **Are there land based opportunities?** With the addition of our new managing partner Adam Fisk we are excited about our new land based opportunities. With the nature of the near shore deep water and rugged coast almost all of our species have the ability to be taken from the shore, in particular Roosterfish. We also have a significant snook population for which we are working to develop a program. Adam is very experienced in land based fishing
- ❖ **How do I get to the hotel from the airport?** Taxis are abundant just as you clear the customs window. It is a set fee from the airport of \$25 to \$35 per person depending on group size.
- ❖ **Is there wifi?** We have very limited internet at our location, most of which is required for our operation. We provide a computer on site you can use for basic communication like email, text messaging and email. If you use T Mobile, Verizon, or ATT they have international plans you can add temporarily that work in Panama. They have signal about a mile down the road from us so we run frequent communication runs in the evenings, plus there are a couple of nice resort bars down there where you can access wifi and have a drink. We highly recommend connecting with us by Whatsapp before your trip if you have a data plan or even if wifi only. It is the communication of choice in Latin America and works when email and other things will not. It is the best way to ensure you can always reach us if you need help.
- ❖ **Will I have a guide?** All of our groups are guided by at least one guide and generally two or more depending on group size and mother ship trips
- ❖ **If I want to bring my own gear, what should I bring?** Adam Fisk our managing partner will be glad to text and email with you to discuss your tackle and help you bring the right gear.
- ❖ **Do we fish every day?** We fish **5 days** (Sunday through Thursday), with an optional morning session on Friday. We prefer to have you on the water if you want to be and we rarely lose full days to weather conditions. There is always a guide ready to go here if you are - and our paddle out fishery is so simple you can try a few hours or do split sessions if you are tired.
- ❖ **How long are we on the water?** Average trips are 6 hours, mid tide to mid tide. Panga days tend to run longer since they are not as tide sensitive. We are in constant visual and radio contact - on some days we make the call with the clients and based on the conditions to stretch a day and go into the next tide making it a 9 hour day. We also do some split days (morning and afternoon sessions) with certain high tide times, which will change about 45 minutes a day during your trip. Our high low cycle is about 6 hours here with two per day. We avoid high tide launches and landings except for extremely flat days or emergencies since the mid tides are much more enjoyable.

- ❖ **Can we schedule a custom date?** Any Saturday to Friday week long slot is available other than some blocked for holidays and tournaments, feel free to inquire. We run a two week slot February 3rd to 17th surrounding Carnivale week. Carnivale in neaby Las Tablas is so popular (one of the largest in Central America) that you can't get to us. So come a week early, stay two weeks fishing 8 days, at a special rate, and enjoy a trip to Las Tablas Carnivale mid-trip....one of the wildest parties you'll ever see.
- ❖ **If I can't take off 7 days, what are my options?** If you are in Panama anyway , and have your own transportation we offer day trips and weekend packages in country. We will be glad to work with you on these, but our groups take priority for our available beds. Short notice trips (within 30 days) will be easier for accommodating odd length trips - we will be reluctant to take long term reservations for a shorter trip but may be open short notice if not booked. Feel free to inquire. We also offer last minute discounts for any available slots in group trips 15 days before the trip so keep those frequent flyer miles handy.
- ❖ **Do we use live bait?** Definitely. If you want to bag one of the Giant sized Roosters, have a shot at a Billfish, or give the Giant Cuberas a try then live baiting bridle rigged large tunas, jacks, snappers etc is the best way to do it. Our crew will help you develop this skill while here and you can take it back home with you. We fish with live baits many resorts post of facebook!
- ❖ **What should I pack for clothing and toiletries?** Cotton is NOT King in Panama! We recommend light fishing style clothes, polyester, nylon etc dry fast stuff. Normal kayaking cover up gear for offshore and casual shorts, shirts and flip flops on shore. I won't send you anywhere you can't go in shorts and flip flops unless you plan to spend several extra days in the city. We have laundry service available at least once during your stay so pack light. If you plan to hike or horseback ride a pair of lightweight long pants and light boots/hiking shoes are recommended. Also water shoes for reef walks and the beaches, our volcanic dark sand gets hot.
- ❖ **What is the procedure for clearing customs in Panama?** Customs is relatively straight forward here, you will get forms in English from the airlines . Don't bring things in new boxes as that tends to make them think you are reselling it. If it looks like your regular gear you will be fine, they are used to fishermen. If it looks like you are trying to stock a new Walmart you'll get an interview. We'll give you more specific instructions shortly before your trip if you ask.
- ❖ **What is the weather like there?** May through Mid December rainy season, Mid December through April Dry Season. Rainy season is cooler, usually afternoon rains but some weeks will be really rainy. Fishing tends to be good with rains and much cooler. Usually the rains are short lived and we do not get a lot of lightning or wind storms as compared to Florida so the rains rarely stop fishing . Winds are usually much less in the rainy season. Dry season is exactly what it says - Dry - meaning it will not rain a drop. Significantly hotter temperature wise but less humidity. What I like about Panama is its always cool in the shade - no August in Florida where its 95 degress and 95 % humidity at the same time. The sun is tough though outside, so be prepared with sun protection. Hurricanes to not come this far south, nor does Panama experience significant earthquakes , or active volcanoes so you do not have to worry about losing your vacation to a natural disaster - on our end anyway.
- ❖ **What happens in the event of a medical emergency?** Panama in general has world class medical care. However we are remote. There is clinic in our village and a rural hospital with good Emergency facilities 17 miles away. Anything significant gets evacuated to the nearest large town 2 hours away or if it permits to Panama City where the care is second to none, including a Johns Hopkins Medical Center. I have experienced it first hand with a major fracture after a ladder fall that was treated as an emergency in nearby Tonosi (for free) and subsequently taken to Panama City for major Orthopedic Surgery (\$4500 paid in full by insurance) and it was one of the best hospital experiences I've had anywhere.
- ❖ **Are there frequent power outages there?** Yes power outages are fairly frequent. However our main facility is backed up by an automatic generator that runs everything including the AC's, except for the hot water. So in the event of an outage your worst experience should be a cold shower. In the event you are in our overflow space at the old lodge those units are not backed up so there is a remote chance of spending all or part of an evening without AC. Most outages are 1 to 3 hours but sometimes run more.
- ❖ **Are there laundry facilities available?** Laundry is always done at least once during each week and your clothes can be included upon request.