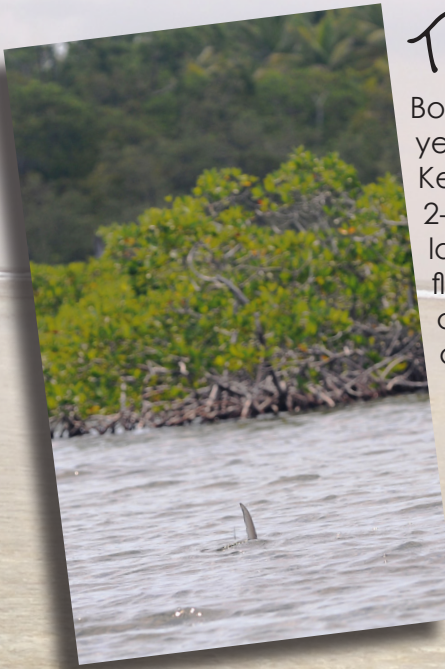




# Hosted Trips Belize 2018

For almost three decades, Turneffe Flats has been recognized as one of the premier flats fishing destinations in the world. Next spring we will once again be heading south to spend a week with Craig and Karen Hayes, the owners of this fantastic island destination. We will fly into Belize City then take a 90 minute boat ride out to the Atoll. Turneffe Atoll is the largest of only four coral atolls in the western hemisphere.



## The Fishing

Bonefish have been the primary target of fishermen at Turneffe for over 20 years. They are plentiful and much easier to approach than those in the Florida Keys. Large schools are found on the ocean side flats with fish averaging from 2-6 pounds. In the interior of the Atoll, you will find larger fish in the sheltered lagoons feeding on the large number of crabs and shrimp found on the lush flats. Typically, we will access the flats in the lodges' 16 ft. Dolphin Superskiffs, and then hop out in the knee deep water in search of schools of fish. There are also wadeable flats just outside your door if you choose to fish early in the morning or in the evening.

I suggest 7 or 8 weight rods for bonefish. We will be using small shrimp and crab patterns and usually you will not be casting farther than 35 – 40 feet.

Many anglers consider permit to be the prize in saltwater fly fishing and Turneffe is right at the top of the list in numbers of fish. Permit fishing is done primarily from the poled skiffs as you hunt them along the mangrove lined shore. The guides will spot the tailing fish, and then position the boat for you to make your best cast.

Permit eat crabs as well, but we will be using larger patterns so a 9 or 10 weight rod is a good choice. The size and strength of these fish will amaze you and you'll be glad to have that heavier rod.

Turneffe Flats is one of the few destinations where a saltwater "Grand Slam" is a real possibility for any angler. Tarpon are migratory fish and we will be on the Atoll when they are in the area. They inhabit the "creeks", channels and lagoons in the backcountry and average 60-90 pounds. For these guys, bring your heavy artillery. Bonefish, permit and tarpon are the primary species targeted by most anglers, but there are many other as well. Jack Crevalle are becoming a much more popular target species and a 35 pounder was caught by a member of our group last year. Barracuda are plentiful as well and are an exciting and underrated species.

A typical fishing day is about 8 hours, beginning after breakfast and ending around 5 pm – just in time for a cold Belikin. You have the option of taking a lunch with you or returning to the lodge for the noon meal.





# The Diving

Fishing is not your only option at Turneffe. The Atoll is also considered one of the top diving and snorkeling destinations in the world based upon water clarity, pristine coral reefs, warm water and abundant marine life. Turneffe's instructors and Dive Masters are top drawer and will provide novice and expert divers alike an experience that they will never forget. All levels of instruction are available and personalized service and flexibility is emphasized.

You may want to take a day off from fishing and go meet the fish on their own terms. I am happy to arrange a combination fish/dive trip or a snorkeling/eco-tour vacation for a non-fishing spouse.

As a guest of one of our destination trips, you are welcome and encouraged to attend as many of our casting clinics and classes as you would like – at no charge, prior to our trip. I will be conducting a series of saltwater clinics with this trip in mind. You will also receive a starter selection of flies.



## Accommodations

Although the setting is remote, the accommodations are top notch. Each cabin is air conditioned and has all the modern amenities with full maid service. The food is excellent and prepared by the resort's outgoing and friendly staff. Since Belize was a British colony (British Honduras) until 1981, English is the official language so there is no language barrier whatsoever.



## Dates

Our dates for 2018 are: February 10th to February 17th. This trip is limited to 7 clients.

## Cost

\$4,950.00 based on double occupancy. This includes all ground and water transportation from Belize City, all guide fees, lodging and meals. I'm happy to help arrange your airfare to assure best rates and arrival times. Anyone joining us on a destination trip is welcome to attend our Two-Day Intro Clinic or any of our Special Clinics free of charge.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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