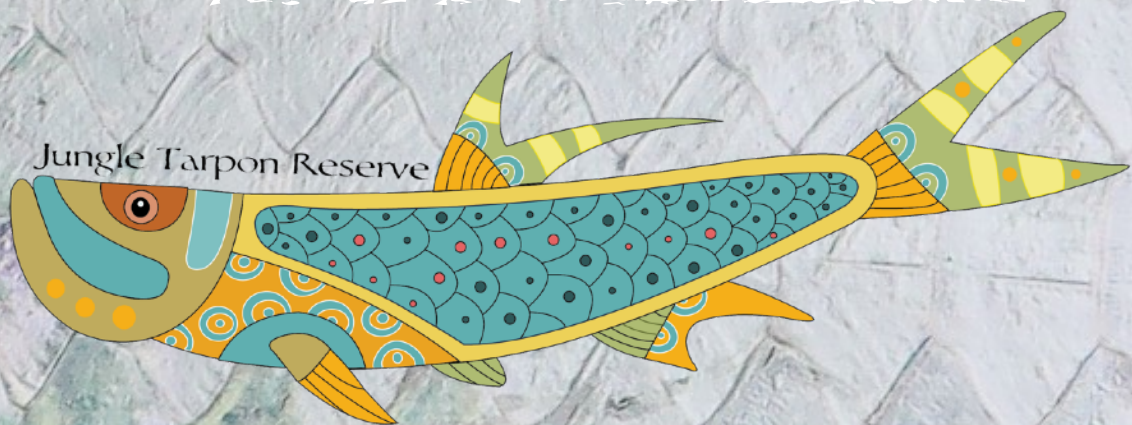




FLY FISHING COSTA RICA

JUNGLE TARPON RESERVE COSTA RICA

AUGUST-DECEMBER (9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS)



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Destination Overview

The Jungle Tarpon Reserve is a vast system of freshwater rivers, creeks, and flooded lagoons surrounded by verdant rainforest and swampland. The tarpon have journeyed many miles inland to reach the lagoons. At the time of their arrival, seasonal rains flood the immense lagoons to create an inland sea surrounded by volcanoes and rife with other primeval creatures like tropical garfish, sawfish, and freshwater bull sharks. This collection of archaic predators explosively feed on the many species of baitfish flushed into the lagoons by the heavy annual deluge, much to the delight of adventurous anglers. From their time in the tannin-stained freshwater the tarpon have lost their silvery hue and are very dark in color. Battling these beasts confined by the river's lush banks is at once an explosive and awe inspiring experience. If you need a breather from throwing large streamers on your 12-weight outfit, the surrounding forest brims with monkeys, wading birds, spectacled caiman, and other interesting rainforest creatures.



While large adult tarpon can be caught in many places around the world, the fish inhabiting the inland rivers of this northern region are quite extraordinary. Growing to epic proportions, it's not unusual to see schools of hunting fish well into the triple digits just a few rod lengths from the boat. This is without a doubt one of the world's finest fly-fishing trophy tarpon destinations, and one that has managed to stay just below the radar resulting in large and aggressive tarpon who aren't afraid to charge and inhale a fly.

Fishing

Anglers can expect to fish from simple but efficient river pangas, with 2 anglers per boat taking turns on the bow. Since the environment is quite dynamic, fishing situations are also varied, ranging from sight casting at tarpon hunting or wading in shallow lagoons and creeks, waiting for tarpon to roll or break bait on the surface before presenting a fly, and blind casting in likely areas. There are even times when tarpon congregate at the mouth of one of the jungle's many creeks and line up in feeding lanes like giant trout in an explosive feeding display one has to see to truly believe. As in most tarpon fishing worldwide, knowledge of distance casting and accurate presentation is a major asset, but due to the intimate jungle environment anglers can often get much closer to their quarry than in other global tarpon fisheries, making this a unique place to hone one's skills. Overall, anglers can expect shots throughout the week at fish ranging from 20 to the magical 200 pound mark. And since the tarpon here are active feeding fish with little exposure to fishing pressure, well-presented flies are often grabbed without second thought. Should the tarpon fishing slow down do as the locals do and try your luck at artisanal hand-lining for an array of cichlid species, many of which make terrific table fare.

Due to the nature of the jungle river, conditions change drastically each week. Anglers are encouraged to practice both distance and accuracy casting before they come. Some sites also require close range loading and delicate presentations with large 11 and 12 weight outfits, so working on side-arm and slot casting can also greatly help prepare anglers for whatever mother nature decides to throw their way. While some weeks are extremely productive, this can also be a very moody and challenging fishery at times, so being ready from the start will greatly improve the likelihood of capitalizing on opportunities as they come.



Lodging - JTR RIVERSIDE CAMP

Even though this is a fishery in the midst of a lush jungle, the lodging is truly world-class.

Starting in 2020, anglers stay in a private luxury house located right on the river, complete with 4 private bedrooms & 3 full baths set across 2 floors, AC, WIFI, and even a swimming pool.

The spacious house also has 2 living room areas with TVs, couches, fly fishing coffee table books, etc. making it a perfect place for fly tying and relaxing between fishing sessions.

The private dock, where we start and end our fishing days, is located on the property and is only a 2 minute walk down the floating ramp from your door.



Food

Food at the Jungle Tarpon Reserve is a combination of on-site gourmet cuisine prepared by several cooks from the local community and relaxed home-cooked meals from several local families and small businesses located nearby.

There has always been a strong focus to involve as many people from the local community as possible in this community-based tourism project, so whether its sourcing local ingredients or visiting a family for a unique traditional meal in their garden, rest assured that the economics of traveling fly fishing benefits as many families as possible.



Climate

Welcome to the jungle, and Jungle Tarpon Reserve is certainly that. A vast aquatic system surrounded by lowland tropical rainforest, and this is one of the hottest and most humid regions in Costa Rica. The tarpon migrate into these immense landlocked flooded lagoons during the region's "wet season", and although most mornings start sunny and beautiful passing storm fronts and torrential downpour can come at any time, especially later in the day. While these periods of wet weather can be uncomfortable, they are usually brief and often times refreshing. We always have large umbrellas onboard, and the rains are a nice break from casting and an opportunity to have a drink or coffee. Mosquitos can also be prevalent at last light, especially when fishing some of the tighter forested sections, so preparation is key. To be ready for the jungle, anglers are advised to bring protection from sun, rain, and blood seeking insects (DEET).



Tackle

The tarpon are medium-large (20-200 lbs.) and require 11 or 12 weight rods to tire them quickly before release. Intermediate lines are necessary in most river fishing scenarios, but sink tip lines can be very useful if tarpon are in some of the river's deeper pools or as the day heats up. Floating lines are a necessity would the lagoons be an option. Having 2 rods with intermediate or sink tip (river) and floating line (lagoons) rigged onboard is preferred so that each fishing scenario can be efficiently handled. Having the 3rd line handy is also highly recommended.

Leaders are pretty standard tapered with shock tippet to 80-100 lbs. We also ask anglers to incorporate a piece of MAXIMUM 40 lb. class tippet into their leader system so that if a tarpon runs through some branches or submerged logs we have the ability to break them off and not damage the fish (in other words, no straight 100 lb. leaders please).



Don't have the gear? Don't fret or make unnecessary and expensive investments. We have established partnerships with some of the finest equipment manufacturers around, and through these partners offer rentals to our guests made up of **Hardy, Orvis** and/or **Thomas & Thomas fly rods and reels**, and lines by **Cortland, Airflo** and/or **RIO fly lines**. Not only does this allow you to save some cash and still fish with the very best equipment specifically tweaked for our tarpon, it also gives you an opportunity to test out the gear to see if you'd like to make the purchase down the road.

Flies

In terms of flies, the tarpon feed mostly on various types of minnows and other small-medium baitfish, so 2.5-5 inch deceivers and variants of deceivers are highly recommended. The river is stained a reddish orange from tannins in the water, so colors that produce match this coloration (orange, red, yellow) or stand out against it (black, white), preferably in combination (orange/black/white, red/yellow, red/white, yellow/chartreuse, etc). Black and black/purple flies are also HIGHLY effective in both the river and lagoons. Weighted flies are recommended to break the water surface quickly, and spun deer hair heads helps flies push the maximum amount of water and vibrations to get tarpon excited. For specific examples of patterns that work please contact us.



Note: Custom hand-tied collections available for sale on-site.

Conservation

We truly care about our tarpon, and in order to keep this destination sustainable both environmentally and culturally we are constantly looking for ways to make a positive impact in the region.



CONSERVACIÓN BOSQUE DEL SÁBALO

To accomplish this, we operate a small non-profit called Conservación Bosque del Sábalo (Jungle Tarpon Conservation).

The goal of this project is to create an internationally recognized tarpon sanctuary together with the surrounding rural communities in order to conserve a globally unique freshwater tarpon habitat in the Caribbean watersheds of Costa Rica by implementing environmental stewardship, community awareness and education, enhanced scientific understanding, and the creation of sustainable economic opportunities.

The project uses the vast wetland system of the Jungle Tarpon Reserve as a project nucleus and will eventually scale up efforts to other parts of this unique tarpon habitat/migration route.

We are also involved in a multi-stakeholder jaguar research project. The area is home to one of the largest jaguar populations in the country, and we have an active commitment to studying and protecting this important umbrella species.

Itinerary

DAY 1 - Saturday

- International arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica (SJO)
- Lodging at accommodation of choice (accommodation recommendations available upon booking)

DAY 2 - Sunday

- Anglers are picked up by a private shuttle for transport to the Jungle Tarpon Reserve between 9-930AM. Transportation time is roughly 5 1/2 hours including lunch on the way.
- Upon arriving at camp anglers are met by destination manager/host and debriefed on current fishing, weather, and river conditions, as well as safety before settling into their luxury accommodation
- Anglers then have the immediate opportunity to jump on the boats and fish for the evening session before returning to camp for dinner.
- Lodging Jungle Tarpon Reserve Riverside "Camp" (single occupancy in large shared luxury house)

DAY 3-7 - Monday-Friday

- Each day starts at 5:30AM at the dock, where anglers leave for their morning fishing session. A locally prepared breakfast and gourmet coffee will be onboard. Pre-boat coffee can also be arranged at 5:00AM.
- The morning fishing session lasts from about 5:30AM - 11:00AM, when anglers either return to camp or visit a local family restaurant for lunch.

Itinerary CONT.

DAY 3-7 - Monday-Friday cont.

- Lunch is either on-site or at one of several locally-operated small businesses or homes. Exact location will depend on which part of the river the group is fishing.
- After lunch there is some down time to relax, or siesta, and get out of the sun during the hottest part of the day.
- The afternoon fishing session starts around 2:30PM and lasts until dark, when you'll return to camp for dinner.
- Non-alcoholic drinks, water, coffee, snacks, and fruit will be provided for each fishing session. You'll find this onboard your boats in the Yeti coolers.
- Lodging Jungle Tarpon Reserve Riverside "Camp" (single occupancy in large shared house)

Day 8 - Saturday

- Morning fishing session until roughly 930-10AM, at which point anglers return to the camp to prepare for their private transport back to San Jose. Just like the way in, the transportation time is about 5 1/2 hours including lunch on the way.
- Lodging at accommodation of choice (accommodation recommendations available upon booking)

Day 9 - Sunday

- International departure from San Jose, Costa Rica (SJO)

Additional Essential Items

- Light weight, fast drying, and long-sleeved fishing clothing
- Sleeves, gloves, and buff in case of bad bugs or sun
- Breathable rain jacket and pants
- Light jacket/pants in case of cool mornings/evenings
- Sun hat/cap
- Polarized glasses and backup
- Comfortable camp/evening clothes
- Camera, spare batteries, extra memory, and charger
- Headlight/flashlight and spare batteries
- Sun block
- Insect repellent (DEET)
- Waterproof luggage for transport to/from camp
- Waterproof pack or dry bag for on boat
- Pliers
- Finger tape
- Boat shoes if preferred (optional)
- Fly tying materials/vise (optional)
- Medical suggestions (optional): Broad spectrum antibiotics (Cipro), anti-diarrhea, Cortisone or anti-itch cream

Other Important Details

Tour **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE LOCATION** is Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Please arrive anytime on **DAY 1** and leave after 7PM on **DAY 8** or to play it safe on or after **DAY 9**.

EXTENSIONS to other Costa Rican fisheries like marlin, machaca, or rainbow trout are available, as are eco, adventure and/or relaxation travel options for the entire family. Inquire with Fly Fishing Costa Rica for more information (info@flyfishingcostarica.com)

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS ARE AC (same as North America). If you are traveling from Europe or Russia you will need to have the appropriate adaptors.

TRAVEL VISAS from the USA, Canada, Oceania or Western Europe are not required in Costa Rica, but a passport with expiration validity for a minimum of 6 months is required. Inquire with Release Fly Travel or your booking agency if you aren't sure.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE is available at the Juan Santamaria airport upon arrival. We suggest you exchange a couple hundred dollars (USD) to Costa Rican colones (CRC) for souvenirs, meals in San Jose and en-route to the Jungle Tarpon Reserve, etc. Gratuities can be paid in USD or CRC. The exact amount is up to each traveler.

Pricing 2024 Season

USD 4990 per person

- *Season August 1 - Mid-December*
- *Maximum capacity per week is 4 anglers*
- *2 anglers per boat plus 2 guides/captains*
- *15 weeks total in season*
- *Single supplement available*

Trip includes:

- Lodging at the Jungle Tarpon Reserve (single occupancy - double fishing)
- Private ground transportation from San Jose
- All meals on location
- Non-alcoholic drinks, fruit and snacks for each day of fishing
- 5 full days and 2 half days of fishing
- Park entrance fee & fishing license
- Premium fly tackle on loan (Hardy, Orvis, T&T, Cortland, Airflo, RIO)

Trip does NOT include:

- International flights to San Jose
- Lodging in San Jose on first/last nights
- Meals, drinks or additional costs in San Jose
- Lunches on transfer days
- Flies (fly purchase available on-site)
- Insurance (travel or medical)
- Beer or alcohol (can be purchased on transfer day or in duty free)
- Souvenirs
- Tips/Gratuities