

# **Bolivian Adventures Pre-Trip Information**

## **Las Palomas & Los Guadales Hunting Lodges**

### **Caño Negro Fishing Lodge**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY WELL IN ADVANCE OF YOUR TRIP!**

#### **PER PERSON PRICING**

##### **Dove Shooting-only:**

**Las Palomas Lodge – 3 DAYS – \$2295 / 4 DAYS – \$2965**

**Los Guadales Lodge – 3 DAYS – \$2765 / 4 DAYS – \$3495**

Includes ground transportation from Santa Cruz and return. Three-day minimum, single occupancy. An example of a three-day sequence is: afternoon shooting on day of arrival, shoot two full days, then shoot the departure morning. Return to Santa Cruz after lunch.

**Fishing-only: 4 DAYS – \$4195, 6/7 DAYS – \$5695** (air charters included). Four-day minimum, double occupancy. An example of a four-day sequence is: mid-morning and afternoon fishing on day of arrival, fish three full days and early morning fishing and return to Santa Cruz departure day (around 10:00 AM).

**Fishing-Shooting Combo: 3 DAYS FISHING/3 DAYS SHOOTING – \$5795** (air charter to fishing area included). This sequence is fly to the fishing lodge, fish mid-morning and afternoon on arrival, then two full days, and depart for the shooting area after breakfast. Then fly to the shooting lodge for lunch and shoot that afternoon, then shoot two full days, shoot again the departure morning. After lunch, return to Santa Cruz via ground transfer.

#### **INCLUDED**

All meals in the shooting/fishing areas, accommodations, airport transfers, soft drinks, local liquors, beer and wine, laundry service, shotgun cleaning, guides, boats, conventional fishing tackle (baitcasting and spinning rods and reels), all local permits, and the round-trip air charter to and from the fishing area.

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

Commercial air travel, airport taxes (approximately \$25), Bolivian visa (currently \$160), shells at \$14/box for 12 and 20 gauge and \$15/box for 28 gauge (subject to change), gun rental (\$65/day), gratuities to bird boys and lodge staff or fishing guides and fishing camp staff, lures and tackle, fly fishing tackle and flies, items of a personal nature (such as phone calls), and hotel or meals in Santa Cruz (as required by itinerary). If you choose to bring guns, there is a gun permit fee of \$200. Be sure to send the completed gun permit application and passport copy to our office at least 45 days prior to travel.

#### **TRAVEL DOCUMENTS—IMPORTANT!**

For travel to Bolivia, you must have a passport with at least six months of validity beyond your date of departure and two blank visa pages side by side.

United States citizens traveling to Bolivia for tourism must obtain a tourist visa, which is valid for 10 years. With this visa, you may stay a maximum of 30 calendar days per trip, not to exceed 90 days total per year.

You can obtain a Bolivia tourist visa upon your arrival at the airport in Santa Cruz or in advance through any Bolivian Consulate in the United States.

Our office will assist you with the required documentation for the visa.

## GETTING THERE

Boliviana de Aviación offers daily non-stop overnight flights from Miami each evening, arriving Santa Cruz the next morning. COPA and United Airlines offer one-stop flight service from Houston and Miami. Flights back to Miami usually operate early morning or late evening. A departure tax of approximately \$25 is assessed upon departing Santa Cruz.

We strongly suggest that you allow plenty of time between flights to make your connections.

## TRAVEL SEQUENCE/LOGISTICS

For **shooting-only** trips: Guests are met upon arrival in Santa Cruz and transferred 1.5 hours via private vehicle to the hunting lodge. You arrive in time for lunch and an afternoon hunt. On the last shooting day, after the morning hunt, guests eat lunch then drive back to Santa Cruz to either their dayroom at the Camino Real or Los Tajibos Hotel (if the flight home is late that night), or for an overnight (if their flight home is the next morning).

For **fishing-only** trips: Guests are met upon arrival in Santa Cruz and transferred to the charter aircraft terminal for a two-hour flight to Caño Negro Lodge. Arrival, weather permitting, is in plenty of time for mid-morning fishing, lunch and an afternoon of fishing. On the last day, guests will have breakfast and a two-hour air charter back to Santa Cruz to either their dayroom at the Camino Real or Los Tajibos Hotel (if the flight home is late that night), or for an overnight (if their flight home is the next morning).

For **fishing-shooting combos**: Guests are met upon arrival in Santa Cruz and transferred to the charter aircraft terminal for a two-hour flight to Caño Negro Lodge, arriving in time for mid-morning fishing, lunch and afternoon fishing. On the last day, guests have breakfast a two-hour air charter to Las Palomas lodge, arriving in time for lunch and an afternoon of shooting. On the last shooting day, after the morning hunt, guests eat lunch then drive back to Santa Cruz to either their dayroom at the Camino Real or Los Tajibos hotel (if the flight home is late that night), or for an overnight (if their flight home is the next morning).

## NON-EMERGENCY/EMERGENCY PHONE CONTACTS

ROD & GUN RESOURCES: 800-211-4753

BOLIVIAN ADVENTURES: 011-591-7767-0890

LAS PALOMAS LODGE: 011-591-7709-5852

## MEDICAL EVACUATION/TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

From minor medical issues to life-threatening situations, Global Rescue's critical services have been there when they were needed most. Outdoorsmen have trusted Global Rescue's medical and security travel services since 2004. Global Rescue memberships start at \$119 and feature the following benefits:

- Medical evacuation services to your home country hospital of choice
- Field Rescue services from the point of injury or illness
- 24/7 access to board-certified physicians, clinicians and specialists from the Johns Hopkins Emergency Medicine
- Division of Special Operations

Additionally, Global Rescue and IMG have created one of the industry's most complete travel insurance products, integrating Global Rescue's advisory and evacuation services with the financial protection of a comprehensive travel insurance program. Signature Travel Insurance guarantees that a trip is covered no matter what happens, and features the following highlights:

- CANCEL-FOR-ANY-REASON BENEFIT
- Trip cancellation insured up to \$100,000
- Up to \$2,500 for lost luggage/baggage delay
- \$100,000 emergency medical/dental coverage

Rod & Gun Resources recommends a Global Rescue Membership with Signature Travel Insurance for your next trip. Visit <http://www.globalrescue.com/rodandgun/> or call 617-549-4200 for more information.

## **BAGGAGE REQUIREMENTS**

The air charter crew will weigh your bags before you board the charter flight. A 40-pound maximum is allowed – you will be asked to lighten your load if your luggage is overweight.

**It is requested that everyone bring soft-sided bags with minimal casual clothing, one gun case (if you bring your own guns) and one rod case. Please do not bring hard luggage or coolers – they do not fit well on the charter aircraft.** All lodges offer daily laundry service, so keep clothing to a minimum.

**IMPORTANT: Pack your medications and two full changes of tropical clothing in your carryon luggage, and travel in fishing/tennis shoes.**

## **CAMPS & ACCOMMODATIONS**

**The Shooting:** The Molinas offer guests two lovely lodging options—their original Bolivian-tropical-style lodge, Las Palomas, or their stylish new addition, Los Guadales lodge and spa. Both offer well-appointed suites and guestrooms with private baths, massage room, beautiful pool and adjacent *palapa* bar, Jacuzzi, satellite television, internet access, and other amenities that make for a wonderfully luxurious stay. The lodges were constructed specifically as dove hunting headquarters and are located close to huge concentrations of birds.

**The Fishing:** Caño Negro Lodge is a traditional wood-constructed facility on the Rio Caño/San Simon system. The lodge features four spacious, double occupancy, air-conditioned rooms with private baths, large dining and bar/conversation areas, and a lovely view overlooking adjacent spring-fed lagoons. **Please note that the generator is turned off each night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.** Late evening and early morning temperatures are usually in the mid to upper 60s but will occasionally reach the mid 70s.

## **FOOD & BEVERAGES**

The lodges provide both quality and ample meals throughout your stay—particularly at Las Palomas, which is known for fantastic meals. A breakfast buffet is typically served from 6:30 to 7:00 each morning. Pastries, eggs, toast, fresh fruit, bacon, cereal and fresh coffee are standard fare. Lunch is a sit-down field barbeque at Las Palomas (or guests can return to the lodge). At the fishing lodge, guests return to the lodge for lunch or may request a cooler with various cold cuts, cheeses, breads, fruit, etc. for lunch on the river.

Appetizers are served when all guests return from the day's events, followed by dinner. A mixture of Bolivian and American foods is featured in the dinner menus. Fresh fish, beef, pork, and chicken are accompanied by delicious soups, salads, rice, bread and mixed vegetables. The camps supply bottled water, soft drinks, local liquor, beer (limited for safety reasons to six per person during the hunting/fishing day) and wine with dinner. **Bring your own specialty liquor.**

## **POWER SOURCE/BATTERIES**

Both lodges have diesel generators that produce 220-volt electricity. You may need a converter (depending on your electrical device) and you will need an adapter – European two-prong and three-prong plug ins. The generators at the fishing lodge go off at 10 pm and are turned back on at 6 am.

## **LANGUAGE**

Spanish is spoken in Bolivia. The guides speak some fishing/shooting English, but all facilities have a full-time bilingual host.

## **LAUNDRY**

Each lodge/camp has daily laundry service. The laundry personnel pick up the clothes and wash them while you are out and return them to your room, usually before dinner. In the fishing area, if the day is excessively rainy, laundry may be returned later, as all clothing is air-dried.

## **CURRENCY**

Most Latin American currencies fluctuate against the US dollar, so check exchange rates with your bank. Bolivian hotels and shops readily accept US dollars, so there is no need to exchange money, even for gratuities.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Import allowances restrict import of excess amounts of liquor and tobacco (one carton of cigarettes or 25 cigars, and 2 liters of alcoholic beverages maximum). Beer, local liquor, soft drinks and wine are included at all lodges.

## GUIDES

The Bolivian guides are hardworking individuals that aim to please. They do not speak English well, but will help you select the right lures/flyes, help with fishing techniques and shooting, and assist with shells, drinks, etc. in the shooting area.

## GRATUITIES

For fishing the suggested tip is around \$60/day (60% to the guide and 40% to house staff). For the shooting the suggested tip is \$50/day per hunter for the bird boys and \$40/day per person for the house staff.

**Please do not bring traveler's checks for tipping purposes. Tens and twenties are appreciated and most easily divided among the staff.**

## HEALTH/INSECTS

**The lodges are remote. Those with serious health problems should think hard before traveling to a location with limited medical service.** All lodges use bottled water and private, deep wells, making waterborne contagious diseases uncommon. **Do not drink tap water in any hotel room or public area.**

The fishing and hunting areas have some mosquitoes and biting gnats. **Bring some long-sleeved clothing and insect repellent**—use a product with at least 50% D.E.E.T. Also, clothing with insect shield works well.

## REGARDING INNOCULATIONS

Bolivia no longer requires a Yellow Fever vaccination to enter. Contact a local international medicine physician or the Center for Disease Control (CDC) 888-232-3299 or <http://www.cdc.gov> for information regarding Bolivia travel precautions and inoculations,

## WEATHER/CLIMATE

Semi-tropical temperatures prevail in the fishing and shooting areas with daytime highs in the 80s to mid-90s. At night, temperatures drop to 60-70° F. Rain may occur throughout the week, so bring a lightweight rain suit.

## CLOTHING

We recommend wearing loose fitting, lightweight cottons or synthetics (Orvis, Patagonia, ExOfficio insect shield). Long pants and long sleeves protect from sunburn and hide ankles and wrists from biting insects. **The camp/lodge has daily laundry service, so please don't over pack (remember weight restrictions).**

## BOATS AND MOTORS

The fishing boats vary from aluminum sleds to local custom-made wooden boats. They are quite adequate for the various river and lagoon conditions, and are equipped with outboard motors, casting decks, comfortable seats, and ample coolers to store drinks and lunches.

## SHOTGUNS/CHOKES

The Bolivian government is currently not issuing any temporary gun permits for taking shotguns into Bolivia. Hunters may use Bolivian Adventures' shotguns—their fine selections rent for \$65/day. Most are new model Benelli and Beretta auto loaders in 20, 12 and 28 gauges.

## AMMUNITION

Bolivian Adventures uses top quality shells from Europe and Argentina, available in 12 and 20 gauges at \$14/box, \$15/box for 28 gauge and \$16/box for .410 gauge (subject to change). At the end of your stay, a shell bill will be presented, payable in cash, check or credit/debit card (Visa or Mastercard only). There is a 2% fee is added for credit/debit cards.

# TACKLE, CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

## SPINNING OR BAIT CASTING TACKLE

Take medium-heavy to heavy largemouth bass tackle with long-handled 6 to 7-foot rods and strong reels of at least 80 to 100 yards capacity with high-speed retrieve ratios. **Bring at least two rods and reels.** Bring 30 to 65-pound Spectra or Power Pro braided line or similar. Peacock bass do not require steel leaders, which take some action out of the lure. For payara and pacu, use a 30-pound plastic coated, bronze color, steel leader (Tyger Leader). Use a firm-action-tip rod, as the fish may exceed 20 lbs. We recommend breakdown travel rods.

The lodge provides spinning and baitcasting rods and reels and a basic lure package. Additional lures are available for purchase.

For those who wish to bring their own lures, we recommend the following:

## SPINNING OR BAITCASTING LURES

### Topwater—a mixture of around 8 total lures for a full week

Barboleta Nitro Peacock Bass propeller lures	3 1/2" – 5"	All colors
Heddon Zara Spook and One Nocker Spook	3 3/4" – 4 1/2"	All colors
Heddon Baby or Magnum Torpedo	2 1/2" – 3 5/16"	All colors

### Spinners and Spoons—a mixture of 12 total lures

Johnson Silver Minnow Spoon	3/4 – 1 oz.	Silver, gold
Acme Kast Master	3/8 – 1 oz.	All colors

### Diving Minnows—a mixture of around 8 total lures

Bomber Long A, Original	4 1/2" – 6"	Fish colors
Rapala or Cordell Redfin shallow diving jointed minnow	3 1/2" – 5 1/2"	All colors
Yo-Zuri Hydro Squid	7 1/2"	Purple, pink, red
Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow	5 1/4"	Fish colors
XCaliber Rattlebaits (rattletraps)	1/2 – 3/4 oz.	All colors

**NOTE: Single laser-sharp hooks work best for payara.**

For spinning and bait casting tackle and lures, contact J.W. Smith at (800) 211-4753 or [dsmith@rodgunresources.com](mailto:dsmith@rodgunresources.com)

## FLY FISHING TACKLE

The aggressive jungle species are well suited to fly fishing with many fly fishing world records to be set. Eight or nine-weight, four-piece travel fly rods are recommended for payara. A six-weight fly rod is best for peacock bass. Reels should have a smooth drag, hold at least 100 yards of 30-pound backing, and be spooled with weight forward bass taper or saltwater floating or clear intermediate sink tip lines such as Orvis floating Wonderline, Rio or similar. Bring a 200-300 grain fast-sink-tip line for payara. Use 30-40 pound monofilament for leader/tippet. When fishing for payara and pacu, use 20-30 pound plastic coated, bronze color, steel leader (Tyger Leader). **Take two rods and reels.**

### FLIES – 6 total topwater, 40-80 total underwater flies for a full week – BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY

Large Poppers (topwater)	2/0 to 3/0	red, white, yellow, chartreuse combinations
Minnow and deceiver patterns (underwater)	2/0 to 3/0	chartreuse/white, blue/white, red/white, orange/white, yellow/white, all with flash
Spuddler or Clouser type payara flies	2/0 to 3/0	black/red, silver grey/red, blue and olive, with weighted eyes, all with flash
Clouser for sardinata	#4 to #2	red, white, yellow, chartreuse combinations

For flies, contact Feather-Craft Fly Fishing (800) 659-1707 <https://www.feather-craft.com/bolivia-fly-fishing> or J.W. Smith (800) 211-4753.

For payara, pacu, peacock bass and exotic catfish replicas we recommend: **Advanced Taxidermy & Wildlife Design Ltd. - Shawn Galea - 888-691-1216 or 905-838-9964 - [info@advancedtaxidermy.com](mailto:info@advancedtaxidermy.com) - [www.advancedtaxidermy.com](http://www.advancedtaxidermy.com)**

## **FISHING CLOTHING**

- Travel clothes
- Two light-weight long-sleeved shirts
- Two pair light-weight fishing pants
- One pair shorts or swimsuit
- Several polo or tee shirts
- Light-weight rain jacket
- Fishing/boat/tennis shoes
- Fishing hat, preferably with long bill
- Fishing gloves, socks, bandana

## **PERSONAL ITEMS**

- Cash for camp tips, etc.
- Passport and photocopy of first two pages
- Sunscreen and sunblock lip balm
- Insect repellent with DEET or Geraniol
- Small first aid kit and Band-Aids
- Individual medications
- Personal items and toiletries
- Small flashlight and batteries
- Waterproof gear bag or large zip lock bag
- Camera with extra batteries
- Travel dictionary English/Spanish
- Credit cards and personal checks

## **FISHING ACCESSORIES**

- Amber polarized sunglasses
- Line clippers or scissors, small knife
- Hook sharpener (important for payara)
- Fishing pliers
- Clear plastic tackle boxes for flies
- Reel lubricant
- Small towel
- Tape measure
- Extra line and leader material
- Fly-line cleaner if fly fishing
- 6-weight fly rods with corresponding reels and lines for peacock bass
- 8 or 9-weight fly rods with corresponding reels and lines for payara

## **HUNTING**

### **NEED ALL PERSONAL ITEMS PLUS**

- Hunting shirts: dark brown, dark green or camo
- Medium to lightweight cotton or synthetic pants and/or shorts—in browns and greens
- Lightweight boots
- Hat in green, brown or camo
- Shooting safety glasses: yellow for dark days, dark for sun (either is a safety fundamental requirement)
- Thin, soft leather shooting gloves to protect hands while loading and firing
- Earplugs for protection while shooting
- Recoil reduction device to wear under/over shirt or vest