

Travel & Outfitting Guide

Everything you need to know about travel to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca Lodges

The area surrounding Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca Lodges is wild, virtually uninhabited and extraordinarily beautiful. There are miles of shallow bays, secluded mangrove- rimmed lagoons, white sand beaches, and dense coastal jungle. Once you have been to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca, take the time to explore its vast tropical landscape and experience the exquisite isolation, you will find that it will remain with you long after you have boarded your plane and returned home to civilization. Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca are truly unforgettable...one of those rare places you will want to return to again and again until you have made it your own.

Travel Planning

Please carefully read the following information well in advance of your departure. It will help answer most questions concerning your stay at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca.

Flight Scheduling

All guests should book flights to Cancun, Mexico. From there, Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca will provide an air charter, which will fly you directly to the lodge. **Guests must plan to arrive in Cancun no later than 2 P.M. and schedule their return flight no earlier than 11a.m.** in order to make connections with the air charter. Any flights that do not fall within this time period must be approved 30 days in advance by the lodge and may result in an air charter surcharge. The charges are listed in the Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca pricing literature. All airline or private flight itineraries must be supplied to the lodge 30 days in advance of your arrival in Cancun. (Generally, we request guests arrive the night before to Cancún, so that charters can start early in the morning.)

Required Documents

You must supply your passport as proof of citizenship to obtain a Mexican Tourist Card and to enter the country. The Tourist Card application is issued

at the ticket counter by airlines that fly into Mexico. Just fill it out while in flight and present it along with your proof of citizenship to the immigration officials when you arrive in Cancun. For proof of citizenship you can use **only a:**

1. **Valid passport** from your country of origin (check expiration date). The tourist card will be checked at your first point of entry. The immigration official will retain one copy and give you the other, which you must surrender at the airline ticket counter when you check in for your return flight. Keep your copy (Tourist Card) in your possession during your stay in Mexico. No visas or inoculations are required for U.S. citizens. A Mexican departure tax is payable at the airport when leaving Mexico. Some airlines include this as a prepaid part of your ticket. Please check with your travel agent or carrier to verify this.

Traveling With Minors

Children 17 years of age or younger entering Mexico accompanied by only one parent must have a notarized letter of consent from the other parent stating the child/children have his/her permission to enter the country. Single parents need a notarized documentation of divorce decree or death certificate of spouse. Minors unaccompanied by either parent require a notarized letter of consent signed by both parents.

Baggage

If, when you arrive in Cancun, you find that your luggage has been misplaced by the airlines, you must report it to an airline representative before you leave the baggage claim area. If you do not, it is likely that you will not recover your lost items. Here is the information you'll need to report:

Hotel Name: Casa Blanca / Playa Blanca Lodges Address: Calle Polar Poniente Mz. Lt.12 Entre Acuario y Jupiter, Col. Centro Tulum, Q. Roo, CP 77780 Phone number: 998 8600536 Andrea Solidoro (Hotel Representative)
After informing the airline, report the loss to the lodge's local representative. He/she will forward your baggage to the lodge if it is found by the airline. **We strongly encourage guests to pack lightly (45lbs maximum) in soft-sided bags to facilitate loading in the charter aircraft.** If

there is too much luggage, it will be transferred by truck and boat to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca (could be up to 12 hrs.).

In Transit Emergencies or Flight Delays

It is advisable to schedule your trip with an overnight in Cancun to avoid hassles caused by travel delays. If you are forced to change your travel plans while en route to Cancun, you should contact a Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca representative at the telephone numbers listed below. In general, you do not need to report flight delays unless they will cause you to arrive in Cancun later than 1:00 p.m. The lodge's staff is in direct contact with the airlines and will be aware of flight time changes. If your flight is canceled, or you are forced to change flights, please call one of the numbers listed below to report your new itinerary.

If your delay causes you to arrive in Cancun later than mid afternoon, it is likely that you will miss all the scheduled air charters to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca and will be required to spend the night at a hotel in Cancun. If this is the case, please contact Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca's Tulum office as soon as you check-in to your hotel. Delays that require an overnight stay in Cancun will cause you to incur a substantial air charter surcharge. These charges are listed in the Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca pricing information.

If you need to contact a Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca representative

Monday through Friday, 9 am -5 pm, central time:

Tulum Office Toll free number from US (877) 261-8867 Local (Cancun) 01(984) 802 5610 On Saturdays From US dial 011 (52) 998-860 0536 Local Cancun from public phone 044 998 860 0536 From your cell 52 1 998 860 0536 ANDREA SOLIDORO Arrival host

Email: andrea@casablancafishing.com Cell: 998- 860-0536 (24 HOURS) feel free to send text message and emails upon arrival.

Casa Blanca Tulum Office ACTIVIDADES CINEGETICAS PANAMERICANAS SA DE CV Calle Polar Poniente Mz. 5 Lt. 12 Tulum Quintana Roo CP 77780

Emergency Contact with the Lodge

In case of emergency, call our Tulum office. A message will be relayed to the lodge as soon as possible. Faxes can also be sent to the Tulum office for two-day delivery to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca. Occasionally, quicker delivery is possible.

To send a fax, call the toll free number and our lodge representative will patch you through.

U.S. Customs Registration

To certify proof of ownership of cameras, jewelry or any other valuables you should obtain a U.S. Customs registration certificate from a U.S. Customs office before you depart the U.S. This certificate can be especially helpful when reentering the U.S.

Arriving in Cancun

Upon arriving in the Cancun airport you will be processed by Immigration. You will then claim your baggage. Next you will clear Customs. After customs, proceed to the Arrival Area outside. If you are scheduled to fly to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca on your day of arrival, our lodge representative will meet you in the Arrival Lobby. The Arrival Lobby will be full of tour operators, arriving passengers and is usually somewhat chaotic.

Andrea, the Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca representative, will have a sign printed with "Punta Pajaros Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca lodge". If you do not immediately see her, this means she is transferring other guests to the charter plane and will return shortly. This is a rare occurrence. Do not leave the Arrival Area and attempt to find her. She will find you. The Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca representative will arrange for you and your baggage to be transferred to the General Aviation Terminal by car. The transfer will take approximately 10 minutes. You will then board a plane and fly directly to the Casa Blanca airstrip. The flight takes approximately 50 minutes. If more than eight guests arrive in a 2- hour period, the later arriving guests may have a layover of up to two hours in the General Aviation Terminal.

Staying in Cancun

If you plan to spend a night or two in Cancun before you go to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca no representative will meet you when you arrive. You must arrange your own transportation to your hotel. There is a wide range of transportation options available in the airport. Please be sure to supply Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca with the name of your hotel 30 days before you arrive in Cancun.

The night before you are scheduled to take the air charter to the lodge, you will be contacted at your hotel by a Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca representative, who will tell you what time to arrive at the General Aviation Terminal to meet your air charter to the lodge. You must take a taxi to General Aviation Terminal. It is located approximately ten minutes from the International Arrival Terminal.

Ground Transportation to Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca

Should a guest elect not to take the air charter, the alternate ground transportation would be a 4-hour drive to Punta Allen, followed by a 45-minute ride in an open boat.

At The Lodge Arrival at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca

When you arrive, you will land on the Casa Blanca lodge's airstrip, approximately 3 minutes by boat from the main lodge. There is a short walk from the plane to the boat dock, so change into your boat shoes before departing Cancun. Insects can be a problem on the airstrip because it is protected from the wind. Pack insect repellent where it is handy. Your baggage will be transferred by the lodge staff and placed in your room. The boat ride can be wet, so dress accordingly or pack your rain gear on top and put it on before you leave the pier.

When you arrive at the Casa Blanca main dock, lodge staff will greet you and show you to a waiting area. Your baggage will arrive a few minutes later. Once your luggage arrives Playa Blanca guests load up into a safari style truck for the 30-minute ride to the lodge. The ride winds along the

island beachfront and is an adventure in itself.

Lodge Orientation

There is no guided fishing on the day you arrive, but feel free to wade the flats around the lodge or fish along the beach. Guests have had very good luck in these areas. On the day you arrive, after dinner, lodge staff will provide a general orientation explaining daily schedules and lodge policies. If you are unsure about some aspect of your trip, please be sure to ask questions.

On The Flats

Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca are known for the fine bone and permit fishing, but you can take other species as well. If you would like to go after these other species, the fishing coordinator can give you advice on angling methods, availability, and fly or lure selection. You can fish from a skiff or wade. You can walk, pole, troll, fly-fish, or spin cast. You have a lot of options; so, it's a good idea to discuss your plans with the fishing coordinator.

When conditions are right, an angler can cast to bonefish, tarpon, snook, permit, jacks, barracuda, cubera snapper, mutton snapper, sharks, and several different reef species in a single week of fishing. This kind of angling opportunity can be found only in a few locations in the world.

Boats

Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca use 16 foot, Dolphin flats skiffs that will accommodate two fishermen and a guide. Each is constructed with a forward casting deck, tandem passenger seats, rod racks, and a poling platform. Lean bars are available by request. Before you board the boats each day, be sure you have reel covers on all your reels. While running, the reels often bounce and can be damaged.

Guides

The guides are very knowledgeable about angling, but not all are fluent in English. If you have any problems communicating during the day, speak to the fishing coordinator so he can correct the situation immediately.

Lodge Purchases

All bar charges and purchases at the lodge will be placed on your personal account which is payable on the day of departure. **We accept cash and credit card (Visa and MasterCard)**. A 16% Mexico value-added tax is applied to all purchases. We do not accept personal or traveler's checks.

Valuables

If you have anything you do not wish to leave in your room while you are at the lodge, you can place it in the lodge safe.

Communications

Casa Blanca and Playa Blanca use VHF Radio to communicate with each other and with guides on the water in case of emergency. Both Casa Blanca and Playa Blanca have wireless Internet capability for guest use in the main commons area. Satellite phone is available to rent for a nominal fee.

Water

All drinking water and water for ice is purified using the "reverse osmosis" process with UV filter. Drinking water is provided in your room. The water from the tap is from a natural well, or "cenote" We recommend that you do not drink it. Also, please help us by conserving the water when possible.

Electricity

The lodge provides all electricity at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca via generators. Casa Redonda is completely solar powered. The generators operate daily from approximately 3:30 P.M. until 8:00 AM. This schedule will vary seasonally. The generators are operated all night.

Fans, Air Conditioning and Ventilation

All rooms at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca have new air conditioners and are very comfortable. For those who prefer fresh air to AC, all rooms have hand-crafted hardwood shutters that may be opened to take advantage of the Caribbean breeze. Playa Blanca and Casa Blanca both have ceiling fans in the common areas, and pedestal fans are available by request.

Tipping

In Mexico, it is the custom to tip the staff and guides for the services they provide. This can sometimes become a confusing proposition, so we would like to suggest the following general guidelines. We recommend tipping your guide \$50-\$100 per day, per boat. If your guide provides you with exceptional service, you might consider a larger tip. You may wish to tip your guide directly each day, but most guests tip at the end of the week.

We suggest a tip for the staff of \$120-\$200 for the week, per guest. This should be given to the clerk on the day of departure, when you clear your lodge account for distribution to the staff. If any of the lodge staff provides you with service you consider exceptional, you may wish to tip them individually, a bit more. US Dollars are the preferred tip currency. Small bills are appreciated.

Departure Day

There is no guided fishing on the day of departure. Each departure day is scheduled differently depending on guests' airline departure times. Generally, you will depart the lodge in the morning. Your schedule will be posted the evening before you depart for your convenience. On the day you depart, please be sure to clear your lodge account and have your bags packed and ready for transfer to the airstrip one hour before your scheduled departure. If you are scheduled to depart on an early flight, you should clear your account the evening before.

Problems at the Lodge

If you encounter any problem at the lodge, please report it to the staff immediately. "No hot water, a missing light bulb, etc." can be corrected easily, but only if we know about it. Please do not suffer in silence. The staff is there to help. One of the great things about the island is that it is very isolated...no cell phone service, no curio shops or timeshare condos. But, it also means that all our supplies must be brought in by boat. It is a very long trip with a large number of potential delays. Consequently, we will occasionally run short of certain items. We would appreciate your patience should this occur. Any problem will be corrected quickly.

Also, saltwater fishing can be somewhat unpredictable. The weather can play an important part in your fishing success. Unfortunately, the lodge cannot control the weather, but the guides will make every effort to ensure the best possible angling under whatever the prevailing water and weather conditions might be.

Daily Schedule

The daily schedule is flexible, so discuss your plans with the lodge staff every day. Most anglers choose a schedule that takes advantage of the best time to spot bonefish and permit on the flats, generally between 7:00am and 3:30pm.

Refreshments on the Water

Each morning your guide will stock a cooler with twelve complimentary soft drinks, beer, and water. If you would like more or less of either, tell the fishing coordinator the evening before. Feel free to offer your guide a soft drink, but lodge policy precludes guides drinking alcoholic beverages.

Equipment Planning Fly Rods

Having the right equipment will ensure a comfortable and successful fishing adventure. We feel that the fly fishing angler should bring three rods: and one smaller 6-8 weight for smaller flies and windless days, one 9 weight for windy conditions and larger flies, (perfect for permit), and one 10 weight for snook and tarpon. For the spinning tackle fisherman, a long medium-action rod for bonefish and permit, and a stiff heavy action rod for tarpon and large reef species will suffice. The lodge stocks a selection of Sage Xi3 rods and reels in weights 8, 9, and 10 with Rio lines which are available for rent or use in the event of a broken rod, faulty reel or should you simply not want to bring your own. Advance notice is required to ensure availability. Rental price is \$25USD/day.

Fly Reels

Reels should be anodized corrosion-resistant saltwater models that will hold a full fly line, plus at least 250 yards of 20-30 lb. backing. Reels with a high quality, smooth drag are essential to prevent break-offs from the blistering runs of hooked fish.

Fly Lines

Floating tropical fly lines are all that are necessary. Scientific Anglers/Rio has an excellent selection of saltwater lines. We recommend that you carry at least one extra spool/line in case you damage your line.

Leaders

A tapered leader of nine feet or longer is recommended. The most simple solution is to buy pre-tied bonefish, permit, snook and tarpon leaders by Scientific Anglers, TroutHunter, or Rio and then use separate spools of 10, 12, (for bonefish) 15-20, (for permit) 40- 60 (for jacks and tarpon) lb. tippet. We also recommend 15-30 lb. wire leader for barracuda.

Fly Selection

Having the proper flies can make or break a fishing trip. Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca stocks a limited selection of the current hot bonefish, permit and tarpon flies, available for purchase at the lodge. For the rest of the flies in your box, we are happy to make suggestions and discuss current conditions any time.

Fly Color

Many people feel that the most important factor in proper fly selection is bottom coloration. Most of the items on the bonefish's menu have evolved to blend into their surroundings; so many experts feel it is important to match the fly's overall color with that of the grass or sand over which you are fishing. It is important to ask your guide for recommendations.

Fly Size

It has been our experience that big bonefish generally prefer big flies. The bonefish of Ascension Bay prefer patterns in hook sizes 2 through 6, although at times patterns as small as size 8 are necessary. The general rule is: the shallower the water, the smaller the fly.

Fly Sink Rate

You should have flies with three sink rates in your box: un-weighted, slightly weighted, and heavy. Normally, un-weighted, eyeless patterns are used in the shallow water (less than 1 foot) over turtle grass: intermediate, small eyed flies, like Crazy Charlie with bead- chain eyes are used in one to two foot water; and heavy flies, like Clouser Minnows, are more effective in 2 to 4 feet water (or deeper).

Bonefish Flies

Generally speaking, bone fishing in the area is known for user- friendly specimens. For this reason basic shrimp patterns are preferred. Gotcha's, Crazy Charlie's, and Squimps should be all you need. A total of 2-dozen will be what you need for the week.

- ❖ Crazy Charlie- sizes 4-6 (medium lead weighted eyes) in white/cream, pink, and light tan. Qty. 6
- ❖ Crazy Charlie- sizes 4-6 (bead chain eyes) in white/cream, pink and light tan. Qty. 6
- ❖ Flashy Charlie-sizes 4-6 (both medium lead eyes and bead chain eyes) in pink and pearl. Qty. 6
- ❖ Squimp- sizes 4-6 (both medium yellow lead eyes and bead chain eyes) in tan. Qty. 6
- ❖ Other Productive Patterns: Puff, Grass Shrimp, Bonefish Muddler, Snapping Shrimp, Baited Breath.

Fishing for Permit

The permit fishing at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca may be the very best in the world. More than 30 permit have been caught on the fly in a single week. Another week guests boated 10 Grand Slams, (one permit, one bonefish and a tarpon, all in one day)! Permit are by far the most difficult fish you'll encounter on the flats. They have superb eyesight and a well-developed sense of smell. Although it is fairly common to see permit with their tail and dorsal fin out of the water, they usually won't remain there for long. They're constantly on the move; so quick, accurate casts (and luck) are essential. Don't become discouraged with a few refusals. Permit are

difficult but catchable. Anglers boat them every week during the season.

Permit Flies

Casa Blanca stocks a limited selection of flies that work well on the local permit. Permit flies are generally larger than bonefish patterns because permit seem to prefer crabs over shrimp. Because of their larger body size, permit also tend to put more of a strain on a hook, so it is a good idea to use larger/stronger hooks. Although there is much debate over the best permit pattern, the best advice is to stick with one pattern that looks good to the guide and keep trying.

Permit seem particularly fond of small crabs, so the majority of the productive patterns are crab imitators. The most productive patterns at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca are the Casa Blanca Rag Head, Kung-Fu Crab, the McCrab and the Squimp. A dozen or so will work for the week.

- ❖ Casa Blanca Rag Head Crab-size 2 in tan (preferably with yellow lead eyes) Qty. 4
- ❖ Kung Fu Crab- size 2 in tan & tan/olive, Qty. 2
- ❖ McCrab- size 2 in natural, Qty. 2
- ❖ Squimp- Size 2 in tan (preferably with yellow lead eyes) Qty. 4
- ❖ Peterson's Spawning Shrimp- Size 2 in tan, Qty. 2
- ❖ Flexo Crab-Size 2, tan & olive, Qty. 2
- ❖ Skittal Mantis Shrimp, tan, Qty. 2

Before you go to the flats, tie your permit fly on to your line and drop it in about two feet of water. Count how long it takes to hit the bottom. You now know the fly's sink rate. When you cast to a real permit, you will then know how long it takes for your fly to reach the bottom. Remember to adjust the time according to the water depth on the flat when you are fishing.

Tailing permit are most likely to take a fly, but stumbling upon one is somewhat rare. Cruising permit are most commonly encountered, so you must be prepared to place the fly well in front of the fish, allow it to settle to the bottom (count!), and patiently wait for it to swim to the fly. Permit

swim more erratically than bones, changing directions often. You might need several casts to get the fly into position. When the permit is several feet from the fly, "walk" the fly along the bottom (about 6") in a slow deliberate, crab like fashion and then stop the fly completely. All smart crabs know that they cannot outrun a permit and will remain motionless in hope that the permit will overlook them.

If the permit doesn't immediately pounce on your fly (which seems like most of the time) don't begin stripping away. Think like a crab and slowly manipulate the fly into slowly "removing" itself from the vicinity. (This, of course, is quite difficult with all the adrenaline flowing). The trick is to keep the fish interested, allowing it to look the fly over. Best method is to listen to your guide.

Fishing for Tarpon

Tarpon are the largest, strongest and most acrobatic of the flats lineup. Even juvenile fish will put your angling skills to the test. They will also strain your tackle. Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca are primarily known for its small mid sized specimens (20 -70 lbs.) A majority of these fish are residents, which remain in the area throughout the year. Migratory fish begin to show up in the beginning of April and, thereafter, numbers will increase significantly through July. On "dead calm" days in June and July, the tarpon fishing on the Caribbean side of the lodge can be excellent.

Fish can be taken up to 150 lbs. but most are from 30 -50 lbs. Other non-migratory tarpon are attracted to the area because of their affinity for brackish water that is found in the mangrove lagoons. Adult and juvenile fish will often remain in the protected waters because it offers refuge from larger deep-water predators. Perch and other small fish provide year round forage.

Fly Rods for Tarpon

For tarpon, it is important to have a rod with enough backbone to actually move the fish during the fight. The ideal rod for tarpon fishing is a 10 wt.

Flies for Tarpon

Color and size are the most important factors when choosing tarpon flies.

Hooks should be stout with large gape to ensure proper hook sets. We prefer pearl, red, purple, chartreuse, and natural colors. A week's supply should be around a dozen.

- ❖ Puglisi Peanut Butter-size 2/0 in grey/white and black/purple. Qty. 2 each color
- ❖ Tarpon Toad- size 2/0 in chartreuse, black, and white. Qty. 2 each color
- ❖ Skok's Mushmouth- size 2/0 in sand/white. Qty. 2
- ❖ Laid-Up Tarpon- size 2/0 in Tan. Qty.2

Barracuda, Jacks, etc.

There is a wide variety of underrated, under fished species, which will match the skill of the most sophisticated anglers. Barracuda are at the top of the list. They will take a fly or a lure and are lightning fast. In addition to barracuda you will also find jacks, shark and snapper. You should definitely consider pursuing a few of these other exciting species. Barracuda Flies: Deceiver (blue or green/white 2/0), Poppers and Sliders in blue, red. Note: For barracuda and jacks, an extra-fast retrieve will usually provoke more strikes than a slower retrieve. Use a steel leader.

Barracuda Lures

You can take cuda by sight casting or trolling in shallow water. Tube lures (green, red, orange) are effective. Zara Spook, 5 1/4" Rapala Silver 9/16 oz. (Needlefish). Always remember to use a wire leader.

Jacks and Sharks

Flies: Lefty's Deceiver (red/white and blue/white), Streaker, Gaines Saltwater Popper (red/white and blue/white), Shark Fly. 2/0 -3/0 hook.

Rod / Reel: Follow tarpon guidelines -10 wt. rod Line: Saltwater taper, floating line. Leader: A wire shock tippet is mandatory. Pre tied Shark/Big Game leaders are perfect.

Jacks on Conventional Tackle

Jacks & Barracuda cruise the beachfront at Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca. Big

metal lures and Top water plugs are the most productive. Light colors are especially effective: Zara Spook (tarpon size), Magnum Rapala (tarpon size), Bombers and Corky.

Rod / reel: The same as listed in tarpon section.

Line: 12-15 lb. test. Bring lots of tackle and wire leaders.

Flats Fishing Accessories Checklist

Here is a checklist of items that you might want to bring with you. We list them because guests sometimes overlook them. Some items are essential; some are not.

- ❖ Polarized Sunglasses with Amber/Brown Lenses
- ❖ Knot Book
- ❖ Zap A Gap
- ❖ Snippers
- ❖ Reel Maintenance Kit
- ❖ Reel Covers
- ❖ Hook Sharpener
- ❖ Reel Lubricant
- ❖ Hemostats
- ❖ Tape Measure
- ❖ Pocket Knife
- ❖ Nail Knot Tool
- ❖ Leader Material
- ❖ Fly Line Dressing
- ❖ Needle Nose Pliers
- ❖ Adhesive Tape (for casting blisters)
- ❖ Extra Rod Tips
- ❖ Zip Loc Bags
- ❖ Lumbar Support
- ❖ Fishing Belt
- ❖ Dry Bag
- ❖ Backpack
- ❖ Sunscreen
- ❖ Lip Balm
- ❖ Aloe Vera Gel

- ❖ Insect Repellent
- ❖ Required Medications
- ❖ Reading Materials
- ❖ Small First Aid Kit
- ❖ Flashlight
- ❖ Camera Gear
- ❖ Extra Batteries

Polarized Sunglasses

Polarized sunglasses are a must for every angler. They are essential for spotting fish. The lenses should be light amber to brown in color. Buy the best you can find. Bring a spare in case you break or lose them.

Shirts and Pants

There are many brands of clothing that are specifically designed for fishing. Simms, Patagonia, Orvis, Columbia and Ex-Officio are all good companies. Think lightweight, quick dry and full coverage for sun protection. In some areas of the Bay there are sea lice, which can be annoying. The number varies from year to year. Keep a pair of long, lightweight wading pants in the boat.

Foot Gear

We highly recommend that all guests wear flats wading shoes with a rigid sole while in the water. Simms and Orvis both manufacture flats wading shoes.

Sun Protection

A wide brimmed hat or a hat with front and rear visors and a dark under bill will aid in sighting fish. The dark under bill enhances the polarizing qualities of sunglasses.

A lightweight sun balaclava, called a buff (manufactured by Buff, Simms, Patagonia) offer excellent facial protection from sun and wind.

Sun gloves, manufactured by Dr. Shade, Buff, and Simms are a good choice.

Lightweight Rain Gear

Rain is always a possibility in the tropics and the weather can change quickly during the day. A lightweight rain suit is a must. Be sure it is waterproof, not water resistant.

Climate

Temperatures can range from the low 70's in January up to the low 90's in July. Isolated afternoon thundershowers are a possibility year round. The weather tends to be relatively calm in April-June.

Clothing at the Lodge

As you know, the lodge is located on a beach in the tropics. Your clothing should be planned with this in mind. In general, we recommend lightweight, quick-dry clothing in light colors. During the winter months a lightweight fleece or sweater for the early morning and evening can come in handy.

Laundry Service

Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca offers laundry service. There is a small charge per article of clothing laundered.

Suggested Fishing Related Reading:

- ❖ Brown, Dick, "Fly Fishing for Bonefish" New York: Lyons & Buford, 1994 Dimock, A.W.,
- ❖ "The Book Of The Tarpon" New York: Outing, 1911. (Reprinted 1990 by Meadow Run Press)
- ❖ Kauffman, Randall, "Bonefishing With A Fly"Portland: Western Fisherman's Press, 1992
- ❖ Kreh, Lefty, "Saltwater Fly Patterns" Fullerton: Maral, Inc., 1993
- ❖ Kreh, Lefty, "Fly Fishing For Bonefish, Tarpon & Permit" Birmingham: Odysseus Editions, 1992
- ❖ Kreh, Lefty, "Fly Fishing Saltwater" New York: Lyons & Burford, 1974,

Revised 1986

- ❖ Kreh, Lefty; Sosin, Mark, "Practical Fishing Knots" New York: Lyons & Burford, 1991

General Reading

- ❖ Freidel, David. Schele, Linda. "A Forest of Kings" New York
- ❖ William Morrow, 1990 Garret, Wilbur E. "La Ruta Maya" National Geographic. October, 1989, Vol. 176, #4
- ❖ Landa, Friar Diego de Yucatan, Before and After the Conquest. trans. by Gates, William from Relación de las Cosas Yucatan, 1566 New York: Dover, 1978