



Alphonse Group of Islands - The Alphonse group of islands are situated 7 degrees South of the Equator and 400 kilometers South-West of Mahé. This magnificent island threesome comprising of Alphonse, Bijoutier and St Francois, lie in the very heart of the Indian Ocean and form part of the Seychelles outer island group.

Getting There - Guests are required to fly into Mahe Island, Seychelles at least 4 hours before the weekly charter flight is scheduled to depart. A standard package includes the hour-long return charter flights between Mahe and Alphonse.

Flight Times - The flights leave Mahe at 11h00 from domestic departures on a Saturday and arrives on Alphonse at 12h00. It then departs Alphonse at 12h30 arriving back at the Mahe domestic terminal at 13h30.

Accommodation & Amenities - The rustic but comfortable accommodation is situated on the shoreline of the Eastern side of Alphonse Island. The main hotel complex consists of a reception area, beach bar, dining area, swimming pool, tennis court and main office. Guests stay in one of 15 privately spaced air conditioned bungalows or 4 one bedroom villas, offering every kind of comfort. The bar area, pool and lounge area provides the ideal venue to relax in the evening breeze after a day out in the sun and houses the restaurant serving freshly caught sea food of the highest quality.

Arrival Day - On arrival you will be met by the Alphonse Island management team and transported to the hotel by golf cart. Indemnities will be signed followed by a comprehensive briefing on what to expect during your stay. Everyone will then be shown to his or her accommodation to settle in and unpack. Dinner is served at 19h30.

Normal Day - Breakfast is served from 6:00 – 9:00 am or on request. Lunch is served at 1pm.

Diving - The fully equipped dive center at Alphonse and professional team of international diving instructors will make your experience at Alphonse resort a personal, safe and unforgettable one. The sheer drop offs, rich currents and abundant sea life that surrounds the Alphonse group of Atolls makes it one of the most exciting and diverse dive destinations in Seychelles. The pristine sites around both Alphonse and St Francois are famous for warm crystal clear waters, unbleached corals, great visibility and a diverse range of fish species comprising of reef, pelagic and shark species. Daily encounters with Stingrays, Turtles, Moray Eels, Barracuda, Wahoo, Sharks, Tuna, Grouper, Snapper, Trevally and many more make the dives extremely memorable. The thirteen Alphonse dive sites are suitable for all categories of divers, which makes the area an exciting experience for both beginners and advanced who will enjoy the various drift dives on offer. The various sites are easily accessible and vary between ten and thirty minutes from the dive boat mooring site. The dive center also offers bubble maker, discover, open water 1, and advanced scuba courses.

Diving Rates

Per Dive USD 120

Double Tank USD 220

5 Dive Package USD 550

10 Dive Package USD 1000

Includes diving equipment

Diving Course Rates

Bubble Maker USD 110

Discover Scuba Diving USD 210

Scuba Diver / Open Water One USD 900

Advanced Scuba Diver 5 Dives USD 750

Fly Fishing at Alphonse & St Francois - The Alphonse group is one of the most famed saltwater fly fishing destinations in the Indian Ocean and is one of the most prolific Bonefish fisheries in the world. St Francois is approximately 7 miles long and 4 miles wide, consisting of firm white sand bottoms interlaced with channels and cuts. The maximum number of anglers is limited to 12 per day. The uniqueness that sets St Francois apart from many other saltwater destinations is the ability to wade over 10 000 acres of hard white sand flats in search of the various species on offer. A typical fishing session will involve wading away from the skiff for a few hours. Bonefish wades will involve either fishing to cruising or tailing fish as they forage for crustaceans. On falling tides it is often the case that huge shoals of Bonefish can be targeted when leaving the flats in what has been described as a continuous river of Bonefish. Whether you're after tailing singles and doubles or shoals, the guides have the ability to make it happen. St Francois is rumored to have the densest population of Bonefish recorded worldwide. Some flats support larger Bonefish specimens than others and a fair lagoon average would be about 4lbs. The largest Bonefish caught to date was a whopping 9.5 pounds. The average catch returns over the last 3 years are 12 - 15 Bonefish per person per day and depending on the angler's skill, often many, many more! It is not uncommon for good fly anglers to land 30-40 fish days in succession. In addition to the abundant Bonefish flats, the lagoon envelopes coral finger flats and coral heads allowing anglers to catch several of the now 60 species targeted on fly, including 3 species of Triggerfish, 7 species of Trevally, Milkfish, Barracuda, Sailfish, Dogtooth Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna and a plethora of other flats and offshore species. Sight fishing for Giant Trevally is one of the most exhilarating forms of fly fishing one will ever experience, especially when they grow in excess of 150lbs. At certain times of the year, Milkfish feed on plankton near the surface and are then enticed to eat flies. Alphonse is where the "Milkfish on fly dream" began and these speedy, high flying fish, which have been caught up to 40 pounds, entertain our guests every season. The fishing is very much tide dependent so the prevailing conditions will dictate which species you will focus on. The factors controlling numbers of fish caught are weather, timing of the tides and, perhaps most importantly, skill and the decision to go for size or quantity.

Guided Fly Fishing on St Francois Rates

Full day per person sharing skiff and guide USD 500 (07h00- 17h30)

Max 12 fly fishing anglers fishing St Francois per day, excludes fly fishing tackle. Subject to availability

Guided Fly Fishing on Alphonse Island Rates

Half day USD 250 (07h30 – 12h00 or 13h00 - 17h30)

Full day USD 500 (08h30 - 17h30)

Based from Alphonse, excludes fly fishing tackle

Single Skiff Supplement for St François

USD 3,000 (500 per day)

For guests on a fly fishing package

Bluewater Fly Fishing - There are 2 offshore vessels, which can be chartered for either a half or full day excursion. The Alphonse skippers and deck hands are experienced at rigging, teasing and switching to all the different bluewater pelagic species, such as Sailfish, Wahoo, Dogtooth and Yellowfin Tuna.

Bluewater Fly Fishing Rates (For guests on a fly fishing package)

Half day USD 850 (07h30 – 12h00 or 13h00 - 17h30)

Full day USD 1600 (08h30 - 17h30)

Includes teasing tackle but not fly rod and flies

Game fishing - There are 2 fully rigged offshore vessels, which can be chartered for either a half or full day conventional fishing excursion. The Alphonse teams practice a strict **“NO CONVENTIONAL/SPIN FISHING”** on or close to the islands, flats and reef. This is to preserve the resident species that use the shallow reef as an access point onto the flats and surrounding areas. Alphonse however relies on fresh fish for its guests so we do offer game fishing trips to fill this quota.

Bluewater Game Fishing Rates (For guests not on a fishing package)

Half day USD 850 (07h30 – 12h00 or 13h00 - 17h30)

Full day USD 1600 (08h30 - 17h30)

Includes trawling tackle but not jigging - popping rods and tackle

Additional Activities - The snorkeling around the pirouetting coral heads within the safety of the lagoon is simply out of this world. There are snorkeling outfits for hire at the fishing centre. The kayaking along the edge of the island on a high tide gives guests the opportunity to see the magnificent bounty of turtles, rays, fish, and various other sea creatures, which call Alphonse their home. The cycling tracks around the island pass through coconut groves and lead to the various private and secluded beaches

Alphonse Guided Snorkeling Trip Rates

USD 35 pp, children under 11 free (min 2 paying guests)

1 hour 30 min, excludes snorkeling equipment (Children under 11 years must be accompanied by 1 adult per child)

St Francois Guided Snorkeling Trip Rates

USD 75 pp, children under 11 free (min 4 paying guests)

1 hour 30 min, excludes snorkeling equipment (Children under 11 years must be accompanied by 1 adult per child)

Snorkeling Equipment Rental Rates

USD 10 per day

USD 50 per week

Loss/damages of gear will be charged per item

Alphonse Fishing Tackle & Gear Shop - There is a fully kitted fly shop at the fishing centre that can provide you with most of the tackle you will need for your trip. There is a full range of flies that are custom tied for Alphonse on the right hooks and with the correct material. There is a 9, 10 and 12 weight rod and reel service at USD 40 per outfit per day or USD 150 per outfit per week. Should one of these rods that are being rented be broken there is a

rod replacement fee of either USD 100 or USD 250, which is dependant on the brand. **All tackle sales need to be settled in cash at the shop.**

Park Fee - There is a compulsory St Francois fly fishing park fee of USD 175 per week (USD25 per day) for anglers and USD 70 per week (USD10per day) for non anglers, which is payable in cash when on the island. All packages exclude this park fee and these funds are given to the Island Conservation Society or the preservation of nature in the Seychelles.

Fishing Clothing - Lightweight long sleeve shirts and long pants that can be zipped off are recommended. Sunscreen with a minimum protection factor of at least 30 SPF is required for any exposed skin areas. A buff and bandanna is of great importance for sun protection of your face. Sun gloves will help protect your hands.

Head Lamp - Although the roads between the accommodation and hotel are lit, its wise to have a headlamp for when you are riding your bike at night.

Casual Wear - Everything is informal on the island and guests should dress casually at all times and feel free to attend dinner in casual clothing.

Weather - The Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with the midday temperature hovering at 35 degrees celsius. Evenings are also invariably warm with the exception of the first and last few weeks of the season, when there may be a strong, cooling breeze.

The Fishing Season at Alphonse - The main fishing season runs from early October to the end of May.

Hours of Daylight - Due to its proximity to the equator, there is no real twilight in the Seychelles. The sun rises quickly at around 6:15 a.m. and sets with equal swiftness at about 6:30 p.m. This varies by only minutes throughout the year, giving nearly a full 12 hours of daylight for 365 days a year.

From Scene of Accident Medevac Insurance - All guests are required to obtain "From Scene of Accident Medevac Insurance". Details will be requested prior to arrival on the Island. Alphonse Island and agents cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

Travel Insurance - All guests are required to obtain travel insurance that will cover any costs incurred due to flight delays for any reason.

Indemnity Form - All guests are required to sign an indemnity form once on location.

Inoculations & Health - No inoculations are legally required for entry. However, you may want to check with your local immunization and inoculation clinic for their recommendations on health precautions for travel to the Seychelles. Some travelers elect to protect themselves against hepatitis A with an immunoglobulin injection (short- term protection) or the longer lasting vaccine. Other inoculations may be required if you are planning a trip extension to parts of Africa.

Water Consumption - There is a desalination plant on Alphonse, and water from the faucets is safe to drink. We do not stock mineral water and will only supply it when specifically requested prior to arrival.

Luggage Restrictions - Check in luggage is strictly limited to 15 kg or 33 pounds per person, and 5kg or 12 pounds carry on luggage. If it is not possible to load extra luggage, it will have to be repacked and left on Mahe until your return. Please adhere to the limits. It is suggested that lighter soft-shell luggage is used. Pack a separate bag with excess equipment to avoid having to repack at the airport. There is left luggage storage at the airport and you can arrange for your tour operator in Mahe to store excess luggage while you are on Alphonse Island.

Communication on Alphonse - Each chalet has a phone service, operated via satellite.

Internet Connection - There is a wireless connection in the bar area and a network cable connection in the Internet room. There is no charge for their use.

Electricity Supply - The Island has 24-hour electrical current (240 volt, 50 cycles AC) with British plug points. A European electrical current adapter (3-point, square-pin) is necessary.

Gratuities - Tipping is never mandatory and if you wish to show appreciation to the staff and require a suggested amount based on an average which guests normally tip then please use the below amounts as an indication. General hotel staff approximately USD 200 per person per week or USD 30 per day as a guideline. This is to be left at reception upon departure for equal distribution. The diving and fishing staff has a slightly varied amount, which can be suggested by the manager of that activity when on location. As a rule of thumb a USD 85 per day guideline, which is given to the respective manager at the end of the week. The guides work on a rotational basis so your tip will be divided equally. Any gratuities will be much appreciated by the staff and we thank you for your generosity.

Currency - You do not need to change your € (Euros) or US\$ (US Dollars) into the local currency. The hotel accepts US Dollars and all major credit cards except American Express. **Credit cards carry an additional 5% bank fee, which will be added to the total bill.**

Duty Free Allowance - 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, 1 liter of spirits and 2 liters wine.

Cancellation Policy

A 10% fee shall be levied if cancellation is made more than 180 days prior to arrival.

A 10% fee shall be levied if the reservation is moved to an alternative date within the same season.

A fee of 50% shall be levied if cancellation is between 180 and 90 days prior to arrival.

A fee of 100% shall be levied if cancellation is 90 days or less prior to arrival.

All cancellations & provisional bookings must be confirmed in writing.

We hope the above information helps to enhance your trip to Alphonse Island. Should there be any further assistance you require, please do not hesitate to contact us info@alphonse-island.com <info@alphonse-island.com>