

# WHAT TO BRING TO TRES PESCADOS





A close-up, underwater photograph of a tarpon fish, showing its large eye, scales, and fins. The fish is swimming towards the left. The water is clear and blue.

## LOCATION

Based in San Pedro, Tres Pescados Fly Shop is located on the world-famous flats of Ambergris Caye. Anglers travel from around the world to fish these flats, mainly because these waters are home to healthy populations of bonefish, permit, and tarpon. The distribution of these three species ranges from Belize City all the way north into Mexico, and we fish Ambergris north by the Mexican border and all the way west toward the mainland. During tarpon migration, we fish south toward Caye Caulker, Hicks, and Belize City, and we fish the front side of Ambergris when the winds blow from the north.

## RODS

When traveling to Belize, we recommend bringing three rods: an 8, a 9, and a 10 weight. The 8 weight is ideal for bonefish, the 9 weight is for permit, and the 10 weight is perfect for the resident tarpon of Belize. When there is a summertime migration of tarpon, you might want to consider an 11 or 12 weight with a full intermediate line. The ideal rod length for these flats is 9 feet. Scott rods are our go-to, and we prefer fast-action rods.

## REELS

Just as with your rod, it is important to have a good, high-quality saltwater reel. We are currently using Hatch Iconic reels.

## LINE AND LEADERS

Our reels are generally rigged with a weight forward floating line. The Cortland Tropic Compact is our preferred line. As for leaders, fluorocarbon bonefish leaders in the 10 to 12 pound range are ideal. For permit, we prefer a 10 to 12 foot fluorocarbon leader in 12, 16, or 20 pound test. For tarpon, we generally use 20 pound test.



## FLIES

Standard flats flies with some smaller flies are key in Belize. Northern Belize is known for deeper water permit and schooling fish, so size 4 Mantis Shrimp and Tide Slaves are favorites, and it's good to have an assortment of crabs. For bonefish, standard bonefish flies in sizes 8 and 6 are recommended. Gotchas, Christmas Island Specials, and other popular flies are recommended. We have large populations of bonefish, so it is important to bring plenty.

## OTHER GEAR

**\*RAIN JACKET** - This is the tropics, and you never know when some rain might roll through.

**\*WADING SHOES** - It's important to have a good, high-quality wading shoe that is lightweight and easy to get off in a hurry. We mostly fish out of the boat, but there are opportunities to jump out, and it's good to have footwear you can put on quickly. The SIMMS Zipit Bootie is a good option.

**\*SUNGLASSES** - Quality sunglasses are important on the flats. Costas are our favorite here with green mirror lenses being the one we use the most.

**\*CLOTHING** - Sun protection is important. In addition to sunscreen, pants, long-sleeve shirts, sun hoodies, sun gloves, and face masks are strongly recommended. When it comes to hats, a black or dark underbrim can help with seeing fish, and if you don't have a full head of hair, we caution against using mesh trucker hats to avoid sunburn.