



SOUL FLY LODGE

Trip Planner & Outfitting Guide

Great Harbour Cay, Berry Islands, Bahamas



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Welcome To Soul Fly Lodge

We've designed this planner to be your go-to guide as you check all the boxes in preparation for your upcoming trip to Soul Fly Lodge. We're beyond excited to have you visit us in the Berry Islands. Now's the time to get excited and count down the days until you're wading endless miles of white, sandy, Bahamian flats.

Location // 25.756469N, 77.851485W

Soul Fly Lodge is nestled into the east side of Great Harbour Cay in the Berry Island chain in the northwest corner of the Bahamas. The Berry Islands are often referred to as "The Fish Bowl of the Bahamas" because of the rich biodiversity found in these bountiful waters.

Haven't heard of the Berry Islands? We're not surprised. These islands come up in hushed conversations about big bonefish and permit over white sand. This is a special place that our fishing guides and talented staff are excited to share with you.





Why Soul Fly Lodge

- Untapped, high quality fishery. Soul Fly Lodge is the **first flats fishing specific lodge** in the Berry Islands. We're excited to explore and offer anglers the chance to fish new water in the Bahamas.
- **Extensive wading** throughout the Berry Islands with miles of firm white sand flats.
- **Short runs** from Great Harbour Cay (GHC) put you in fishable waters to explore from the bow of the skiff or on foot.
- A multi-species haven: bonefish, permit, triggerfish, barracuda, mutton snapper & more.
- **Experienced guides**, including the legendary Percy Darville, will show you the fishery through their eyes with decades of experience to rely on.
- Fishery conservation focus. **Protecting this fishery** for generations to come is our top priority.
- **Community first.** We go to great lengths to keep as much revenue on the island as possible, paying our employees so they can thrive, and engaging in projects that will honor the Great Harbour Cay community.
- Ease of Access & a brand NEW airport. GHC is a port of entry with **direct flight options** out of Ft. Lauderdale and daily flights from Nassau.
- Soul Fly Lodge boasts a 20' x 50' **freshwater pool** overlooking the ocean with a short winding path carrying you to an idyllic Bahamian beach.
- The Carriearl Roost, our **full restaurant & bar**, offers alfresco dining and plenty of spots to lounge and settle into.





Getting Here

Now that you're booked, it's time to reserve your flights to Great Harbour Cay. Booking flights is the responsibility of each guest but we're here for you and happy to help. The newly rebuilt Great Harbour Cay Airport is only 120 miles East of Miami. Great Harbour Cay (GHC) is an official port of entry and can accommodate private aircraft both large and small. Soul Fly Lodge will provide your transfer to and from the airport. Please keep your hosts, Kyle & Kitri, updated as you travel, we want to ensure you get to the island safe and sound.

LeAir // Nassau to Great Harbour Cay // 20 min flight

- Suggested to arrive in Nassau at least 2 to 3 hours prior to LeAir flight departure time. LeAir typically flies twice a day to Great Harbour Cay. You'll clear customs & immigration in Nassau.
 - Departure Location: Lynden Pindling International Airport, Windsor Field Road, Nassau, Bahamas
-

Tropic Ocean Air // Ft Lauderdale to Great Harbour Cay // 1 hr flight

- Ticketed and charter options available
 - Comfortable flight, a more expensive option than LeAir but gets you to GHC faster and more easily. You'll clear customs & immigration right on GHC.
 - Departure Location: Fort Lauderdale International Airport, Sheltair Terminal, 1050 Lee Wagener Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
-

Makers Air // Ft Lauderdale to Great Harbour Cay // 1 hr Flight

- Ticketed and charter options available
 - Comfortable flight, a more expensive option than LeAir but gets you to GHC faster and more easily. You'll clear customs & immigration right on GHC.
 - Departure Location: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, 2331 Northwest 55th Court, Hangar 19, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
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*For additional charter flight options, feel free to reach out to soulflylodge@gmail.com

**Before you secure your flights please be sure to verify with Soul Fly Lodge that your prospective itinerary is suitable for your upcoming trip. Once booked, please enter your flight details into your Soul Fly Portal.



Traveling To The Bahamas

Travel to the Bahamas is relatively simple but please keep in mind a few key pieces of info that will help to make your journey go smoothly.

COVID Travel Requirements

- Please visit our COVID Safety & Travel Updates section of our website for the most up to date information.
 - Please also review any requirements for re-entry to your home country. Contact Soul Fly Lodge with any questions.
-

Travel Documents Required

- A valid passport with at least two blank pages and an expiration date over 6 months
 - A copy of your return ticket
 - Bahamas health travel visa
 - Documentation of negative COVID test or proof of vaccination
-

Highly Recommended

- Travel insurance is a MUST! It's inexpensive and protects your trip investment. We recommend Global Rescue for both Trip Insurance and Medical Evacuation Insurance. To purchase a policy, click <https://partner.globalrescue.com/soulflylodge/index.html> or call +1-617-459-4200. Purchasing a policy within 20 days of making your initial trip deposit gives you the widest range of policy options including "cancel for any reason" coverage which we highly recommend.





A Day in the Life...

6:00a // Coffee's on.

6:45a // Breakfast orders taken. Last minute gear prep.

7:00a // Breakfast

8:00a // Load onto your skiff for the day & GO!

Lunch // Your boat's cooler will be packed with your requested drinks and lunch for the day.

4:00p // Back to the Lodge

5:30p // Appetizers and cocktails

6:30p // Dinner, hang, drinks, stories, all the good stuff...

What to Expect

Soul Fly Lodge marks the opening of the first fly fishing lodge in the Berry Islands. With that accolade comes an unpressured fishing experience over white sand flats, lush turtle grass and a backcountry system that holds some true bruiser sized bonefish. Extensive wading opportunities on firm sandy flats offer anglers the chance for an incredibly intimate experience targeting tailing bonefish in the skinniest of water. The permit fishing throughout the Berry Islands provides an opportunity for ambitious anglers to connect with a fish that you'll never forget. The chance to target bonefish, permit, triggerfish, barracuda, mutton snapper and other flats species from the bow of the skiff or on foot will help you sharpen your skills while fully captivating your attention. Short runs to nearby flats will have you fishing within 15 minutes. Combine these endless opportunities with a brand new fleet of boats and a team of legendary guides and the result is a trip you may, very well, never forget.

Setting expectations accurately is a key element to looking back at your experience with a grin that stretches from ear to ear. We're all about transparency in our sales and marketing process. We strive to attract anglers that are the right fit for Soul Fly Lodge. The Bahamas is a dynamic location with ever changing weather conditions. There are times of year that may offer more stable weather patterns but there is never a guarantee on a good weather window. In short, anytime during our season can potentially deliver the trip of your dreams. The Bottom Line: get here when you can and we'll guide you to a truly unforgettable experience.

The Fishing





The Lodge

Soul Fly Lodge sits 22 feet above sea level, overlooking the churning Atlantic Ocean on the east side of Great Harbour Cay. We are less than 5 minutes from the newly rebuilt airport and only a few minutes from the Marina. A short, palm lined path leads you past our 20' x 50' freshwater pool down to an idyllic, expansive Bahamian beach.

While Soul Fly Lodge is surrounded by a rugged Bahamian landscape, the soft comforts at the lodge will allow you to enter full relaxation mode. Our four private guest rooms each have two comfy beds, individually operated AC units, and en suite bathrooms.

Wireless internet will keep you as connected to the outside world as you wish. Cell service is available across the majority of the island (check with your provider: typically an international pass costs about \$10/day). A landline telephone is also available.

At The Carriearl Roost, our head chef impresses our guests with an inventive menu designed around local ingredients and unique takes on Bahamian fare. The restaurant is also open to the public Wednesday-Saturday evenings and Sunday brunch. Our full bar has you covered from spirits to beer. Choose from multiple lounge areas that will give you plenty of room to spread out. And finally, visit our fly shop for last minute additions to the fly box and gifts for friends back home.





Our Staff & Gratuities

We are incredibly fortunate to operate Soul Fly Lodge in the Berry Islands. From the lodge's maintenance staff to the head guide we are grateful to work with talented folks born and raised in the Bahamas. We are guests in this country and everyone is working hard to meet and exceed the expectations of people traveling from all over the world to fish and relax here on Great Harbour Cay.

We welcome you to engage and get to know the wonderful people that work at the Lodge. You might forget your 10th bonefish of the trip but you'll never forget people like Percy Darville and the rest of the crew here at Soul Fly Lodge.

Currency: The Bahamian Dollar and the US Dollar are interchangeable in the Bahamas. There's no need to exchange currency for your trip, US Dollars will suffice.

Guides: We recommend tipping at the end of each day so that the tip is directly connected to the hard work that your guide just put in. We rotate guides each day so it's possible that you won't fish with that guide a second time. We recommend a standard of \$100 - \$120 per day, per boat. If your guide did a phenomenal job, worked exceptionally hard or connected you with a memorable fish it's absolutely reasonable to tip more than the recommended amount.

Chef & House Staff: We recommend settling up on your Chef & House Staff tip at the end of your stay. \$20 - \$30 per person per night is the average tip that we recommend. This tip should be given to managers to disperse to the staff appropriately. The chef, wait staff, kitchen help, maintenance staff, etc. will all get a cut of this tip.

Managers: There is no expectation around tipping your hosts/managers for the week but if you would like to leave a tip it is most graciously appreciated.

Our Ethos

While our business in the Bahamas is new, the Soul Fly brand has a track record of activism and fighting for our natural resources; especially the ones that are connected to the services we provide. We believe in protecting what we love. Soul Fly promises to advocate for abundant fisheries, climate change resilience, and equality. Our compass is pointed in this direction and, each year that we're in business, we strive to make a bigger and bigger impact. We are committed to positive evolution - consistently reflecting on areas of growth and welcoming challenges to improve.

Our Mission: Cultivating a sustainable bond with our planet, the surrounding fishery and the local community through consciously crafted angling adventures in the Berry Islands.

People & Community: We hold our local relationships in the highest honor. By investing in the local people and community we are investing in ourselves, our collective future, and lastly, our business. People first, always.

The Resource: It's a privilege to be a guest on the waters surrounding Great Harbour Cay. We are caretakers of the lodge and this beautiful landscape for merely a brief moment in time; we vow to leave the resource better than we found it by:

- Reducing catch & release mortality
- Teaching our guests ethical fish handling tactics
- Expanding the presence of sound science & research in the Berry Islands
- Empowering advocates for the Berry Island fishery, ensuring it flourishes for generations to come

Service: Service at Soul Fly Lodge has been diligently crafted to be personal, detailed and flexible; your experience in the Berry Islands is designed to meet YOU exactly where you are. The complexities of our simple service is hidden between grains of sand, tailing bonefish and gently rolling waves.



What to Bring

The Essentials, Travel Docs, Etc.

- Passport, Copy of Passport and Driver's License
- Important Phone Numbers: Soul Fly Lodge Direct Number & Emergency Contact
- Flight Itinerary
- The latest necessary COVID travel documentation
- Cash for tipping and other purchases
- Essential First Aid and any needed meds
- Books or a Magazine

Clothing & Soft Goods

- UPF Long Pants & Shorts
- Swimwear
- UPF Long Sleeve Fishing Shirts
- Wading Booties
- Hat
- Lightweight Rain Gear
- Buff and/or Sun Gloves (optional)
- Comfy Post-fishing Clothing
- Fleece, Puffy or something warm (Bahamas can get chilly certain times of year)
- Socks/Underwear
- Footwear: Sandals or Tennis Shoes
- 2 pairs Polarized Sunglasses

The Good Stuff

- 8wt for Bonefish
- 9wt for windy days or other species
- 10wt for Permit & Barracuda
- Saltwater reels with reliable drag to match rods with 200+ yds backing
- Modern floating tropical flats or bonefish specific fly lines to match rods
- Leaders: Bonefish, Permit and Barracuda
- Tippet: 12lb & 16lb Fluoro and 20lb wire
- Flies & Fly boxes for Permit, Bonefish, Barracuda, etc.

The Nitty Gritty

- Hemostats or Pliers for hook removal
- Nippers on a Lanyard
- Croakies
- Hook Hone
- Camera or Phone Camera
- Waterproof Backpack or Boat Bag
- Toiletries
- Sunblock & Lip Balm - Chemical free, reef-safe, avoid plastic packaging if possible
- Bug Repellent

Please Note: This checklist is simply a guide to help you prep and pack for your flats fishing trip. This list may or may not include all of the items you'd like to bring. We have loaner gear for folks that need help with equipment but please be sure to reserve ahead of time through the Soul Fly Portal. Our fly shop at the lodge has flies, tippet, leaders, and a couple of fly line options but we recommend coming as prepared as possible! For more information check out our blog or reach out directly with specific questions.



It's GO Time

You've booked your trip and you're absolutely psyched, now let's make sure you're as prepared as possible to make the most out of your trip to Soul Fly Lodge. Follow these guidelines for smooth sailing:

90+ Days Out:

- Read through pre-trip materials to get an idea of what to expect and how to best prepare for your trip. Ensure your passport & travel documents are up to date & valid.
- Invoice has been received & deposit paid within 10 days of receipt to reserve your spot.
- You and every guest in your group has logged into their Soul Fly Portal and updated their information.
- Reserve airline tickets & communicate arrival and departure with Soul Fly Lodge.
- Purchase Trip Insurance and Medical Evacuation Insurance through Global Rescue (both optional but highly recommended).
- Review latest COVID-19 travel related information at soulflylodge.com
- Start group text with travel pal(s) and start visualizing all the fish you'll catch.

60 Days Out:

- Final invoice paid to secure your spot at Soul Fly Lodge.
- Begin playing with gear and make sure that you have everything you need for the upcoming trip. We have some great gear guides - please reach out for info.
- Ensure all questions about your trip are addressed.

7 Days Out:

- Double check passport and all travel documents, including checking expiration dates.
- Confirm flights are on time and check-in for travel.
- All packed & ready to go!



SOUL FLY LODGE

Contacts & Additional Resources

Please Save These Contacts:

soulflylodge@gmail.com // Lodge Email & Kitri Schaefer

kyle@soulflyoutfitters.com // Kyle Schaefer

+1 (603) 969-3050 // US Sales & Service

+1 (242) 367-8785 // Bahamas Landline

Soul Fly Journal

Visit the blog (linked above) for additional info on packing list, gear, casting, flies and tactics.

Saltwater Edge

Get dialed with all the go-to gear for your upcoming trip (linked above).