


Billfish Destinations



Marlin and sailfish are the pinnacle of big game fishing. Anglers who are willing to travel to the most productive destinations are generally going to enjoy the most success. Luck is always a factor, but through careful research and initiative we make our own luck. Many good billfish destinations have already been discovered. The locations where marlin and sailfish are caught on a consistent basis have been well documented. The best destinations have access to blue water where currents provide ample food and other conditions that attract and hold these hungry predators. Access for the traveling angler is an important consideration. A good lodge matches the most appropriate boats to the fishing and places the best captains and crews at your service. Comfortable accommodations, excellent service and good food are absolute necessities after a long day on the water. Additionally, conservation measures, such as circle hooks and catch and release are non-negotiable. My choices for uncommon billfish destinations are based on the quality of fishing and the total experience for a traveling angler.



Casa Vieja Lodge


The most consistent sailfish bite in the world is off the Pacific Coast of Guatemala. In my opinion, Casa Vieja lodge is the best fishing lodge in Guatemala, and one of the top destinations in the world. Sailfish on light tackle and especially fly is tremendous fun, especially with plentiful fish. The occasional blue marlin really adds to the excitement. How often is the release of a blue marlin on fly documented? Ask the captains in the Casa Vieja fleet, and you will be surprised.

Classic wood hulled sport fishing boats are said to raise more bill fish. Boat builders like Merrit, Rybovich and Daytona are represented in the Casa Vieja fleet. Take a 37-43 foot, classic sport fishing boat; add the latest electronics and new engines and you have a comfortable fishing platform with the speed and range to find fish. Casa Vieja's list of captains reads like a "who's who" of bill fishing, and the crews are top notch. Consistently good fishing and uncommonly convenient travel connections allow the traveling angler to schedule a three day fishing trip with just one travel day on either end. Blue water anglers, who appreciate the very best in every aspect, will not be disappointed at Casa Vieja Lodge.



Tropic Star Lodge

Tropic Star Lodge in Pinas Bay, Panama, is universally acclaimed to be the finest fishing resort in the world. Outstanding black marlin fishing from a fleet of 31' Bertrams is a good start. Add in five star accommodations with a 40 year track record and you have a destination of uncommon quality. In addition to the legendary black marlin fishing, blue and striped marlin and sailfish also swim in these waters. Over 250 IGFA records have been broken by anglers fishing from Tropic Star boats. The Zane Grey Reef, off the Pacific Coast of Panama attracts enormous schools of bait fish and is enthusiastically referred to as the black marlin capital of the world. Luxurious and remote describe the resort. The captains and crews are first rate. Traveling to Tropic Star takes two days, so scheduling a week of fishing makes sense. The lodge is open December through September. Children fish free with their parents on a one for one basis in July and August. Experience the very best in marlin fishing!



Galapagos Marlin School

For the Adventurer who seeks marlin on a fly, the Galapagos Archipelago off the coast of Ecuador offers the most uncommon destination. Three currents converge near these remote Pacific islands creating a food rich environment for striped and blue marlin. The government of Ecuador restricts all but a select group of charter fishing boats. Lodging is provided on the island of San Cristobal, where Charles Darwin performed some of his research. The fishing grounds are less than an hour running time from the boat slips. World class fly angler, Jake Jordan instructs new and experienced fly fishermen in the art of "striped marlin on a fly". Enjoy five days of fishing where evolutionary history meets modern fly fishing technology under the guidance of the most accomplished and charming instructor in the industry. "Survival of the fittest"; those who are meek and timid need not apply.