



Frontier
FLY FISHING

Cuba Tackle Check List

If there is one thing we've learnt from fly-fishing in the salt, it's simply this: buy the best gear you can afford and you won't be sorry again. The saltwater environment is totally different to the freshwater one and will take its toll on your gear.

Fly-fishing Outfits

• Rods

Tarpon

- The minimum requirement for tarpon is a 12-weight outfit.
 - We recommend Sage's SALT as our rod of choice where this fish species is concerned. Sage's MOTIVE or the Horizon TRS are more affordable options (and will also double as a backup). The beauty about Sage's 12-wt SALT rod is that they are not only extremely powerful but due to their light weight can be cast all day.

Permit

- The minimum requirement for permit is a 9- or 10-weight outfit.
 - We recommend Sage's SALT as our rod of choice where this fish species is concerned. Sage's MOTIVE or Horizon TRS are more affordable options (and will also double as a backup).

Bonefish

- The rod best suited for bonefishing is an 8- or 9-weight outfit.
 - We recommend Sage's SALT as our rod of choice where this fish species is concerned. Sage's MOTIVE or the Horizon TRS are more affordable options (and will also double as a backup).

If you were to take just two rods, we would recommend a 9-weight and a 12-weight.

• Reels

- Choose reels to match your rods. Your reels should have a dependable drag system that will not fail under pressure. Do not take inferior Eastern reels to this venue - they will fail you sooner than later and can mean the difference between landing or losing the fish of your dreams.
- We recommend Abel's Super Series reels as the reel of choice for tarpon, permit and bonefish, with the Galvan Rush or Torque, or the Ross Momentum reels as more affordable options. Your reel should hold at least 200 to 300 yards of backing.

• Lines

Tarpon, permit and bonefish

- You will only need floating lines at this venue as the fish you will be targeting will all be found in reasonably shallow to very shallow water. We recommend the Scientific Anglers Wavelength Grand Slam lines for the majority of your fishing at this venue.
- On occasion, there is the need to get the fly deep for tarpon, and we advise that taking a Scientific Anglers Sonar Titan Big Water Taper Max Sink in either a 500 or 600 grain.

• Leaders and Tippets

Tarpon

- Tarpon require extremely strong terminal tackle with good abrasion resistance. We recommend Double X fluorocarbon shock tippet with at least 100lb breaking strain. There is



no need for IGFA class leaders here unless your intention is to break an IGFA record. We fish level shock tippet as a leader.



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Permit

- We prefer the Scientific Anglers Big Game leaders testing at least 20lbs although some of our guides prefer heavier leaders.
- 20lb fluorocarbon should be used as tippet material although many of our guides prefer tippet material testing as much as 25lbs to be on the safe side, particularly when permit are the quarry.

Bonefish

- We prefer the Scientific Anglers Bonefish leaders breaking at 16lbs.
- 12lb fluorocarbon should be used as tippet material.

Clothing

It is essential that you wear the best tropical clothing available. We have experienced temperatures in the mid-30 degree Celsius range in Cuba, with associated high humidity and UV factors.

• Technical Quick Drying Shirts

Long-sleeve, highly UV resistant shirts are essential to protect you from the sun. They need to be lightweight and quick drying. We prefer the Simms Guide shirt or the Simms Solarflex shirt. Cotton is not recommended.

• Technical Quick Drying Long Pants

Do not go to the tropics with short pants! We prefer Simms quick drying, long pants. These will provide protection for your legs and coupled with gravel guards will keep irritating gravel from entering your flats boots.

• Foot Wear

On occasion, a large part of your fishing day will be spent wade-fishing the flats. Simms Flats Sneakers are the industry benchmark in flats wading boots and are without peer. Worn with a Simms neoprene- or wet wading sock you will remain comfortable all day. Simms gravel guards, worn with the Flats Sneakers, are essential if you want to keep annoying gravel and sand particles from entering your boots while wade fishing.

• Buffs

We like buffs for two reasons: they add colour to photographs and more importantly, keep the sun off your neck and face. Simms make some of the most progressive sun protection on the market, including their Sunhoods™ and Sun Gaiters™.

• Sungloves

Sungloves are an essential part of the flats' angler's tackle requirements. The best gloves are those made by Simms which are a combination sunglove/fish fighting glove.

• Hats and Caps

A good cap or wide-brimmed hat is essential on the flats. We like Simms Solar Sombrero as a wide-brimmed hat as it's lightweight. All the Simms caps have been designed with all the necessary technical requirements, including sweat bands and dark undersides to the bills.

• Polarised Sunglasses

Polarised sunglasses are a must as they will cut the surface glare off the water, allowing you to spot fish. They will also protect your eyes from the sun and any errant fly-patterns. SPOTTERS

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polarized sunglasses are without peer in the marketplace – there are no better sunglasses available.



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• **Boat Bag**

Fishing from a flat skiff means you do not need a vest or pack. We recommend that a boat bag is used for all your tackle and other items. It is easier to transport your kit to and from the marina each day and to stow everything on the boat. Although waterproof dry sacks are good for keeping items dry, they are not ideal on the skiffs where your gear needs to be organised and easily at hand. There are many different bags on the market, but we prefer the Simms, Sage and Fishpond products as they are all designed to keep water out and your essentials easily accessible.

Some of our clients like to carry a lightweight flats pack for any wade fishing they might do.

• **Flies**

Flies are a personal thing, but prior to the trip, anglers will be briefed on what flies to buy or tie. The shop also supplies a Cuba fly-pack which will cater for anglers who do not tie their own flies. We recommend that you separate the particular fly patterns into their own dedicated boxes, one for tarpon flies and one for crab patterns.

- Tarpon flies will be a combination of Toad patterns, baitfish imitations and Tarpon Bunnys. All flies should be unweighted as you will be fishing for tarpon in shallow water.
- Permit flies will be crab patterns in varying sizes and weights.
- Although there are many bonefish flies available, our guides prefer their clients to fish crab patterns as this allows you to cast at a permit that might appear while you are targeting bonefish.

• **Other items you will need**

- Saltwater resistant pliers
- Snips
- Sunscreen
- SPF30 lip balm
- Finger guards
- Spare fly-lines
- Lightweight rain jacket
- Camera
- Camera battery charger
- Alocsak (waterproof plastic bag) to keep your camera dry
- Spare camera batteries
- Passport
- Airline ticket
- Toiletries
- Cash or traveller's cheques
- Casual clothing
- Insect repellent
- Stripee Finger Guard
- Swimming trunks



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Check/Packing List



Rods	12-wt – Tarpon	
	10-wt – Permit	
	9-wt – Bonefish/Permit	
Reels	12-wt – Tarpon	
	10-wt – Permit	
	9-wt – Bonefish/Permit	
Lines	12-wt – Floating Line and Fast Sinking Line	
	10-wt – Floating Line	
	9-wt – Floating Line	
Boat Bag Contents		
Leaders and Tippet	100lb/120lb shock leader material	
	20lb Big Game leaders	
	16lb Bonefish leaders	
	12lb Fluorocarbon tippet material	
	16lb Fluorocarbon tippet material	
	20lb Fluorocarbon tippet material	
Fly Boxes	Tarpon box	
	Crab box for bonefish and permit patterns	
Accessories	Pliers	
	Nippers	
Other	Sun Gloves	
	Rain Jacket	
	Flats Sneakers, including socks and gravel guards	
	Flats Pack	
	Camera	
	Sunblock	
	Lip Balm	
	Finger Guards	
	Tape Measure	
	Hat	
	Buff/Sun Gaiter	
	Insect Repellent	
Other Items Required		
	Casual Clothing	
	Toiletries	
	Swimming Trunks (for use at the hotel)	
	Passport and Visa	
	Travel Insurance	
	International Air Tickets	
	Cash or Traveller's Cheques. The preferred currency is Euro or Pounds (NOT Dollars)	