

“You never forget the sight of that fleeting shadow in front of you, nor that fantastic flight across the flats. In fact you don't forget anything about Bonefish, they stay with you for the rest of your angling life”

-Joe Brooks (1901 – 1972)

Joe Brooks is often referred to as The Father of Modern Fly Fishing. He was an early exponent of Catch & Release. He was a writer and Fly Fisherman who also introduced Lefty Kreh to the sport.

KIRITIMATI

CHRISTMAS ISLAND (CXI)

MAY 2015



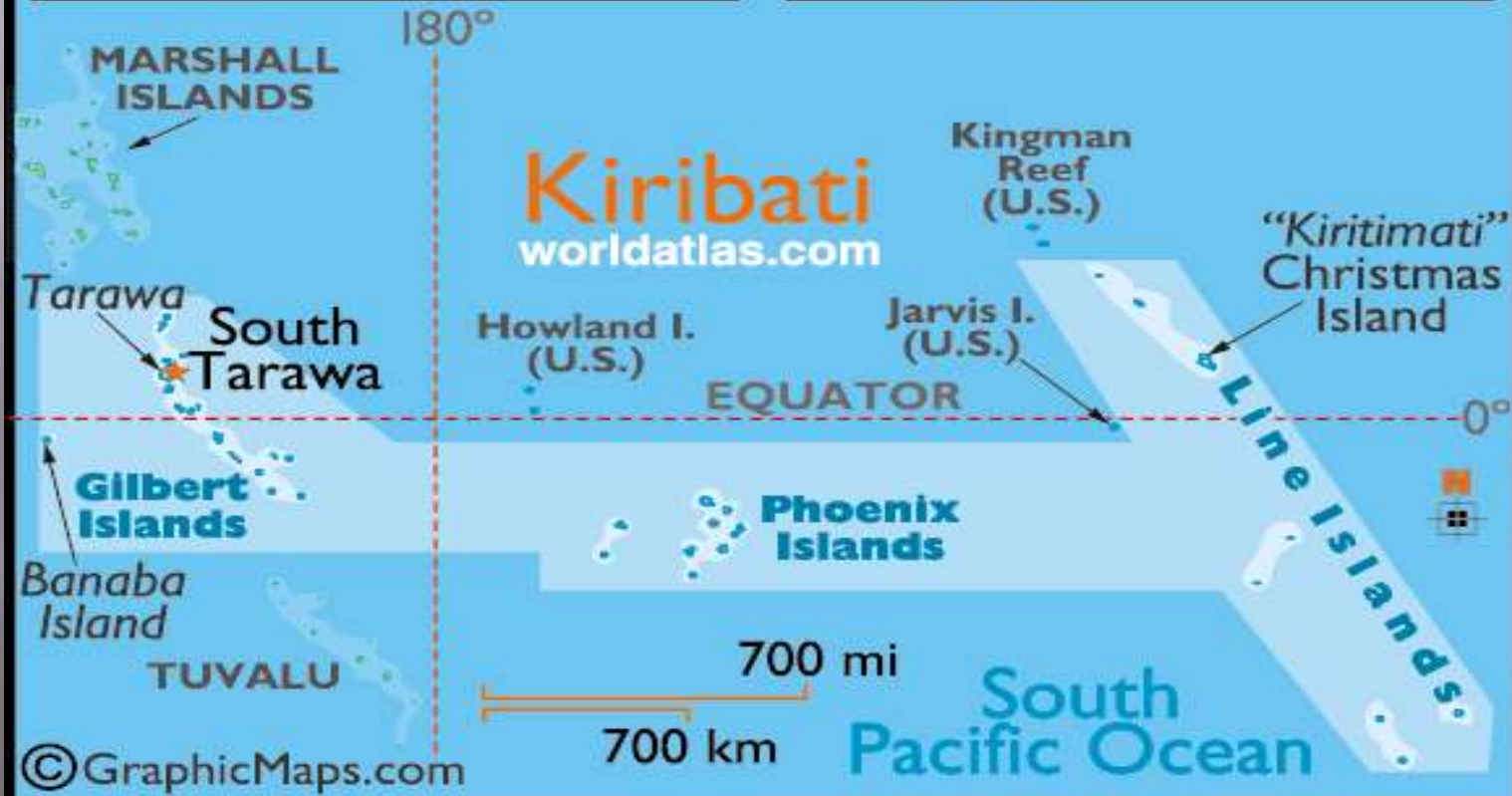
➤ Where is Christmas Island?

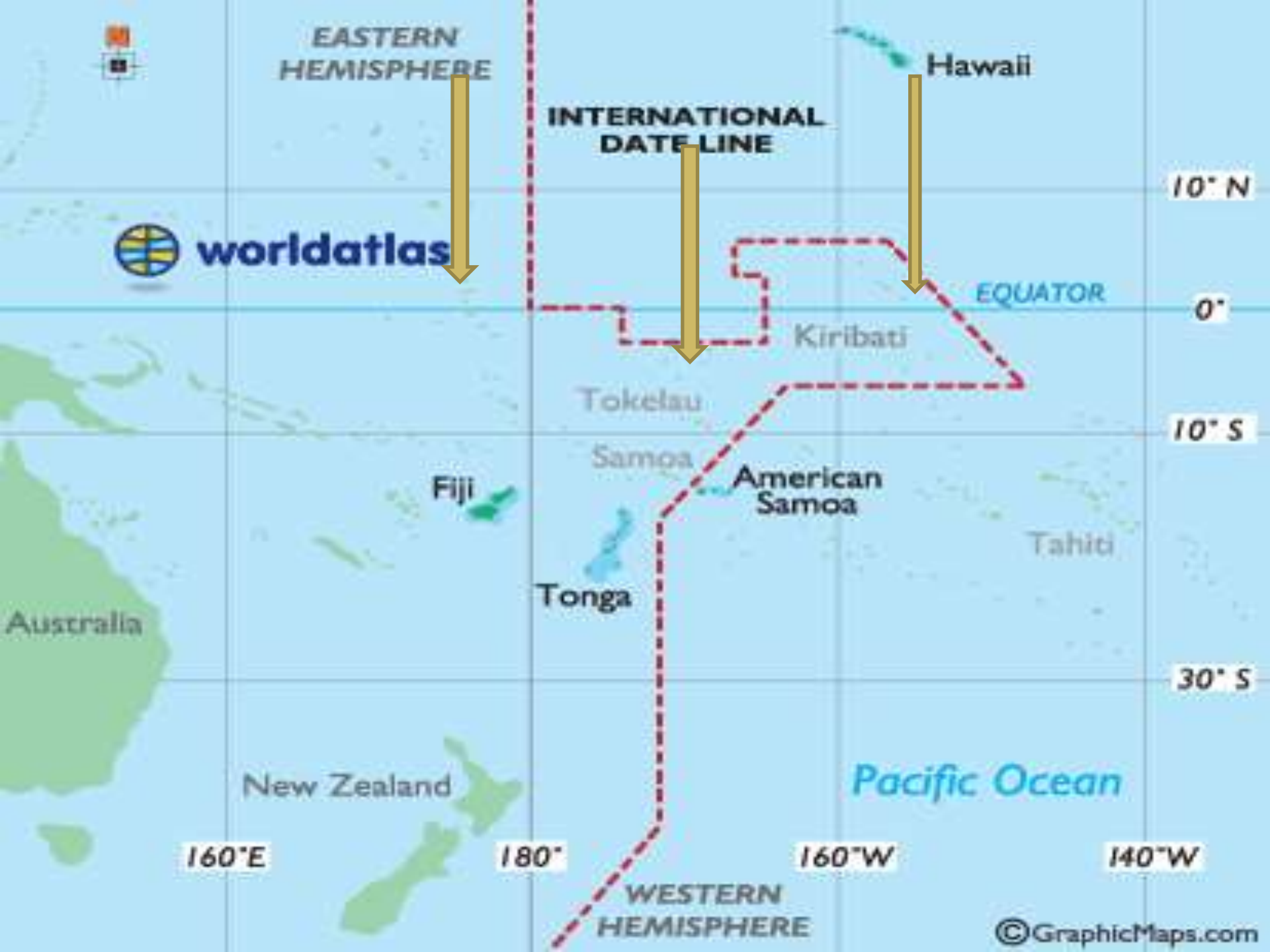
➤ and

➤ How to get there



Scale: 1:136,000,000 at 30°N
Albers Projection





Christmas Island

KIRITIMATI

➤ History



➤ Flag and Coat of Arms of Kiribati.



Good Health, Peace & Prosperity

FLYING FROM CANBERRA TO CXI

Departed Canberra **Tues** 9.50 AM

Arrived Sydney 10.45 AM

Departed Sydney at 1.00 PM

Arrived Fiji at 6.50 PM (2 Hr Time Difference from Aust)

Departed Fiji at 11.59 PM

Arrived CXI at **Wed** 6.40 AM (2 Hr Time Difference from Fiji)

Total time difference to Australia is 4 Hrs







VIP LOUNGE





WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU

▣ Cash

Take Australian Dollars as this is the currency of Kiribati. You will need cash for tips to guides and for your bar tab. Also to purchase your fishing licence on arrival. (there is only one ATM).

▣ Alcohol

Take your own spirits. Duty free from Sydney. Beers and Coke etc.. are available, as is bottled water.

Cigarettes if you are a smoker. (if not: the guides appreciate a cigarette rather than their own rollies of pipe tobacco and Pandanus leaf)

▣ Medication.

Extra medication in case you happen to be delayed leaving CXI (One flight in and one flight out per week)

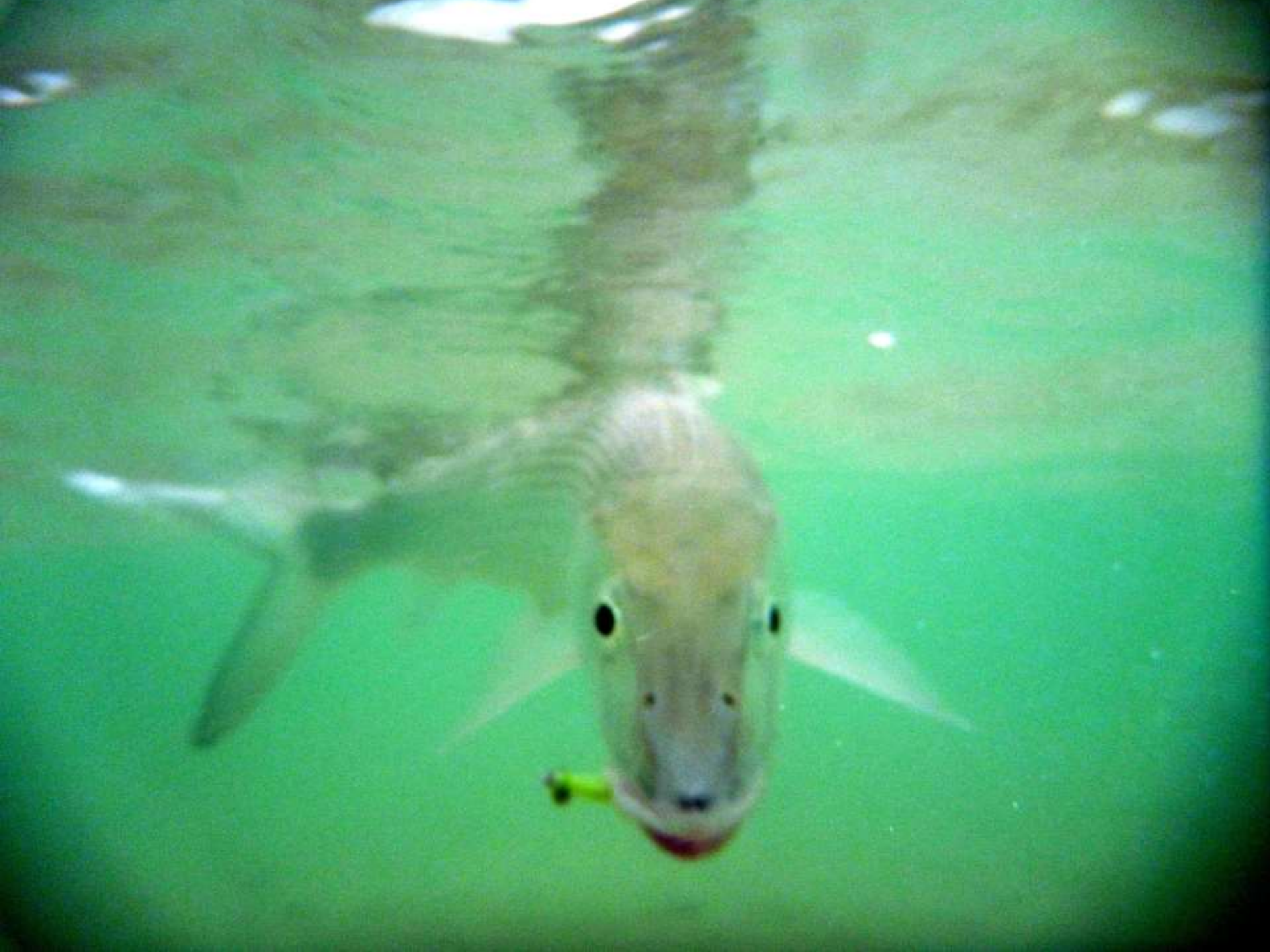
Fishing gear later





BUT

What Were We here
for?







Some Early Results



WEATHER

Three and a half days it rained intermittently. Heavy rain! However the temperature was around 30c. mostly and it was humid.

As the rain dissipated it warmed up and so did the humidity inside a rain jacket. We had jackets on as wind made the rain feel cold though a shirt.

We had the best fishing after the rain with clear skies as the Bonefish were a lot easier to see.

We were getting better at it too. (Bonefish were easier to see head on compared to side on).

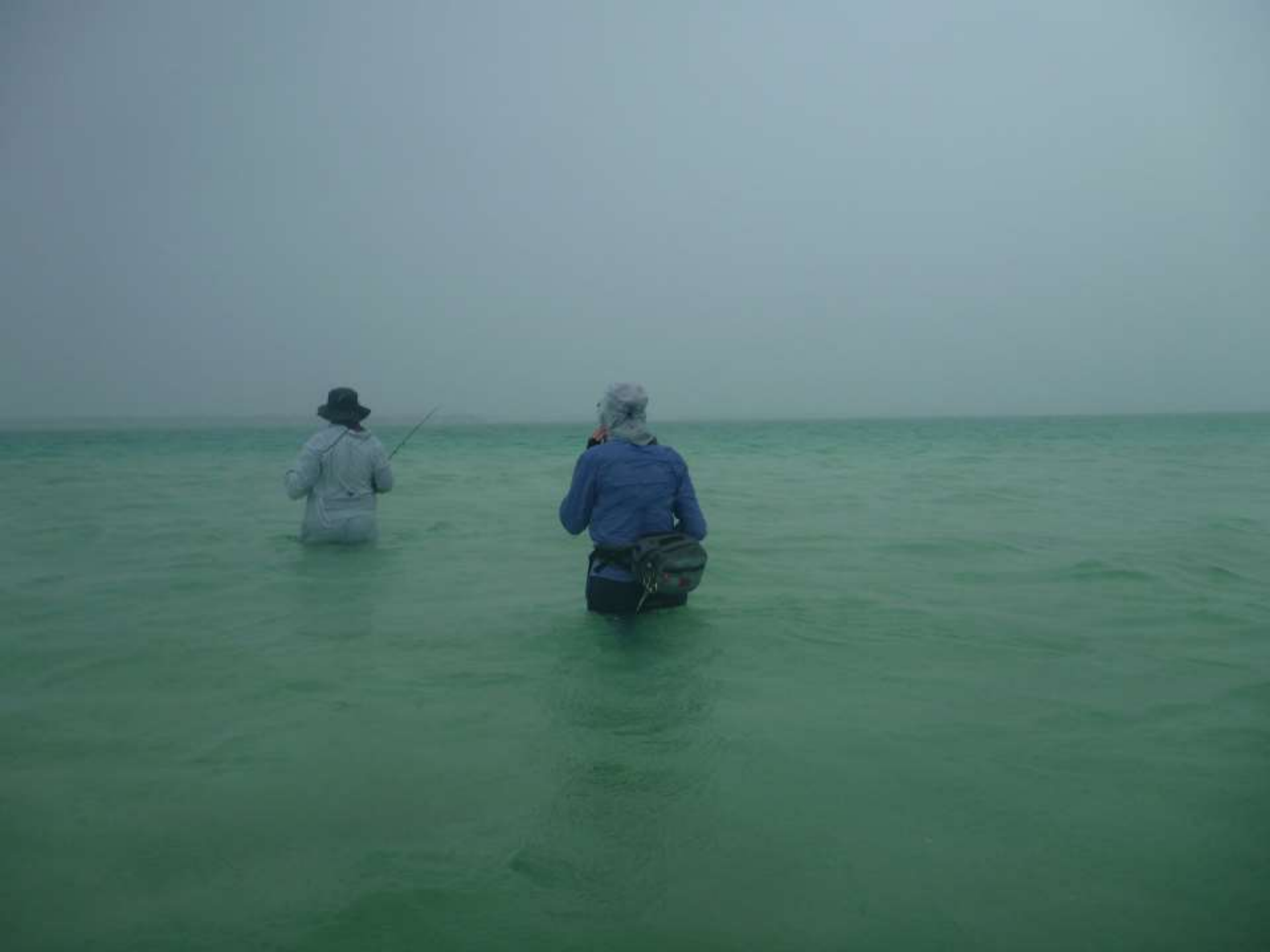
BORING?

However, the temperature is high all year round as we can see from the averages of Christmas Island.

Christmas Island	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Min (°C)	25	25	25	25	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Max (°C)	30	30	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

Here is the average precipitation in Christmas Island.

Christmas Island	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Year
Prec. (mm)	115	82	133	168	96	117	93	68	48	37	45	50	1052
Days	16	15	17	14	11	9	9	8	9	9	9	13	139







Essentials

- Thin sun protective clothing
 - 2 shirts and 2 pair of pants (preferably quick dry)
 - Rain jacket (just in case)
 - Sun gloves are a must
 - Sunglasses
 - A hat that covers everything, or a Buff. You look like a Wally, but will appreciate it at the end of the day.
 - Casual light clothing and shoes/sandals to wear after fishing and during flights.
 - Sunscreen, Lip Balm (with SPF 15/30 or better),
 - Medical supplies including waterproof bandaids
 - Antibiotics (ours was on script but ask pharmacy)
 - Waterproof camera if possible. But, definitely take a camera!
- Take a charger or spare batteries. CXI is 240V



Fly Gear at the ready

EQUIPMENT WE USED

Rods. Kerryyn took a 7wt and 9wt and mostly used the 7wt.

Phil took a 6wt and 8wt and mostly used the 8wt.

A 6wt would do for the Bonefish but we'd need bigger if hooked a big Trigger Fish or Giant Trevally.

Reels. Must be able to hold 150-200 metres of backing plus line.

Line. We both used Rio Bonefish Weight Forward Floating

Leader. "Rio Saltwater". 20lb (cut to about 6')

Tippet. "Sunline" Saltwater Fluorocarbon. 14lb (about 4')

Gear bag rather than a vest. We used the Orvis Gale Force Waist Pack. (these were costly at around \$100 but waterproof, roomy and strong) Held flies, tippet, leaders & water bottle.

Stripping Guards to protect against stripping burns & cuts

Flats Boots. Not too expensive and are light and very comfortable. The boots help keep sand out. Wear light cotton socks as your feet will be wet all day.

Flies. Kerryyn tied all flies (no flies available on the island)

We tied a Tommy Knot for fly to tippet and Uni Knot or Triple Surgeons Knot to join leader & tippet. (Your guide will do all this anyway if you wish)

Kerryn will explain the flies used

**New becomes old
after a few hook-ups!
(Notice stripping guards.)**



Our Guides. Moana & Dennis





DAY (7) TIDE 12/05/2015 DAILY FISHING PROGRAMME

ANGLERS	GUIDE	DEPARTING	TRANSPORT	FISHING AREA	TIDE JUG R/S/H/S
① PHIL KERRYN ROBIN	MOANA DENNIS RUSSELL	0700	LIX	LAGOON AREA GUIDE CHOICE BONEFISH, GTs & TRIGGERS	HIGH 1122-118 LOW - 1707-8 HIGH 2350-121
② TIM SONYA	SIMON	0600	GTO	FISHING GUIDE CHOICE	BREAKFAST 6 @ 0530 8 @ 0630
③ IAN JULIAN	ENGLISH	0600	TOP SEA	OFFSHORE JIGGING, TROLLING GUIDE CHOICE	
④ SKUCE JOOLS	NATHAN	0600	WAI KNOT	MILKFISH MORNING N/LO POINT GUIDE CHOICE	
JAMIE DANIELLE KRISTINA JOHN LISA		0700		PACKING TRUCK 10:00 am TO DK.	







Getting to
the backing
was
common.



Even a fish this
size would see
the red stuff!

The Frigate Bird. Up to 1 Metre in length and wingspan up to 2.4 Metres



Male Frigate Bird



Female Frigate Bird



Chick Frigate Bird



We had the guides fish at times with us over the week but on the last days session we had a “changeover competition”. We gave them 10 Minutes each.



The Winner; Moana - 6
Runner up; Dennis - 4

SPECIES WE CAUGHT

(OTHER THAN BONEFISH)





Yellowfin Trevally



Queenfish



Silver Trevally



Bluefin Trevally

Picasso Trigger Fish



Puffer Fish



Goatfish



Lined Shore Crab

Golden Snapper



Occasionally we would hook-up on coral.

SPECIES WE SAW

- Black Tip Shark
- Giant Trevally
- Barracouta
- Manta Ray
- Eagle Ray
- Trigger Fish
- Mullet
- Ballyhoo
- Milk Fish



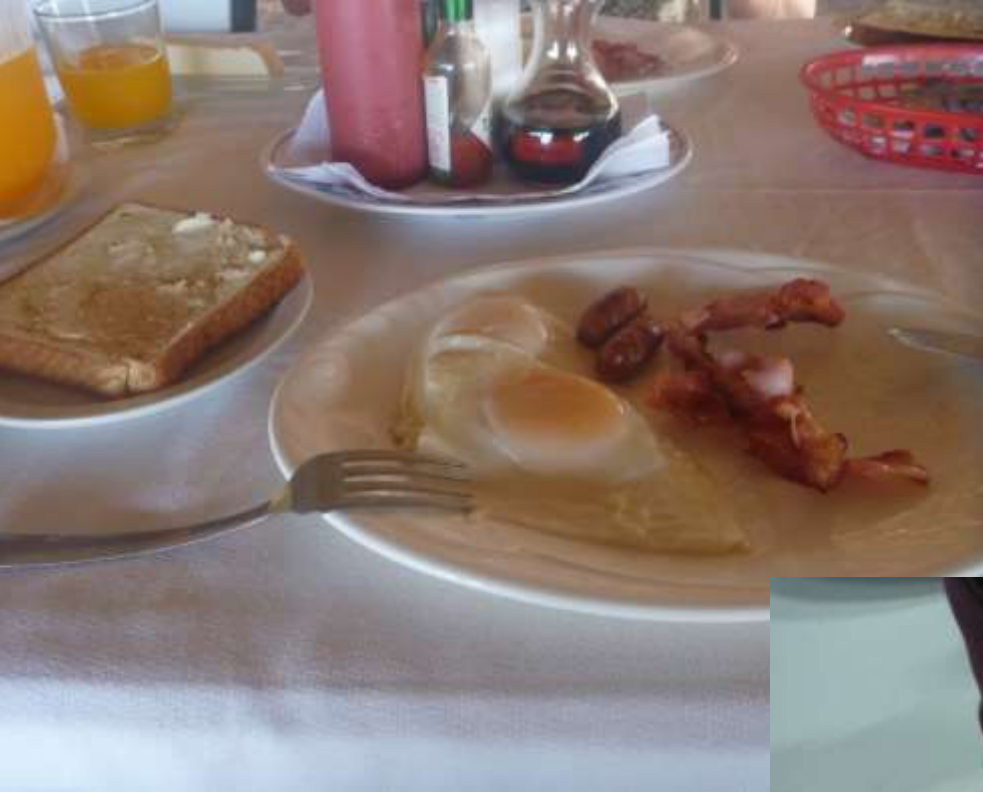


Ikari House



SERVICES

- ▣ The island is remote and hears little from the outside world other than from the visitors
- ▣ It has limited phone and internet
- ▣ No TV, radio and newspapers
- ▣ No shopping to speak of, just small store for groceries. (mostly packaged foods)
- ▣ No Duty Free shopping
- ▣ The island has a small and basic hospital and we recommend Travel Insurance.
- ▣ Don't expect a resort but you will be well fed and be comfortable in your accommodation



NAMES	BEER @ \$4	SODA @ \$2	WATER @ \$2	T/WATER @ \$4
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JAMIE

|||| |

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DANIELLE

|

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10

KRISTINA

~~||||~~ ||||

||

JOHN

~~||||~~ ||||

||||

LISA

||

|

TEKEN

|

PHIL & KERRYN

20 + ||||

|

||||

ROBIN



Tipping & Gifts

- Tipping - being so close and frequented by Americans, the guides and staff almost expect it.
- It is up to you, give whatever you think is fair and affordable, but I would think maybe \$10-20-30pp a day if the guide was good, plus boatman, the kitchen staff, and the helper/security. We all agreed to tip at the end of the day. But we were initially asked pay each on that last day, but again the amounts and timing is up to you. Allow \$300...plus
- We also took along some pencils, books and games for the staff's kids and to give to the school
- At the end of the last day we gave our bum bags and fly tying stuff to Moana and Dennis





The End of the Last Day









The others have all gone home.



Check in



Departure Lounge



HOW WE GOT THERE

- We booked the trip through Hurley's Fly Fishing Adventures (formerly Pro Angler).
- Land component was \$2750 which includes all transfers, accommodation, meals and guides. It also includes a night accommodation at Raffles in Nadi (Fiji) on the return trip.
- Airfares are separate and cost us around \$1700 from Canberra. Using a Murray's Bus direct from Canberra to Sydney Airport would be a bit cheaper.
- Airfares were arranged separately by "Explore The World" who did all the leg work coordinating flights to fit the trip. They do the bookings for Hurley's
- Seven nights and Six and a half days of fishing



- ▣ This was one of the best fly fishing experiences we have had.
- ▣ We will be going back!
- ▣ If you don't have it on your "bucket list" we hope this presentation may prompt you to put it on yours.



Thank You

Good Health, Peace & Prosperity