

BY ALBERT BATTOO
Fishing Director

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PAT FORD
GUY HARVEY
JON SCHWARTZ

The legacy of Tropic Star Lodge began over a half century ago when Texas businessman and pioneer Ray Smith embarked on a journey that would take him to the furthest reaches of a jungle paradise in Panama known as Piñas Bay, located along the Pacific coast in the Darien province. Up until that time, very few game fishermen had ever ventured into these fertile waters rumored to be home to some of the most spectacular fishing to be found anywhere in the world. It was also home to one of the rarest and most elusive sought after game-fish, “Her Majesty” the black marlin.

In 1961 Smith established a private fishing club called Club de Pesca de Panama, where for the first time anglers could hop on a commercial jet from the United States and in a few hours be fishing the calm blue waters of the Pacific Ocean in search of giant marlin, sailfish, and tuna, along with a host of other game fish that were lurking just a few miles from the club at the Zane Grey Reef. Smith spared no expense building his dream while maintaining an ecologically sensitive rain forest environment that is fiercely protected to this day.

Fifty years later, with over 350 World Records broken, Tropic Star Lodge still stands at the top of a short list of truly world-class fishing destinations, attracting anglers from the four corners of the earth in search of an opportunity to test their angling skills against the oceans most prized game fish. Owners Terri and Mike Andrews, along with a dedicated staff, have continued to promote conservation of our ocean’s many species after taking over the helm from Terri’s dad, Conway Kittredge, in 1997. Terri ran the lodge for her father since the early eighties and married her husband Mike at the lodge in 1991. Together they have been the CEOs of the Tropic Star Group while raising their son Zane in Panama. They are often quoted as saying, “We want the lodge to be around for another 50 years for our grandchildren’s children to enjoy.” So what do dedicated owners do to make sure this is a reality? Offer a Kid’s Club Special where you can bring your next generation of conservation minded anglers (18 years and under) for free during the months of June - August. See website for details.

continued on page 57



Tropic Star Lodge:

The Bucket List of Fishing Destinations



Oasis in The Jungle

Your fishing adventure begins.



The TSL treatment. Or Sip and Dip.





Kathleen Sclafani is in roosterfish heaven.

The accommodations, dining and attention to every detail sets Tropic Star Lodge in a class all by itself. Imagine being awakened with a piping hot cup of freshly brewed coffee, Panamanian style, then making your way down to the atmospheric dining room just as the morning sun is creeping over the lush jungle mountains where a breakfast with all the bells and whistles await you. Next, board one of our fleet of sixteen custom 31-foot Bertram fishing boats and you're off to catch the fish of your dreams in big game waters the moment you leave the dock. The first run is usually to the Zane Gray Reef in search of bait where acres of bonito and skip jacks are busting water on the surface. It truly is a magical place.

So what's biting at Tropic Star? Try multiple shots at black marlin or blue marlin up to 1,000 lbs. striped marlin, sailfish, and huge yellow fin tuna so powerful that once you hook one you will feel like you've snagged Moby Dick. Some of the world's biggest dorado also prowl these nutrient rich waters and it's not uncommon to catch a 60+ lb. fish on any given day. Inshore species include giant roosterfish and cubera snapper, wahoo, grouper, and amberjack just to name a few. The scenery is absolutely breathtaking as you troll your live baits along the lush Panamanian coastline. I guarantee you'll be shooting photos of the surrounding landscape, along with that trophy fish that will be at the other end of your fishing rod.

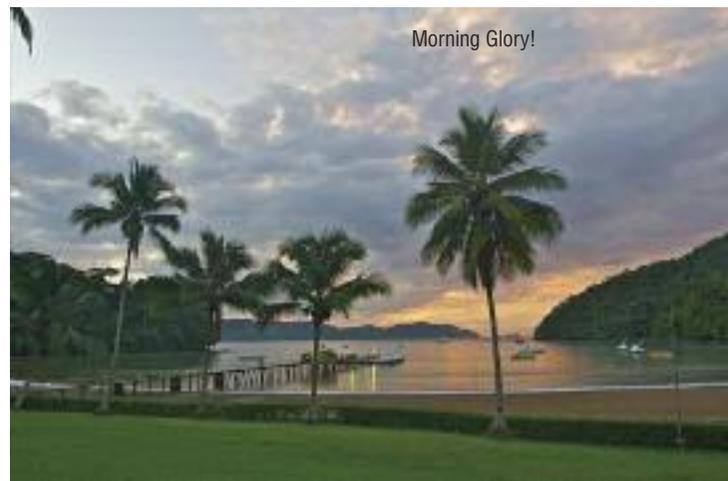
The crews at Tropic Star are among the best in the world and have fished the waters of Piñas Bay all their lives. They want to catch fish just as much as you do and work hard to keep the rods bent. Some days there's action all day and other days can test your patience, but one thing for sure, it's never dull for long in these productive waters when all of a sudden here she comes; a black marlin suddenly explodes on one of the offerings and line begins to scream off the reel. Adrenaline begins to pump through your veins and the battle is on. This is what you have waited for all your life when you look off in the distance and catch a glimpse of your giant marlin leaping thirty feet in the air grey-hounding toward China.

So how do you get to Tropic Star Lodge? Several major airlines fly direct from US cities and Panama's own COPA Airlines (affiliated with UNITED Airlines) flies direct from Boston, Chicago, Ft. Lauderdale, Houston (UNITED), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New Jersey (UNITED), New York, Orlando, Tampa, and Washington DC and very soon out of Denver(United). COPA is also "the hub of the

continued on page 60



Four course dining in paradise. Or Where the freshest fish is served!



Morning Glory!



Courtney Olsen is one happy camper.

Poppy Brownlee lands her trophy tuna.



Tropic Stars in-flight entertainment



Catch & release cubera snapper



Americas” and has direct flights from six countries in Central America, five countries in South America, Mexico and the eight Caribbean Islands. It also has direct flights from Canada’s Montreal and Toronto. AMERICAN AIRLINES flies out of Dallas and Miami and DELTA direct from Atlanta. Europe is serviced with direct flights to Panama from Spain on IBERIA, KLM direct from Amsterdam and Air France direct from Paris.

From the moment you land in Panama City you are treated like royalty. Professional meet and greet personnel waiting at the plane take you through customs and immigration while collecting your luggage as you sit in the airport’s V.I.P lounge sipping on your favorite beverage. From there you are taken to your hotel for your overnight in Panama City.

Panama City has some of the largest shopping malls in Central America and numerous sightseeing opportunities. If it’s your first time in Panama, a tour of the Panama Canal is highly recommended. When the sun disappears below the horizon, Panama City comes alive. The nightlife is spectacular with great world-class restaurants near your hotel. After dinner, try your luck at one of the many casinos located all over the city. The next morning your driver will take you to the domestic airport to board a chartered plane for the 55-minute flight to the lodge where our world class staff will take care of your every need. There is also plenty to do on arrival day including a hike to the beautiful white sand beach on the property, kayaking, and paddle boarding. But if you just want to enjoy our freshwater pool surrounded by palm trees and jungle fauna while enjoying a margarita or piña colada, that’s fine too! Our resident masseuse is also available to loosen up those sore muscles and relieve the stress you left behind, as you begin your Tropic Star Adventure.

Once you have visited Tropic Star Lodge you will understand why hundreds of guests return year after year not only to experience the spectacular fishing opportunities that await you offshore and inshore, but also for the land package. The friendly staff treats you like family and are willing to go the extra mile to make your stay a memorable one. When it’s time to go back to the real world you will be thinking not only about the trophy fish you landed and the friends you made during your stay, but also how soon you can come back to experience it all over again. Tropic Star truly is the Bay of Dreams and has earned the right to be called the greatest fishing destination in the world. John Wayne loved it here and you will too!

continued on page 63

35-year TSL veteran, Rafael Monjo nails a trophy dorado.



Poetry in Motion. Or sailfish showing off her beauty!



Her Majesty the black marlin awaits you or marlin charge!



Vela, Vela Vela!!!



Black marlin magic!

We hope to see you soon. Please stop by and say hello at our SCI booths in Las Vegas. Tropic Star Lodge is very proud to be one of the recipients of the 2011 McElroy Award, the first one ever to be given for Fishing Conservation.

For more information about booking a trip of a lifetime to Tropic Star Lodge, please call our reservations office in Orlando, Florida at 800-682-3424 or 407-843-0125. You can also visit us online at www.tropicstar.com or send us an email at bonnie@tropicstar.com. Our reservation office is run by ladies who have been to the lodge. They will be happy to answer any of your questions and send you our new updated video.



Kids Club anglers



Bull Dolphin grows huge in Panama!