

What is the fishing like?

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The waters around Ambergris Caye offer a great variety of saltwater fishing. Most types of fish, including bone fish and tarpon, can be caught year-round. Within 15 minutes of leaving the dock, you can be fishing in tidal flats or in blue water hundreds of feet deep.

Cost for charters depends on the type of fishing (reef, deep sea, or bone and tarpon), the size of the boat, number of anglers, time of year and current bank balance of the captain, but expect to pay around US\$150 to \$255 per person for a full day's reef and deep sea fishing trip, including bait and tackle, beer, soft drinks and lunch.

For further information on fishing around Ambergris Caye and Belize, and for current information on and links for fishing guides, click here: <https://ambergriscaye.com/fishing/>

| Likely Catch | Peak Season | Overview | Locations |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Tarpon | May - September July and August best in waters around Ambergris Caye and Turneffe Atoll | Tarpon fishing is seasonal as tarpon are migratory; after spawning, the larvae move via tidal currents into the backwaters and estuaries where they remain until they reach approx. 20 lbs. and join their friends offshore. These juveniles make for excellent fly fishing in the mangrove lagoons behind Ambergris Caye. | Inshore waters around mangroves and brackish estuaries, creeks, and channels; also found in atoll lagoons. Larger individuals are usually found in the outside shallow reef edge and at the reef channels. |
| Snook | November - March | Can be found amongst mangroves; cannot survive water temperature below 60 F so during cold fronts they generally move into the shallower creeks and mangroves where warmer water dominates. | Coastal marine and brackish waters (may also enter freshwater areas). |
| Bonefish | All months | Come to the flats to feed on shrimp in approx. a foot of water. Larger individuals found in October. | Mangrove-lined lagoons and flats, river mouths, and interior waters of atolls; best action reported around Ambergris Caye and Turneffe Islands |
| Permit | February - November March - May Best | Migration begins in February; catch and release only. | Flats close to reef and in the lagoon and river channels and holes. |
| King Mackerel | April - June | Best caught via trolling and spin casting; travel in small schools | Near surface in open water inside and outside the reef. |
| Sail Fish | January - June particularly the week of the full moon in April and May | Heavily dependent on the warm water; migration occurs due to slight temperature changes in water. | Found outside the reef right along the drop off. |
| Wahoo | All year. Best months are November thru March | Travels single but also found in small schools; good sport and eating fish. | Found near surface in open water outside the reef to a depth of 650 feet. |
| Bonito | April - June | Suspected to support a nine month season in the gulf of Honduras. | Open waters beyond the reef. |
| Blackfin Tuna | All months | The strongest fish in salt water. Schools reported at Rocky Point and Northern Caye Caulker. | Found near surface in open water outside the reef to a depth of 650 feet. |
| Dorado/Mahi/Dolphin | May - October | Migratory following warm waters. Plenty when the seaweed is floating in. | Found near surface in open water outside the reef to a depth of 650 feet. |
| Marlin | November - June | Migratory following warm waters. | Found near surface in open water outside the reef to a depth of 650 feet. |
| Grouper | December - April | Most groupers spawn 3-5 days following the full moons during this time. | Found in coral reefs and other hard bottom areas at depths of 30 - 300 feet. |
| Barracuda | All months | Eaten locally. | Mangrove shores, reef and open water. |
| Cubera Snapper | All months | Ideal for night fishing. | Reefs and rocky bottoms in depth of up to 150 feet. |
| Gray Snapper | All months | Ideal for night fishing. | Mangroves, sea grass beds, shallow rocky areas and coral reefs to depths of 60 feet. |
| Mutton Snapper | All months | Coveted fish for consumption. | Mangrove shores, lagoons, and rivers over sandy bottoms containing plants; also found over reefs |
| Jack Crevalle | February - November | Runs in schools of a dozen to a hundred individuals. Very strong fish. | Shallow flats near shore; also found in open waters and rivers. |

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