

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BlueWater Readers' Trip 2012 Prince Edward Island, Canada

Chasing Giant Bluefin Tuna

Summary

Over the past year (particularly since our exposé of Canada's phenomenal giant tuna fishing in BlueWater Issue 88), the handful of charter boats serving the tuna fishery in Canada have been inundated with enquiries. The quality operations are now fully booked for the peak times.

Thankfully the best boats and the best captains, at the very best location, have been reserved for your trip of a lifetime.

Except for your flights to and from Prince Edward Island (PEI), pretty much everything else has been arranged and is included in the trip price.

This includes your:

- gamefishing charter fees
- spectacular accommodation
- transfers to and from the PEI airport
- transfers to and from the boat each day
- breakfasts and lunches.



Captains Jamie and Troy Bruce

Dinner meals and drinks will be of your choice and expense, so you can choose from a variety of local restaurants. The local speciality is lobster – with claws – which are simply fantastic!

Dates

Your trip will commence with your pick-up at the PEI airport on 27 August 2012. You will then be taken to your accommodation on the northern side of the island. The following day, you will start the first of six full days of gamefishing. You may at any time elect to take a day off for sightseeing (at your own cost), or you may fish all six days.

Fishing will be every day from 28 August to 2 September inclusive. A typical fishing day starts very early and finishes late in the afternoon. The Bruce Brothers certainly give excellent value!

On 3 September, you will be taken back to the PEI airport to start your journey home.

Transfers

A mini-bus has been arranged for your transfers to and from the airport, as well as your daily transfers to and from the boat.

Flights

You need to arrange and pay for your own flights to ensure that you are on PEI on 27 August, ready for pick-up at the airport for transfer to your accommodation.

You could book your flights through Deby Clayton who is a travel consultant with Stem Travel in Sydney (a member of the Travelscene American Express Group, licence number 2TA6102). Deby is booking my flights and I know she'd be happy to coordinate your flights with the others in the group so you all meet the transfer bus and each other. She can offer very competitive fares. Flights to PEI return from Australia are typically around A\$3,000. You can contact Deby on (02) 8067 0136, or email deby@stemtravel.com

If you choose to organise your own flights, you will need to liaise with Capt Jamie Bruce (brucebros.charters@hotmail.ca) to ensure your flights arrive at a time suitable to meet the transfer bus.

Accommodation

Your accommodation has been reserved at The Inn at St Peters—a spectacular venue with beautiful surroundings. Check it out at: www.innatstpeters.com

Rooms are twin share, with two double or queen sized beds in each room. If you would prefer your own room, it may be possible to organise. However, you will need to get back to us immediately as The Inn is booking out fast. (Additional charges will be incurred.)

With all participants being housed in the one venue, it is sure to be a party every night with lots of fun and stories!

Charter fishing

You will be fishing with some of the best tuna boats and skippers in Canada. Captains Jamie and Troy Bruce run *Tuna Clipper* and *White Water* – as shown and mentioned in BlueWater Issue 88. They also have a third top-quality boat on standby should we need an additional vessel.

The trip has been priced and arranged for participants to fish in teams of four anglers per boat. This will ensure boats are not overcrowded, and that everyone has a great chance to catch a giant bluefin.

The first four participants to pay for the trip in full will be allocated to the first boat. The second four participants to pay in full will make up the second team, and the same again for the third boat. Because there are only three boats available, a maximum of 12 anglers will be able to participate in this Readers' Trip.

Throughout the trip, you will be accompanied by BlueWater editor, Tim Simpson who will be gathering material for a subsequent BlueWater feature about the trip.

PLEASE NOTE: If bookings are insufficient to complete a team of four, the participants on the final boat will have the options of a full refund or paying a proportionally higher fee to fish with fewer anglers (which would also give you more chances to catch fish).

All gamefishing equipment will be supplied. Although you are welcome to bring your own heavy tackle if you want to, it won't necessary. Bruce Brothers Charters have quality game chairs and quality heavy-tackle chair outfits. It is likely that heavy stand-up tackle will also be available should you wish to punish yourself.

As explained in detail in Issue 88, the Canadian tuna fishing regulations are very strict, and have been modified each season in recent years as they fine-tune and look for the most effective system.

Last season, charter boats on PEI were allowed to catch only one tuna per day—even if that fish was released, as almost all are. This rule is likely to remain for our trip this year. However...a loophole was recently discovered which may enable two fish to be caught and released each day on each boat.

The regulations allow charter boats to work two half-day charters per day, with a single tuna catch allowed for each charter. Since the grounds are usually only a few miles from port, it is quite easy for a boat to return to the harbour then turn around and head out on the second of their half-day charters. This should enable every participant an even better chance of hooking at least one huge tuna. Of course, as with all fishing, nothing can be guaranteed!

Cost

Your cost to participate in this trip of a lifetime is \$3,965 Canadian dollars (plus your airfares). The price is in Canadian dollars as it is to be paid directly to Capt Jamie Bruce of Bruce Brothers Charters in Canada, not to BlueWater. This will cover your Canadian costs. (CAD\$3,965 equates to about A\$3,700.)

Apart from your flights, the only additional charges expected are for your evening meals and drinks, any gratuities, and personal expenses.

Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of CAD\$800 Canadian must be paid to Bruce Brothers Charters no later than 30 March.

The full balance of CAD\$3,165 will need to be paid no later than 15 June. Failure to pay the full balance by this date will result in the forfeit of your deposit and position on the trip.

Should you cancel your booking before 31 July, Bruce Brothers Charters will refund 50% of monies paid above the price of the non-refundable deposit.

It is strongly recommended that you take travel insurance to cover any loss should something prevent you from making the trip.

Secure your position

To confirm your interest:

1. telephone or email the BlueWater office as soon as possible. You can reach us on (07) 5501 5400, or via email bw.qld@bluwatermag.com.au
2. email Capt Jamie Bruce (brucebros.charters@hotmail.ca) to arrange transfer of your deposit to secure your position. Only when Jamie confirms your payment will you be considered a participant. Jamie is very helpful.

The website for Bruce Brothers Charters is www.peibluefintunacharters.com

PLEASE NOTE: The boats and the accommodation are currently being held for this trip with goodwill, by small business owners totally reliant on the certainty of their bookings.

I very much look forward to joining you on this incredible trip. It will be great fun and something you will remember for the rest of your life.

All the best,
Tim Simpson
Editor
BlueWater