

## GUATEMALA SAILFISH



It's no secret that Guatemala is heavily regarded as the sailfish capital of the world. Anglers from all over dream of the day they can get on a boat in these rich-blue waters and experience everything that this world-class fishery has to offer. With the year that 2020 was, and the toll that COVID-19 took on our event as well as CLUB Members, there was a time that we weren't sure whether this trip was going to happen in 2021. However, we adjusted, followed all the protocols, did all the tests, and before we knew it, the anglers dreams soon became reality.

I have to say, I've never experienced service quite like this in all my travel around the world. From all the pre-work preparing us for the trip to pick up at the airport with cold drinks in the bus to the reception at the lodge, this was truly best in class. We were there for the fishing, but the way the staff made us feel was truly special. There was no detail left unturned and they truly made us feel welcome and a part of their family. Their attention to detail was noticeable and every guest commented about how special they felt.

As for the fishing, we all hoped it would be good, but what transpired on the first day really put Guatemala into perspective for us. On day one alone, we raised 208 sailfish and caught/released 130 between four boats. Tired was an understatement after eight hours of fighting several 90-150 lb fish. For many CLUB Members, this was their first time deep-sea fishing and they got a show for the ages. Hookup after hookup, doubles, triples, and even quadruples, the group got it all. In the boat I was on that day, a couple of CLUB Members who've been all over the world on SOA and EXP events with us both commented that they've never had so much fun before. Upon arriving back at the lodge, as soon as the gate opened, the staff was there waiting with cold drinks and big smiles. An excellent touch to a fantastic day of fishing. The food was absolutely incredible and all the guests kept commenting about how this was some of the best "camp food" they've had. From fresh Mahi Mahi to the best chicken-wing appetizers we'd ever had, we didn't go hungry.

The next two days slowed down a bit to "normal" fishing as we were so spoiled from day one. Every night, laughter filled the open-air dining room and fishing stories were told for hours. I can't remember an event when I noticed just how happy CLUB Members were. Maybe it was the state of the world, and how they were all just excited to be back outdoors enjoying some time fishing. Regardless, this event was one for the books. The fishing was phenomenal, just as the food, staff and lodging were. We will be coming back every year as long as they will have us, and for any CLUB Member reading this thinking about going, just do it....you won't be disappointed.

Adam Bender  
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