

# 10-Day Outer Islands Expedition – Sample Itinerary

## **Day 1 – Mahé → African Banks**

Depart 15:00 from Eden Island Marina. Troll productive channels past Silhouette and North Island for Yellowfin, Wahoo, Dorado, Sailfish, and Dogtooth. Overnight steam into the northern Amirantes.

## **Day 2 – African Banks**

You wake up on one of the most productive offshore banks in the Amirantes, a remote plateau that conjures up stories of legendary GTs, Dogtooth, Yellowfin, Wahoo and Sailfish. Early-morning topwater feeds, strong Dogtooth presence on the deeper edges, and GTs along reef ridges.

Jigging, popping, and trolling throughout the day.

**Overnight:** Anchor in the lagoon.

## **Day 3 – Remire Drop-Off**

Work colour lines and currents for Yellowfin, Wahoo, Sailfish, Dorado, GTs, Dogtooth, and Amberjack. Casting, jigging, and trolling as we target bait concentrations along the drop-offs.

## **Day 4 – St Joseph & D'Arros (Offshore Edges)**

Heavy jigging for Dogtooth, Groupers, Snapper, and Amberjack along steep reef structure.

Afternoon popping and trolling around outer reef pressure points for Wahoo, GTs, and Yellowfin.

## **Day 5 – St Joseph Lagoon + Offshore**

St Joseph is widely recognised for its bonefish, Indo-Pacific permit, GTs and triggerfish on the flats.

### **Inside the atoll (if tides suit):**

- Bonefish and Indo-Pacific permit on the flats
- GTs pushing onto shallow edges
- Triggerfish tailing over coral patches

### **Optional flats/fly fishing blocks**

**Afternoon:** Sail back out and work the outer reef and nearby bluewater for Yellowfin, Sailfish, Wahoo, and Dorado.

## **Day 6 – Poivre Atoll**

Poivre is famous in the fishing world for “The Kennels”, a section of reef associated with record-class Dogtooth Tuna, with reported fish in the 70+ kg range, as well as outstanding fishing for GTs. Yellowfin and Wahoo work the current lines and deeper edges throughout the day.

**Evening:** Usually a calm lagoon anchorage with time to enjoy a sundowner.

## **Day 7 – Desroches Lagoon & Surrounds**

Inside: GTs, Bluefin Trevally, and Triggerfish along coral flats and channels.

Outside: Yellowfin, Dogtooth, Sailfish, Wahoo, and Marlin along deep edges and drop-offs.

## **Day 8 – Amirantes Offshore Drop-Offs**

A full day drifting major contours and offshore structure for mixed pelagics. Dogtooth jigging, Wahoo and Sailfish on the troll, Yellowfin on birds and bait. A mobile day reacting to life on the sounder and surface.

## **Day 9 – Owen Bank**

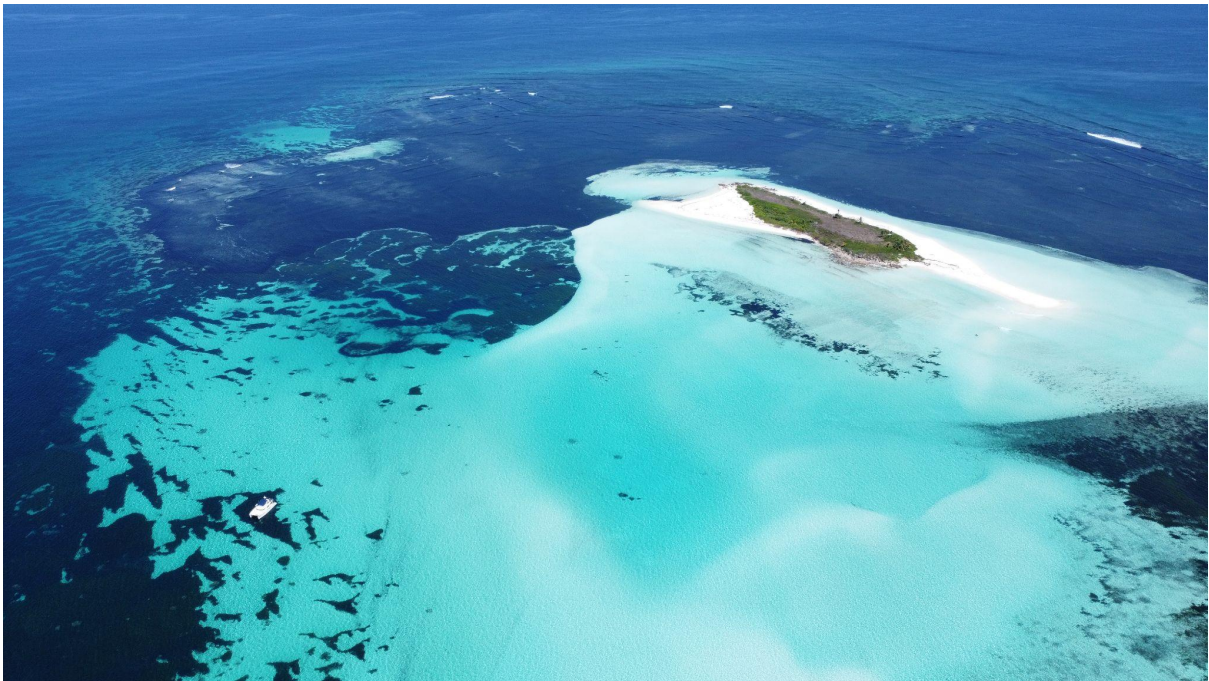
Remote, wild and productive. Fish dawn to dusk for Yellowfin, Dogtooth, Wahoo, Sailfish, Dorado, and Jobfish. High-energy jigging and topwater, with big pelagics frequently seen crashing bait.

## **Day 10 – Return to Mahé**

Depart around 18:00 for the overnight run. Arrive approximately 08:00 the next morning — arms tired, gear salty, memory cards full.



## A Typical Day at African Banks – Sunrise to Sunset



*One of the most remote, energetic, and productive fisheries in the entire Amirantes.*

African Banks is where days start early, the ocean is alive, and every drift or cast feels like it could turn into chaos in seconds. Here's what a full day looks like from the moment the sun hits the horizon.

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## 05:00 – Wake-Up Call: Coffee, Tackle, and the First Signs of Life

The boat is already rocking gently on anchor inside the lagoon.

You hear the kettle, the clatter of assist hooks, and low voices as everyone starts rigging.

**You step outside and immediately see:**

- Flying fish skittering
- Birds forming the first loose groups
- A soft orange line forming behind the ocean

Crew is prepping:

- Poppers and stickbaits get fresh leaders
- Jigs selected based on the morning's drift plan
- Trolling lures checked and teasers positioned just in case

Hot coffee. Fresh fruit. A quick bite.

The day begins.

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## 05:45 – First Drift of the Day (Usually for Dogtooth or Topwater Yellowfin)

As soon as the sky brightens, we position the boat on the first drift over one of the reef edges or underwater ledges where predators hunt early.

Typical action this time of day:

- **Yellowfin busting bait on the surface**
- **Dogtooth hitting jigs on the drop**
- **GTs cruising shallow whitewater edges**

Morning water is usually glassy, making it **prime topwater time**.

This is when anglers often get their **first explosive hookup** of the day.

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## 07:30 – Working the Banks: Popping, Jigging, Casting

Once the first light frenzy settles, we start rotating through zones based on tide, current, and where the life is:

### Common tactics:

- Long popper throws along reef faces
- Fast-metal jigging 200–400g over deeper edges
- Casting stickbaits at bait balls
- Short trolling spreads when relocating

### Common species you'll encounter:

- GTs
- Yellowfin
- Wahoo
- Dogtooth Tuna
- Bluefin Trevally
- Sailfish tracking bait on the edges

African Banks often fires most **between sunrise and 10:00**.

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## 10:30 – Move to the Next Ledge / Structure

We reposition to new structure depending on current flow.

Could be:

- A shallow bommie holding GTs
- A deeper step where Dogtooth sit in ambush
- A current line full of birds and bait
- A channel edge perfect for stickbaits

This is where the **mid-morning surprise fish** usually comes from—  
a random Sailfish on a popper, a huge Jobfish on jig, or a Wahoo that decides to ruin your lure.

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## 12:00 – Lunch at Anchor (or a Drift Lunch if the Bite Is Hot)

Quick break.

The boat anchors in calmer water inside the lagoon, or if the fishing is firing, lunch happens between drifts.

Anglers refuel. Crew resets.

You relax on deck watching turquoise water around you—  
no buildings, no other boats, just the deep blue all the way around.

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## 13:00 – Afternoon Pelagic Session

Afternoons at African Banks usually mean:

- **Birds working tight**
- **Yellowfin pushing bait downwind**
- **Wahoo cruising the edges**
- **Sailfish free-jumping and showing themselves**

This is a good time to:

- Cover water with a **trolling spread**
- Switch to lighter jigs for more action
- Cast stickbaits at working birds
- Target Wahoo on speedier retrieves

Afternoons can be **slower or absolutely explosive**, depending on wind, current, and bait.

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## 15:30 – The Afternoon Popping Window

As the heat drops and the shadows stretch, predators like GTs and Dogtooth become active again along structure.

This is one of the best moments of the day to cast:

- Big poppers
- Slow-sweeping stickbaits
- Subsurface sinking models

Hookups here tend to be **violent**.  
You're tired... but so are the fish.  
It becomes a battle of willpower.

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## 17:00 – Final Drift of the Day

The sun starts falling and the ocean turns gold.

We do one or two final drifts over high-percentage zones for:

- Dogtooth
- GTs
- Yellowfin
- Wahoo on the edges

It's a quieter, calmer time... until suddenly it isn't.  
Big Dogtooth often bite in the last light.

This is when some of the **trip's largest fish** are hooked.

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## 18:00 – Anchor Back Inside the Lagoon

We return to the sheltered lagoon for sunset.

Typical scene:

- Anglers rinsing off their gear
- Crew prepping dinner

- Cold drinks on deck
- Everyone replaying the day's chaos
- A sky full of stars beginning to appear

There are no lights, no noise, no people—just the ocean and the atoll.

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## **19:00 – Dinner and Stories**

A full dinner onboard.

Stories from the day, reliving fights, near misses, surprise catches.

Laughter.

Tired bodies.

Charged batteries.

You sleep well.

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## **21:00 – Early Bedtime (Because the Next Dawn Is Coming Fast)**

Lines, leaders, and jigs get re-rigged before bed.

You fall asleep to the sound of water on the hull, knowing you're waking up tomorrow to do it all again.