

Rancho Caracol

The Ultimate Mexico Hunting Experience

Frequently-Asked Questions

Thank you for requesting more information on our spectacular wingshooting lodge. Here is a list of our most frequently asked questions, which should give you a good overview of what to expect during your Rancho Caracol adventure.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call us at (888) 246-3164, or contact us at info@ranchocaracol.com. You may also visit us online at www.ranchocaracol.com

We look forward to seeing you here at the ranch!

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I. Travel

How do I get to Rancho Caracol?

The ranch is located approximately 150 miles south of Brownsville, Texas. The most convenient point of departure is easy-to-reach Harlingen (TX) International Airport. From there, you have a number of options to reach the ranch:

- 1) Normally, we pick you up in a van and take you directly to the ranch. This usually takes from 3 to 3-1/2 hours.
- 2) You may also charter a 50-minute plane trip from Harlingen to an airstrip just minutes from the ranch. Charter flights are available for \$480 per person, round trip (4-person minimum.) Please call us at (888) 246-3164 for more information.
- 3) You may fly your own plane into Mexico. We offer two convenient options for guests who prefer to fly their own planes into Mexico:

For King Air and smaller aircraft, you can fly directly to a nearby airstrip. From there, we'll pick you up and take you on the short drive to the ranch.

- The coordinates to the 4,265 ft. Big Bass airstrip are: N24 01, W98 41

Please contact our charter service, Amigo Aviation, at (956) 425-4069 with any questions regarding airstrip condition, etc.

Please note that per Mexican law, you will have to stop and clear customs in the town of Matamoros before landing at Big Bass. Someone from our office will meet you in Matamoros to help you through the process quickly and easily.

For aircraft larger than King Airs, you can fly directly into modern Victoria International Airport. From there, we'll take you on the one-hour and fifteen minutes drive to the ranch.

What commercial airlines fly into Harlingen?

Both Continental and Southwest Airlines serve Harlingen from a host of major U.S. cities, many connecting via Houston.

What are the airline schedules?

Harlingen International is a newly-renovated, modern airport with many arrivals and departures daily. You may contact Continental, (800-435-9792) or Southwest Airlines (800-523-3273) directly for schedules from your city, or check on schedules and airfares from our preferred online source, www.orbitz.com (where we have found the lowest fares available.)

We do ask that you make arrangements to arrive in Harlingen no later than 3:00 PM. This will allow plenty of time to get you to the ranch for a refreshing shower, a hearty dinner and a good night's rest before the next day's hunt.

Who will pick us up at the airport?

Our staff will meet you at the Rancho Caracol counter adjacent to the luggage carousel in Harlingen International Airport. From there, one of our uniformed, professional drivers will take you to the ranch in a clean, modern passenger van. Our airport vehicles are air-conditioned and equipped with captain's chairs, snacks and cold drinks for your comfort during the journey.

Is it safe to store my plane in Mexico during my visit?

Absolutely. For guests landing at Big Bass, your plane will be locked and supervised round the clock by our staff. In Victoria, your plane will be securely stored under the supervision of the Mexican Aviation Department.

Do we have to spend the night at a hotel when we arrive?

No, unlike many other operations in Mexico, we take you straight to the lodge the same day you arrive, in plenty of time for cocktails and dinner. The hunting lodges that *do* make you stay in a hotel usually have to cut your last morning's hunt short in order to get you back to the lodge, fed, and on your way to the airport.

What documents do I need to cross into Mexico?

Due to the "Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative", passport requirements changed for air travel on December 31, 2006 and will be changing for land border crossings on December 31, 2007. See below for the respective requirements:

Land Border Crossings:

According to the "Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative" passports will be required for reentry into the United States for all land border crossings December 31, 2007. Simply fax us the following information when you make your reservation and we will obtain the required travel visa:

- A copy of your passport, or
- A copy of your birth certificate and driver's license.

Please visit the following website for any additional changes in requirements:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

Air Travel Crossings:

If you plan to fly directly into Mexico or use an air charter service, a **passport** will be required for reentry into the United States. Please send us a copy of your **passport** and we will obtain the required travel visa.

What is the border crossing like?

Typically, the border crossing into Mexico takes about 5 minutes. There is a stoplight that is normally green and allows us to go right through. If by chance the light turns red, border officials will briefly check the contents of our van, which usually takes just a few minutes.

In a few rare instances (as with any international border), the officials on duty may decide to inspect your luggage. For this reason, we strongly urge our guests not to bring in guns, ammunition or any illegal drugs. Mexican laws are very strict regarding these items, and the penalties are severe.

What if I want to bring my own gun?

We strongly suggest that you use our fine Beretta shotgun collection at the ranch, but if you have a gun you can't hunt without, we can secure Mexican permits for you at a cost of \$300.00 per hunter which will allow you to bring in up to two firearms.

Guests bringing in their own guns are also required to charter an extra van at a cost of \$200.00. This is because the guns must be taken to a Mexican military checkpoint for separate inspection, and we cannot hold up other guests while this inspection takes place. If your entire group (minimum 7 people) wants to bring their own guns, these costs will be reduced significantly.

How many checkpoints are there along the route to the ranch?

There are two checkpoints on the way to the lodge to check vehicles and merchandise permits. Seldom if ever do we encounter any problems or delays at these checkpoints.

How far south of the San Fernando Valley are you?

We are 60 miles south of the San Fernando area, next to the largest whitewing nesting area in the world. Therefore, the vast majority of the birds we normally harvest are whitewings, not mourning doves. During quail season, we hunt two large irrigated valleys, so even during dry years; there is moisture for at least a limited hatch.

How are the roads along the way?

The majority of the drive down to the ranch takes place on the brand new "Free Trade Highway." This is a well-paved and maintained highway connecting Harlingen, Texas and Tampico, Mexico. The last 10 miles of the trip is on a graded gravel road, but it is well worth the trip.

Can we bring our own dogs?

Yes, personal dogs are welcome. We have a set of clean, modern guest kennels at the lodge, and all you need is a veterinary health certificate for your dog to cross the border. We'll make sure your dog(s) are well-fed and cared for during your stay. There is also a veterinarian nearby in case of any emergencies involving your pet.

What if I have paid my money and am unable to come as scheduled, but still want to hunt at Rancho Caracol?

We will make every reasonable effort to reschedule your hunt during the season for which you were originally booked. Should this not prove feasible, we are unable to make refunds, or carry credits forward to the following season. Consequently, we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance. You can do so by contacting Travelex directly at (800) 228-9792, or at www.travelexinsurance.com.

In the unlikely case that a hurricane or other inclement weather closes the lodge or connecting airports during whitewing season, the trip will be rescheduled for any available date during the same season. If no dates are available, an additional group will be opened at the end of the season to accommodate the rescheduling.

What if a member of my group cannot come and I want to substitute a new hunter in his place?

We need to have the paperwork for all members of your group 45 days prior to the hunt date. In this we, we file all paperwork with the Mexican government and insure that everything goes smoothly at the border. Substitutions after this time complicate the process for everyone and are obviously discouraged.

Substitutions become an acute problem within 15 days of the hunt date. Any changes after this time will, at a minimum, require the purchase of an additional hunting license for the new hunter. The cost of the new license (\$215 for dove/\$225 for quail); will be passed on to the client.

II. Hunting

Why is the state of Tamaulipas such a productive bird hunting area?

The 500-mile-long Tamaulipas region hosts less than 6,000 bird hunters each year, so pressure on the birds is very light. In addition, our gulf coast climate, combined with the large corn and sorghum crops and natural forage (which serve as the birds' main diet) make this an ideal habitat for dove and quail alike.

What species of wild game are available?

Our claim to fame is our rich populations of whitewing dove, mourning dove and quail, and we have two distinctly different hunting seasons.

- Whitewing dove, which runs mid-August through October.
- Quail and Mourning dove, which runs November through February.

We also offer a special Orvis Wingshooting School package during our winter season. Guests can sharpen their shooting skills with a certified Orvis instructor in the morning, then hunt mourning dove with that instructor in the afternoon. It's great fun and a very valuable experience for novice and veteran wingshooters alike.

What's more, we have two 25 to 100-clay bird flurry courses – a driven flurry and a duck rise/quail flush – designed by world-renowned NSCA shooting instructor John Higgins.

What are the drive times to the field?

In order to harvest wild birds all season, we have to hunt over 500,000 acres, which has its advantages as well as its drawbacks (the main advantage being that we can almost always locate large numbers of birds). The drives are typically between 20-90 minutes, depending where the birds are scouted on any given day. For your comfort, air conditioning and cold drinks are provided during all transportation periods.

What kinds of guns are provided?

We feature a fine line of Beretta 390 and 391 automatics in 12 and 20 gauges, as well as Beretta 686 over/unders in 20 gauges. All our guns are cleaned, oiled and maintained daily to ensure reliable working order and accuracy. Back-up guns are also available in the field should anything go wrong with your first gun during the hunt.

Do you have left handed shotguns?

Our Beretta automatics (both 12 & 20 gauge) have adjustable stocks and reversible safeties for our left-handed guests.

Do I have to stand in line to get my gun cleaned when I get back to the lodge?

No, we have a system in place wherein guns are collected after the hunt, cleaned and maintained by our staff, then returned to you before the next hunt.

Do you have short guns for female and youth hunters?

We have models with 12" and 13 " pulls, and have successfully outfitted many women hunters and youth hunters as young as 9 years old.

Do you have recoil pads?

We sell high quality PAST shoulder-mounted recoil pads and other shooting accessories in our gift shop.

Do your guns have changeable chokes?

Yes. Improved cylinder, modified and full chokes are in each gun case.

What gauge shells are available in Mexico?

12, 16, 20, 28 and .410 gauge shells are all available in Mexico. Please note that we require 10 days' advance notice if you need shells other than 12 or 20 gauge.

What about the quality of the shells?

U.S. shells are not allowed for import into Mexico, but the quality of Mexican shells has improved significantly over the past few years because the government has allowed a new manufacturing facility to open. All of the shells used at the ranch are of the best quality available.

How do we bring our birds' home?

During whitewing season, some birds will be consumed at mealtime or as appetizers. The remaining birds are then divided equally among the hunters in camp. Normally, you can expect to leave with your full limit.

During the winter season, all the birds harvested by your group will be equally divided among the hunters in your group (minus any birds consumed in camp during your stay).

Cleaning and vacuum packaging of your birds is included in your hunt package. We sell brand new coolers at the ranch for your convenience, but feel free to bring your own.

Clearing your game at the border is easy. We will have your declaration form and permit tags filled out when you depart, and all you have to do is sign the declaration when you get to the U.S. border.

III. Quail Hunting

How do you hunt quail?

We hunt quail out of Texas-style quail rigs consisting of crew cab pick-ups with flatbeds, dog boxes and a place for 3 hunters mounted on top. We put 2-4 hunters on each rig with 6-8 dogs, a guide and 2 helpers. We put down 1-2 dogs at a time. The guide handles the dogs and the two helpers spot and retrieve the birds. About half the time we hunt from the rig, the other half we walk behind the dogs. We try to do what it takes to cover the most ground in the time allowed. If you have physical restrictions, we will do our best to accommodate you, but keep in mind this may slow the hunt down, along with the number of coveys found.

What is the terrain like?

We hunt two immense, irrigated valleys with patchwork farming and big cattle ranches. In the valleys, we hunt the canal banks, hedgerows, pastures and abandoned crop fields. On the cattle ranches, we hunt mostly on improved pasture.

How is the quail hunting?

If you're in relatively good physical shape, the quail hunting is nothing short of excellent, with 10-25 coveys per day being the norm (depending on the weather, spring rains and other factors).

Are they released birds?

Absolutely not. At Rancho Caracol, **we hunt only wild quail** over a span of 500,000 acres. This is *real* hunting, all the time.

What kind of dogs do you use?

We use mostly English Pointers, and have more than 75 dogs in total. Labradors are used for retrieving. All are very well-trained and cared for in clean, modern kennels right here on the property.

Are your dogs good?

All of our dogs reliably point and hold birds, day in and day out. 50 out of the 75 are seasoned professionals that require very little handling. The rest are younger dogs that we are bringing along. We include 6 seasoned professionals and 2 young dogs per rig.

How old are your dogs?

Our dogs average 3-7 years old, from a total range 8 months to 10 years.

Do you hunt singles?

Yes, we hunt singles. We generally don't want to wipe the whole covey out, but we do want our guests to be as successful as possible.

What is the proper attire for quail hunting?

The temperatures during quail season can range anywhere from the 30s to the 90s, so we suggest you bring a variety of comfortable all-weather clothing. You should also bring a hat and/or vest in hunter orange, two pairs of very comfortable walking shoes or boots and either snake boots, snake chaps or snake gaiters to protect your legs.

What separates a good quail day from a bad one?

The most productive time for **any** quail hunt is in the morning, for several reasons. First of all, it's cooler and more humid. Because of this, scent conditions are typically better, so you get better dog work. Secondly, there are more hunting hours in the morning (usually 5 hours as opposed, to 3 hours in the afternoon). But sometimes, there are those perfect quail days, usually after a "Northern" has blown through. The wind slows down and it stays cloudy and cool all day long. The birds don't go to cover as it warms up, but stay out and loaf or feed all day long.

These are the special days. The ones that **aren't** so special might look like this: You're hunting and the Northern comes in at 25-30 miles per hour; the birds become skittish and hold extra tight; scent conditions are ruined by the strong wind, or it just plain rains all day.

The weather is something we still cannot control, but you can always shoot our clays games or, if it's not raining, enjoy a dove hunt in the afternoon. Or, you may choose to hunt wild quail all day long for your entire stay, come rain or shine.

How do the quail/mourning dove combo hunts work?

Rancho Caracol offers our guests the opportunity to combine their quail hunting experience with some of the best mourning dove hunting to be found anywhere in North America.

Normally, parties of 2-4 hunters have complete scheduling control of their own quail rig, and may choose to mix their hunts most any way they'd like – quail in the morning, dove in the afternoon or quail all day. For groups of 6 or more that prefer not to reserve multiple quail rigs at our regular package rates, guests may choose to take turns hunting quail and dove in groups of 2 or more.

While choosing a combo hunt reduces your costs significantly (please refer to our package prices on page 12), splitting hunts between quail and dove obviously decreases your opportunity at optimal results for either species. Nonetheless, our combo hunts add a wonderful change of pace – as well as variety – to your hunting experience!

IV. Whitewing Dove Hunting***How are whitewing hunted?***

There are three types of pass shoots during whitewing season: field hunts, brush hunts, and waterhole hunts. Field hunts are in or around agriculture fields and we shoot the birds as they are coming in and leaving the fields. Brush hunts are just that, the birds are eating natural seeds and berries in the brush and we are shooting them as they go from resting areas to feeding areas. Waterhole hunts are set up around the birds' favorite drinking sources.

How is the field set up for a whitewing hunt?

The hunt organizers leave about an hour before you do and set up your positions about 50 yards apart. At each position, there is an ammo box with 10 boxes of shells, a cooler with a swivel seat on top, your gun with your name on it, and 2 bird boys to retrieve your birds. Cold drinks are also provided.

What should I expect to shoot each day?

Because some hunters shoot better than others, we gauge our hunts in terms of the average number of boxes shot per person. Typically, you can expect to shoot between 3 and 8 boxes per 1/2-day hunt, but this varies with the weather. On normal days, you won't be sitting idle for too long, so expect to do a lot of shooting.

Do you harvest mostly whitewing or mourning dove?

Unlike most other areas of Eastern Mexico (e.g. Eagle Pass, Laredo or the San Fernando areas), 95% of the doves harvested here are whitewing; the other 5% are mourning dove. This is because we are located next to the largest whitewing nesting area in the world. The only time this would change is if it's raining, when we would switch to mourning dove. There aren't as many mourning dove as whitewing, but we can still usually put you on some birds.

How does weather affect the hunting?

Hot, sunny days are ideal for maximum whitewing success. The whitewing doves tend to stay grounded in the rain, and if there are puddles everywhere they tend to scatter instead of concentrating in one area to drink. Whitewing generally resume their normal patterns about 3 days after a good rain.

What is the attire for whitewing hunting?

We recommend loose, comfortable hot weather clothing in natural and/or camouflage colors, as well as a good, ventilated hat. You will have 2 bird boys that will retrieve your birds so you can wear shorts without worrying about sharp branches and thorns. You may also consider a shoulder-worn recoil pad because of the amount of shooting you'll be doing.

What is a typical day like?

We'll wake you up at about 5:00 AM with a cup of coffee, tea, cocoa, or freshly squeezed orange juice delivered to your door. This allows you time to shower, dress and enjoy a hearty breakfast before our regular departure time of 6:30 AM. Then it's off to the fields, usually a 20-80 minute drive, depending on where the birds have been scouted. We hunt until about 10:00 AM, when the birds settle down, then return for lunch, a dip in the pool and a short siesta.

In the afternoon, the birds become active again, and we return to the fields for more fast action. We return to the lodge by about 8:00 PM, eat dinner around 8:45 PM, then relax in preparation for the next day's hunt.

V. Mourning Dove Hunting

Why would anyone hunt mourning dove in the winter when they can hunt whitewing in the fall?

If your schedule does not allow you to visit us during whitewing season, your dove fever spills into the winter months, or if you're simply looking for a more economical hunt, our mourning dove season offers you the opportunity to experience phenomenal dove hunting at a great price. And you can expect the same luxurious accommodations, amenities and personal service that made us Orvis 2006 Lodge of the Year.

How are mourning dove hunted?

Similar to the methods used to hunt whitewing, there are three types of pass shoots we do during mourning dove season: field hunts, brush hunts, and waterhole hunts. Field hunts are in or around agriculture fields and we shoot the birds as they are coming in and leaving the fields. Brush hunts are just that, the birds are eating natural seeds and berries in the brush and we are shooting them as they go from resting areas to feeding areas. Waterhole hunts are set up around the birds' favorite drinking sources.

How is the field set up for a mourning dove hunt?

The guide leaves about an hour before you do and sets up your positions about 50 yards apart. At each position, there is an ammo box with 10 boxes of shells, a cooler with a swivel seat on top, your gun with your name on it, and a bird boy to retrieve your birds. Cold drinks are also provided.

What should I expect to shoot each day?

Because some hunters shoot better than others, we gauge our hunts in terms of the average number of boxes shot per person. You can expect to shoot 2 - 5 boxes on a normal hunt to incredible hunts of up to 8 boxes, but this varies with the weather. On normal days, you won't be sitting idle for too long, so expect to do a lot of shooting.

How does weather affect the hunting?

Mourning dove are not nearly as susceptible to inclement weather as whitewings, but hot, sunny days still produce the best hunts.

What is the attire for mourning dove hunting?

The temperatures during our winter season can range anywhere from the 30s to the 90s, so we suggest you bring a variety of comfortable all-weather clothing in natural and/or camouflage colors, as well as a good, ventilated hat. You will have a bird boy that will retrieve your birds, so you don't have to worry about sharp branches and thorns. You may also consider a shoulder-worn recoil pad because of the amount of shooting you'll be doing.

What is a typical day like?

We'll wake you up at about 5:00 AM with a cup of coffee, tea, cocoa, or freshly squeezed orange juice delivered to your door. This allows you time to shower, dress and enjoy a hearty breakfast before our regular departure time of 6:00 AM. Then it's off to the fields, usually a 20-80 minute drive, depending on where the birds have been scouted. We hunt until about 9:00 AM, when the birds settle down, then return for lunch, a dip in the pool and a short siesta.

In the afternoon, the birds become active again around 3:00 PM, and we return to the fields for more fast action. We return to the lodge by about 6:00 PM, eat dinner around 8:00 PM, then relax in preparation for the next day's hunt.

VI. Lodging

Do you operate out of a hotel?

Absolutely not. Unlike typical Mexican hunting operations who lodge their guests in hotels, our lodge is situated 10 miles from the nearest highway on our private, family-owned 11,000-acre expanse overlooking the canyons of Lake Las Alazanas. You won't have to worry about road noise here.

How are the accommodations?

We pride ourselves on providing absolutely first class accommodations. In building the ranch, we looked at a host of other hunting lodges and resorts, took the best features of each, then spent more than one million dollars incorporating those features into our property.

We have large, beautifully decorated, rooms with plenty of space for your gear, large bathrooms with great showers that never run out of hot water, beautifully landscaped grounds, and some of the most spectacular views in all of North America.

How many people will the lodge accommodate?

During quail season we will accommodate up to 20 quail hunters and 14 Mourning Dove and Shooting School guests. During whitewing season we can accommodate up to 56 guests.

Can you request whom you room with?

Yes. For your comfort and privacy, we always ask who is going to room together before you arrive, and we guarantee double occupancy for all even-numbered groups. For guests that prefer single occupancy accommodations during the quail/mourning dove season, the additional cost is \$50 per night, per person (based on availability).

We also offer luxurious Owner's Cabanas, which include living rooms, dining rooms, kitchenettes, satellite television and mini bar. We have one 1-bedroom (2 person minimum) and two 2-bedroom (4 person minimum) cabanas available. The 1-bedroom cabana is available for \$200 additional per night, and the 2-bedroom cabanas are available for \$400 additional per night. Both cabanas are available at half-price during quail/mourning dove season.

Are there A/Cs and heaters in the rooms?

All the rooms have individual air conditioners, heaters and ceiling fans to ensure your comfort, no matter what the weather.

What about the water? Is it safe to drink?

Fresh, purified bottled water is available in all our guestrooms, as well as in our kitchen, bars, ice machine and dining room.

Are the power outlets (voltage) the same as in the United States?

Yes. All your electrical personal care items will work at the ranch.

Do cell phones work at the ranch?

Yes, cell phone reception is available at the lodge (1900 Mgh GSM frequency only). Please check with your cell phone provider before arrival. AT&T works well in the area.

Is there a phone?

We do have a phone with fax capability and satellite Internet access. The phone numbers at the lodge is 011 52-835-338-0517 when dialing from the U.S. The direct line to the stateside office is (956) 542-3482.

Is there anything to do at Rancho Caracol besides hunting?

Our remote yet beautiful setting allows for other activities such as hiking, photography, bird watching, swimming, poolside reading, satellite television and relaxing at our rooftop bar. Guests can also sharpen their shooting skills on our two 25 to 100-clay bird flurry courses – a driven flurry and a duck rise/quail flush – designed by world-renowned NSCA shooting instructor John Higgins.

Another favorite with our guests is our spectacular rooftop game room, complete with wet bar, billiards, video clays and a stunning 360° view of the surrounding terrain.

This year we have added a new four room massage complex. Last year, at peak times, it was difficult for our clients to schedule massages. This new facility and expanded staff (we will now have four masseuses on staff) should alleviate this problem.

Another addition is our gun gallery/meeting room/game room. Now you can admire the Orvis custom gun collection, play the lasershot video game, or just relax in air-conditioned comfort while waiting to be fitted for one of our Berettas which you will use during your stay.

The new facility is large enough to double as a meeting room when we are hosting off-site conferences.

Also new for 2007 is the construction of a large swimming pool with swim-up bar. The 1,000 sq. ft swimming pool includes a 14 seat swim-up bar complete with satellite TV. The pool should provide welcome relief after a morning of hot-barreled wingshooting.

Are there a lot of biting insects?

Generally no, but after a lot of rain we do get some. We recommend that you bring along some insect repellent containing DEET, just in case.

Please note that new FAA regulations do not allow you to bring aerosol sprays in either your checked or carry-on luggage, so you may wish to bring non-aerosol (i.e. pump) spray or use the repellents we provide at no cost.

What is the closest medical facility?

The city of Victoria, about 75 minutes away, has the closest hospital. The best option in certain medical situations is to be airlifted back to the U.S. Normally MedEvac units can reach the ranch in approximately 3 hours.

Is there a swimming pool?

Yes, we have a large pool with swim-up bar which seats 14 people. Adjacent to the pool is a 15 man hot tub which can be heated in a matter of minutes.

VII. Pricing

How much does it cost to hunt at the ranch?

I. August through October

Whitewing hunts (2 hunts per day):

- 4 hunt package - \$2195 per person (3 nights/2 days of hunting)
- 6 hunt package - \$2195 per person (4 nights/3 days of hunting, Sunday thru Thursday)

II. November through February

A) Quail Packages (with Mourning Dove Combo Option):

November and December

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 4 hunt packages (3 nights/2 days of hunting) | • 6 hunt package (4 nights/3 days hunting) |
| 2 people per rig - \$4045 per person | 2 people per rig - \$5775 per person |
| 3 people per rig - \$2775 per person | 3 people per rig - \$3945 per person |
| 4 people per rig - \$2445 per person | 4 people per rig - \$3345 per person |

January and February

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 4 hunt packages (3 nights/2 days of hunting) | • 6 hunt package (4 nights/ 3 days hunting) |
| 2 people per rig - \$4245 per person | 2 people per rig - \$6075 per person |
| 3 people per rig - \$2945 per person | 3 people per rig - \$4145 per person |
| 4 people per rig - \$2575 per person | 4 people per rig - \$3575 per person |

B) Quail/Mourning Dove Combo Packages (min. 6 people)

November and December

- **4 hunt packages (3 nights/2 days of hunting)**
 - 6 people per group - \$2075 per person
 - 8 people per group - \$1895 per person
- **6 hunt package (4 nights/3 days hunting)**
 - 6 people per group - \$2845 per person
 - 8 people per group - \$2545 per person

January and February

- **4 hunt packages (3 nights/2 days of hunting)**
 - 6 people per group - \$2175 per person
 - 8 people per group - \$1975 per person
- **6 hunt package (4 nights/ 3 days hunting)**
 - 6 people per group - \$2945 per person
 - 8 people per group - \$2645 per person

For groups of 6 – 8 hunters, one quail rig will be reserved. Half the group (3 – 4 hunters) will hunt quail one day, the other half will hunt dove. The following day the groups will be switched. For larger groups, please contact us for customized packages and rates

C) Mourning Dove Packages

- 2 day package - \$1395 per person (3 nights/2 days of hunting)
- 3 day package - \$1695 per person (4 nights/3 days of hunting)

D) Orvis Shooting School/Mourning Dove Combo Packages (min. 4 people)

- 2 day package - \$1895 per person (3 nights/2 days of clays & hunting with Orvis instructor)
- 3 day package - \$2195 per person (4 nights/3 days of clays & hunting with Orvis instructor)

III. Optional Upgrades

Whitewing Dove Season

- Private Owner Cabanas (1 bedroom) –\$200 additional per night (2 person min.)
- Private Owner Cabanas (2 bedroom) –\$400 additional per night (4 person min.)
- Private Plane Charters –\$480/person, round trip (4 person min.)

Bobwhite Quail/Mourning Dove Season

- Single Occupancy – \$50 additional per night/person (limited availability)
- Private Owner Cabanas (1 bedroom) –\$100 additional per night (2 person min.)
- Private Owner Cabanas (2 bedroom) –\$200 additional per night (4 person min.)
- Private Plane Charters –\$480/person, round trip (4 person min.)

What is included in the price?

All of our packages include ground transportation from Harlingen, Texas, accommodations, maid & laundry service, all gourmet meals and beverages, top shelf wine and liquor, transportation to/from hunting areas, use of our Beretta shotgun collection along with all the clay birds you can shoot, guides, dogs and/or bird boys.

Additional costs include hunting license (currently \$215 for whitewing dove, and \$225 for quail/mourning dove combo), shells (currently \$14 per box), house & guide gratuities, cooler(s) to bring your game back to the U.S. (optional), telephone calls and any items you may select from our gift/pro shop. All prices are subject to change without notice.

Who should I tip, and how much?

One of the most common questions we receive is which staff members to tip, and how much to tip them.

Tipping is ***always*** optional at Rancho Caracol, but if you find the service to be satisfactory, we suggest the following amounts:

Whitewing Season

- House tip: \$125 per guest, per stay (covers lodge staff, e.g. maids, servers, assistants, etc.); to be paid at the end of your visit.
- Bird boys: \$15 per bird boy, per 1/2-day hunt; to be paid at the end of each hunt.
- Van drivers: \$30 per guest, per stay; to be paid at the end of your visit.

Quail/Mourning Dove Season

- House tip: \$125 per guest, per stay (covers lodge staff, e.g. maids, servers, assistants, etc.); to be paid at the end of your visit.
- Quail Teams: \$30 per shooter, per 1/2-day hunt; to be paid at the end of each hunt, or at the end of your visit
- Bird boys (mourning dove hunts): \$15 per bird boy, per 1/2-day hunt; to be paid at the end of each hunt.
- Van drivers: \$30 per guest, per stay; to be paid at the end of your visit.

All tip amounts are **just suggested**. If somebody impresses you and you want to give them more, please do. If, on the other hand, you *don't* think somebody deserves it, please don't tip them, but *do* let the ranch manager know so he can solve the problem.

What does it require to book a hunt?

A 50% deposit is required to reserve your dates, with balances due:

- June 1 for whitewing season
- September 1 for November/December quail/combo hunts
- November 1 for January/February quail/combo hunts

Please note: A release of liability is required to be signed by each guest prior to arrival. We will send you this document in advance.

What is your refund policy?

Due to very limited space at our ranch, all deposits and balances are non-refundable. If you cancel 45 days prior to your hunt, rescheduling within the current season is available (i.e. based on available space).

Again, we strongly recommend that you consider travel insurance in case you cannot make your trip for any reason. Simply contact Travelex directly at 1-800-867-9531 or www.travelexinsurance.com for more information on this option.

What does it cost to bring a non-hunter?

Non-hunting companions are always welcome at Rancho Caracol, and can stay with us for \$350 per night during whitewing season and \$250 per night during quail/mourning dove season. Price includes accommodations, maid & laundry service, all meals & beverages and free access to our wine & liquor bar.

VIII. Food & Beverages

How is the food?

Our food has received consistently excellent ratings by our guests, and will most certainly be one of the highlights of your stay with us!

- For dinner, we normally serve Cornish game hens one night, A Mexican Feast one night, a grilled ribeye steak one night, and freshly harvested game one night.
- Lunches are normally a combination of fresh game and/or fresh fish.
- Breakfast is eggs to order, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toasts, biscuits, a variety of cereals, fresh fruit and freshly-squeezed orange juice, of course. Most everything we serve is made fresh from scratch, including appetizers, desserts and our famous margaritas. We use 100% virgin olive oil in our recipes whenever possible.

Can you accommodate special diets?

Yes. If you let us know your dietary restrictions or preferences before you arrive, we will prepare most anything you want.

Can we eat our own harvested game?

Yes. We normally serve dove kabobs, dove breast stuffed with onion and jalapeno wrapped in bacon, grilled dove and fried quail. If there is a special way you want us to cook something and we have the ingredients, we will be happy to do it.

Are beer, wine and liquor included?

Yes, all beverages are included in your package. We stock a wide array of premium liquors, and if there is something special you like to drink, please let us know before you come and we'll have it waiting for you. You are also welcome to bring your own favorites, and are allowed three (3) 1 liter bottles of liquor per person over the border into Mexico, duty free.

Is there a dress code for dinner?

No. You may come as formal or casual as you desire. You should feel as comfortable here at Rancho Caracol as you do in your own home.

IX. Orvis Endorsement Requirements

What does it take to be an Orvis-endorsed wingshooting lodge?

Rancho Caracol is currently one of only 24 elite wingshooting lodges in the entire world to carry the official endorsement of Orvis, and is rated the number one wingshooting lodge in all of Mexico.

Last year, Orvis selected us as the 2006 Lodge of the Year. We were selected as the best of the 24 elite, Orvis endorsed, wingshooting lodges in the world.

So what does it take to earn this coveted endorsement? We'll let Orvis answer this one:

"Since 1989, Orvis has had stringent criteria each lodge must live up to in order to be endorsed. These three key criteria are resources, hospitality and the lodge itself. To make certain these

standards are met, an Orvis associate visits each lodge. This allows for a first hand evaluation, so we know personally what you can expect on your visit.

What does it take to receive "Lodge of the Year?"

After hunting with us or any other Orvis Endorsed Lodge, each guest receives an extensive questionnaire from Orvis. The lodge of the year is selected on the basis of client satisfaction as reflected in this survey.

Resources

Resources include the natural habitat you'll hunt. We look for quality habitat that provides plenty of varied natural cover and feed, and numerous birds that offer good presentation and rise in a sporting manner. The dogs must be well bred and trained, and work well with the guides and shooters. We note how the dogs respond to the hunters and varied situations of a hunt. A good canine personality doesn't hurt either.

Hospitality

Personality also goes a long way with our second criteria: hospitality. Orvis looks for owners, guides, staff and hosts who are committed to pleasing you and meeting your needs promptly and graciously throughout your stay. They must be friendly, as well as professional and knowledgeable in their given field, whether they are guides or wait staff. Their attention to detail and personable attitude will make your stay memorable and enjoyable. Good service is the priority. We want to make you feel that you are the most important guest our endorsed lodge has ever had stay with them.

Facility

The third criterion to be met by an Orvis-endorsed wingshooting lodge is the lodge itself, and its facilities. An Orvis-endorsed lodge must be a place to which you look forward to returning following a long day afield. The lodge must offer a welcoming blend of exceptional comfort and elegance, and an impressive sportsman's setting with all the modern amenities. Expansive decks with world-class views are common to our endorsed lodges. And outstanding private rooms or cabins, replete with modern amenities, comfortable furnishings, and exquisite, appropriate decorations are the rule. The kitchens are also of the highest order. Each must be operated by seasoned chefs who create gourmet meals served in a dining room of exceptional ambience, and by affable professionals.

With Orvis-endorsed wingshooting lodges, you'll enjoy hunting prime bird cover with fine dogs and amiable guides. You'll be greeted and served by experienced and personable staff and hosts. And you'll relax in lodges of superior accommodations and ambience in some of the most spectacular landscapes you'll ever visit. The meeting of these criteria make Orvis-endorsed lodges an experience you'll miss as soon as you leave."