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## HEADWATERS FISHING CLUB Lake Guri, Venezuela

### Overview of Headwaters Fishing Club:



It was on Lake Guri (see arrow within map at right to identify the location of this lake) during the mid to late 1980's that Venezuela introduced numerous globe-trotting anglers from throughout the world to the peacock bass. While Brazil has garnered most of the peacock bass publicity in the past 15 years, Lake



Guri is now reclaiming its rightful place as a world class peacock bass fishery once again. Curichapo Lodge (see photo below), home base to Headwaters Fishing Club (HFC), is located on a 14,500 acre privately owned peninsula in southeastern Venezuela, with the 3,000,000 acre Lake Guri to the north and La Paragua River to the south. The HFC fishing area includes over 200,000 acres of peacock bass and payara infested water. The average water depth in the HFC area is a fishable 20 feet. Headwaters Fishing Club boasts some of the finest year-round peacock bass fishing in South America. Statistics reveal that more than 90% of all HFC fishermen will land at least a ten-pound fish on each and every trip due to the abundance of 10-15lb class peacock bass available. The camp and, unofficial, lake record is 25 lbs 6 oz, which was caught by Larry Jackson in July of 2005.



The abundance of baitfish in the HFC area grows hefty peacock bass, which are, on average, three inches shorter than their jungle river cousins, yet still weigh as much or more. The peacock bass on Guri are some of the strongest you will ever encounter and you will have the opportunity to catch all three species of peacock bass (barred and speckled; butterfly and black striped or royal) on just about any day on the water. In addition, because of the clear, tannin stained water, the color patterns of Guri's impressive peacock population are some of the most beautiful you will ever encounter. In addition, some of the finest payara fishing in the world can be found within Guri's flowing river systems.

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Although many anglers come to Headwaters Fishing Club and Lake Guri to target peacock bass, they leave Venezuela talking about their fantastic battles with the fierce payara.

During the months of May, June and July, HFC's payara season is in full swing. Known by their nickname of "Dracula Fish," these ferocious gamefish, which can grow to sizes in excess of 40- lbs, are an exciting addition to the already great peacock bass action you will experience on Guri at HFC. Similar in fight to a tarpon, these fish congregate yearly in the rapids formed by the first heavy storms of rainy season. Their strike is awesome, and their leaping ability world class. The world record 39 lb payara comes from the same river in which we fish, the La Paragua.

Opened for business in 1994, American owned and operated, HFC is legendary with the oilfield workers based in Venezuela for its great fishing and outstanding food. HFC has a maximum camp occupancy of eight persons, which allows them to provide personalized service to each and every angler.

### Headwaters Fishing Club Package Pricing (2010 season):

- Three day fishing package – \$1,995
- Four day fishing package - \$2,395
- Five day fishing package - \$2,795
- Six day fishing package - \$3,295

### Deposit Amount Required for Headwaters Fishing Club fishing package:

Headwaters Fishing Club requires a 50% deposit, per angler, to initiate a reservation. Final payments are due 60 days prior to your departure. Reservations are only confirmed when deposits are received.

### Included in the Headwaters Fishing Club Package Price:

- Assistance in transferring from international to national airport.
- Round-trip commercial flight from Caracas to Puerto Ordaz.
- Hotel stays in Caracas (near the airport) or in Puerto Ordaz.
- All land transfers and hotel transfers in both Caracas and on the way to the camp.
- Accommodations at the Headwaters Fishing Club.
- All meals.
- Guided fishing on Lake Guri (two anglers with experienced guide).
- Lunch at the lodge each day.
- Completely stocked bar, soft drinks, ice tea, bottled water and beer.

### Not included in the Headwaters Fishing Club Package Price:

Airfare to Caracas, Venezuela; meals in Caracas or Puerto Ordaz; Airport departure taxes, Gratuities

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### **Headwaters Fishing Club Fishing Season:**

The prime peacock bass season for HFC is when you decide that a trip to Lake Guri suits your travel schedule, basically 12 months a year. May thru August have always been the months for great action and big fish for both peacock bass and payara, which use this time to gather in the fast water of the river and spawn. Lake Guri's level falls an average of 20-24 feet every dry season, which runs from December thru May. When the lake fills again, and floods the new grasses in the numerous bays and lagoons, the peacock go into a feeding frenzy along the shorelines. As the current in the river begins to subside in August, the payara break up and scatter out into smaller schools, with the really big payara roaming like lone wolfs in the river's depths.

### **Headwaters Fishing Club Capacity:**

8 anglers, double occupancy, to insure personalized service.

### **Availability for Headwaters Fishing Club:**

As the booking calendar changes on almost a daily basis, please contact our office for current availability on your specific travel dates.

### **Travel Logistics to the Headwaters Fishing Club:**



Anglers will fly from numerous departure cities in the USA to Caracas, Venezuela. The airport is actually located on the northern coast and not in downtown Caracas. You will be met by our transfer personnel in Caracas – John and Jackie Salazar. They will greet you as you clear Customs. They will transport you to a hotel located approximately 20 minutes from the airport and assist with check-in. Do not throw away the document (it appears like a paper receipt) given to you by officials upon clearing immigration. You will need it to depart the country or face a fine. Early the next morning, you will be picked up in the lobby of the hotel by John and Jackie and will

be transferred to the national airport for your 1 hour flight to Puerto Ordaz. Once you secure your luggage, you will be met by representatives of Headwaters Fishing Club. You will then take a scenic three hour ride in an air conditioned vehicle to Guri Lake, where you will then transfer to a boat and be taken on a 1-1/2 hour ride to the south end of Guri Lake, where Headwaters Fishing Club is located. After checking into your air conditioned bungalow, you will be given an orientation of the lodge, have lunch and start your first ½ day of fishing on the lake.

### **Predominant Language Spoken on the Headwaters Fishing Club:**

Spanish is the language of Venezuela. Although the guides do understand and speak some English, it is primarily fishing English. Most anglers do not have difficulty communicating with their guides. It is always wise to learn a few words of basic Spanish before undertaking this trip. We provide you with an English-Spanish translator with your packing and gear lists. An English-speaking host will always be available at Headwaters Fishing Club.

### **Special Entrance Requirements for Venezuela:**

U.S. residents must have a valid passport to enter Venezuela. A tourist visa will be given on board the flight to Caracas. Do not lose this paper document, as you will need to provide this to government officials when leaving the country.

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### The Fishing at Guri Lake with Headwaters Fishing Club:



**Big, tough, but beautifully colored, peacock bass are plentiful at Headwaters Fishing Club.**

Although the primary species targeted on Guri is the peacock bass, this lake also offers a healthy population of trophy-class payara. Anglers can expect to catch three varieties of peacock bass, or pavon as they are called in Venezuela. These include: the barred, speckled and butterfly peacock. Fish in excess of 20 pounds are caught each year on Lake Guri, although the average fish weighs in the neighborhood of five to eight pounds. Each morning, you'll board a comfortable custom-build 20 ft x 8 ft aluminum boat. These boats are designed to give a comfortable and dry ride in rough weather conditions, while allowing you to fish even the shallowest water. All boats have



**The fiercest, largest payara in the world await you at HFC.**

raised, carpeted fishing platforms front and rear, large dry storage, 30 gal. livewell, all safety equipment, 60hp

Yamaha engines, Minn-Kota 52lb thrust trolling motors, and an experienced guide to assist you in your search for your dream fish. All boats are equipped with a marine band VHF radio for full-time communication with your fishing buddies in other boats and the camp. The majority of the guides aboard the Headwaters Fishing Club have been fishing the lake for years.



During the early morning hours, under cover of cloud and late in the afternoon, you will fish a variety of topwater lures and surface flies to take advantage of the aggressive nature of the peacock bass. As the sun rises overhead, you may want to consider to a subsurface lure or fly approach. Upon booking your fishing expedition to the Headwaters Fishing Club, we will be sending you a copy of "The Complete Peacock Bass Angler" text that will help prepare you for your trip. The relaxed atmosphere at HFC is enhanced by the fact that we are the only private land on Lake Guri, and at high water your boat is waiting a mere 20

yards from your doorstep.

If live-baiting is to your liking, this is also available to you. Steve Shoulders and staff will custom make your trip to suit your angling skills and abilities. Their close proximity to the best fish grounds around allows you to fish, and not waste your time making long boat rides. This also allows those who wish to return quickly to the camp for a hot lunch and siesta before returning for an afternoons fishing adventure. HFC fishermen usually average 8-10 hours of quality fishing a day.

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### Accommodations at the Headwaters Fishing Club:



Two anglers share a churuata (see photo at left) a thatched roof typical Venezuelan bunkhouse, each of them offering air-conditioning, private bathroom and ample storage space. Hot and cold water is available in the ensuite shower stall. Twin 50kw generators provide a steady 110-volt power supply for charging camera batteries or running



a hairdryer provide all electric power. All rooms comfortably handle 2-3 persons. Twin beds are comfortable.

### Meals at the Headwaters Fishing Club:



You will dine on a variety of American and local Venezuelan delicacies, including grilled steaks, pork chops, chicken and fresh fish. Anglers are encouraged to come back to the lodge during lunch to have a nice hot meal and take a siesta before heading out for the afternoon session. Since the fishery is close to the lodge, no long boat rides, which often cut into valuable fishing time, are necessary. An open bar offers a relaxing respite from

**Of all the fishing lodges we represent, HFC receives the most compliments by our returning clients with regard to their meals.**

the rigors of peacock bass fishing and the hot Venezuelan sun. Headwaters Fishing Club is known for their home-made ice cream which the anglers always enjoy.

### Activities for the non-angler on the Headwaters Fishing Club:

As this is primarily a fishing operation, the non-angling guest may want to consider a variety of non-angling options that are unique to Venezuela.

### The weather at Guri Lake aboard the Headwaters Fishing Club:

Temperatures may range from a comfortable 75 at night to the mid-90 degree range. Although the Headwaters Fishing Club fishing calendar is timed to coincide with the dry season, showers do occur, so be prepared with a quality rain suit.

### Packing for the Headwaters Fishing Club:

Upon receipt of deposits, you will be sent the necessary gear and packing lists to prepare you for your Venezuelan fishing experience. In addition, you will receive the Complete Peacock Bass text to help you catch trophy peacock bass.

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### **Trip Cancellation and Travel Insurance Recommendation:**

A fishing expedition will certainly offer you an exciting and rewarding experience. Unfortunately, however, one undertaking such an angling adventure must face the possibility that you or your fishing companion might be forced to cancel your trip at the last moment due to illness, injury or other emergency or sustain an unfortunate injury and require medical services or worse, medical evacuation during your trip. Trip cancellation and travel insurance can help protect you and your travel companions from these unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances. We will send you the application forms from Travelex, a major, reliable insurer of traveling anglers. Typically, the cost of an extensive program is less than \$65 per \$1,000 of coverage. It is wise to always consult with your personal health insurance provider before undertaking any type of travel to determine what is covered in the event of injury or illness during your travels.

### **Itinerary for the Headwaters Fishing Club:**

Day 1: Arrival in Caracas. Airport reception and either transfer to hotel to overnight.

Day 2: Early AM transfer to national airport for one hour flight to Puerto Ordaz. Transfer to Headwaters Fishing Club . Orientation. ½ day of fishing.

Fishing Days: Full days fishing with your guide on massive Guri Lake, exploring coves and targeting points, standing timber, rock piles and humps for peacock bass, payara and piranha.

Final Day: ½ day of fishing. Transfer to Puerto Ordaz for flight to Caracas. Overnight in Caracas at hotel.

Departure Day: Flight back to USA.

The above information pertaining to trip details for this particular fishing destination and facility is believed to be accurate. However, Peacock Bass Adventures, LLC is not liable for inadvertent mistakes in the above mentioned itinerary or for incorrect trip detail information provided to Peacock Bass Adventures, LLC by lodge owners, their representatives or other third parties. This trip details briefing contains material (photographs, graphics and text) that has been copyrighted, the rights to which are owned or have been licensed to Peacock Bass Adventures, LLC, and any unauthorized use of any of the material, without the prior written consent of Peacock Bass Adventures, LLC is prohibited.