

NIMAJAY REFUGE LODGE

Bitá River, Colombia

Grand Slam Peacock Bass Action!

About Nimajay Refuge Lodge....



Long before American anglers boasted of their 20 pound plus trophy peacock bass catches from the remote waters of Venezuela and Brazil, Colombia was the first country to offer American anglers pristine trophy-class peacock bass rivers along its eastern border with Venezuela. However, in the past decade, the well of globetrotting American anglers visiting this Latin American nation ran dry, as the globetrotting fishermen feared not malaria, piranhas or anacondas, but avoided Colombia because of the realistic potential encounters with drug traffickers, bandidos or FARC (Revolutionary Forces of



Colombia), basically a terrorist group playing havoc in this country. However, in the six years that President Álvaro Uribe was elected, a relative calm and prosperity has now emerged. A strong ally of the United States, President Uribe has been responsible for attempting to break the back of drug traffickers and FARC and his country is now enjoying prosperity that they have not experienced in years. European and American investment is at an all time high. Unemployment is dropping. The year 2007 revealed the greatest tourist influx in the history of this country.

And now, the fertile waters of the Orinoco River and its tributaries are again ready to welcome American anglers to a host of exciting gamefish and a safe journey. Nimajay Refuge Lodge is one of the few peacock bass lodges in South America offering the opportunity to catch all four varieties (there are actually three recognized species in this country) of peacock bass (barred, speckled, black-striped and butterfly) in a single day, in addition to payara, sardinata, pacu, several species of Amazon catfish and piranha. Nimajay Refuge is a private wildlife and nature preserve nestled on the shores of the scenic Bitá River, located 25 miles west of the town of Puerto Carreño. One can fish out of the main base camp on the Refuge and/or also elect to fish the outpost camp on the Orinoco River for giant payara, sardinata and other gamefish. This watershed has literally been untouched by American anglers and offers the potential to be one of the true great peacock bass fisheries in South America.

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Trip Duration (including travel days):

10 days (including travel days) / 9 nights / 6-1/2 days of fishing

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Package Price 2008-09 (winter) Season:

\$3,500.00 (US) (per person, double occupancy)

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Deposit Amount:

To secure a reservation at Nimajay Refuge Lodge, a \$1,000 (US) per angler deposit is required within 10 days of your booking. Final payments are due 60 days prior to your departure. Reservations are not confirmed until deposits are received.

Included in the Nimajay Refuge Lodge Package:

- Airport reception and transfers
- First and last night accommodations (if necessary on the last night) at hotel in Bogota.
- Domestic commercial flight to Puerto Carreno
- 7 nights accommodations at Nimajay Refuge Lodge
- 6-1/2 days of fishing (2 anglers per boat)
- Fishing license
- All meals
- Soft drinks, beer, rum, bottled water and ice
- Daily laundry service

Not included in the Nimajay Refuge Lodge Package:

Airfare to Bogota, Colombia; meals at the hotel in Bogota; gratuities; airport departure taxes.

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Fishing Season:

January through April. This is timed to coincide with the dry season of the Colombian Llanos region. Please be aware that Mother Nature sometimes fails to abide by strict laws and dry season rains can occur.

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Capacity:

8 anglers.

Availability at Nimajay Refuge Lodge Lodge:

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 Nimajay Refuge Lodge:

Anglers fly to Bogota, Colombia, where they are met by personnel of Nimajay Refuge Lodge and transported to Hotel Dann Norte a safe hotel located in an upscale section of northern Bogota. The hotel is conveniently located near supermarkets and shopping mall and the streets are safe to enjoy the local flavor of Bogota. The next morning, you will take a commercial flight, for 1 hour, 20 minutes, to Puerto Carreno. From there, you will be transported, via comfortable vehicle, to the lodge located on the shores of the Bitu River. The transfer will take 1-1/2 hours on a dirt road through the Llanos to Nimajay via air-conditioned vehicles.

Predominant Language Spoken on the Nimajay Refuge Lodge:

Spanish is the language of Colombia. 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. Your Complete Peacock Bass Angler text will contain a basic English-Spanish translator. An English-speaking host will always be on the premises at Nimajay Refuge Lodge .

Special Entrance Requirements for Colombia:

U.S. residents must have a valid passport to enter Colombia. A tourist visa will be given on board the flight to Bogota, Colombia. A Yellow Fever vaccine is required to enter Colombia.

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Accommodations:



The Refuge offers two cabins that each offer two rooms. There are two beds in each room. Pedestal fans keep the air circulating. A bathroom, with shower, is shared by the two anglers in each room. There is 24 hour electricity.



Outside each cabin are hammocks and chair for relaxing and enjoying a cocktail after a long day on the water.

Fishing at Nimajay Refuge Lodge:



With very few American anglers fishing these waters, it held the all-tackle peacock bass record of 26.8 lbs until it was broken in Brazil. The trophy potential of Colombia is virtually untapped.

Nimajay Refuge Lodge is the only sportfishing facility on the Bitá and other surrounding rivers of the Orinoco river drainage of eastern Colombia. This means that you will be the only angler using this vast and untapped fishery. You must see the area from the air to fully comprehend the enormity of the river drainage. The unique combination of remoteness, unlimited fishing areas, and a strict catch-and-release policy (except for a few smaller fish to sample their tasty flavor) provides the optimum situation for catching the greatest possible numbers of peacock bass. There are several options available to the angler that you may want to consider. The Bitá River, a tributary of the Orinoco, offers prime peacock bass waters, along with other gamefish species. The mighty Orinoco offers world-class payara, sardinata, pacu and cat fishing. Anglers will be fishing a host of structure and cover, ranging from oxbow lakes, to standing timber to rocky shoals to main river structure like



Nimajay Refuge also offers anglers a wide variety of exciting gamefish species, such as the payara (seen above) sardinata, pacu and piranha.

sandbars. The pavón, peacock bass in Spanish, is a Cichlid, and there are four different varieties (three actual IGFA species) at Nimajay Refuge Lodge - the speckled pavon, barred pavon, royal pavon and butterfly pavon. There are other species of fish that you will be able to catch during your stay, such as the saber-toothed payara, sardinata, piranha, pacu and giant Amazon catfish. You will be fishing out of 14' foot long Carolina skiffs with 25 HP outboards. An experienced local guide will show you the secrets to catching the gamefish of the Bitá River.

Activities for the Non-Angler at Nimajay Refuge Lodge:

The Nimajay Refuge would be ideal for the non angling spouse to undertake daily tours for a variety of exotic birds, animals, trees and plants endemic to the Llanos region of Colombia.

Weather at Nimajay Refuge Lodge:

It is recommended that anglers consider long sleeve tropical weight shirts and long tropical weight pants to keep you protected from the sun's powerful rays. A wide brim hat is also recommended as is a quality sunscreen in the 30 to 45 SPF range. Even though we schedule your trip during the Colombian dry season, showers and storms do occur, so please pack a rain suit as the temperatures tend to drop drastically during these periods of rain. The dry season extends from January to April. The days are typically hot and sunny, but drier than in the Amazonas region. The nights are typically cool.

Meals at Nimajay Refuge Lodge:

Anglers will be treated to an array of local and American style meals. Breakfast will include eggs, pancakes, ham, fruits and juices. Lunch can be out on the water or back at the Refuge. Dinner will be a more elaborate affair including chicken, beef, freshly caught fish, beans and rice, vegetables and tasty desserts. Colombian beer, rum, bottled water and soft drinks are included in the package.

Packing for Nimajay Refuge Lodge:

Upon receipt of deposits, you will receive packing lists, trip cancellation insurance application and an 84-page Complete Peacock Bass Angler text that will help you with every aspect of this trip.

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.

Nimajay Refuge Lodge Travel Itinerary:

Day 1: International flight to Bogota, Colombia. Transfer to Hotel Dann Norte.

Day 2: Commercial flight to Puerto Careno and then transfer to lodge; orientation of lodge and about the fishery. Half day of fishing.

Days 3-8: Full fishing days for peacock bass, payara, sardinata and other species.

Day 9: Commercial flight to Bogota with arrival approximately 10 AM. Either take flight back to USA or overnight in Bogota.

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