



## Rainbow To The Net, New Zealand



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We are in the eighth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

### ARGENTINA ADVENTURE – TIP TO TIP

There may not be a country with the angling diversity of Argentina. In the north, there are the warm jungle rivers that offer trophy golden dorado (below, left with Jay Strako) on the fly; to the south, there's Tierra del Fuego and the giant sea run browns (below, right) of the Rio Grande near the tip of South America. In the middle, on the eastern side of the Andes, there's Patagonia and it's more conventional trout fishing (below, center) as well as the very unconventional Jurassic Lake and Barrancoso River. For the angler who likes to mix in some world class bird hunting, there are some of the world's finest dove shooting operations.



Eight of us (Frank Jackson, Jeff Reinke, Rich Hosley, Gary Martin, Josh Luft-Glidden, Jay Strako, my wife Marte, and I) converged a few weeks ago for a week of Golden Dorado fishing in the northern province of Corrientes. Before and after that week, most of us were partaking of other Argentine adventures, covering all the angling adventures mentioned above, as well as spending some time in Buenos Aires. In the next few newsletters, we'll provide details of the Argentine experiences, beginning in this newsletter with an in depth look at Jurassic Lake.

### LAGO STROBEL (A.K.A., JURASSIC LAKE), ARGENTINA



In southwest Argentina, in the high desert country just east of the Andes and the Chilean border, is found the sixty-five square kilometer, crystal clear, biological phenomena known throughout the trout fishing world as Jurassic Lake. From our experience here, everything about this fishery and environment could be described as surreal or extreme. It all begins with the rainbows which average a legitimate 6 to 7 pounds (and that is a very conservative estimation). Even though our personal experience didn't

include anything larger than a weighed 15 pounder (and several others between 10 and 13#), many rainbows well over twenty pounds have been released.



The uniqueness of the Jurassic Lake rainbow fishery is created by the perfect marriage of rainbow trout and an unlimited freshwater shrimp food source. Eighteen years ago, someone discovered this lake provided the perfect habitat for freshwater shrimp and, for eons, they had been thriving and multiplying. There were no predators present, not a fish in the entire lake. They dumped 5,000 rainbows into the lake and what has happened since that time in 1993 has earned the nickname “Jurassic Lake.”

The 35,000 acre estancia we fished from included ten kilometers of lake shoreline with eight kilometers of the Barrancoso River running across their property. They maintain a series of paths throughout the property that we accessed using ATV's (above, center).



There are many aspects to the Jurassic Lake experience – some very positive (beginning with the giant rainbows) and some not so positive. For those with the interest in a detailed report on our trip to visit this unique fishery, click on this link: [http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Jurassic\\_Lake.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Jurassic_Lake.pdf)

## NEW ZEALAND REPORT – A SECOND VISIT



An angling brother and sister, Anne and Andy Baxter (left), have shared many fly rod experiences around the globe throughout the years. A few years ago, they added New Zealand to their list of fly rod destinations visited. In early 2012, they made their second trip to the land of the Kiwi's.

From their previous experience in New Zealand, they knew that a day on their crystalline streams can be a physical experience and Andy had some surgical issues that had limited his mobility since his last NZ visit. There was concern that he would be able to fully enjoy stalking the rivers and streams in search of the trophy browns and rainbows that make NZ a “must do” on every anglers wish list. However, the guides in NZ are a special group and, in addition to being very attentive to special restrictions, they can generally find waters to fit any situation.

That's Andy at right fishing in one of the spectacular river valleys that drain the back side of the South Island Alps. From my personal experience, I have found this river valley (one that is never mentioned in all the “where to fish” guides and accessed by two of our favorite independent guides) to provide some of my favorite all time NZ memories.



Anne commented that “it was truly an amazing trip.” Their itinerary included one of NZ’s world class lodges and other fishing segments with two of the top independent guides utilizing their local waters, plus one non-fishing stay that was for “R & R.”



Andy was very complimentary about the guides he fished with: “.....Scott is also an extremely nice guy and fun to be with on the stream.....he was very attentive to me..... Paul is as good a guide as I have ever had..... he accommodated me and my infirmities, unbelievably --- he had no problem whatsoever "dialing it down"..... Derek, was terrific. Excellent guide in all respects, we ended up having a very good time with him and liking him a lot.....all see fish extremely well.

As second timers, it was a better experience (as good as it can get, surely better than anything else in MY lifetime) than the first. It was EXCELLENT - All of it !.....it was the trout trip of a lifetime!”

### PLANNING NZ FOR 2012 – 2013 SEASON?

New Zealand itineraries come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, lengths, and price ranges. From our perspective as trip consultants and planners, one thing all NZ itineraries have in common is the need for timing. Generally, an itinerary may have three to six fishing stops. We only recommend the top guides and lodges and they have a tendency to book up very early. The more lead time we have in assembling an itinerary, the more options that are available to us in securing the top guides in the order needed to fit the needs of an itinerary. While we can sometimes put together a quality itinerary with just three or four months notice, the odds of getting the “perfect” itinerary increase with the amount of lead time we have. NOW is a good time to begin the process of planning for late 2012 or early 2013 to have the best options available for the dates we need them.

### BELIZE MOTHERSHIP TRIP – LOOKING FOR A SINGLE AND PAIR TO JOIN IN



The best value, all things considered, in the realm of salt water flats fly fishing is the Belize mothership trip. That is especially true when there is a group of four, five, or six people to charter the boat (the Rising Tide takes up to six; the Meca a maximum to four). The value comes from the price, the hours spent on the water, the variety of species and fishing options pursued, and the overall experience. There are two trips looking for others to round out their group:

- May Rising Tide trip has five guys and looking for a sixth (Fish First Fly Shop hosted).
- September Meca trip has two guys who are looking for two others.

If you have interest in either, let us know. The website with details and prices is [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)

### FEBRUARY MEMORY PHOTO

Gary Martin travels the world seeking out fly rod adventure, but the fishing he enjoys the most takes place virtually in his back yard. He lives on the coast in Florida and one of his favorite pastimes is pursuing snook on the edges of the mangroves. This particular fish was special – at 39 inches, it is his largest snook to date.



**PHOTO CREDITS:** banner photo - Anne and Andy Baxter; Golden Dorado - Jay Strako; Patagonia raft – Josh Luft-Glidden; Rio Grande sea run brown

– Rich Hosley; Jurassic Lake, holding rainbow – Jeff Reinke; New Zealand – Anne and Andy Baxter

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,

Don Muelrath

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