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We are in the seventh 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. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. 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.

**PLANNING THE PERFECT FLY FISHING TRIP**



When beginning to plan a fly fishing trip, the most important thing to identify is what are your objectives.....what do you want to get from this trip? Objectives and questions can be many and varied, such as:

- I'll be accompanied by a friend or youngster who I'd like to get excited about fly fishing
- Enjoy a wilderness experience in a spectacular environment
- Pursue a certain trophy fish – such as “want to catch a 5 pound brook trout on a dry fly”
- Want both guides and a fishing environment that will help me develop my skills
- Want a fly fishing challenge that matches my current skill level/casting ability or I want to stretch my skills
- Prefer private, unpressured, waters
- Regarding accommodations and cuisine, I like to “rough it”...or...I prefer comfort and good service
- Place a high value on avoiding crowded conditions
- How many days are needed to make certain destinations viable – blend with my available time

There are destinations, lodges, and outfitters throughout the Western US and Canada that can satisfy any and all of these objectives. From four night trips with three days of fishing to a week or two, there are many possibilities that can meet whatever goals you have.



**FLY FISHING ADVENTURE TRAVEL**



When asked what I enjoy most about fly fishing, my answer is always the same: “My fly rod takes me to most beautiful, unspoiled places on the planet.” We're fortunate in that our passion to hunt fish with a fly rod is best satisfied in the most pristine environments on earth, places that are “the way they were” many, many years ago.

Whether your desire is to “rough it” or pursue high end accommodations and cuisine, destinations like Patagonia and New Zealand offer both ends of the scale. In New Zealand, you can camp with a world class guide in spectacular surroundings or be pampered in an outstanding lodge while you pursue their

trophy rainbows and browns in the crystal clear waters. Patagonia offers float trips on magnificent rivers with the stunning Andes as your back drop or, if comfort is your wish, top drawer estancias and lodges. Both also offer the opportunity to do some touring as part of your fly fishing adventure.



When we make our semi-annual pilgrimage to the Minipi River in the wilds of Labrador to pursue trophy brook trout with dry flies, it's *just being there*, in that isolated wilderness, that is the foundation for a great adventure (of course, those big brookies – above left - do add to the attraction). It's special to be in an environment where the fish and other creatures act and respond as nature intended, like they did hundreds of years ago. Certain Alaska adventures and remote trophy steelhead waters offer this same feeling as well as destinations like Kamchatka and the Amazon (peacock bass, above left center). The giant taimen (above right center) of Mongolia and the Atlantic Salmon of Russia's Ponoï present a tremendous challenge in a remote landscape, and like so many fly rod adventures, also offer a cultural experience. Floating the Lower Zambezi River in Africa and casting to tigerfish (above right) with elephants, hippos, and crocs as your companions is a unique thrill. So many places and so little time!

All over the world, fly rod adventures beckon. There are still places that are THAT SPECIAL, fly rod adventure destinations that are worth the time and investment to visit.

### SALTWATER FLATS



For a fly fisher who has only used his fly rod in fresh water, awaiting them is an entire other world of exciting stalking and sight fishing on the shallow flats in salt water. We specialize in assisting and coaching fly fishers who are pursuing the saltwater flats for the first time. There are tackle considerations and skills that need to be acquired to be effective.....nothing so complicated as rocket science, but there is a learning curve that you must deal with. There are many great bonefish destinations and there are places which offer, in addition to bonefish (below right center), a variety of shallow water saltwater species including tarpon (below left), snook, barracuda, and the most challenging sight fishing target in the entire realm of fly fishing, the permit (below right). Destinations

such as the Mexican Yucatan, Belize, Bahamas, and Christmas Island offer the opportunity to fish pristine flats for these salt water trophies. Or you can get real exotic and visit the Seychelles (giant trevally, below left center), off the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean. All of these locations provide a beautiful and exciting marine environment in which to cast to fish which present size, speed, and power not found in fresh water.



### TIMING

Every destination and species has a preferred time – i.e., the best time to fish for your selected species using the approach you prefer. Where trout are concerned, most anglers prefer the time when there is likely to be lots of surface activity and you can take fish on dry flies. Of course, hatch cycles are never an exact science nor totally predictable, but general statements can be made about the “prime time.” Every species in every environment has such a preferred time. If you plan far enough ahead, you can enjoy visiting your selected destination and pursuing your target species during the best possible time thus ensuring your best odds of



success. However, one thing you quickly learn when booking world class destinations is the very top ones have loyal followings and are in demand – if you want to go prime time, you'd better book early, sometimes over a year out.

## LATE FALL BELIZE REPORTS



Two reports from November Belize trips have recently come in. The first is from Bob Cazort who took the inaugural trip on the new 58' Hatteras mothership, the Rising Tide. Bob is a seasoned veteran of the Belize mothership trip: "I have taken 3 or 4 Belize mothership trips each year for many years and just spent my first week on the Rising Tide, the new mothership option in Belize. There was nothing new with the captain, cook and guide – they were the same crew I have enjoyed over the years. However, the new boat was fantastic - there is a great deal of space, even for a group of six. The new owners went overboard on this one.....everything was tip top. Could not have been nicer!"

Ben Madey and his group of four chartered the Meca. They were primarily after snook and the November timing of their trip was geared to the snook spawning period. Ben has pursued snook in Belize many times, but previously had always used a land based lodge. His report: "Trip was great, everyone had a great time. We decided it was super dining interspersed with periods of good fishing. The fishing was different this year with not much river or reef fishing. However we still caught a lot of fish in places I had never caught many in the past. The 'three shift fishing format' was great, everything I had hoped it would be. I have a picture (snook at left) that I promised Captain Dean. Please forward to him."

This link will take you to a report with details on the new boat and other aspects of the Belize trip referenced above..... [http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/fishing\\_belize\\_09.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/fishing_belize_09.pdf)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THANK YOU!

Tammi and I would like to send you best wishes for a holiday season that is everything you want it to be. We really appreciate the support you have given to Fly Fishing Adventures throughout the years making it a pleasure for us to be of service to you as you pursue your fly fishing dreams.

## DECEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

This is an early season 9.5# brown from New Zealand courtesy of Paul van de Loo. Paul reports that there were a lot of mice around in October supplying extra protein and this fish had a belly full of them (the mice could be felt by running fingers along the belly).

**PHOTO CREDITS:** (top to bottom) New Zealand river scene – William Owens; peacock bass – Jerry Saltzgaber; taimen – Chuck Ferrell; giant trevally – Peter Rippin; snook – Ben Madey.

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

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