



Tarpon Antics, Belize



[www.flyfishingadventures.org](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)

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We are in the sixth 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 sites. 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.

## WESTERN EUROPEAN TRAVEL AND FLY FISHING



Marble Trout

As a small, personal service oriented fly fishing travel consulting business, Fly Fishing Adventures can not have the best answers to fly fishing travel questions everywhere on the globe. To satisfy the needs of clients who are traveling to places outside of our personal experiences, we enlist trusted associates who can supply the appropriate, unbiased information needed to plan the perfect travel experience. For instance, while we know and understand the outstanding tiger fishing and safari experiences available on the Lower Zambezi River in Zambia, we can not provide travel information about all the spectacular options available in Africa. So, to satisfy

the needs of our clients who are traveling in Africa, we have an associate travel company located in South Africa that is intimately familiar with the many and varied options for African adventures.

Throughout the years, we have had several requests for fly fishing options while traveling in Italy, France, etc. To assist in supplying these options, we have found an associate who is an expert in personalized itinerary planning which can include fly fishing in countries such as Italy, Swiss Alps, Slovenia, Croatia, France, and Austria.



walled town in Tuscany



trout stream in Slovenia

Briefly, whether you are traveling alone, with a non-fishing spouse, or with a small group, they are a full service agency that can arrange everything from lodging in medieval villages or small countryside hotels to local epicurean delights. Fish with English speaking guides on both sides of the Alps – the Tiber River in Tuscany, the Nera River in Umbria into Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Species include Mediterranean Brown Trout, Marble Trout, (to 10-15#), Brook Trout, Rainbows, Grayling, and Huchen (from the same family as the giant Taimen in Mongolia).

If you are in the early stages of planning Western European travel that may include some fly fishing, we suggest a visit with our new associate may prove very helpful. Just hit "reply" and we will provide an introduction to them.

## THREE FORKS RANCH AND SPA – EARLY & LATE SEASON SPECIAL OFFER



If you are operating on a limited fly fishing budget, this is not the right operation for you. Three Forks Ranch is a truly extraordinary 250,000 acre property straddling the Colorado – Wyoming border. This is an outdoor person's "fantasy playground" and, with the completion of their 6,000 square foot spa last year, the most unique and special fly fishing "private waters" in the lower 48. For the first time that we're familiar with, they are offering a 50% off special for reservations in the first two weeks of June and the month of October.

Regarding fishing in the early to mid June time frame, often the waters are high and off- color this time of year, but this season, that is not the case.....the forecast, based upon current conditions, is for good fishing conditions in early June this year. Regarding the fall, I've been there in October and the fishing was very good during that time. The colors are gone from the trees, there is a pre-winter look, and the weather is cooler, but unless there are unusually heavy early rains, the fishing is very good (the link below to my exploratory trip report

discusses the October fishing I experienced).

Three Forks Ranch - fly fishing and spa.....50% discount, based on availability, for June 1 – 14 and October 1 – 31, 2009:

	<u>Delux Guest Room</u>	<u>Suite</u>
6 night – 5 day	\$3,500/person	\$4325/person
5 night – 4 day	\$3250/person	\$3800/person
4 night – 3 day	\$2750/person	\$3250/person
3 night – 2 day	\$2050/person	\$2450/person

Includes: lodging, dining, 2x1 guiding, horseback riding, hiking, ATV rides, sporting clays, airport ground shuttle. Not included: spa treatments/services, tax, service charge, and incidentals.



The following link will take you to the report filed on our October exploratory trip to Three Forks Ranch:  
[http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr\\_Three-Forks-Ranch.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_Three-Forks-Ranch.pdf)

## GIANT TREVALLY EXPERIENCES.....AND FAILURES



Two and a half years ago, I began a quest to catch Giant Trevally (GT) on a fly. While searching for this exciting and aggressive gamefish in the waters of Christmas Island, Fiji, and the Seychelles, that quest has found some satisfaction. I've now released over twenty of these brutes with four over 30 pounds and several 20+.....still looking for that 50+ pound fish. However, along the way, I've had some very humbling failures....indeed, some I'll never forget. For the next three newsletters, I'll detail a few of those humbling failures, beginning with the beginning.....my first day fishing for GT's at Christmas Island a few years ago, before I had taken my first on a fly.

We were using a technique that I had heard about before departing on the trip – the guide would cast a large 9 inch surface plug with a spinning rod, throwing the heavy lure 150 yards or so over submerged reefs. He would retrieve the plug with his large spinning reel so fast that the lure skipped across the surface. The concept was to attract GT's to chase, reeling fast enough to keep the lure just out of their reach (photo at right). When the pursuing fish got about 60 feet from the boat, the fly caster would attempt to switch the fish from the spinning plug to his fly rod popper.



I knew this worked because trusted fly fishing associates had told me of their past success and this particular guide's expertise with the technique. About the third cast of the morning, we had a pod of GT's chasing. There



were about six or seven fish crashing through the surface, chasing that attractor plug. The lead fish was truly giant – maybe 70- 80 pounds. What a dramatic scene! So dramatic in fact, that despite the guide yelling, “they're coming, CAST, CAST, CAST,” my fly rod stayed at my side as the scene unfolded and the GT's came within 15-20 feet of the boat before they veered off. I was dumbfounded – it was so captivating watching the chase, I couldn't bring myself to action. The guide was frustrated – even to this day, that would be the largest GT I've ever seen close up. During the next few hours, the guide raised fish several times and had them chasing the skipping plug. Most of the fish were in the 15 to 20 pound range. Not once did I get my fly rod popper in front of one of those fish. It was very difficult to take my eyes

off the charging fish and focus my concentration on placing my cast in the right place before the fish arrived. In other words, I had blown over a dozen opportunities to take a GT on a fly rod popper without ONE fish even seeing the popper.

The guide had worked up a sweat with the reel handle a blur as he persisted in keeping the plug away from the pursuing fish. He was disappointed we didn't succeed. Even my wife, the eternally supportive one, was a little surprised I had failed to take at least one fish. For me, I was both exhilarated and disappointed. It had been an exciting visual experience, but I had failed miserably at getting the fly in the right place.



Fortunately, the next day, we were able to raise more fish and, with a night to prepare, I was ready. Using all the concentration I could muster, when the guide yelled, “they're coming, CAST, CAST,” I didn't raise my eyes, but looked only at the spot in the water where my fly rod popper should land. When the fish got about 10 feet away from the popper, I started stripping frantically. It worked....and it continued to work the rest of the week. Counting two fish that were taken on the edge of the flats without the attractor plug, I released 11 fish, one over 30# and several in the 15-20# range. That first day of dismal performance had created the groundwork for me becoming a committed GT fan.

## **BELIZE – NEW CATCH AND RELEASE LAW**

For over 20 years, we have fished the coastal inshore flats and mangrove channels of Belize, primarily using a mothership as our base of operations. During that time, there have been occasions when we witnessed gill netting operations that, in one night, could wipe out decades worth of nature's effort in cultivating fish populations. As someone who is very familiar with the Belize fishery, we find the following announcement of a new Belizean law to be very exciting.

“.....bonefish, permit and tarpon may not be possessed by any person or establishment in Belize, except in the act of catch and release.”

The Belize fishery is one of the finest multi-species, shallow water fishing opportunities and includes the best permit fishing on the globe. We have always felt that if they could get the commercial netting under control, it would be truly remarkable. It appears that the Belize government has finally decided that its salt water flats fly fishing is an attraction worthy of protection. This is very good news for all of us that make regular visits to this tropical paradise.

## **NEW ZEALAND ITINERARY PLANNING – FIRST TRIP AND SECOND TRIP**

Note: For those with an interest in New Zealand who may have missed our recent New Zealand newsletter...click on this link or cut and paste it into your browser to see the 2009 NZ report:

[www.flyfishingadventures.org/tr\\_New\\_Zeland-report.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/tr_New_Zeland-report.pdf)

**FIRST TRIP:** Identifying objectives and budgetary issues are critical in planning a NZ adventure. Finding the answers to these questions usually begins the process:

- is this a hard core fly fishing trip or a “couples tour” with fly fishing as an important element?



- how much time do you have – are we going to do both islands or just concentrate on one?
- when traveling, do you prefer the top end stays with service and ambiance to match or is the “budget first” consideration primary.....or a mix of the two?
- what percentage of the days do you want to fish – 40%, 60%, or as much as possible?
- what interests do the travelers have – if it’s just a matter of finding the finest fly fishing, that’s easy. However, usually one of the traveling parties has other interests they would like to incorporate.
- do you have any “must do” elements that need to be included. For instance, because of a recommendation from a trusted friend, is there a certain lodge or guide that you just must fish with?



Of course, understanding the options does help the process. One of our services is a get together to view a “NZ slide tour” covering the best options on both islands. This can be done in our Napa Valley fly fishing theatre or for a gathering of a small group in individual homes or offices.....or at the Fish First shop in Albany, near Berkeley in the Bay Area.

**SECOND TRIP:** Usually, this process begins with identifying what you enjoyed the most on the first trip. Most people want to repeat the elements they liked the best (in fact, we have clients who repeat basically the same NZ trip each year). Next, we look at the other options available that can blend logistically with what

we are repeating. Then (if there is the time available) we could examine the question of adding another South Pacific stop like Australia or Fiji.

**MAY MEMORY PHOTO**

Over the Memorial Day weekend, our son, Scott, and I took our 5 year old grandson, Nico, fishing at some local private ponds just outside the Napa Valley. We saw dragonflies, ducks, geese (even a goose egg), beautiful black and red birds, lizards and had a picnic.....Nico even learned to row a boat. And, we did get a few fish. Nico had a little help with the rainbow pictured, but later he caught his first fish (a black bass) all by himself.



**PHOTO CREDITS:** NZ brown – Michael Berard/William Owens

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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