



Bonefish on, Seychelles

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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.

FERNIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



The Wigwam River (at left) is one of the most scenic rivers in North America and is one of the various choices for anglers in the Fernie, British Columbia area. Fernie is a destination that has many options for the angler. There are several “walk and wade” streams (like the Wigwam) as well as drift boat trips on the main stem of the Elk River.

The dimensions of the Fernie area that attract anglers back year after year are many including:

- Tucked into the west slope of the Canadian Rockies, the location provides outstanding scenery and beautiful rivers.
- Accommodations in comfortable ski condos which are reasonably priced.
- Outstanding guides.
- A fishery that has something for everyone and has been protected.

The fishery begins with a population of numerous native West Slope Cutthroat Trout in the Elk River watershed that are surface oriented and readily rise to the dry fly. Other waters in the area hold rainbows and cuttbows (a rainbow – cutthroat hybrid). For veteran anglers looking for big fish, if your timing is right, you can cast to 25-32 inch Bull Trout in rivers like the Wigwam.

It is a great area for youngsters to learn to fly fish, such as Rhys Daniel with a nice fish below at right. Rhys accompanied his Dad, Grandfather, and brother on a Fernie adventure a few years ago and took this Bull Trout. Ann Yabusaki (at left below) is returning to Fernie with her husband and son this September. In the past, she accompanied her veteran fly angling husband, Ken, to Fernie on her first fly fishing trip.



Timing: this is an area that has enough variety that you can easily spend a week enjoying its charms.....or if your time is limited, a 4 night, 3 days of fishing program can work.

For current water conditions, we asked the preferred experienced outfitter we work with in Fernie for an update on snow pack, water levels, etc. Here is the report:

“We have quite a bit of snow in the upper elevations, but the low stuff has melted off. We are anticipating the Wigwam to have good water conditions by mid to late July. The cutthroat fishing will get going in the Wigwam by mid July and we look for Bull Trout to be arriving by late July.

Based on current conditions affecting the Elk River, we should see some fat and hungry fish by the third week of June. I’m expecting excellent golden stonefly hatches in the lower floats of the Elk by late June and the Alberta rivers (like the Crowsnest, Waterton (brown trout) and Oldman Rivers) will all be in prime shape for both wade and floats. July will be the big hatch month this year with green drakes, golden stones, caddis, pmds and sallies coming off daily. September will likely still have good flows due to the holding high elevation snow pack and ants, blue winged olives and huge October Caddis will provide the diet for the trout in the Elk and Oldman river drainages.”

Availability: the guides have some periods which are already fully booked, but there are still enough open slots that if you have some flexibility in scheduling, arrangements most likely can be made for this summer.

DEFINING A DESTINATION



Barbara (at left) and Charlie Renfrew began an annual pilgrimage to New Zealand in 2006 with just one year off to get Charlie’s (right, below) hip replaced. They don’t seem to be tiring of the experience.....upon returning from this year’s trip, Barbara commented: “What a wonderful trip. I am sure you are not surprised we want to rebook for next year – same schedule as this year.”

The evolution of their approach to fishing New Zealand is a sound one and not unusual for regular visitors to this wonderful country with its trophy brown and rainbow fishing in it’s crystalline streams and rivers. In fact, the same approach works well in developing an enjoyable long term angling relationship with any destination. They spent their first three trips to NZ fishing with different guides and lodges in different parts of the country. After those trips, they zeroed in on the guides and areas they enjoyed the most. They now focus on four different guides and the waters those guides fish and that’s where they split their time.



This approach allows you to build a long term relationship with quality guides and waters. The guides become good friends you look forward to seeing and spending time with each year. Because of your ongoing relationship with them, they tend to go the extra mile in providing you their best possible experience.

Barbara and Charlie used the same approach in defining their interests in fishing Argentine Patagonia. For years, they fished the variety of waters in the corridor on the eastern side of the Andes from the area north of San Martin to Esquel. After evaluating the different fisheries and outfitters, they settled on spending their Argentina trout fishing time each year at Tipiliuke and the Chimihuin River. Indeed, Tipiliuke does provide a quality experience and was covered in the third part of our Argentina report in the April newsletter.

ARGENTINA ADVENTURE – TIP TO TIP, FOURTH AND FINAL CHAPTER



This month concludes our four months of photo essay reports on the varied options of Argentina. Our final report, written by Rich Hosley (at left), is on the giant sea run browns of the Rio Grande River in Tierra del Fuego.

Rich’s well written report with photos can be accessed through this link:
<http://flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/TierradelFuego.pdf>

Argentina may provide the most diverse fly rod options of any country ranging from the tropical rivers of northern Argentina to Tierra del Fuego at the southern

tip. The previous three reports covered these fisheries:

- Golden Dorado in the Parana River
- Giant rainbows of Jurassic Lake and the Barrancoso River
- The Patagonia trout fishery near the eastern Andes

To access the complete collection of these reports, this link will take you there:

http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Argentina_pe.pdf

STAGES OF EVOLUTION FOR A FLY FISHER

There may be many way to define this, but here is my definition of the five steps that most fly fishing anglers go through in the process of developing into an angler who can handle many different types of fly fishing challenges:

- 1 Amazed that a fish can be caught with a fly that I cast.
- 2 Interest is primarily in catching numbers of fish.
- 3 Desire builds to begin to develop fly fishing skills – may want to develop a double haul cast to increase distance.
- 4 Interest evolves toward catching larger or trophy-type fish. Often, a focus on the excitement of sight fishing and discovering the salt water flats is part of this phase.
- 5 Have caught both numbers as well as trophy fish – now into perfecting skills and pursuing the finest overall fly rod experiences.



MAY MEMORY PHOTO

Jim Andras is back with another truly memorable fish – the Giant Trevally at right. This fish was among several large GT's Jim and his group took at Christmas Island not long ago. This comment from Jim does a credible job of summing up the capricious nature of salt water fly fishing: “It still amazes me how unpredictable salt water fly fishing can be. If you begin to think you're figuring it out in any way, your next trip will most probably leave you dazed and confused.” Amen!

PHOTO CREDITS: Ann's cutthroat – Ken Yabusaki; Rhys Bull Trout – Gary Daniel; Barbara and Charlie Renfrew; Tierra del Fuego sea run brown – Rich Hosley.



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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