



Minipi River, Labrador



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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.

EXOTIC FLY FISHING COMBINATIONS – PART III

(This is the third part of *Exotic Fly Fishing Combinations* which began in February)

Ever had the urge to just pack your bags, grab your fly rods, and consider never coming back? If you have the time and the budget, fly fishing based combination trips can be interesting. This sort of adventure allows for experiencing two or more different natural environments in one trip, taking advantage of the fact you've spent the money and flight time to be in a general geographical area. Examples can include:



Labrador Trophy Brook Trout – Quebec Atlantic Salmon: The legend of the giant brookies in Labrador (specifically, the Minipi River watershed) is well known to many of our clients who make this trek every other year – including my son and I. If your timing is right, this remains the best spot on the globe to cast dry flies during intense mayfly hatches to 5, 6, and 7 pound brookies. We've recently become familiar with a spectacular Atlantic Salmon fishery in Quebec. Available are crystal clear rivers where these fabulous gamefish (up to 40 pounds) can be sight fished with guides who will work long days and are not bound to the clock. The general geographic location and the prime time for both of these fisheries is such that they can be combined into one trip.

Belize: With your own beach front villa on a private island as your headquarters, mix the most outstanding golf course (and also the only golf course) in Belize with it's reknowned tarpon, bonefish, permit, and snook fishing. Can add in snorkeling and/or diving on the world's second largest barrier reef. Or you can combine an island week with a mothership trip on the Meca or Seaduction to access the best flats fishing in Belize.





Ponoi Atlantic Salmon – Taiman in Mongolia: How 'bout pairing the finest Atlantic Salmon fishing on the Ponoi River in Russia with pursuing the giant Taiman in Mongolia's rivers and streams? Pretty exotic stuff. Also, you can combine either of these with a Russian tour.

New Zealand – Tropical South Pacific: Couple the special dimensions of New Zealand with a tropical stop in the South Pacific. Let's start with Fiji, a wonderful "second honeymoon" type getaway. While not a great fly fishing destination, Fiji does offer many wonderful couples-type options and it's only a three and a half hour flight from Auckland. If you're looking for a stronger South Pacific salt water fly fishing option than Fiji to pair with a New Zealand adventure, Air Pacific flights now offer an option to get from Christmas Island to Auckland. Either way, the contrast between a tropical South Pacific stop and New Zealand makes for a very interesting trip.

Obviously, itinerary planning for dual environment opportunities present their special challenges. Most important is availability – many of the destinations referenced above sell out as much as a year (and sometimes more) in advance. Combining different elements means having them both available in consecutive time frames. Early planning is critical to getting all the options you want when you want them.

There are many such opportunities if you have the resources and the time...and can handle the packing challenges.

MORE NEW ZEALAND



In general, John French summed up the feelings from New Zealand travelers with these comments: "All in all, fabulous."

Anne Baxter (pictured with a NZ brown and rainbow) experienced New Zealand this year with her brother, Andy. Together, they spent time on both islands sampling the best of NZ on this, their first trip. Anne does a great job of capturing the spirit and excitement of the New Zealand fishery with her comments: "The trip could not, in any way, have been better. The variety, the guides, the pace with a day off here and there, the directions....but above all, the fishing of a lifetime. In my mind, there is nothing as

rewarding and inspiring as to walk and look sometimes for 5 minutes, sometimes for an hour, then sight a trout, watch it feeding, have to be incredibly stealthy in one's approach, kneel, watch and then the delicate presentation and be rewarded by the huge mouth coming to the surface, taking the fly, and taking one's breath away. Life doesn't get any better. Being in some of the most spectacular landscapes puts it over the top. I can't believe there is better dry fly fishing anywhere in the world. I can't wait to go back. Thank you for the planning."



FARM POND "GRAND SLAM" (Grandpa stuff)

In our September 2004 newsletter (#28), we did a story about how old children should be for introduction to fishing. The article discussed guidelines for starting children and some personal experiences with our (at that time, 4 year old) granddaughter, Abby. Well, Abby has graduated from those bluegills mentioned in that story.



In a valley near our Napa Valley home, a friend has a ranch with three ponds on the property. Two of the ponds feature black bass and the third also has trout. He charges a rod fee for access and, over the past several years, our family has had many wonderful experiences fishing these lakes, primarily for the black bass. These were the same lakes where Abby had her introduction in that 2004 article. This past Sunday, Abby and I paid a visit, our third such trip together to this ranch.

Abby still has her “Barbie” spin cast outfit (two and a half feet long), but we’ve added a larger model spin cast outfit to her arsenal, plus we had a fly rod along. This would be a special day and one she probably won’t forget (gramps won’t either as long as there are enough brain cells). We started by getting a nice bluegill to eat a worm-enhanced bead headed nymph below a small bobber. Abby then graduated to a beautiful rainbow trout and finished with a chunky largemouth black bass completing the farm pond “Grand Slam.” All in all, just a wonderful day together, full of shared excitement.

(Note: all of our past newsletters are available on the “Newsletters/Trip Reports” page on our website www.flyfishingadventures.org)

FIRST PERMIT – TWO!!

Mac Noble, a seasoned fly fishing veteran and guide who manages the Fish First shop in Chico, not only captured his first permit on his recent trip to Ascension Bay on the Mexican Yucatan, he got two!! His description of the second one captures the essence of the permit stalk:

“We stalked two schools of permit around in a bay from the panga. I had two fish chase the fly on different casts before I actually got a permit to eat the fly. I don’t know when I have had that much adrenaline pumping through my veins. Three huge, blistering runs and 45 minutes later, we landed the permit.”

PHOTO CREDITS: Male Minipi Brook Trout in spawning dress, drake hatch on the Minipi, Belize private island getaway, Russian copter – Jerry Saltzgaber, NZ rainbow and brown – Anne Baxter, Abby with “Grand Slam,” permit – Mac Noble.

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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