



Tigerfish and Hippos, Lower Zambezi, Africa



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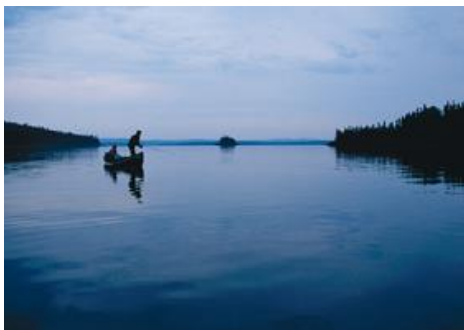
We are in the seventeenth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

WHY THE MINIPI KEEPS DRAWING ME BACK?

(This past July, our group took over the lodge at Anne Marie on the Minipi River. Most of us had been here multiple times and that included Jeff Reinke, who was on his fifth trip. Jeff had a magical evening and captures the essence of that night with his story below)

“Why do I keep coming back here.....the wilds of Labrador in northeastern Canada? It's about one of the most difficult places to get to. Two days coming and a long day coming back. On this last trip, I had flight delays and was told I wouldn't be home for three days. Love Air Canada! The fishing is difficult, weather unpredictable, swarms of black flies and angry beavers & pike always trying to take your mouse pattern. All great reasons not to make the journey, so then, why do I keep coming here? This was my fifth, and every time I keep saying it's my last. But it never is...so why?

The Minipi River is a place that has an ability to seduce you in a way that makes you forget or forgive all its shortcomings. One night on this last trip, I was seduced by the best she has to offer. Since we have daylight until close to 10:30pm, there is the opportunity to go back out after dinner and catch the last light and final hatch of the day. Typically, I would connect with a couple of brookies and enjoy a beautiful evening. In fact, on the trip before this one, I got my first and biggest brookie over 8lbs. I have heard the folklore of “the special night,” but have never experienced one, until this evening during our last trip in July.



It was a calm night. Not a lot of bugs coming off the lake, but a few. Just enough for a fish or two to look up and occasionally take one. It was a lovely night to be on the lake – the water like glass. Then something special happened. We started to get the same fish coming up multiple times. First over here and then over there. I cast once, then twice and on the third time he takes. I set the hook and feel the weight on the end of my line. We land a nice 5.5 pound brookie. Then another one pops up close to the bank, we paddle over, make a cast and connect to another one! My guide, Ray, and I continued looking for new chances at another cruiser. We soon found another creating the radiating rings of a fish eating on the surface. A couple of casts and another one to the boat. That night, we chased and hooked brookies all evening long. We did hook one and lost it to a net malfunction, but every other hook-up resulted in a netted and weighed

fish. What a night! When we got back to the lodge, we had landed five brookies, all over five pounds. It was an incredible evening of stalking and sight casting that can only be experienced in a place like this. So, that's why I keep coming back. What draws me is the potential of evenings like this one and, even more alluring.....the ones yet to be experienced. It truly is a magical place."

CAYO LARGO, CUBA REPORT.....WITH HAVANA COMMENTS

Mark Wilson, John Siegfried, Lars Pederson, and Paul Boero (photo at left on Havana tour) do a lot of fly fishing travel together. This summer, they fished Cayo Largo, an island on the south side of Cuba. Like a lot of Cuban fly fishers do, they included some time in Havana and did a Havana city tour.



John uses his usual creative writing flair to give us some bullet point descriptions of the fishing, and below, the Havana tour.

- I was low man. Had some permit shots. Mark got a grand slam.....I witnessed Lars just miss a permit for a slam.....Paul broke off a 15# tarpon for a slam. Sad!!
-whined so much about wanting to fish tarpon that our guide finally and took us to a spot that looked like tarpon Disneyland. Beautiful !!! Only had 45 minutes left. No hook-ups, but they were there.
- Bones are huge compared to Yucatan, to 9 pounds.
- I would definitely go again. At the end of every day, a little short Italian guy would tell you where we were going to fish the next day (the marine park is broken into 5 different fishing zones). Zones are different, but you don't want to be stuck blind casting to acre-size schools of bones when there are tarpon areas nearby. Or permit.
- All in all, I think the Avalon outfitters did a great job.

Photos below, l to r: Mark with Grand Slam permit, flats skiff, John with bone.



HAVANA COMMENTS: John's comments about the Havana city tour:

- Just say the tour of Havana was outstanding. Our guide says there are people listening and watching. She visited Panama once and fell to her knees in tears inside a real grocery store. She had pictures of herself eating a hamburger at a McDonalds. Not that way in Cuba.
- You can tell the place was once dripping in money. Sugar, the mob, the U.S., Spanish, pirates, foreign embassies the whole 9 yards. Beautiful homes in some centuries' old architecture in various stages of disrepair. Columbus was once buried there.
- Beaches extremely clean compared to Mexico.
- To get your money's worth out of Havana you need to decide what you want to do. We were there on the weekend and saw the Cubans at play in their bars with bands, it was great !!!
- Mid-fifties, when I was about 10, we would go down to my grandmother's house in Salinas. On the way, it was a great thrill for me to see all the new cars on the road. Those same cars were still in Havana as taxis and guide cars. I couldn't help but think that the people that originally owned those cars are buried in a Florida cemetery as they had to quickly bail when the revolution started. Bail or get shot by Che or Raul Castro.

One guy on the Havana tour (who will remain anonymous) had this comment about the Communist country: "The tour of Havana was something I didn't want to do, but it was a highlight of the trip. Our guide told us the facts about how the average Cuban lives. We all came away having a renewed appreciation for America."

THE PART REPORT – NEW ZEALAND



(Once again, we are pleased to have The Part Report for our newsletter. John Part has been fishing New Zealand every year for over 20 years. He does an outstanding job of relating his adventure and describing the joys and challenges of fishing NZ's crystalline streams and rivers. John has achieved a degree of notoriety in that he has now released 73 brown trout in excess of ten pounds. This is an excerpt from his full report which describes a special happening which may occur this season – "A Mouse Year." The full report is available through the link below)

"This was a rainy, high water October trip to the Northern third of New Zealand's South Island. On some days the rivers were so high that it was hard to find anywhere to fish at all, but apart from one rest day, we had no blanks. In line with a recent trend, we saw remarkably few small fish; even three

pounders were rare. They must be somewhere, and my experience is too narrow to draw conclusions, but my brilliant guide, says he sees fewer small fish than in the past. At the other end of the scale, the 'piggy' score ticked up with a couple of double figure browns, best 11 1/2 lbs (photo at left), making a personal total of 73 in the last twenty years. I'm targeting 75, but I can't see myself wanting to stop there. There was also a nice sprinkling of browns in the 7 to 9lbs range.

In the area I fish bigger browns are rather rare. Most I reach by helicopter. Have you ever tried justifying the cost of helicopter trips to your other half? You're on a loser. I remember one lovely wife visiting New Zealand with her fisherman husband he was bent on flying to far off rivers. She simply said 'It's okay. I'm into art'. He barely flinched.

This trip's big boys came from the River of Long Faces, a rather mysterious and notoriously fickle home of fat trout, in a narrow valley with 'oh no, you're not going to try to land there' landing places. But most days it's hunting browns in the 4 to 6lbs range. Wonderful, and challenging days in most beautiful scenery. We had 79 trout in 13 days' fishing, most of the action at this time of year focused on four hours around lunchtime....."

[THE PART REPORT - A NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE](#)

LOOKING FOR PARTNERS: AMAZON PEACOCK BASS AND RISING TIDE BELIZE PERMIT TRIP

From time to time, we have individuals or small groups who are looking for others to join them to help round out a group for a trip. Currently:

AMAZON – a group of four is looking for up to four more to join them on the Rio Marie mothership during prime time in the fall of 2020. Ask for details if you have interest.

PERMIT TRIP, BELIZE – two seasoned veterans of this trip on the mothership Rising Tide are looking for at least one more to get a better per person rate for a permit trip covering the best waters in Belize.

WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we can provide reliable information regarding the experience and how to prepare for your visit:

[Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

NOVEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

At right is Dave Ellis with a beautiful Lake Trout taken from Lake Michigan. Dave is an expert fly tier who is in the process of creating the "perfect permit crab" for the waters of Belize using the new "Strong Arm" pattern. Will keep you posted on this as we'll be experimenting with this new fly on our upcoming December Rising Tide trip in Belize.

PHOTO CREDITS: Minipi – Jeff Reinke; Cuba – John Siegfried; New Zealand – John Part.



An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
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