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We are in the sixteenth 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.

BEST OF THE NINGALOO REEF – PART ONE

Isolated in the far northwest corner of Australia is one of the world’s top variety saltwater fisheries. The Northwest Cape, an approximately 75 mile-long peninsula, is bordered on the east side by the Exmouth Gulf and on the west side by the Ningaloo Reef and the Indian Ocean. These two different bodies of water provide a combination of distinctly different characteristics, but offer similar species of shallow water sportfish. In March of 2019, following a stop at some of our favorite New Zealand waters, we will make our fifth trip here. This is Part One of a two part photo essay of the “Best of the Ningaloo Reef.”

Below, l to r: the coral heads inside the reef provide a feeding ground for large GT’s; outside the reef is a vibrant fishery for billfish that attracts anglers from around the globe.



Below, l to r: large bonefish and cobia are present, although not in a traditional bonefish environment; world record Golden Trevally are taken here.



Below, l to r: for me, the top attraction is the Pacific permit. Their spawning colors can include heavy gold tones, different from our Caribbean permit. Inside the reef, as you get nearer to the shoreline and away from the coral heads, are white sand flats. Permit are often seen on the backs of feeding rays.



Below, l to r: marine enthusiasts from around the world come to dive and snorkel. Main attractions, in season, are Whalesharks, Humpback Whales with pups, and three species of large sea turtles who nest on these beaches. To be found year-round are the various species of reef fish and sea creatures that find their homes in the reef systems and coral heads.



NEW ZEALAND: THE “PART REPORT”



(Twice a year, we are proud to bring to our newsletter the PART REPORT on New Zealand fishing. The report below is written by John Part who, for the past 16 years, has been a twice-a-year visitor to New Zealand, preferring to take his trips in the very early (Oct) and very late (Apr) season each year. He is an outstanding trout angler who has a passion for stalking brown trout in NZ. He brings a sense of reality to his descriptions of stalking the trophy browns of New Zealand. John has achieved a degree of notoriety by releasing 70 browns that weighed in excess of ten pounds, plus an additional 185 trophies between eight and ten pounds.)

“My latest trip was fourteen days’ fishing in mid October with my old friend and guide (next year will be our 20th anniversary of friendship and fishing together) in the northern third of New Zealand’s South Island. Brown trout

heaven. The weather was sunnier and calmer than ever, with little or no rain for a week or two before the season started, and consequently river levels were low for the time of year. I wasn’t expecting to go to a 4lb tippet in early season; but I did, and it paid off.

No ‘piggies’ this trip. So we sit on our grand total together of 70 brown trout of ten pounds and upwards. I’ve learnt by now never to expect one. Expectations are the bugbear of everyone’s fishing trips. I tell myself that I just have to be ready to fool one when conditions are right, and when I happen to be there when he’s feeding. Usually the piggie is a ‘he’; a grumpy old man left in possession of headwater pools while the girls slip downstream to get fat and ready to swim back upstream to spawn next autumn. We saw one – “bet he’ll go fourteen pounds”, my friend whispered - and I got a couple of casts over him, but it just wasn’t to be. The closest I got was five 8+ pounders in the three ‘big fish’ rivers we visited. They were each lean and needed a good feed to get them back to their pomp. Most of them would have gone the magic ten pounds in good condition.



But once the early mist dissolved, the sun shone, and in the few hours in the middle of the day the bugs were moving, and the fish were out feeding and catchable. We had some great dry fly action: better than my friend had seen in summer 'dry fly months'. When my fishing day consists of a trip average of nine brown trout between four and six pounds, regularly running me well out into the backing, and among some of the most beautiful and varied scenery imaginable - that's when it's well worth flying half way round the world from my home in London.

Indeed, where to go for better brown trout fishing than New Zealand? The agent who originally advised me was disarmingly honest. – "Where do I go when I'm tired of New Zealand? Ah, that will be your problem."

I've tried Iceland, Slovenia, the Pyrenees, Chile and Patagonia, South Africa and United States. New Zealand gets my vote every time. But, like all destinations, there are good spots and less so, and the same goes for lodges and guides. Your agent is the right place to start, but does your agent actually fish there, how often, and how long ago? And once you've decided you've found the right combination, stick to your decision. Your agent and your guide need to develop confidence in you, just as much as you in them.

I've written before about the importance of my friend and guide's decision where to fish each day. Most times he gets it right, weighing all the factors. I know to eat my breakfast quietly and leave him to it. Like stockpicking, whenever I put my oar in, I mess it up. Indeed, come to think of it, whenever I don't follow my guide's advice I tend to mess up. Great New Zealand fishing guides are like that....."

PRESERVING OUR WILD PLACES

John Gans and his son, Henry, have contributed many photos and stories to our newsletter over the years. Now John has turned his passion into a job and is working hard in fishing conservation. Says John, "We have to preserve these wild places for the next generation. I don't want my son to ask what fishing was like in the 'good old days.' I want his fishing to be better than I had it." We need more of us doing something about THAT! John recently uncovered an industrialized fishing nightmare off the east coast and wrote an article about it. This link takes you there - [Industrialized Fishing Nightmare](#)

LOOKING FOR PARTNERS – CHILE WITH A 25% DISCOUNT

CHILEAN ANDES: One of our regular South American traveling clients has fished at our favorite Patagonian lodge since 2011. In recent years, he has been joined by several friends. The reasons this lodge is our favorite Patagonia lodge are numerous, but they include spectacular Andes mountain environment, great fishing with multiple options, wonderful service and ambiance (owner operated), and isolation – very seldom encounter another angler, a feature that most of us treasure and is getting harder to find in today's crowded world. They are booked for a group of six for late March, 2019. One of the group ran into family conflicts on the travel dates and had to cancel. They are looking for one (or two) to join in and complete the group. For one trip, a 25% discount is being offered. If you'd like more information, please ask and we'll send you trip reports, website, etc.



MEMORIES – A FATHER/DAUGHTER FLY FISHING ADVENTURE



The pretty young lady with the nice rainbow in the photo at left is someone I know.....proud to say that is our granddaughter, Sophia (age 10). She is learning the joys of the great outdoors and the challenges and excitement of fly fishing. She has an excellent instructor – her Dad and our son, Scott! With a five hour drive from their home in southern Nevada, Scott and Sophia used the White Mountains in northern Arizona as headquarters for a 3 night camping trip built around teaching Sophia to flyfish. The most important element for success in this type of endeavor is the 'right' guide. Scott knew he had the right one – he had used her last year for a trip with his son, Nico.

For Sophia, this was her first experience casting a fly in a stream....and she did catch lots of rainbows. Some of Sophia's comments:

- I learned a lot about fly fishing in a stream and holding fish.
- Camping was one of my favorite parts.
- Very fun time with my Dad.



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](#)

PHOTO CREDITS: Ningaloo – Keith Talbot, Herle Hamon, Brett Wolf.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
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