



Chilean Andes

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FLY FISHING ADVENTURES TRAVEL NEWSLETTER – APRIL '07

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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.

WHY CONSIDER FERNIE B.C. AND THE ELK RIVER SYSTEM THIS SUMMER?



The reasons:

- Solid, well protected fishery, with native west slope cutthroat supplying numbers of surface oriented fish and bull trout providing the occasional opportunity for a big fish.
- Not the crowds of our “public fisheries” in the lower 48 because of B.C.'s laws restricting the number of rod days on the watershed.
- Spectacular Canadian Rockies scenery.
- Good local guides – great spot for both a novice and seasoned fly fisher.
- Accommodations ranging from comfortable condos to a world class resort.
- Combination of “big river” drift boat fishing and small tributary streams for “walk and wade” type angling.
- Can bring the spouse or family – other activities available.
- This could be considered a “value oriented” guided fly fishing experience for the budget conscious.

All things considered, this is an exciting western destination that fits well into a four or five night time frame.

WINTER '08 OPENINGS: AMAZON AND PATAGONIA

Yikes, it's only April and we're already looking at "sold out" signs on many of the weeks for early '08 at the only fly fishing lodge in the Amazon as well as many of our favorite Patagonia spots. Regarding the Amazon, this trip has skyrocketed in popularity.....and for good reason. Lots of fish with large 10 – 15 pound-plus peacock bass available, unique isolated jungle setting, clear water river where sight fishing is possible, comfortable jungle lodge, etc. Only spots remaining open are a few weeks in late November and early December and six slots in early and mid-March. Lots of info and my personal trip rundown at the bottom of the Amazon page on our website www.flyfishingadventures.org



Lots of ways to approach a Patagonia Adventure. If you have the time, nothing better than starting with some of the famous estancias or private float trips on the Argentine side of the Andes. Next, move over the crest of the Andes to one of the top Chilean lodges with options of one and two night "cabin stay" float trips through isolated and spectacular Andes surroundings, and finish with a three or four night stay at a lodge/spa combination in the Fjords of Chile. However, if you don't have that much time, lots of combinations starting with nine days to two weeks. Hit "reply" if you'd like to see sample itineraries. Price ranges vary depending on budget, level of comfort, and time frame for travel.



"HITTING IT RIGHT" IN BELIZE

Paul Wilms returned from a mid March Belize trip and, even as a Belize veteran of several trips, was amazed at the action and variety of opportunities he encountered daily. This would qualify as "hitting it right" in Belize! He spent most of each day casting to sighted fish and said he "almost cast as much as if he were fishing for stripers in the delta and blind casting all day." He boated several snook to six pounds and jumped six tarpon to 80 pounds. 10+ bonefish a day was the norm. The top highlight was the number of permit he fished.....and where they were. There were literally hundreds of permit on the flats within a mile or two of Belize City. There were large schools, small schools, as well as singles and pairs of larger fish. His very experienced guide said he'd never before seen permit in these numbers so close to the city (in my over 20 years of Belize visits, I've never heard of anything like this either).



There was a "catch" to the permit fishing (there's ALWAYS a catch to permit fishing!) – bonefish mixed in with them virtually everywhere. This enabled them to catch numbers of bonefish each day, but provided endless frustration in trying to get one of the always finicky permit to eat as the



bonefish kept beating them to the fly...over and over again. He did manage to get one permit added to his career number of permit, but felt without the bonefish



present in such great numbers, he could have had a few more. This just adds one more chapter to the permit legend in Belize.

(PERSONAL NOTE: I was in Belize on the Seaduction a week after Paul. Basically, I didn't enjoy the action that Paul experienced proving the old adage that the ultimate excitement of sight fishing on the saltwater flats is always in a state of flux and can be fickle....but I did manage to get my 26th permit. Many of the large schools of permit were still in the same place Paul found them, but only the smaller fish – the big boys and girls had moved on to other feeding grounds.)

We have a free DVD available on the Belize fishery utilizing the motherships Meca and Seaduction – just hit “reply” and ask.

COLORADO'S THREE FORKS – JULY SLOTS AND FALL '08 RESERVATIONS



Northern Colorado's Three Forks Ranch must be the toughest place in the West to get space. Summer '07 at this “top of the line” fly fishing lodge (with a price to match), has been sold out for months. However, a corporate group that had the entire lodge booked from July 20 – 23, '07 just cancelled leaving these prime dates open. Moving to the fall of '08, the completion of construction of the new lodge/spa complex at the ranch is creating quite a stir. They are now taking reservations for the fall of '08 and it's already over half sold out! In past years, the ranch was dedicated to hunters for the fall starting in September. However, starting in '08, with the new building complete, they will take in their full complement of fly fishers in the fall...if you can get space. We are holding some of these slots for our clients. The last two summers we've had several Fly Fishing

Adventures clients visit Three Forks and almost everyone returns. If the budget can handle it, there's no reason not to enjoy this very unique fly fishing adventure.

UNIQUE FLORIDA KEYS TARPON FISHING

I've never been a big fan of the Florida Keys tarpon scene. Maybe it's been too many years fishing with my favorite Belizean guides who LOVE to fish and pay no attention to the clock; dawn to dark are my favorite tropical fishing hours. Just haven't been able to get excited about combat fishing at Islamorada with rude guides working on unionized-type, wage earner, hours. However, here's a niche I can get behind that comes from one of our best clients, a respected, well traveled veteran of both the salt and fresh water. This tarpon outfitter and his guide-mates rent an upscale, private, five bedroom waterfront home with dock, three stories with pool, for the prime tarpon season and use it as a “private lodge” for a select number of clients. They have their own private chef on board who prepares meals around the fishing schedule, not the clock (does sound like my favorite Belize operation!). No advertising – only word of mouth and referral bookings. Because of our relationship with the aforementioned client, we are adding this spot to our list of special properties.

Other unique aspects include guides who will work with novice tarpon fly fishers and will work hours unrelated to any union clock – basically whatever hours their fly fishing clients want. Don't need a rental car....they pick up clients in Key West on arrival and drop them at the airport for departure. They'll even personalize menus to meet requests. And, they are located in the lower Keys, the center of the palola worm activity which energizes tarpon feeding for a time in late May or early June.

Price is \$750 a day per person based on shared guide. Price includes guide, meals, room, wine, beer, and liquor. There are two prime time holes in the calendar for this season – May 19 – 28 and June 3 – 11, each for up to six people, plus a few other May and June dates with two openings.



PHOTOS (from top to bottom): casting for giant rainbows in Patagonia; Native West Slope Cutthroat and Bull Trout; Frank Jackson with trophy peacock bass, glacier capped Andes peaks, large Chilean rainbow; Belize - tailing permit, tarpon, and snook; Three Forks private water and rainbow; Keys tarpon at boat.

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

Fly Fishing Adventures

www.flyfishingadventures.org

888-347-4896

flyfish@napanet.net

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