



Lower Laguna Madre, Texas, Redfish Flats



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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.

SEYCHELLES TRIP REPORT - THE SHORT VERSION

(Note: the November newsletter carried a story of the first half of this trip which included tigerfishing and safari style game viewing in Africa. This report on the Seychelles is the second and final report on this exotic combination fly fishing adventure.)



Off the east coast of Africa, in the Indian Ocean, lie a collection of 115 spectacular islands and atolls, over half of them uninhabited, known as the Seychelles. The stunning Seychelles’ sister atolls of Alfonse and St. Francois were our home for a week of quality salt water flats fishing that confirmed the reputation this fishery has earned over the last eight years. Using a very comfortable five star tropical resort as our home, this rich and protected marine environment provided outstanding opportunities for bonefish, giant trevally, and milkfish (a 20 to 40 pound fly rod trophy fish which belies it’s somewhat tame name). Bottom line: the finest bonefishing I’ve ever seen and outstanding flats fishing opportunities for giant trevally, and a host of other shallow water species. Surprisingly, Mahe, the capital of the Seychelles, is just a four hour flight from either Johannesburg, South Africa, or Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.



Seychelles Grand Slam: The Seychelles slam consists of a bonefish, a milkfish, and a trevally taken on the same day. George Toledo not only had a 'slam, he did it with style (above with all three). The GT was in the 60# range and the milkfish was huge. He caught those two first and then, as easy as bonefish were most of the week, it took him an hour to get the bone.

For a complete trip report on the Seychelles including logistics, fishing program, seasons, pricing, etc, click on this link: http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_seychelles.pdf

SOUTH TEXAS REDFISH TRIP REPORT



A group of fly fishers from the San Francisco based Golden West Women's Fly Fishing Club recently took a trip to the extensive flats of the Lower Laguna Madre in South Texas. Their primary objective was their first redfish. We arranged guiding and accommodations near Harlingen, Texas for their adventure.

Some comments on the trip:

Jean Edwards (below left with redfish): "The trip was GREAT! Good accommodations, awesome food and very relaxing. I definitely enjoyed the fishing....I love sight fishing. Definitely would do this trip again when I am in or near Houston."

Barbara Klutinis: "Trip was great. Jeff was terrific as a host. We had the entire upstairs. Very comfortable rooms, bed, own bath. The guides were good too.....All in all, I would give this a 4 star."

We took our exploratory trip to the extensive shallow flats of the Lower Laguna Madre, one of our countries largest estuary systems in early November of '07, same timeframe as the trip referenced above. We had great weather for three days with temps in the low 80's with light or no wind. This is one of those unique locations that provides a good stalking and sight fishing experience with tailing fish in shallow water inside the continental USA in November and also the early spring.



The lodging arrangements make this a good spot for a group of four to six people. The lodge is a large building with two independent floors, each floor with four bedrooms and its own large kitchen plus a well appointed living area with big screen TV. Small groups can take over an entire floor of the lodge just for themselves. It is located right on the water. At night, attracted by large flood lights, baitfish and shrimp swim close to the dock in the back yard, attracting larger predators. Fun action with an after dinner drink and rod/reel! Comes with a cook to prepare the meals.....or you can have groceries supplied and cook yourself. Packages are tailored individually and the pricing is fairly reasonable.

This link will take you to a report Barbara did for their club newsletter as well as some additional info from our exploratory trip to South Texas last year:

http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_redfish_klutinis.pdf

MORE ON FERNIE, BC (PLUS 15% DISCOUNT BEFORE 12/20/08)

In last month's newsletter, we mentioned that our Fernie outfitter is allowing a 15% discount on all 2009 bookings reserved and deposited before December 20. That offer is good for a few more weeks. For more details on the Fernie fishery, see the British Columbia page on our website and scroll to the bottom for trip reports and a description of the waters fished. You may have read in previous newsletters that Fernie has lots of dimensions to the fishery and one of them is that it is a great destination for new fly fishers.....as well as couples. The numerous native Cutthroat are very surface conscious and most of the fishing with our favorite guides is done with dry flies.





Ann and Ken Yabusaki were two of the many clients who visited this beautiful spot this season. Ken is an established fly fisherman, but Ann (above right with one of her first Cutts) had never fly fished before this trip. Some excerpts from Ken's report on the trip:

“Ann got more proficient casting, mending the line, and hooking cutts on dry flies each day. She managed to land a nice 18 inch cutt that smacked her Fat Albert besides landing several others between 12 and 16 inches. We even had a double hook-up on one drift (photo at left).....All of the fish were very healthy and 95% of the fish were caught on dry flies. We nymphed only once just because we couldn't entice the fish to rise and stuck it by going deep with a nymph pattern..... The ambiance of the resort cannot be fully appreciated unless you're actually

there. Our room had a view of the pristine lake and the Canadian Rockies. We could see the three beautiful peaks called, 'Mama, Baby, and Papa Bear' right outside our window.....”

The Bull Trout add a large fish dimension (several are taken each season over 10#) to the fishery and Ken does an effective job of capturing the excitement of stalking some sighted Bulls: “The Wigwam ranks, in my opinion, in the top two most beautiful rivers on earth. The various colored stones and rocks in almost gin clear aqua and emerald tones made it a spiritual experience. It was Nature's art at its finest. Pods of Bull Trout were resting in the two pools we fished...After umpteen shots, a female Bull went for the fly....I managed to land a nice 27 inch female (at right). I made another shot and stuck an even larger male with a reddish body but it got off...”



Ken's complete report of their time in Fernie can be accessed at this link: http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_ferniecouples.pdf

NEW ZEALAND AS A VALUE (??) DESTINATION

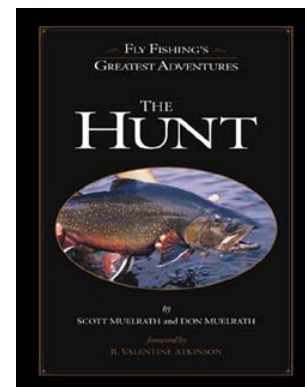


When we made our first trip to New Zealand seven years ago, it could have been considered a “value trip” because the exchange rate was less than $.5US = \$1NZ$. Since that time, we have seen the exchange rate get as high as $.84US = \$1NZ$ – at that rate, NZ is certainly not a good value.....a great trip, yes, but not much of a value. Earlier this year, the rate was over $.8US = \$1NZ$. However, in this crazy economic climate, we have seen the rate get close to 2 NZ \$\$'s to 1 US \$\$ during the last week. At that rate, NZ does become a value. The planning process for most of our NZ itineraries usually begins a year or more prior to a trip – planning that far ahead gives us all the options to work with in assembling an agenda. However, in doing some spot checking with our favorite lodges and independent guides this week, it would be

possible to throw together a “last minute” itinerary with most of the best options available to us for this season....if you had some flexibility in your travel dates.

THE HUNT – A GREAT GIFT FOR FLY ROD “HUNTERS”

There is one fly fishing book with a dedicated focus on sight casting and stalking fish with a fly rod. That book is fly fishing's award winning *THE HUNT – Fly Fishing's Greatest Adventures* - \$45. Check out the website to see what fly fisherman are saying about it – www.ffhunt.com Since it was written and photographed by my son, Scott, and myself, we are very familiar with it and know that it has been a great Christmas gift for hundreds of fly fishers in the last two years. If you'd like to give *THE HUNT* as a Christmas gift and want it personalized with an author's signature and message, here's how - under the section titled “Special Instructions” on the order blank on the website, list the person's name you'd like it addressed to and request “personalization.”



DECEMBER “MEMORY PHOTO”

Beautiful smile and beautiful ‘bow.....both belong to Kris Jacobs while fishing with her husband, Brad, in the Iliamna area of Alaska. Photo by Brad.

PHOTO CREDITS (top to bottom): sunrise on the redfish flats (banner photo) – Barbara Klutinis; Seychelles milkfish - Richard Cheatham; Seychelles ‘slam – George Toledo; Jean with redfish – Barbara Klutinis; Fernie photos – Ken Yabusaki; New Zealand brown – Barbara Renfrew.

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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