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We are in the twenty-first 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 around the globe. 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.

## OPTIONS FOR NEW ZEALAND ITINERARIES

During late '22 and the first three months of '23, we had over 20 clients visiting New Zealand using a variety of approaches that illustrate the options available in assembling a NZ itinerary. From couple's trips to family experiences to dedicated fly fishing in NZ's famous pristine streams and rivers, itineraries are available to meet the varying needs of our clients. Below are examples of each.

### THE ULTIMATE TROUT FISHING EXPERIENCE OF NZ



This was Josh Luft-Glidden's second adventure in New Zealand. While this trip was almost exclusively about the fishing, he did find time to mix in a nature-oriented wilderness experience at one of NZ's finest eco-tour lodges. He reports his results: "Across 12 days of fishing I landed a total of 154 fish, almost all taken stalking and sight fishing. There were some smaller fish taken from riffles, but the average fish was in the 3 to 3.5 pound range and around 20 inches."

Josh relays one of his memorable NZ sight fishing experiences: "My favorite was a nice sized brown that we found happily feeding on the surface just off of a rock outcropping. My first cast at him was pretty good, and he looked at the fly for a good 15 to 20 seconds, following for at least 6 feet and refusing it three times. My guide figured that we had the right pattern, but he was probably looking for something a little smaller. We tied on a slightly smaller dry and I cast it out to him. It landed just to his left and he didn't see it because he fed right as it approached. So I put it out there a few more times. Every cast was just a little too far inside, or he would feed to the other side as the fly approached him. Finally, after a couple of tries I managed to put it in a textbook position about three feet in front of him. As the fly approached, he took a natural off the surface about a foot in front of my fly. I thought I was out of luck again, but he came right back up and snapped up my fly!"



Phil Erickson and Shaun Donnellan, on their first trip to NZ, scheduled 10 days of guided fishing in two different locations, during their two weeks. They mixed their experiences using a quality "farm stay" and one of NZ's legendary lodges for their accommodations.

Phils trip report: “We are back, and all in one piece, had a great trip! The farm stay was delightful. The Jones's are great hosts and her meals are superb! Fishing was as I expected, not numbers, but large fish. Thank you for the very comprehensive arrangements.”

Photos below, l to r: Phil with a beautiful 8# brown taken on a dry fly from that small, clear, stream in the background; a nice brown eats from the surface; NZ is so much more than just great sight fishing for trophy trout – it's the country, the people, and the overall warm and welcoming culture of the Kiwi environment that makes a visit so memorable.



**COUPLES COMBO TRIP – TOURING AND FLY FISHNG**



Shirley and Tim Quattlebaum used an approach in planning their first NZ itinerary which has become very popular with our clients. Tim (below with nice brown) arrived in NZ two weeks prior to Shirley to do some serious fishing in three different locations with some of the top Kiwi guides. Shirley (who doesn't share Tim's fly fishing enthusiasm to the full extent and is very much a novice fly fisher) joined Tim in Fiordland and the two of them continued for two more weeks of touring. This time was dedicated primarily to just being together



and enjoying the joys of the welcoming Kiwi people and visiting their fabulous country.....and of course, they had a few days together of guided fly fishing as part of the touring. On one of their fly fishing days together, they did a helicopter fly out – that's Shirley above/left with the copter after landing near a remote stream.



Comments from Tim:  
 “The trip Don put together for us was a perfect match of fishing with GREAT GUIDES who introduced me to a vast array of NZ fisheries and techniques, plus a couple of weeks of relaxation and romance. The fishing was physically and mentally demanding, and wonderful! Shirley joined me in Fiordland for some relaxation and romance in the National Park and the last two weeks of our trip.”

From Shirley:  
 “I caught a 6 lb. rainbow (at left)!!! What a GREAT trip! Our time spent exploring NZ was the best of both worlds. It was an escape that allowed us to disappear into nature and an opportunity to experience some of the best hospitality the world has offered us so far.”

**THE FAMILY TRIP – THREE GENERATIONS**

There were three generations of the Shanley family in New Zealand earlier this year. Mother and Father, Cindy and Tim; kids Timothy (10) and Reagan (11); and Grandparents Connie and Renato. Father Tim used the



approach of arriving before the family for eight days of guided fishing in two different locations. The family then



joined him for an additional two weeks of visiting some of NZ's finest eco tour lodges, one of our favorite NZ lodges located in Fiordland (at right), and some time in Queenstown.



Tim (at left) got off to a very fast beginning

with his first exposure to the New Zealand brand of fly fishing.....truly exceptional numbers of fish given the sight fishing and stalking nature of the NZ approach to trout fishing. Tim's report: "Great first 3 days with Scotty... really enjoy fishing with him... we're tuned. Good days according to him – 48 fish to net so far... mostly in the 3 to 8 pound range. Great fun."

## CUBA BARGAIN – WITHOUT THE LOGISTICAL HEADACHES



Here's an exciting opportunity to sample the outstanding saltwater flats fishing of Cuba at a very affordable price..... Bonefish, Baby Tarpon (right), Permit, Barracuda, etc. on shallow flats. Your week-long program will be fishing some of the most pristine flats on the north coast of



Cuba with a 4 star hotel as your accommodations----- (photo at left). One of the drawbacks often encountered when accessing the outstanding Cuba fishery is the logistical nightmares to get to the best locations. Not

so with this opportunity – you can fly directly from Miami or Toronto/Montreal to one of two local airports, both of which are less than a 3 hour drive from your hotel.

This value pricing is available on a limited time basis only.....

May 6 to July 1, 2023: \$3,075 per person based on double occupancy and sharing a guide

July 1 to October 28, 2023: \$2,990 per person based on double occupancy and sharing a guide

### Included:

- 7 nights all inclusive accommodations, meals, beverages, double room
- 6 days fly fishing sharing a skiff, including lunch and beverages on skiff

### Extras:

- may be an additional cost for airport transfers (depends on group size and which airport you fly into).
- Single skiff upgrade - \$800
- Single room upgrade - \$500



Let us know if you'd like additional information.

## PLANNING A NEW ZEALAND ITINERARY – 10 STEPS IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING

We've been working with clients for over 20 years assembling NZ itineraries to meet their objectives. There are many different ways to approach the planning process. Like all the lodges, guides, and outfitters we book around the world, there is no "add on" charge for using us as your NZ travel consultants....we are compensated on the back end, just like a travel agent. If you're considering a NZ experience, planning a year ahead is a good idea to have the best options available to you. We have a planning aide titled 10 STEPS IN THE PRELIMINARY PLANNING OF A NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE....just hit "reply" and ask for a copy.

## 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](#)

## APRIL MEMORY PHOTO



Art Hinckley is a regular contributor to our newsletter and has built a semi-legendary status as a permit fisherman. At left is Art with his 133<sup>rd</sup> permit.

Art often wades the shallow flats of Belize in search of permit. Most of his permit have been taken while accessing the more remote permit flats in Belize using the mothership Rising Tide (at right) as his private floating lodge. Art's permit total has been achieved in just 2 to 3 annual trips per year – i.e., he doesn't live next to permit flats! [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)



**PHOTO CREDITS:** Banner photo – Josh Luft-Glidden; NZ photos – Josh Luft-Glidden, Phil Erickson, Shirley and Tim Quattlebaum, and Tim Shanley.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,  
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