



Travel Newsletter April, 2019

Stalking Browns – New Zealand



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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.

REPORT: LEARNING TO FISH SALT WATER – A DAD AND SON EXPERIENCE

Nathan Howard, and his father, Thomas Howard, are well traveled trout fly fishers, including the trout fishing mecca of New Zealand. However, they had not fished the saltwater flats until just recently. For their first salt water experience, they selected one of our favorites for both newcomers as well as veterans, Casa Blanca on the Mexican Yucatan.



Nathan's report: "The Casa Blanca trip was great and both my Dad and I really enjoyed our first saltwater trip. The trip down to Cancun from Boston was amazingly easy (It takes almost twice as long to fly to San Diego for work) and the resort, food, and service were all quite good. I was a tarpon short of the grand slam (I hooked two but one broke off and the other shook the hook) but caught a large number of bonefish, caught a couple of triggerfish outside the lodge, and managed to catch a permit as well (at right). The weather was great for most of the trip and we are already trying to plan our next saltwater trip. Dad managed to land a tarpon (left) and caught a number of bonefish during the trip. Saltwater definitely requires a different set of skills than trout fishing and it took a little while to get used to it – but I personally enjoyed the new challenge of sight fishing and casting to moving fish. Thank

you for the recommendation. I would highly recommend it to others."

From Dad: "Was a little befuddled first 2-3 days but then relaxed and enjoyed more. Will go back. Loved the place." Nathan also had some other permit experiences that ended with more typical "permit behavior:" "I hooked another Permit that promptly came off – and had a really great shot at a large school while wading. The wading shot was actually probably the most exciting because I probably got within 30 feet of the fish. I was pretty certain my cast was going to pay off – but unfortunately, they just chased the fly and then turned away."



The salt water flats certainly present a new set of challenges to a fresh water angler. Most who try for the first time find that the sight fishing element and size/strength of the fish are worth the effort to learn new techniques.

FAVORITE FERNIE BC OUTFITTER IS BACK!



Fernie, British Columbia, is the hub for a super selection of trout and Bull Trout waters in a spectacular Canadian Rocky Mountain environment. The Elk River is the centerpiece with three different beats near Fernie which can be accessed via drift boat. Within an hour's drive from Fernie, there are at least a dozen productive smaller streams and rivers, including the famous Wigwam River. This is dry-fly country with aggressive native West Slope Cutthroat (at right)



always looking to the surface. The Bull Trout (at left, which average 27 to 30 inches in many rivers) supply the big fish possibility and enter the smaller waters in July to set up their fall spawn. Its exciting to see these big fish schooled-up in small pools on tributary streams. This fishery is great both for kids and fly fishing newcomers, as well as grizzled veterans. These waters in BC are restricted with outfitters getting a limited number of permits. This limits the number of anglers on any particular water and protects both the fish and the overall experience from feeling crowded.....wish we had restrictions like this on more US waters!

Photos below (l to r): Sun River in Montana is a good spring fishery; small walk'n'wade streams and other options, like the Waterton River, provide a variety of options.



We made our first visit here in 2005. Since then, we have returned twice and sent over 50 clients. We always enjoyed the experience supplied by the original outfitter, who is a local boy who grew up on these waters. He had to leave the fly fishing business for a few years due to "real life" issues. He's now repurchased the business and has a small group of experienced, local guides to serve their clients. New additions to their operations include spring trips in Montana on the Sun River and certain sections of the Missouri. Also, they now do heli trips to the upper reaches of the Wigwam and other smaller Bull Trout streams.

Early to mid July (depending on snowpack) is when this area begins to fish well and the season is strong through August and September. When crowded Montana waters are running low and warm in August, Fernie is far enough north, with a high enough elevation, to avoid those conditions.....September is very strong also until the rains begin in October.

Dates for this summer are still available. Some timeframes are sold out. Inquire if you have interest.....or plan early for the 2020 season. This is a jet-setter ski destination in the wintertime. Accommodations include deluxe ski-condos and the special Island Lake Lodge at the base of the Lizard Range (at right).



3 PERMIT DAY HIGHLIGHTS RISING TIDE TRIP IN BELIZE

William Owens, Michael Berard, Ray Styons (and friends) understand the Rising Tide adventure in Belize – they've been doing one or two trips a year for well over a dozen years. For most of that time, their focus was on the variety trip (tarpon, bones, snook, etc), but a few years ago, they turned their interest almost exclusively to the dedicated permit trip (heads south). On their recent trip, Ray had a three permit day! Ray's report (at left with



his 14# fish – what a tail!): “Not only was it a three-permit day, but a three-permit session. Caught all three from 11:30 to 1:30 on the same flat. We just hit it right - the tides, the sunlight, the fish were in “eat” mode, even though it was blowing 20mph when we started. It was EPIC! Captain Dean is such an incredible permit guide.”

Note: Ray refers to a “session” – the guides on the Rising Tide fish three sessions a day. First shift is 6:00am ‘til breakfast. Second is breakfast ‘til lunch. Third is lunch ‘til dark. Meals are prepared around the fishing.

William sent this report of the overall trip: “Brief update on our BZ trip. We ended up with 9 permit, lost 5 or 6 (unbuttoned or broke leader). Ray got a triple one day and ended up with 5 permit, Mike two, and myself two. Decent weather, mostly sunny skies, no rain, winds 10 to 20 mph daily. Easily saw over a 1000 permit on the trip. Probably could have caught more, but a lot of refusals. Boat seemed to be in decent shape. Crew worked hard, did their usual excellent job.” One interesting note for regular Rising Tide travelers – this may be the first permit trip we know of when they only did one anchorage. They were seeing enough fish, they didn’t want to move. The “normal” trip has three or four different anchorages for the week. Website is www.flyfishbelize.com

RISING TIDE – OPEN WEEKS 2019 AND 2020

As of now, for 2020, only March is full.....every other month has at least two weeks open. They do three trips a month, so space is always an issue.

For 2019, these are the open weeks, undeposited as of now:

6/12 – 19; 7/2 – 9; 7/12 – 19 - September through December – only two weeks booked as of now.

LOOKING FOR A PARTNER – CAYO LARGO, CUBA

There is a group of 7 going to Cayo Largo in Cuba the first week of December this year. They are looking for an 8th to join them to round out the group. This is a strong variety fishery – bonefish, permit, snook, tarpon, etc. If you’d like more information on this opportunity, just ask.

CUBA – BOOK NOW OR ?????

New regulations regarding only “family related travel” being allowed to Cuba from the USA are due out May 2 – this week. The word we get from Cuba travel experts is that only trips that have been booked before the new regulations are published will be grandfathered in and allowed, unless they meet the “family only” criteria (i.e., family in Cuba).

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 provide reliable information regarding the experience and how to prepare for your visit:

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

APRIL MEMORY PHOTOS



Usually, Memory Photos from the Ningaloo Reef feature GT's and Pacific Permit; not so for this pair of photos that came from the same day for Alex Jardine. First, they found two angry tiger sharks chasing turtles in very shallow water. With them was this nice cobia (left), Alex made a great cast at the tiger shark that had the cobia with it and hooked and landed the cobia. Later, they had an action-packed session sight casting big Queenfish and GT that produced the “Queenie” on the right.



PHOTO CREDITS: Banner NZ – Dana Altum; Learning To Fish Salt Water – Nathan and Thomas Howard; Fernie – Jeff Mironuck; Belize Permit – Ray Styons.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,

Don Muelrath

Fly Fishing Adventures

www.flyfishingadventures.org

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