



Chimehuin River, Argentina



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We are in the eighth 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 destinations. 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.

GOLDEN DORADO – PART ONE OF A DUAL ENVIRONMENT ARGENTINA ADVENTURE



A dual environment trip is one where you mix two (or more) different fly fishing environments into one trip, maximizing the travel time and cost to get to that part of the world. For instance, a few years ago, Pat Patterson put together a dual environment trip in South America combining peacock bass in the Brazilian Amazon and trout fishing in Argentine Patagonia. Now, he's off with friend Van Wood visiting two different fly fishing environments, both in Argentina – Golden Dorado in northern Argentina and trout in Patagonia on the eastern side of the Andes.

Pat's fly fishing focus is purely on floating lines and surface oriented action – no sink-tip streamer dredging for this guy. We found him a relatively new Golden Dorado fishery with clear water

where only floating lines are used. Pat and Van (at right with a Golden) were enthusiastic about the Golden Dorado fishing and estancia they visited and Pat e-mailed in an excellent, detailed report before heading off to Patagonia. What follows, in bullet point format, are some of his comments excerpted from his report about their Golden Dorado experiences (if you'd like to see Pat's entire report, just hit reply and request it):

- I have fished for most of the big freshwater fish in the world from Taimen to peacock bass, and none can compare to the Golden Dorado! The explosion when they hit.....you'd think someone threw a bowling ball into the water! On average, they jump a foot or more into the air five times during the fight, many doing more than that.....the fish run to forty pounds and more.
- The "streamers" were on the surface, or an inch or two below the water, always in sight. The water is clear so you see everything developing. I caught some fish on true floating dries and a few more on poppers, although large streamers were the most productive method.
- The abundance of fish is absolutely alarming. They are THICK! But they aren't easy to catch although they definitely are catchable. A typical day will see at least thirty strikes depending on how good you are casting, but 100 fish days are not uncommon.



- The river itself is awesome: howler monkeys in the trees, toucans perched amongst thousands of noisy parakeets. The water is quite clear, 84 degrees. The clarity contributes to the fishing experience for a dry fly guy like me: you see everything happening, the fish darting out from under whatever slamming your fly.....
- The 86 square mile Estancia is a terrific place with a history at least three generations long. The food was four star yet not unduly heavy. Truly delicious, breakfast, lunch and dinner. And wonderful Argentine wines, a different one each night.....the accommodations and the personnel are superb.

Other interesting dual environment trips include: New Zealand and Fiji, Tigerfishing and safari style game viewing in Africa and the Seychelles salt water flats, Pono Atlantic Salmon – Taiman in Mongolia, and mixing together the Chilean and Argentina Patagonian Andes trout experience or the giant sea run brown trout of Tierra del Fuego with the tropical dorado and peacock bass fisheries of Brazil and northern Argentina.

BELIZE ON THE MECA – TRIP REPORT



Taylor Collins began his quest to become a salt water fly fisherman on a Meca mothership trip in 2008. Since then, he has been a frequent Belize visitor using both the Meca and Rising Tide motherships as his base of operation. And, through persistent effort and practice, has become a very productive salt water flats fly caster in short order, having now taken all the primary Belize shallow water species including his first three permit. Taylor’s report from their January trip: “We caught several tarpon (below left), bonefish (middle), and snook (right) with the snook on the flats being the most exciting and challenging.....it was a clear day and 5 fish were heading straight for us in water about a foot deep. My guide spotted them 200

feet out and identified them as snook. The largest snook we took was 11 pounds. Used a deceiver, red and white. It was fun.”



THE BELIZE CALENDAR – STILL SOME PRIME OPEN WEEKS ON THE MECA

The Meca trip (parties of one to four) remains the best value in the realm of salt water flats fly fishing - \$2,400 per person (group of four anglers) still gets you a full week on the water, basically all inclusive, with long fishing hours and the other benefits of the mothership experience.

Open weeks on the Meca: 3/15 – 22; 4/4 – 11; 4/14 – 21; 4/25 – 5/2; 5/5 – 12; 6/13 – 20; 7/5 – 12; 7/22 – 29.

Open week on the Rising Tide (parties of up to six): 7/5 – 12

As of now, both boats have more flexibility from August through December. This link will take you to our Belize newsletter with more details..... http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Fishing_Belize_report.pdf

CHILEAN ANDES’ UNUSUAL TREATS



For six years, beginning in the mid 90’s, we spent many weeks kicking around the spectacular Chilean Andes for a few 100 miles south of Puerto Montt examining and testing the fishing. These explorations included both the streams and lakes of the Andes as well as the fjords on the coastline. During that time, we decided that the best remaining fishery in Chile was in one general location, an area off the beaten track in Chile....a very rural area with very little fishing pressure and not easily accessed (certainly not accessed by



flying into the “popular” jump off point in southern Chile, Coyhaique). Today, we work with the two premier lodges in this area and the day these photos were taken at one of the lodges, three giant rainbows to 21 pounds were taken. Obviously, fish like these are the exception and not the rule – fly fishers visit this area for the spectacular scenery, isolation, and the more typical size rainbows and browns available, but rainbows like these monsters do happen (these fish were taken in fresh water, but the watershed where they were found does have access to the saltwater environment of the fjords).

FEBRUARY MEMORY PHOTO

Last month’s newsletter carried a story about the possibility of taking a 10+ pound brown trout on a dry fly in New Zealand and had a photo of one taken in January by a client who was fishing with one of our favorite independent guides. This particular guide seems to have a knack of finding and having his clients stalk and sight cast to these big fish. Bernie Alper is a regular in NZ and, last week while fishing with this guide, released this 10+ pounder for a lifetime memory.



PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) banner photo - Thibaut Millet; Dorado in water- Mark Cowan; Dorado held – Pat Patterson; Belize snook, tarpon, and bonefish – Taylor Collins; big Andes Rainbows – Frans Jansen.

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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