



TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- GIANT TAIMEN OF MONGOLIA
- FERNIE B.C. – TRIP REPORTS
- MORE ON BIG BROOK TROUT FROM LABRADOR’S MINIPI RIVER
- MEDJET ASSIST EVACUATION INSURANCE
- AUGUST’S “MEMORY PHOTO”

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.

GIANT TAIMEN OF MONGOLIA



Note: This edited report on fishing for giant Taimen in the streams and rivers of Mongolia and accompanying photos come from globe hopping fly anglers Jerry Saltzgaber, Chip Fudge, and Chuck Ferrell. They often tie in some touring with their trips and, in this case, spent an extra week in Mongolia and the Gobi, one of the world’s great deserts.

From Chip (at left): “The Taimen fishing was great. Jerry and I caught 9 the first day. Top big fish - I had a 47”, Jerry had a 50” and Chuck 50 and 1/2” to win our

Big Fish contest (Chuck with top fish, lower right). Unbelievable trip.”



From Jerry (below left): “Loved the trip. Chip & I averaged two fish a day & Chuck a little under that. My smallest was 26 inches and biggest 50 -- had several 40’s and high 30’s. Heaviest was about 55# - on a 9 weight rod. I lost two 60# fish when the line broke (one at the knot & one when netting it).”

About the Taimen: this giant Asian salmonoid is not a sea or lake run fish – they spend their lives in streams and rivers. The conservation effort in Mongolia is very strong to preserve this monster sport fish. All fish are photographed and tagged. Most of the streams fished are crystal clear and there is some sight fishing. Jerry reported they often could see the fish coming for the fly – could see the giant “V” 4 or 5 feet away. This is a “rough it trip” with good cabins and food, equipment and guides.



The “prime time” window for Taimen, like many of the world’s unique trophy fish, is very narrow and trips must be planned far in advance. This trip took place in mid-June.

If you’d like to see a more complete report on the trip with additional photos, click on this link:

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

FERNIE B.C. – TRIP REPORTS

Eric Lummis, Jeff Mezzetta (with River X ‘bow at right) and their gang returned to Fernie this summer with this report: “This year, we did a ‘warm up’ drift on the Elk the first day, and we caught plenty of cutthroats in the 14”-17” inch range, with a few smaller ones and a couple pushing 20” mixed in. We mostly fished dries, matched the hatch when there was one, and using terrestrials otherwise. But this year, we wanted to get a bit more adventurous, so on Day 2, we drove over to the plains to fish for rainbows on ‘River X.’ The rainbows were incredible. Between the four of us, we landed at least 6 or 7 over 20”. I personally had one literally explode on my Copper John right behind a boulder at the top of a riffle and then headed down river. When it stopped its run, it came to the surface and rolled over and I lost the hook-up. I’m not going to say he was 30” but I don’t think he was too far short of that. On Day 3, we split up, with two of us heading to Michelle Creek, and the other 2 heading to another stream to fish for bull trout.



The scenery is spectacular and the fishing options are seemingly endless. The guides are all very personable and knowledgeable. It’s just a great destination all the way around.”



Accommodation options in Fernie are many ranging from jet setter condos in the town to the spectacular Island Lake Resort. Vicki and Jim Nix used Island Lake for their headquarters – Jim to fish and Vicki to use the isolation to work on a book she’s writing as

well as joining Jim for some outdoor activities. The view from our favorite room at Island Lake is at left. Jim’s best day.....”40+ fish all on dries (#6 Fat Albert was best fly). Biggest was 22” with the average around 16”. Floated 2 days and waded 2 days...” Regarding Island Lake Resort..... “The scenery was absolutely fabulous with more than one gin and tonic enjoyed on the deck. The



staff was top notch and we think it just doesn’t get any better than the view of the Canadian Rockies. With wireless connectivity in the room, Vicki worked on her book every day I fished.”



Note on River X (left): this is a piece of water that our Fernie outfitter has exclusive access to as a guide; however, it is not entirely private as it can be accessed by the public if they are willing to walk upriver for miles or happen to find the gate unlocked and sneak in. The overall reports we’ve had from clients who have fished it have been truly fabulous with one exception of a fly fisher who didn’t “hit it right.” It’s still “fishing” and sometimes the fish just aren’t “on.”

MORE ON BIG BROOK TROUT FROM LABRADOR’S MINIPI RIVER

From the Minipi River in Labrador – last month, we featured a trip report with specifics from the week we spent at Anne Marie Lodge on the Minipi River. This report includes more reports from Anne Marie Lodge and also the other lodges on the Minipi watershed, Little Minipi Lodge and Minipi Lodge.

John Marlowe and John Cadle were at Anne Marie the week after our trip. Mr. Marlowe (at right with a nice brookie) commented, “Of course, it was wonderful. How could it miss with a chance to snag one of those beautiful big brookies on a little dry. Brookies aren’t counted unless they are over 3 pounds.....what??? The place has a great feel. Thanks for putting us onto this spot.”



Joe Brancato and his father, Joe (below left with big brookie), are outdoor enthusiasts from Pennsylvania where son Joe says a “trophy wild brookie would be about 10 inches long.” Joe

gave us a comprehensive report which captures the essence of the fishery at Anne Marie. “My father and I had a great time. Beautiful scenery, the guides were a great group, and the two ladies that did the cooking took good care of us.



Some fishing highlights:

- casting from shore in Lover Boy channel between 10:00am and 3:00pm with big brookies rising to a hatch of small mayflies, Dad and I hooked 9 fish, lost two (a straightened hook and breakoff), and released 7 with a total weight of 31 pounds.
- Largest brookies: Dad 7.25# and me 7.75#.”

This destination is most accurately described as a challenging “trophy fish” destination where you can take brook trout of 5 to 9 pounds on dry flies.....not normally the type of spot for newcomers on their first fly fishing adventure. However, this summer Minipi Lodge had two people who were on their first fly fishing trip, attempting to catch their first fish on a fly. Berniece Patterson chose this wilderness to cast a fly for the first time and accompanied her husband, Pat (below left, who’s fly fishing territory spans the globe), and took her first fish on a fly (first fish, second from left below). George Fareed, joined fly fishing friend Peter Boasberg at Minipi Lodge, and had this comment on his first fly rod trip: “My first

wilderness fly fishing experience far exceeded my expectations – it was definitely one of the greatest trips of my life. I was a Pop Warner fly fisherman who jumped suddenly to the NFL of fly fishing.” Nice comparison George, below in the stream celebrating the wilds of Labrador. The Minipi Brook Trout certainly could qualify as part of the “NFL of fly fishing” as most of the world’s legendary fly fishers have made a pilgrimage to these waters to take their giant brookies on dry flies.



In last months newsletter it was mentioned that we had reserved the last 10 open slots for the “prime time,” three weeks for 2009 at our favorite lodge. Three of those spots still remain – last week of June to mid-July is the prime time and we can still get 2008 prices with deposits paid in the next two weeks.

If you’d like to see the photo essay that the above report is excerpted from, click on this link:

http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_minipi08.pdf

MEDJET ASSIST EVACUATION INSURANCE

On the home page of our website www.flyfishingadventures.org, there are links to two different forms of travel insurance. One is a standard type travel insurance company and the second is Medjet Assist, an evacuation form of insurance. We would like to know who has subscribed to Medjet Assist, and if you have had a chance to use their services, how did it work out?

AUGUST’S “MEMORY PHOTO”

Taking your first sport fish of any species on a fly is a memorable fly fishing moment, especially if that fish comes from the challenging salt water flats. In 2007, Taylor Collins developed his casting skills well enough to take his first bonefish and other shallow water saltwater fish on a fly in Belize. At right, he is pictured with his first redfish taken from the flats of the Lower Laguna Madre in South Texas.

We like to think our newsletter is a good gathering spot for photos of memorable fly fishing experiences. If you have a photo that you think could fit in this space, submit it – never can have too many great fly fishing photos.



PHOTO CREDITS (top to bottom): banner photo and other photos from Mongolia – Jerry Saltzgaber, Chuck Ferrell, Chip Fudge; Canadian Rockies view and cutthroat photo – Dennis Smith; River X photo – Eric Lummis; Minipi River photos – Joe Brancato, Pat Patterson, George Fareed, John Marlowe, Bill Lucoff, Phil Drees, and Don Olen.

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

If you want to be removed from our e-mail newsletter list, just hit “reply” and let us know – you’ll be removed immediately.