



Bonefish Stalk, Seychelles



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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. 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.

ALPHONSE ISLAND – A COUPLES SEYCHELLES TRIP REPORT



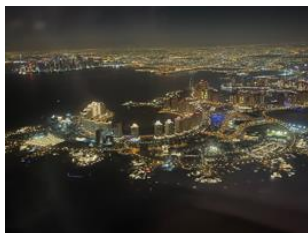
The Seychelles’ sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois, separated by a narrow, deep channel, have a unique water flow that creates one of the richest marine environments on the globe. Bonefish, G.T.s, Permit, Milkfish Trigger Fish, and a great variety of reef fish are all available to the fly fisher (fly fishing only!). Plus, the ambiance of Alphonse makes this world class fishery also a great place for a couple’s adventure.

Dana and John Landis (on left) and Annette and Rob Pizzie (his best look) made their 3rd visit to Alphonse Island resort this year. Via their outstanding photos, this was their trip:

Photos below, l to r: John and Dana with a nice bonefish double; giant manta ray visits the skiff; John, Dana, Annette, and Rob take a lunch break served literally on the flats; Annette with a bone – both Annette and Dana learned how to saltwater fly fish wading the flats of St. Francois.



Photos below, l to r: Aerial photo of Doha, the capital city of Qatar, enroute to the Seychelles. Dana and John usually tie in varied travel elements to their fly fishing adventures. They have coupled African safaris. This trip, they added a week at a Seychelles resort in Mahe. Dana with the latest in snorkeling mask and using a “Go Pro.”



Photos below, l to r: Alphonse Atoll with the runway down the middle; John with one of fly fishing's great trophy's, a Milkfish. This is one of the few places where large Milkfish can be taken near the surface – very difficult to get to eat and more difficult to land; flats and lagoon at St Francois Atoll, a short run from Alphonse.



Photos below, l to r: Beach Bungalows provide very comfortable accommodations; dinner buffet on the beach; Dana at the Alphonse bar with a local specialty; cute flats couple photo of the year, Dana and John.



Photos below, l to r: bikes are the mode of transportation on Alphonse; parking the skiff for wading the pure white sand flats; waiting for the masseuse; Dana, John, and Annette with pre-dinner cocktails; these are fabulous bonefish flats that offer challenges for the salt water veteran as well as a great place for a newcomer to learn how to fish the flats.



COSMOLEDO – THE HARD-CORE SEYCHELLES TRIP REPORT



Nathan and Tom Howard are a fly fishing father-son team that began as trout fly fishers and have traveled as far as the Meca of trout fishing, New Zealand. In 2019, they took their first salt water flats trip to Casa Blanca and now, they have added one of the world's great GT fisheries at the remote island of Cosmoledo in the Seychelles. Nathan sent us this detailed report and captures the essence of why fishing for Giant Trevally is an electrifying fly rod endeavor (Tom with the GT at left):



“The trip was overall great. It was quite an adventure even just to get to Cosmoledo. The island was beautiful and the accommodations were

excellent given the that they were converted shipping containers. The dinners were excellent every day. I would not recommend the trip to someone who isn't ok with a significant amount of travel and as someone who gets seasick easily. The boat ride between Astove and Cosmoledo atolls was brutal on the way back due to the wind and waves. Easily the worst boat trip of my life.

Luckily, the fishing was pretty amazing and I would go back in a heartbeat. Unfortunately, after the first day some strong winds came in and lasted the rest of our trip at something like 20 mph. Despite the more challenging conditions, we got shots at fish every day. I would guess we averaged 8-10 legit shots a day for the two of us combined - but the fish were not easy. I caught 3 GTs and Dad landed 1. All the anglers caught at least one with the most successful angler landing about 10 total for the week.



GTs are easily the most amazing fish I have ever caught. Once they take your fly they charge off with amazing speed and strength that I have never seen in a fish. Some of the coolest stories are about the fish I didn't catch.

We spotted a 1 meter fish on a lemon shark on the 3rd day. I made a cast almost on top of the shark and started stripping. The fish charged and I hooked up but he took off at 60mph and despite my best efforts, it broke the 12wt rod and snapped the 80lb core line in half. The fish pulled so hard the line cut through my glove/coverings and cut my finger. It was an amazing take and really exciting just to hook the fish. I had another shot at

an estimated 115cm fish (almost 4 feet) a couple days later on a coral head. Made a good cast and started stripping, and just as the fish ate, I missed a strip and missed the hook set. Pretty disappointing but I will get him next time. I also broke another 12 wt on a large Bohar snapper so I would recommend backups. We fished a neap tide week which meant most of the fishing was from a skiff but spring tides are apparently much more wading. I would highly recommend the trip." (Nathan and GT – left)

RIPP'IN LIPS – LITERALLY



One of the more up-beat (some would call him off-beat) friends we've mostly enjoyed, since we began Fly Fishing Adventures over 20 years ago, is Jim Hine.....aka Mad Dog Hine. Jim has become one of the more adventurous of the fly fishers we know and has experienced a number of rugged fly rod adventures. He's fished from the jungles of Bolivia to float trips on remote Alaska Rivers and many spots in between, including the Rising Tide in Belize and the Minipi River in Labrador.

Jim never does anything half way and his photo essay on Ripp'in Lips is somewhat graphic – **WARNING:** this viewing experience is not for the faint of heart.....click here to see his photo essay: [Rippin Lips - Photo Essay](#)

FIRST DAY IN NEW ZEALAND – A “TOP 10” FLY FISHING EXPERIENCE



Periodically, I recount in our newsletter one of what I consider to be a “TOP 10” fly fishing experience. These events were either a personal adventure of mine or an experience had by someone on the same trip. This TOP 10 experience occurred on our first day ever in New Zealand. When you picture the perfect NZ day, it looks something like the photo at left – a stunning river valley, bright blue skies, and sight stalking trophy browns or rainbows. Our first NZ day was nothing like this. It poured rain all night and into the morning. When we met our guide, he said the conditions would be tough, but if I was willing, we'd give it a try. I was so stoked just being in NZ that even if the wind was blowing 40mph with rain coming down sideways, I would have said, “Yeah, lets go!” We did go.....and go....and go....everywhere we went, rivers and streams were brown and over their banks. We did find and release one small brown of about 10 inches, not exactly why I came to NZ. After putting about 100 miles on his 4wheel drive pickup, it was nearing 6:00 and we headed back to the country villa where we were staying.

The villa was on the shores of Lake Rotorua on the North Island. As we approached the lake, our guide said there was a spring creek that poured into the lake just a few miles from the villa. He asked if we'd like to give it a try?

Of course, “yes” was the reply. The spring was clear and we waded on a sand bar, just outside where the creek emptied into the lake. On about the 5th cast, I had an eat and hook-up. The fish took off and, in a flash, was into the backing on my screaming reel. After a bit, the fish came into view and my guide said, “Wow, my little net is not large enough – work him into the creek mouth and I’ll run back to the truck and get a large net.” After several tense moments, we got him into the net and the guide weighed him. It would be the first ever 10+ pound trout I would photo and release – brown at right. So began a series of over 20 consecutive years of visiting NZ.....until Covid shut it down.



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](#)

JUNE MEMORY PHOTO



Tom Brutsche has been using a Belize mothership as his floating base of operations annually for over 20 years. Like many of us dedicated permit fly fishers, he began his experiences on the salt water flats as a variety fly fisher. Over a period of years, he transitioned to devoting all his trips exclusively to pursuing permit. The beautiful 16# fish in the photo was taken on his trip last month. His largest permit so far are a 24# and 25#.

PHOTO CREDITS: Banner photo – John Landis; Alphonse – Dana and John Landis, Annette and Rob Pizzie; Cosmoledo – Nathan and Tom Howard; Rippin Lips – Jim Hine.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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