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We are in the fifteenth 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.

#### LOOKING FOR FLY FISHING TRAVEL PARTNERS

From time to time, we have traveling fly fishers who are looking for someone to join them to a certain fly fishing destination. Generally, this search is based on economics – some trips just offer better pricing by adding one or two to the group. That is the case with the searches below.

#### CUBA – TRAVEL DIRECT VIA CHARTER FROM FLORIDA - 2018

There is a group of four fly fishers booked for a trip to fish bonefish, permit, tarpon, snook, etc at Cayo Largo in Cuba. Their dates are prime (July 1 – 8, 2018) because this is the first week the rates drop from \$8,200 per angler to \$4,900 pp for the week. We have had other clients travel to Cayo Largo in this same timeframe in the past and the fishing was excellent....as well as the pricing being much more attractive. This group of four wants to avoid the travel hassles associated with going through Havana and having to overnight both coming and going. They want to charter a plane for a direct flight from Florida and are looking for two others to join in to make the charter price more reasonable.



If you have interest, request other reports on this fishery.....somewhat unique in that accommodations are at an all inclusive resort (similar to a Club Med style resort).



#### BELIZE – RISING TIDE TRIPS, TWO DATE OPTIONS - 2018

Both of these Rising Tide trips are already booked by guys who have taken this trip in the past and are looking for one or two others to join in to fill out the trip and reduce the “per person cost.” [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)

**SEPT TRIP:** This angler is on his third Rising Tide trip and already has two partners. Looking for one more to round out the group to four. This trip will have a permit focus and will be heading south to fish the finest permit flats on the globe.

**JUNE TRIP:** This group leader is on his second trip on the Rising Tide. Looking for two more anglers. The primary focus of this trip will be the variety trip (bonefish, tarpon, permit, snook, etc) with an emphasis on tarpon.

#### MINIPI RIVER, LABRADOR - 2019

This is the famous watershed that holds the world’s largest brook trout – certainly the best place on the globe to take a 5 pound or larger brook trout on a dry fly. A prime July hatch week in 2019. Looking for two more anglers.

## THE GIANT RAINBOW WHO WOULD EAT TWICE – A “TOP 10” FLY FISHING EXPERIENCE

This experience took place as part of a three part trip to Argentina that would include:

- Golden Dorado in northern Argentina
- Traditional trout fishing near the Andes in western Argentina
- Strobel Lake (aka Jurassic Lake) in southern Argentina



Strobel Lake is famous for its “Jurassic sized” rainbow trout due to the perfect environment for creating an over-abundance of fresh water shrimp. Lago Strobel is a large body of water in a giant basin, surrounded by a rocky rim. Only one river enters the lake, the Barrancoso River, and there are no outflows. Photo at left shows the river and the rocky rim surrounding the lake. Nature set up this alkaline body of water as the perfect habitat for scuds. There are zillions of them in the grass and algae growth in the shallow waters. The overall environment is fairly harsh here. Even though the snow capped peaks of the Andes are visible in the distance, this part of southern Argentina is arid, high country desert with no shrubbery over five feet high and is often blasted by high winds. Jeff Reinke and I would release at least 7 rainbows over ten pounds – I had one fantasy day with the winds down when I could sight-fish to cruisers on the edges of the lake and took

fish of 11#, 13#, and 15#. But this story is not about fishing in the lake.

At certain times of the season, great numbers of these giant rainbows crowd into the Barrancoso River for their spawning ritual. Since there is only one river entering the lake, this is their only choice to spawn in moving water. The timing of our trip did not coincide with this spawning ritual. Even though my guide assured me this was the wrong time for spawning and there would be no large fish in the Barrancoso during my stay, I wanted to see the river and convinced him to take me.



My guide seemed to be right. We looked in several pools of the river and only saw minnows and a few 6 to 10 inch rainbows. Then we came upon a pool that had one large fish finning in the middle of the stream – photo right. We floated a large dry fly over him and, on the first drift, he rose and ate it. All hell broke loose as the unhappy rainbow took off and streaked upstream.....my fly line disappeared and was followed by about 100 feet of backing. At the head of the pool was a large rock with a smooth, slanted edge that was submerged in the river. That fish was running so hard, he ran out of the water and up that rock about two feet....and in the process, my fly came free – one could speculate whether he rubbed it off on the rock or it just pulled out?



The guide and I were breathless as we watched the entire scene unfold. As we recovered, we sat down and began discussing what had just happened. After a few minutes of animated discussion, one of us glanced at the river. That fish had returned to exactly the same seam where we had caught him. We agreed that rainbows were not the “smartest kids on the block” and decided to give him 10 or 15 minutes to recover,,,,,,then we would try him again. After a few minutes, the fish returned to feeding.

We tied on a large nymph, floated it in front of him, and surprisingly, he ate it! The second hook up was not as exciting as the first one as he must have worn himself out with that first run. A colorful male ‘bow came to the net and posed for the photo at right.....the lake is barely visible in the background. Despite battling high winds at least half of our days, visiting

Jurassic Lake was certainly a memorable adventure with the unique environment and giant rainbows, capped off with the experience of the slow learning rainbow who ate twice in the Barrancoso River.

## TRIP REPORT ON ST. BRANDON’S ATOLL

Don Armstrong is a globe-hopping angler who seems constantly on the move fly fishing different destinations around the world. He has been very helpful in sharing his insights with our newsletter on some of his trips ranging from Golden Dorado in northern Argentina to permit and tarpon on Rising Tide trips in Belize. Don’s report below comes from a trip to St. Brandon’s Atoll in the Indian Ocean.



“Overall, a good trip. Beautiful place. The bonefishing (left) was good – large fish generally. 4 – 7 pounds....some 10 pounders and larger. One of the guys got a 13#. I hooked one that was definitely over ten, but a shark got it. Permit fishing is permit fishing.....always difficult, but several were taken during my three week visit. The GT’s and other Trevally were really tough. They did not act like they do elsewhere. They were spooky and very hard to catch. Only one GT was caught during my three weeks. I hooked one, but it came off quickly. Our accommodations were in a small four bedroom guest house on one of the atoll’s islands. Our hosts did a great job, but it is very rough and a long way to get there. The trip included a 24 hour boat ride from Mauritius that was horrible.”

## **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](#)

## **FEBRUARY MEMORY PHOTO**

The Ningaloo Reef (Northwest Cape, Australia) is quickly building a reputation as an “in” place to go to pursue Pacific Permit, Giant Trevally, and world record size Golden Trevally. We’re sure that Dave Binder will not forget this Giant Trevally recently taken from the Ningaloo.



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