



## Fly Rod Hunting In The Seychelles



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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'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.

### SEYCHELLES: ALPHONSE - ST. FRANCOIS ATOLLS REPORT

The sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois in the Seychelles continue to be the most protected, reliable, safe, and comfortable of all the Seychelles options. These two atolls stand as one of the most stunning marine environments on the globe and they continue to remain that way because of the protections afforded the fishery by the Seychelles government. This is a special place, whether you're a hard core salt water fly fisher, a beginner in salt water, or traveling with a non-fishing spouse. Off and on for the last half dozen years, the owners have threatened to shut down the fly fishing operation in favor of building what they term "the most spectacular marine-based resort in the world." Certainly, they have the right location. However, recently they made a commitment to keeping the fly fishing operation intact. Currently, and for the foreseeable future, the only visitors to the atolls are fly fishers and their spouses.



In early May, they closed their season and the month of April was one of the best on record. The bonefish flats continue to provide a hard packed sandy bottom with bones swarming over them during the right tides. This is arguably the best place anywhere to catch a large milkfish, one of fly fishing's great trophies. And, large Giant Trevally (above, right) are taken sight casting on the flats on a fairly regular basis. In addition, there are several other species available, most notably the trigger fish, other species of trevally, and permit.



Photos above, l to r: milkfish slurping on the surface; trigger fish; bonefish release; milkfish

Below, l to r: spectacular snorkeling; a villa is one choice of comfortable accommodations; pool – clubhouse.



Last month's memory photo of Maria Mazura (below, left) promised the whole story to be told in this month's newsletter. Maria and Journ visited for their fourth week this season in April. Journ landed a magnificent female GT of over 80 pounds after an hour battle which dragged them almost a mile off shore. Her guide, Wayne Haleau,



tells the story of Maria's fish: "I spotted a large shape slowly sliding down the flat mixed with a school of milkfish. I jumped out of the skiff and turned the skiff to an angle that would enable Maria to make a good cast. The cast went out perfectly to entice the fish, which rushed the fly, exploded out of the water right next to the skiff and engulf the tan brush fly. As the fly was set the fish headed off on a 300 meter run, with us chasing behind. We almost got spooled by the almighty first run and no amount of drag could slow its pace. We followed the fish while dodging coral heads and gaining line slowly. (Maria is no stranger to big GT's as she already holds the record for the largest GT caught by a lady angler on Alphonse) True to form and in an amazing struggle, she had the 118 cm, 80lbs trophy fish beat."

Note: we're holding space for a prime tide week in April of next year at Alphonse. Hit "reply" to learn more.

## NATIVE GOLDEN TROUT – RESPONSES

We received some interesting responses to the Golden Trout article in last month's newsletter. Two of those responses are below. It is amazing that country this spectacular still exists right here in California – rugged, beautiful country that still can only be accessed with a pack on your back or via horseback and pack mules. There are not many full service pack stations remaining, but we maintain a relationship with the family run operation that put together our family trips into the Sierras over 50 years ago.

Winston Moore, now retired from aggressive angling, has a degree of notoriety as an angler for many reasons, maybe the most notable accomplishment is he one of a very few anglers to have released over 100 permit. However, he had a history and childhood that included Golden Trout. "Memories – for seven consecutive summers as a kid, I worked for a Golden Trout outfit in the eastern Sierras. I was an all around boy guide, horse wrangler, wood chopper, etc. Almost every day I fished for goldens and I'm sure that I took, not hundreds, but thousands of those beautiful fish. In those days, that country was totally pristine. If you wanted to get to it, you either packed in via horses and mules or hiked." (Note: much of this country remains the same – either you carry it on your back or use horses with pack mules to carry everything you want).



Photos above, l to r: pristine small streams and lakes dot this land; campsite – horses and pack mules allow you to bring home with you if that's your choice; backpacking and horses/pack mules, the only two ways to access the high backcountry of the Sierras.

### TWISTED CONSERVATION MEASURES?

We are large fans of conservation efforts to protect our remaining natural sport fisheries; however, Steve Marks relayed a story that seems to take the extreme to extremes. Twelve years ago, Steve took a few trips into Golden Trout country. On one trip, Steve reported they got lucky and hit an unnamed lake on a tricky cross country climb at ice-out and released at least a dozen goldens of 17 – 19 inches. On their way out the next year, they ran into a pack train of at least thirty mules, ten horses, and fifty or so volunteers lead by a pair of scientists. They were on a mission to protect the native strain of Golden Trout (the state fish of California) by eliminating or keeping out of their habitat other species which may cross breed with them. Their measures included creating “natural” waterfall barriers by dynamiting creeks and streams as well as poisoning large stretches of rivers/streams (including lakes) to take out all species for the preparation of introducing native, pure bred goldens. They also used gill nets repeatedly at the end of the season in some waters to take out and kill the potential spawners. The two scientists had been working on this project for ten years. Misplaced efforts? Too extreme? Guess it's a matter of opinion.

### SPECIAL OFFERS – BELIZE AND NEW ZEALAND

**BELIZE:** From the owners of the Rising Tide mothership in Belize – “We hate to raise prices, but the expenses of operating the Rising Tide continue to climb and we unfortunately have to do this to remain in business. Even at the new prices, our trips are still below the industry standard.” Yes, we believe the Belize mothership is still the best value in salt water flats fishing, all things considered. New prices are on the website [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com) Bookings made for a 2013 trip prior to July 10 (next month) can be made at the old prices. Special consideration regarding the old pricing will be given to regular repeat clients who book for next year prior to the deadline (yet to be determined).



Old prices for the Rising Tide for the standard seven night trip range from \$4,300 each for a party of two to \$3,250 each for a party of four. Meca prices remain unchanged as of now.

**NEW ZEALAND:** Some early and late season special offers are being made by some of New Zealand's finest lodges. Places like River Haven, Poronui, and Owens River Lodge have special, limited time offers. If you'd like details or discussion on these, please hit “reply.”

### THE VALUE OF EVACUATION INSURANCE?

Twenty years ago, my wife and I would have never considered purchasing evacuation insurance. However, with the aging process of our bodies and some of the out-of-the-way places our fly fishing travels take us, we now have evacuation insurance for both of us. What is the main benefit of this insurance? Of the many benefits, the primary one for us is should we break a leg or contract some exotic disease in some isolated or primitive part of the world, someone will come and get us and make sure we get the proper medical assistance. There are several other benefits that are detailed on their website – as a convenience for our clients with interest, there is a link to Global Rescue on the homepage on our website [www.flyfishingadventures.org](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)



This story details an extreme example of how the program works: *“Six days into a trek to Everest Base Camp I developed a potentially life threatening condition that required immediate evacuation off the mountain. Global Rescue arranged for a helicopter to pick me up within an hour of the initial call to them and then had me delivered to a Kathmandu medical facility for emergency treatment within less than an hour after that. The physicians there were clear with me that had I not received such a timely evacuation, I would have suffered potentially irreparable organ damage. Global Rescue also closely monitored my condition throughout the period*

*before I was finally discharged to determine if further evacuation for medical care might be necessary. They remained in daily contact with me until after my return to the U.S., where I underwent additional evaluation and treatment by my own physicians.”*

## JUNE MEMORY PHOTOS



For those of us who make New Zealand a regular pilgrimage, this pair of “memory photos” are not surprising. For those who have not experienced New Zealand, this is hard to believe. However, stalking six to eight and ten pound browns in small crystalline waters is part of what makes NZ unique in all the world.

Jack Edict (at left >>) has been to NZ twice....this from a North Island stream: “It was an amazing little farm stream. The larger browns were very wary, and eluded us. I wouldn’t have believed this little stream could hold such large trout. It just looked like a drainage ditch.”



PHOTO CREDITS: golden trout country – Craig London; GT’s – Maria Mazura.

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

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