



WELCOME TO OUR SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

Fish Tails...

As we enter into our tenth year of operation I find myself wondering where the time has gone. We have watched

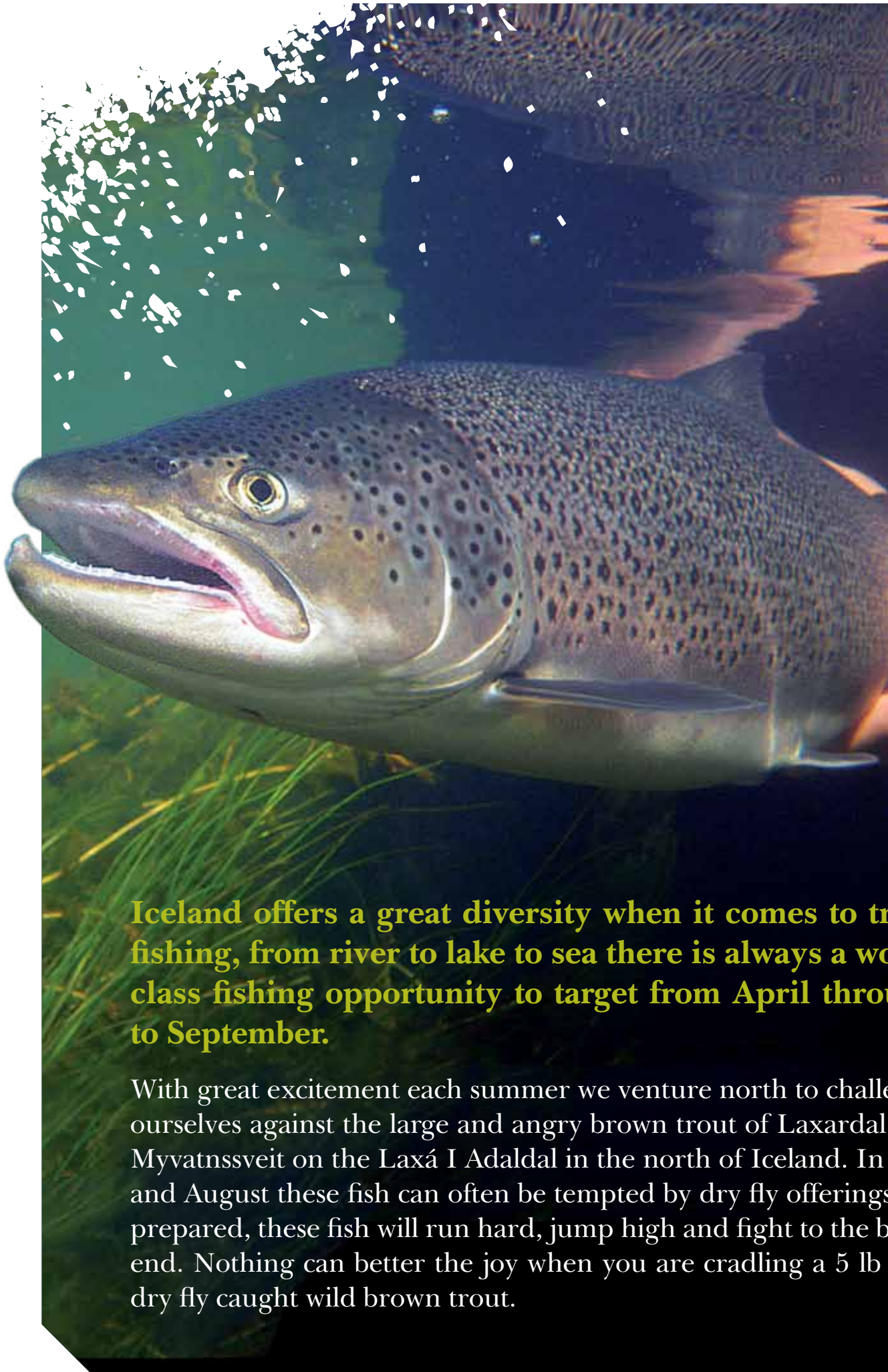
destinations wax and wane, and in the case of places like Cosmoledo, wax again. We pride ourselves on having a finger on the pulse, always providing our clients with accurate, impartial and honest information gathered first hand whenever possible. Another key factor is we are always here in the office to assist our clients. If one of us is away seeing a new operation or hosting a group, there will still be a fully staffed office to call on.

The Icelandic trout fishing was phenomenal last season and has seen an upsurge in interest as a result. South America continues to impress with its amazingly varied fishing and has so much more than sea trout to challenge the travelling angler.

On the saltwater front, the Indian Ocean continues to provide some of the best saltwater fishing in the world and in particular, we are very excited about the re-opening of Cosmoledo and Providence Atolls. They will provide a whole new dimension to fishing in the Seychelles. There are now more (and better) options than ever in Cuba for those looking for a Caribbean Grand Slam and worldwide we have found more and more excellent places to suit families and non-fishers.

We look forward to planning your next trip with you.

TROUT DIVERSITY *Iceland*



Iceland offers a great diversity when it comes to trout fishing, from river to lake to sea there is always a world class fishing opportunity to target from April through to September.

With great excitement each summer we venture north to challenge ourselves against the large and angry brown trout of Laxardalur Myvatnssveit on the Laxá I Adaldal in the north of Iceland. In June and August these fish can often be tempted by dry fly offerings prepared, these fish will run hard, jump high and fight to the bitter end. Nothing can better the joy when you are cradling a 5 lb dry fly caught wild brown trout.

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The Icelandic trout fishing doesn't stop there, and we are delighted to offer fishing on Lake Thingvallavatn from 2014. This lake has been likened to Argentina's Jurassic Lake but for big wild brown trout. With fish up to and exceeding 30 lbs landed in the past we will be interested to see how this first year of private access beats performs. The prime fishing is from the end of April to June. For anyone planning a trip here, make sure you have at least 300 yards of backing on your reel.

Such healthy wild brown trout populations throughout Iceland means that it is almost inevitable that some of these fish feel a need to run to sea, like the salmon. Once they take this path they become the much sought after, sea trout. With some rivers, such as Laxá I Kjos, recording average sea trout between 6 – 10 lbs this can be a great warm-up venue for those planning a trip to Tierra del Fuego. Prime fishing for the sea trout can often be found towards the end of August and September.



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Enjoy trout fishing? Looking for a short getaway? Then there are some excellent options just a short distance from the UK. We often dream up wonderful visions of fishing the wild rivers of the American West or the crystal clear dry fly waters of New Zealand but they are not always feasible destinations. The reality is that we have world class fishing hidden right in front of us in countries such as Slovenia and Croatia.

Euro Trout

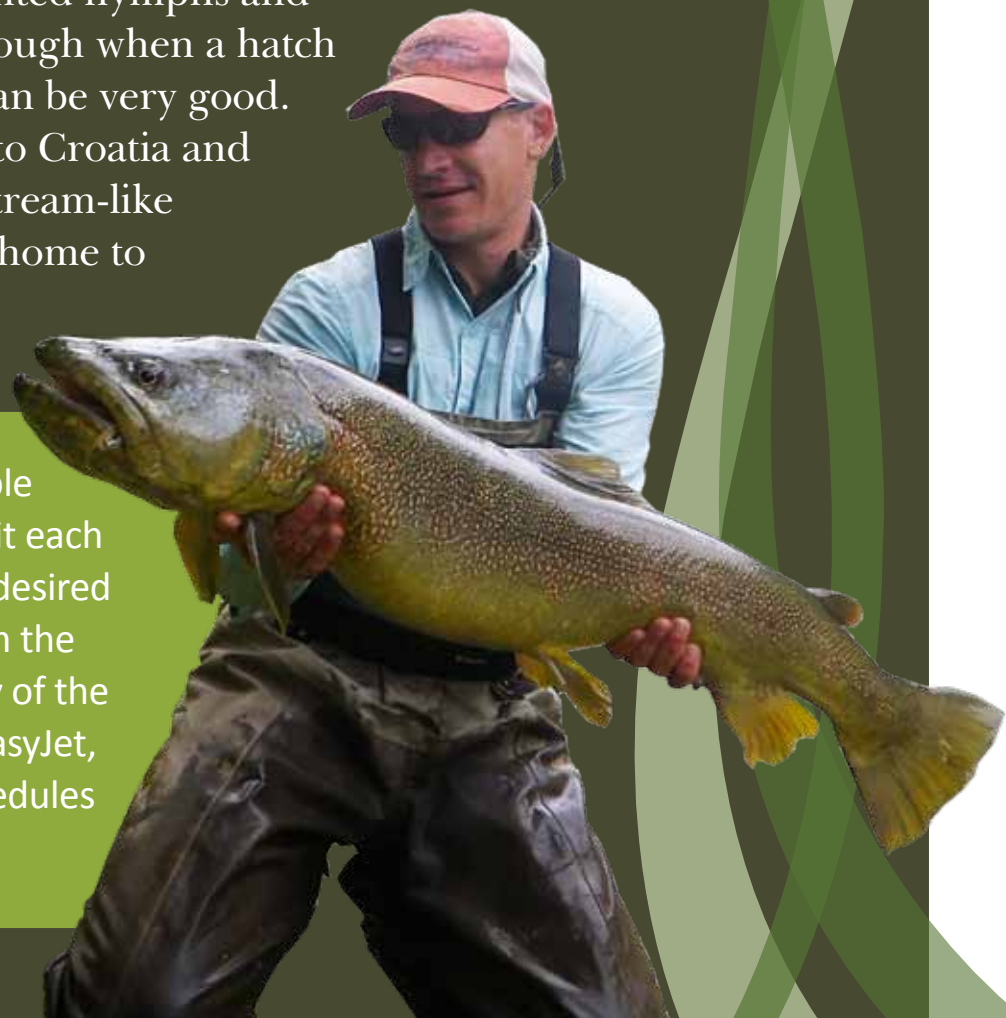
In the north-western corner of Slovenia you will find crystal clear glacier fed rivers filled with a diverse range of species including grayling, rainbow trout, brown trout and the mysterious marble trout. There are two river systems here in particular that offer some of the world's finest river fishing. The longest alpine river in Slovenia, the Sava, and the Adriatic basin's Soca River.

The rivers here offer a great chance to try the increasingly popular European nymphing techniques as well as some excellent light line dry fly fishing when hatches fill the air with small olives or sedges. The fish can get very selective on occasions offering the realistic fly tyer a great challenge.



On the Croatian border with Bosnia you will find the Una and Unac rivers, these are powerful rivers that begin their course on the slopes of the Stražbenica mountain. You can target good sized wild rainbow and brown trout here effectively with weighted nymphs and streamer techniques, although when a hatch starts the dry fly fishing can be very good. Venture a little further into Croatia and you will find more chalkstream-like spring-fed rivers that are home to some very large grayling.

Both countries offer flexible fishing programmes to suit each angler depending on the desired trip length. Travelling from the UK is very easy with many of the budget airlines, such as EasyJet, running regular flight schedules to Ljubljana and Zagreb.



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3 is the magic number

There is no other country in the world that has as many prime Atlantic Salmon Rivers in such close proximity to each other as Iceland. It is safe to say that it represents one of the most

fishing obsessed nations on the planet from their daily newspapers printing catch statistics to having fish printed on their money. To that end the Icelanders believe the best things come in threes, including the number of days fishing. This unique way of selling salmon fishing not only creates the perfect short break, but allows a visiting angler to combine a number of rivers in one trip. This is hugely beneficial as, if one river is not performing due to conditions, the other one most likely will. It is also possible to fish two rivers of very different characteristics ie a prolific river such as Laxá I Kjos with a big fish river such as the Laxá I Adaldal or Hofsa.

Why not let us build you the perfect combination? After all, variety is the spice of life.

Hofsa One of the great names of Iceland, fished with seven rods on seven beats from late June until late September. It is one of the few big fish rivers in Iceland with over 80 marked pools which many consider the definition of the perfect fly water.

Laxá I Adaldal The Nes beats regularly produce fish over 20 lbs and some over 30 lbs every year. Its easily accessible grassy banks offer traditional two handed rod fishing for some of the largest fish in Iceland.

Langá This west coast river remains consistent through tough conditions and all the pools are easily accessible by vehicle making it ideal for those who don't fancy rock hopping. The numerous pools provide perfect hitching water with small flies and light tackle.

Laxá I Asum An exclusive private river of 14 km to only two rods with incredible catch statistics. The new luxury lodge accommodates four people in single rooms and is perfect for intact parties.

Grimská One of the most consistent rivers in Iceland with catch statistics averaging between 1100 – 1400 fish a season. The grilse tend to be a little larger here than other west coast rivers averaging 7 lbs, and it is combined with a comfortable lodge overlooking the falls.

Laxá I Kjos Described as “a salmon fisherman's guilty pleasure” this intimate river is more akin to trout fishing for salmon and is a hitches' dream. Small rock pockets, canyons and open meadows are perfect for single handed fishing with tiny flies. The river also has some huge sea trout adding to the excitement along with an excellent lodge.

Laxá I Dolum This four to six rod river offers 26 km of fishing from its comfortable lodge and is ideal for private parties or families. There are good numbers of multi sea winter fish caught every year, from the canyons at the head to plateaus of the mid section.

Miðfjarðará This river offers amazing sight fishing opportunities in gin clear water just three hours drive from Reykjavik. The Miðfjarðará keeps producing the goods in low or high water summers. Maximum 10 rods per week, each enjoying single, en-suite rooms as standard.

Svalbardsá This remote medium sized river is located in the northeast corner of Iceland. It offers the chance of catching a really big fish with most exceeding 9 – 10 lbs meaning multi sea winter fish are dominant. The river is fished by three rods only and perfectly suited to intact parties.

West Rangá This highly productive river on the south coast generally tops Iceland's chart of catch statistics. The 30 km of double banked fishing is fished by 12 – 18 rods through the season with a stunning lodge overlooking its most productive pools.



Las Salinas



When it comes to fantastic fishing combined with great value for money Cuba has always been towards the top of the list in saltwater fishing terms. Cuba offers the opportunity to target a myriad of species from the ever dependable bonefish that are present in good numbers and hold a good average size through to permit, tarpon, jacks and more.

Nowhere does the above ring truer than at Las Salinas located in the Bay of Pigs, South Cuba Its fantastic value includes single rooms as standard, transfers to/from Havana and single based skiff for the majority of the week. Best of all... it's within two hours' drive of Havana meaning no extra overnights are required.



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Andros *South*

Andros South Lodge very proudly claims that they are not a luxury lodge but far more for people who love fishing. The accommodation is comfortable but casual with single rooms coming as standard, the service is excellent, the food is good and the focus is on fishing.

The fishery on South Andros is huge, varied and productive. They fish in four parts of the island; tidal creeks on the East Side, hundreds of small keys off the southern tip of the island, the West Side which is known for large fish, and inland ponds and creeks in the middle of the island. Some areas tend to hold large groups of fish while others are home to larger fish in smaller groups. There are lots of opportunities for both wading and skiff fishing, depending on your preferences and the conditions.



Slamming it Caribbean

The grand slam or super grand slam is something that all saltwater fly fishermen aspire to. Its definition has evolved over the years as fisheries in different areas of the globe have added their version of it. Originally it was coined in the Caribbean to mean the capture of a bonefish, permit and a tarpon in one day. The addition of a snook converts it to the



fabled Super Grand Slam; either one a lifetime achievement. If you are keen to reach this milestone in your fishing career then there are a few of our operations that should be on your radar.



Cayo Largo, Cuba This is by far and away our most prolific Grand Slam destination with a lot of our clients reaching their goal each year. The national park is made up a series of cays, mangrove lagoons and flats that run for some 50 kilometres. The flats tend to be white sand interspersed with turtle grass ideal for those who want to wade. Channel fishing for tarpon is primarily done from the skiffs. April, May and June are the prime months although it does fish all year round (with a cautious eye to the weather at the back end of the year).



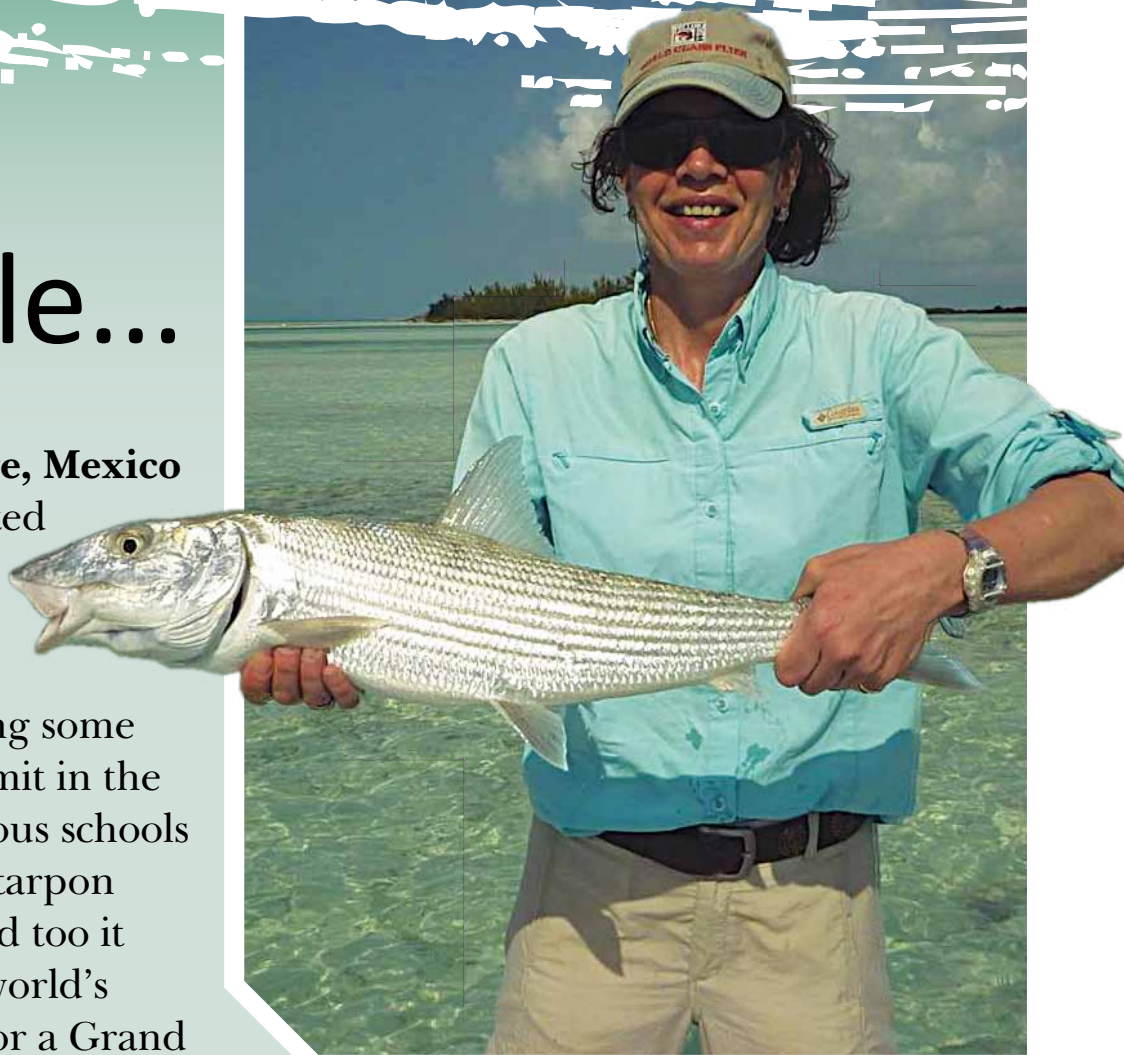
bean style...

Grand Slam Lodge, Mexico

The lodge is situated on Mexico's Ascension Bay with access to endless flats hosting some of the biggest permit in the world and enormous schools of bonefish. With tarpon and snook on hand too it forms one of the world's best places to go for a Grand Slam or Super Slam. With

all these fish around, it is evident why GSL's wall of fame is filled with so many delighted Grand Slam anglers. It fishes all year round with prime time being February to early July and then again October to early December.

Los Roques, Venezuela Although traditionally not viewed as a multi species destination the permit at Los Roques patrol the ocean side flats and can grow very large. Land one of these and it is possible to also find tarpon and bonefish to complete a sizeable Grand Slam. Los Roques is a wonderful bonefishing destination with a diverse range of flats but the archipelago also has a myriad of other flats and lagoon species to test you and your drag. Being further south, Los Roques is less susceptible to weather system impact but prime time is January through until early September after which the tides get bigger, reducing access to the fabled pancake flats.



Return to Hallowed waters

Cosmoledo & Providence

When I think of the outer islands of the Seychelles I get a slight shiver of excitement down my spine. Scenarios flash across my minds eye of GTs marauding across deserted flats, a GT attacking two flies at the same time and heading

for the ocean with two rods bending before cutting both off on the coral, watching aghast as the largest fish of a pod smashes its way through a set of waves with its mouth open in a effort to eat my fly, and jumping off a coral outcrop attached to a beast in an effort to land it. I also think of huge schools of uneducated bonefish sliding over white sand and the yellow fins of feeding permit that took no notice of me. Those are the memories of my experiences. Now you have the chance to see for yourself.

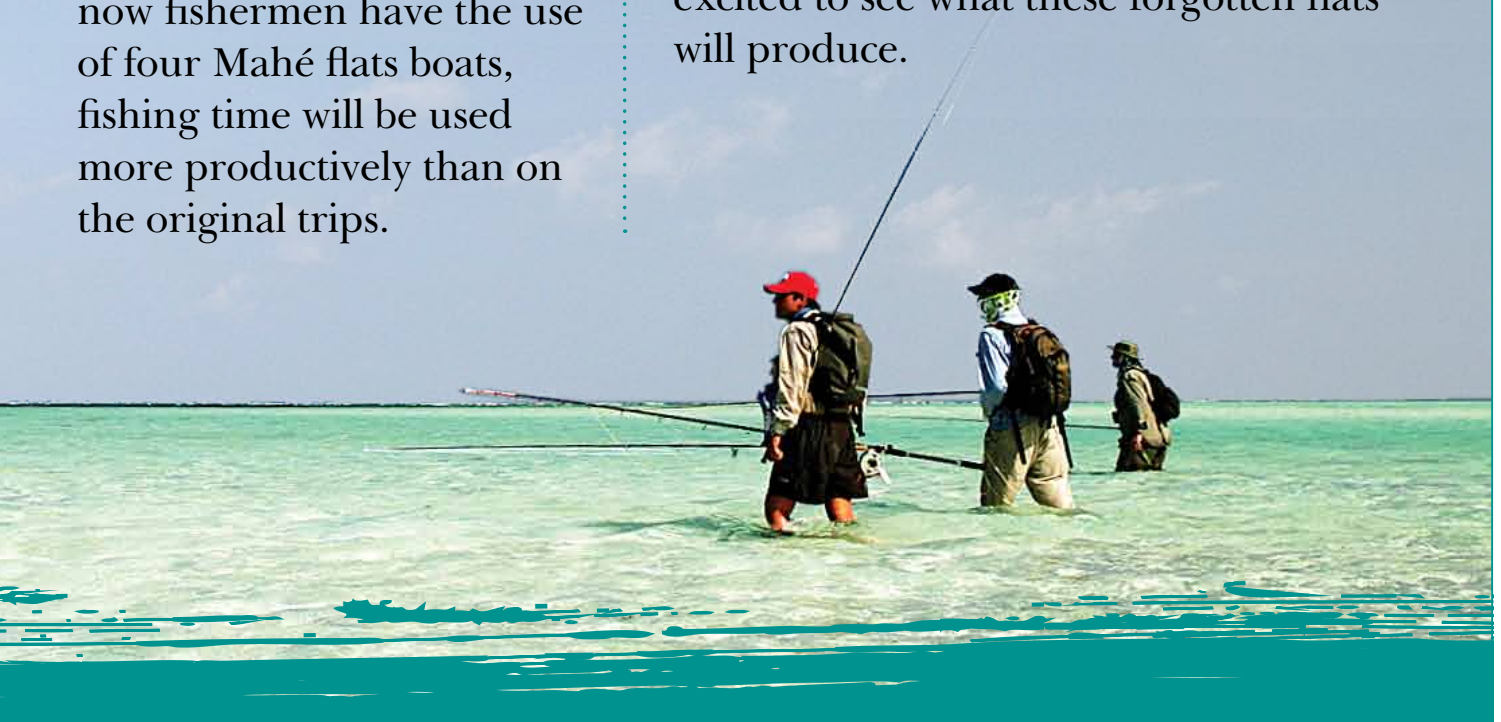


This year Cosmoledo and Providence Atolls have officially reopened for the first time in nearly six years. Both represent the cutting edge of fly fishing on unspoilt outer atolls that have received little pressure in that time and are accessed by luxury liveaboards.

Cosmoledo Atoll Perhaps the more famous of the two (as it was fished first), Cosmoledo is a name that has gone down in fly fishing folklore as the land of giants. The well equipped Maya's Dugong will be home to twelve rods and four guides to explore the huge white sand flats of the inner lagoon, and the rough coral islands around the outside. The large tidal pushes flooding through the channels in the islands make the perfect GT hunting habitat, and now fishermen have the use of four Mahé flats boats, fishing time will be used more productively than on the original trips.

Providence Atoll Larger than Cosmoledo and located close to Farquhar Atoll, Providence is an even less explored saltwater wilderness offering all the same species as Cosmoledo including lots of hungry GTs. The operation is based from the luxury Le Kir Royal yacht and accommodates only eight fishers in shared cabins. Providence Atoll consists of two Islands, Providence North and Cerf Island. These are surrounded and separated by vast sandbanks, flats and channels offering adventurous anglers a hugely diverse array of fishing scenarios.

These liveaboard operations are certainly not for the feint hearted, but now that they have reopened we are extremely excited to see what these forgotten flats will produce.





Desroches

There are relatively few locations around the world where it is possible to take a spouse or family who are, dare I say it, not interested in fishing (shock horror, sharp intake of breath..) but still offer excellent fishing along with luxury accommodation and resort facilities. The Maldives does not offer organised flats fishing with professional Mauritius even though both offer some of the most luxurious Indian Ocean beach front properties.

Fear not, fishermen and families alike. There is one that is at the top of the list, Desroches Island Resort in the Seychelles. Desroches has stunning accommodation in a variety of room configurations from the original Beach Suites, to four bedroomed Villas. From private, one bedroom Retreats with their enclosed plunge pools to the luxurious, open plan Madam Zabre suite with three plunge pools.





There is a wonderful spa, a pool and crèche. There is wi-fi so you can check on the dog, children, aging parents and sporting results... and the office

if you choose to. Kayaks are there for your use, you can snorkel and sail, cycle round the island with a packed picnic or hire one of the catamarans and sail around the island, stopping as and where you fancy to snooze on the beach. Divers can explore the exciting fringing coral reef and wall known as the 'Desroches drop' and those wanting to keep up their exercise routine have a fully equipped gym to use as well as a tennis court.

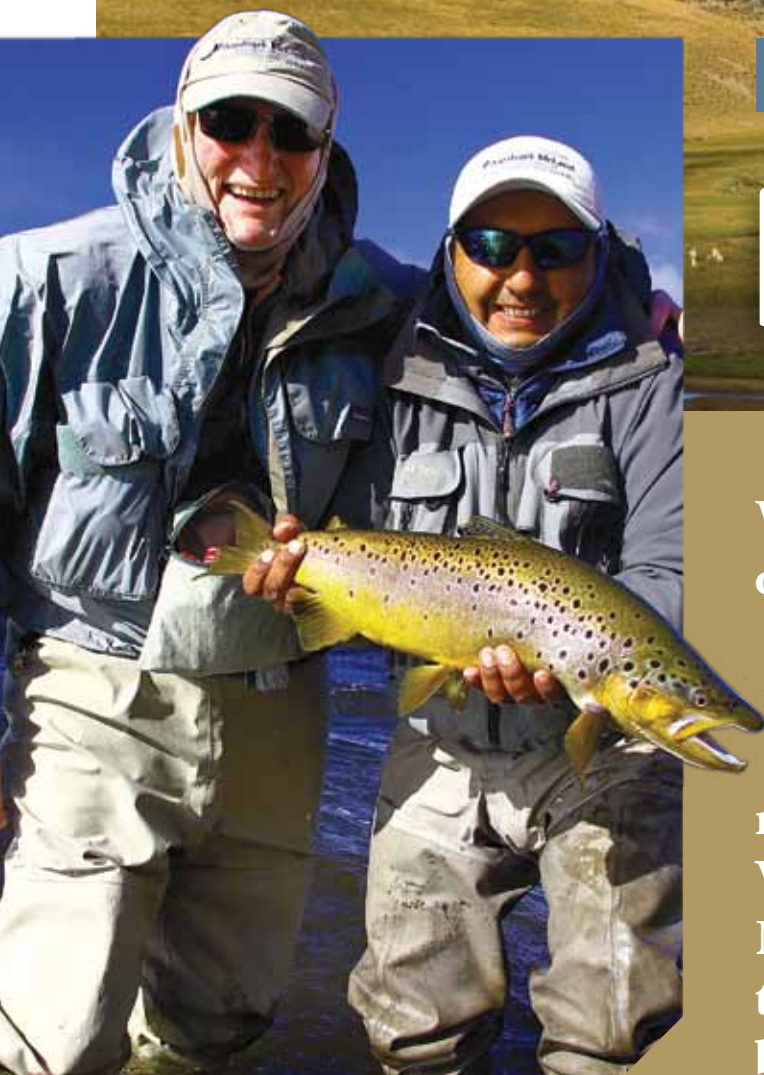
All that before I even mention the fishing...

The island has a highly trained guide team who are equally happy wading the flats on Poivre and St Josephs atolls or teasing billfish and dogtooth tuna in the bluewater. Fishing days can easily be tailored to your needs to create the perfect trip that keeps everyone happy. Poivre is rapidly gaining a reputation as a permit hot spot while St Josephs is teeming with schools of large unmolested bones.

There are daily afternoon flights from Mahé making it very easy to fit in with international flights schedules as well as the internal flights from other island hideways if you want to combine one or more islands.



Steffan Jones



New options on the Rio Grande

Flexibility

We are uniquely positioned to offer unparalleled and impartial advice on the Rio Grande in Tierra Del Fuego. Not only do we send fishermen to the revered lodges of Kau Tapen, Villa Maria and both Estancia Maria Behety properties but also to the lesser known, but not to be underestimated alternatives such as Aurelia and Cameron

Lodge. Each has individual character, appeal and reason for visiting. What may work for one, may not work for all. There is a lodge here to suit every angler and budget.



& Value

We are particularly excited about Aurelia and Cameron Lodge which offer fantastic fishing, wonderful accommodation and flexible arrival and departure days for less than US\$5,000 for a seven night stay.

Aurelia is situated immediately above Kau Tapen, so very much still covering prime water. Cameron Lodge is on the Chilean side with access to approximately 60 km of the Rio Grande. This combines with other rivers and lakes that are within easy reach of the lodge. Single rooms come as standard.

The views and wildlife seen on this side of the island are reason enough to visit – totally different to the Argentine experience. Why not have the best of both worlds and combine a four night stay at each? Perhaps you would like to extend your stay by adding three additional days to your regular Kau Tapen or Maria Behety week providing an all encompassing experience of what this magical island has to offer.

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Something for everybody



The rivers of Alaska and Canada offer something normally only found in a saltwater fishing environment; variety. You never know what species will intercept your fly and it is this variety that makes both exciting and challenging destinations. Most of our European clients only offer one or two species to target.

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The West coast rivers of North America are populated by all five species of Pacific salmon from the massive Chinook to the hard fighting Chum alongside steelhead, dolly varden, bull trout and local cutthroat trout. All represent a different style of fishing with their own techniques and ensure that there is never a dull moment. As Pacific species have a totally different life cycle, the number of fish running these rivers need to be seen to be believed. If you have had a few salmon fishing trips that have been less than productive then the West coast is an ideal area to regain your confidence or introduce a friend or family member to fishing.

Alaska can open the door to the wilderness from fly-out lodges to fixed camps in spectacular scenery and with stunning wildlife. Canada can offer the best of both from the last bastion of wild steelhead in British Columbia (as well as all the Pacific salmon) to the crystal clear water of Gaspé and New Brunswick to catch Atlantic salmon on a dry fly.

While the Alaskan season is shorter than that of Canada, with the fishing season between June and September there is an ample window of fishing opportunity. Why not let us tailor your trip accordingly, we're confident that neither destination will disappoint.



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Oman

So where to next? Oman is a country rich in tradition and culture and once away from the coastal hubbub, there is some truly fantastic fishing. The waters around the remote islands are very different than those further south in the Indian Ocean. The coastline is primarily rocky outcrops and islands, rugged shorelines and white sand beaches. The inshore fishing is what Oman's rapidly growing reputation is based on offering the opportunity to target massive giant trevally, other trevally species, bluefish, triggerfish, milkfish, permit, emperors, parrotfish, cobia and queenfish. The raised rock pinacles surrounded by deepwater create the perfect environment for predatory species. Although the trips

concentrate on the inshore fishing, bluewater is never far away and offshore species add to the tally with dorado, amberjack, grouper and of course billfish.



Accommodation is basic, but clean and comfortable in a very traditional part of the country. Local customs, as anywhere in the world, must be respected but in particular those relating to dress and alcohol. There is always a flip side and this destination is not going to suit everyone. It is primarily a popping and jigging destination but it has massive potential for fly fishermen. To enjoy it and get the most of it you really should be comfortable with both disciplines.

Probably more associated with GTs in the minds of most fly fishermen, could it be the schools of milkfish that puts Oman on the map?

Oman is easy to travel to, visa requirements are straightforward and for those fishermen who think they are tough enough and want to push their fishing boundaries, Oman has got to go onto the bucket list.