

About

South American Trout are all about the Andes Mountains. This is the place where all of the trout and salmon were stocked decades ago and have thrived in Argentina and Chile. Peru also has good trout fishing and Costa Rica is also included in this discussion. There is good fishing for Rainbow and Brown Trout in all three South American countries. Costa Rica has fishing for Rainbow and Cutbows in the mountains of the Central America country. Costa Rica has high



The Andes Mountains provide the backdrop for most South American trout fishing.

mountain fishing in small streams where the other countries have a wide variety of fishing in several regions. There are Atlantic Salmon, Brown Trout, Sea Trout, Rainbow and a few places with Brook Trout.

The prime destinations in South America are Chile and Argentina. They have the largest fish more rivers and opportunities to catch some of the largest Rainbow and Brown

Trout in the world. The Andes is the key to all trout fishing. The mountains have glaciers and cold water that is required for trout. Since trout are not native to the southern hemisphere they had to be introduced and once stocked adapt to the waters. The two major introductions have thrived. There are many rivers in South America where there are large Rainbow and big Browns are also common. Tierra de Fuego is one of the best destinations in the world for Sea Trout.

To get to South America requires fly over or around Costa Rica. This Central American country has trout and they have been there for over fifty years. The first stockings took place in 1959 and continue in the 60's. There is now a state hatchery that produces Rainbow for commercial lakes. The original stockings were successful and there are several rivers in the higher mountains with good trout populations. The initial stockings were Rainbow Cutthroat hybrids. Costa Rica is a mountainous country with the highest mountains in the southern part of the country and this is where most of the trout live. The Rio Savegre is the best

known trout stream in the country and it is a two hour drive from San Jose but there are trout in many high mountain streams. The Rio Torro Amarillo and Rio Providence also produce good trout fishing. The Trout in Costa Rica are not large with an eight inch fish about average. There are other high mountain fish in Costa Rico that will take a fly. Machin, machaca and bobo are just a few of the species that live with the mountain trout of Costa Rica.

Chile is one of the best trout countries in South America. The Patagonia area of Chile has many rivers with large Brown and Rainbow. It does take some adjustment to the seasons in South

America. The hot part of the summer is January with the trout season typically from November - April. There are many fly fishing opportunities in Chile and it depends upon the type of experience desired. All of the rivers have Brown and Rainbow and these fish will average over two pounds and there will



Brown Trout and Sea Trout can both be found in South America. Chile, Argentina and the Falkland Islands have large populations.

be a few monsters. There are opportunities in Chile to take remote trips by helicopter or boat into areas that are seldom fished. These are expensive trips but do access some of the best water. The Chilean Andes is beautiful country and offers some of the best Rainbow and Brown Trout fishing in the world.

Peru is the forgotten country when it comes to trout fishing in South America. Trout were introduced into Lake Titicaca in 1939 and also placed in several rivers in the Sacred Valley. Shortly after the initial plantings the Peruvian government developed hatcheries for Rainbow and a sport fishery was developed. Rainbow are also a commercial production in Peru and "trucha" are found on menus in most of the country. Rainbow have become established in the headwaters of the

Urubamba River system and well as the Sacred system where they were initially stocked. There are also trout in the Apurimac River and several high mountain lakes. Peru does not have the fishing guides like Chile or Argentina but there are guided trips into the Apurimac River the Urubamba system in the mountains. Peru is a country where much of the discovery and searching for good water is left to the fisherman. There are big Rainbow in some rivers and lakes.

Argentina may be the best South American location for trout. Argentina and Chile share the Patagonia Region of South America and it is this area where the best trout fishing can be found. Trout fishing in the 5 provinces that make up the Argentina portion of Patagonia is very similar to Chile. There are big Brown and Rainbow Trout in many rivers and access is available. Argentina does have a few more day trips available and the trips can be shorter because it is easier to access the rivers. It is also possible to catch Brook Trout in Argentina. One of the best known places in Argentina is Tierra del Fuego on the southern tip of the country. This cold region is not that far from the Antarctic Circle and is home to some of the best Sea Trout rivers in the world. The best known is the Rio Grande but there are other rivers that routinely produce Sea Trout over ten pounds. It is difficult to reach Tierra del Fuego and it is an expensive trip. Most trips require a week's stay. This is a region of the world where warm clothes are required regardless of the time of the year.

There are also trout in the Falkland Islands. Brown Trout were introduced in 1944 and have expanded their range to both the East and West Islands. There are Sea Trout as well as Browns. Zebra Trout also exist on the Islands but though they are called Zebra are not true trout. This fish exist in several South American countries and seldom exceed twelve inches. They do resemble trout and have markings similar to zebras on their sides.