

# FLY WATER

TRAVEL

THE WORLD AWAITS



# CONTENTS

## DESTINATIONS

---

### SALTWATER FLATS

CUBA .....	6
CHRISTMAS ISLAND OUTFITTERS .....	10
ANDROS SOUTH LODGE .....	11
BAHAMAS .....	12
YUCATAN .....	14
ISLA DEL SABALO .....	16
TARPON CAY LODGE .....	17
BELIZE .....	18
INDIAN OCEAN .....	20

BOLIVIA .....	26
---------------	----

BRAZIL .....	28
--------------	----

### RUSSIA

KAMCHATKA .....	30
KOLA PENINSULA .....	32

MONGOLIA .....	38
----------------	----

GREENLAND .....	39
-----------------	----

COSTA RICA .....	40
------------------	----

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

SMITHERS & UPPER SKEENA REGION .....	42
BC WEST .....	44
SILVER HILTON STEELHEAD LODGE .....	45
TERRACE & BEYOND .....	46
SKEENA RIVER LODGE & NASS BASE CAMP .....	48

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

SPEYWATER LODGE & FLOATS .....	49
OREGON.....	50

### THE ROCKIES

MONTANA .....	54
IDAHO .....	58
COLORADO & WYOMING .....	60
CANADA .....	62
FLOAT TRIPS .....	64

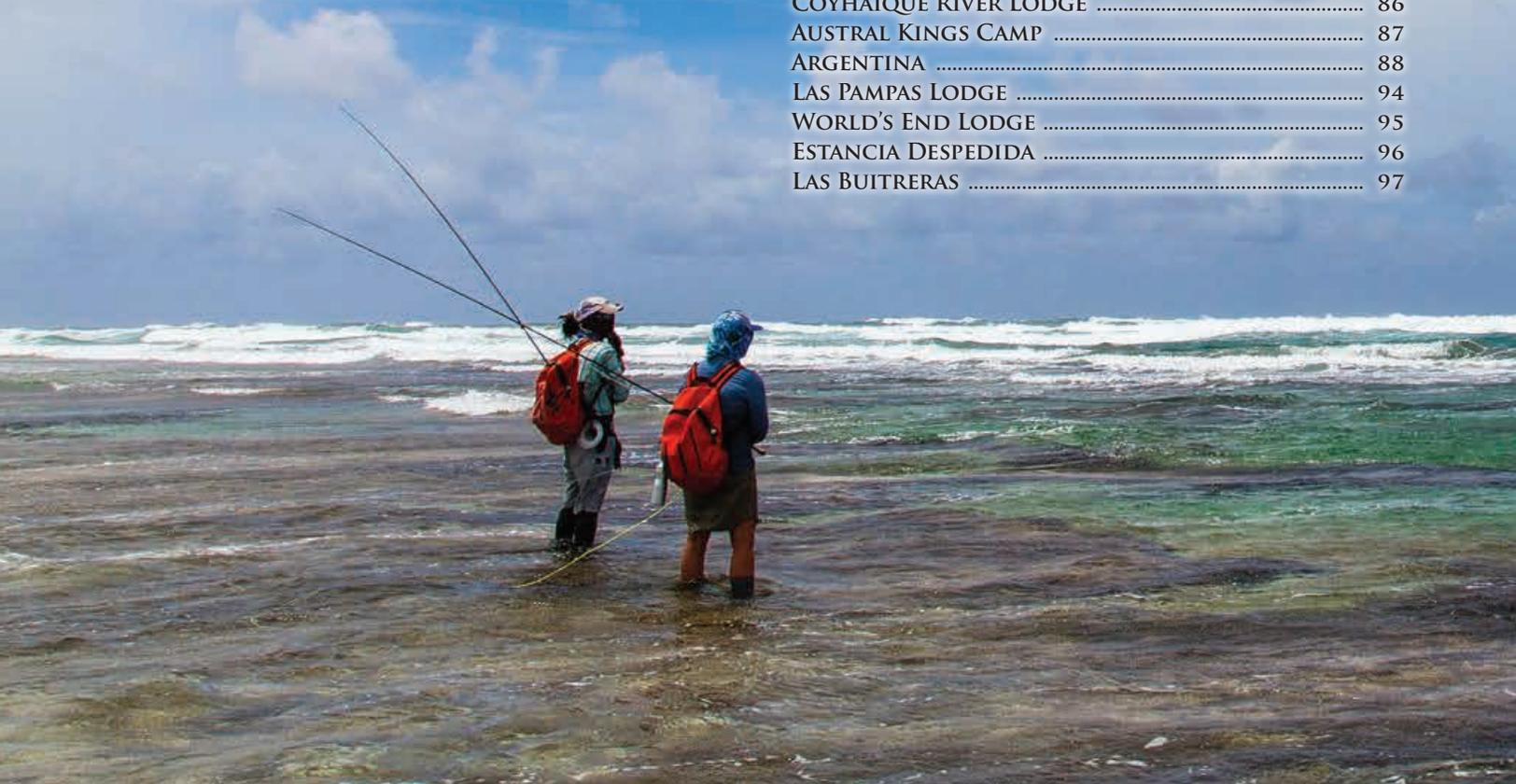
### ALASKA

ALASKA PENINSULA .....	65
FLY-OUT LODGES .....	68
RAPIDS CAMP LODGE.....	70
ALASKA WEST .....	71
BASE CAMPS .....	72
FISHING BEAR LODGE .....	74
SOUTHEAST ALASKA .....	75

NEW ZEALAND .....	80
-------------------	----

### PATAGONIA

CHILE .....	84
COYHAIQUE RIVER LODGE .....	86
AUSTRAL KINGS CAMP .....	87
ARGENTINA .....	88
LAS PAMPAS LODGE .....	94
WORLD'S END LODGE .....	95
ESTANCIA DESPEDIDA .....	96
LAS BUITRERAS .....	97



ON THE COVERS: *Front—Fly Water Travel's Andy Archer on California's McCloud River. Photo: Ken Morrish. Inside—Providence Atoll. Photo: Brian Gies. Back—The Tree River Camp in Nunavut's arctic. Photo: Ken Morrish.*

# FEATURES

---

WELCOME TO FLY WATER TRAVEL  
*by Ken Morrish & Brian Gies* ..... 4

CUBA CULTURE & FISHING  
*A Tour That Has it All*  
*by Jon Covich* ..... 8

PROVIDENCE  
*The Seychelles' Ultimate Saltwater Wilderness*  
*by Brian Gies* ..... 22

SUDAN  
*High Adventure on the Red Sea's Nubian Flats*  
*by Brian Gies* ..... 24

INDIA'S LOST PROVINCE  
*In Search of Arunachal Pradesh's Golden Mahseer*  
*by Ken Morrish* ..... 34

RENTON RIVER ADVENTURES  
*A Family's Passion for the Rivers of Oregon*  
*by Andy Archer* ..... 52

SOUTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD  
*Roughing it in the Frank Church Wilderness*  
*by Charles Gehr* ..... 56

THE OTHER STEELHEAD?  
*More Chrome to the North*  
*by Ken Morrish*..... 66

HIDDEN GEMS OF SCOTLAND  
*Fine Custom Tours for Friends and Families*  
*by Ken Morrish* ..... 76

SANTA CRUZ PROVINCE  
*Home to Argentina's Three Best Trophy Rainbow Destinations*  
*by Ken Morrish*..... 90

LOS PLATEADOS  
*The Miracle of Argentina's Atlantic Steelhead*  
*by Ken Morrish*..... 98



THE WORLD AWAITS

©2019 by Fly Water Travel, LLC. All rights reserved. Graphic design by Carter Works of Ashland, Oregon, (541) 646-0995. Photo credits: Covers, Ken Morrish. All other photos: Ken Morrish, Brian Gies, Charles Gehr, Dylan Rose, David Kalinowski, Matt Harris, Abe Blair, Bryan Gregson, Cpt. Jack Films, Jason Ching, Adam Tavender, Jon Covich, Rafael Costa, Tourette Fishing, Tres Amigos, Brush Creek Ranch, Justi Campa, Val Atkinson, Walter Hodges, Paul Imperia, Stephan Gian Dumbaj Jr., Barry and Cathy Beck, Fly Castaway, Deneki Outdoors, Northern Patagonia Fishing Company, Nervous Waters, Kharlovka Company, Eric Neufeld, Eric Ulibarri, Dillon Renton, Arian Stevens, Guido Rahr and others.

PRICING: All prices are set by individual lodges, outfitters and guides and are subject to change without notice. Pricing is based on double occupancy.



# WELCOME TO FLY WATER TRAVEL

Change, it seems, is the only constant we can count on. We sometimes hope that things will even out, that we might catch our breath, rejuvenate, and for a brief moment, just cruise along and enjoy a predictable ride. But as we learn, life typically has bigger, more interesting plans in store for us all. It is the way of things.

Brian Gies and I started Fly Water Travel 20 years ago with little more than hope, enthusiasm and a shared commitment to doing our best, whatever that may be. We wrote our first business plan on a napkin in the back of a rental camper in New Zealand, sealed the deal with a hearty shot of bourbon and then metaphorically stepped to the edge and jumped. We learned a great deal along the way, and not always the easy way. We showed up each day, worked hard, surrounded ourselves with a talented staff that complemented our values and commitment to service, and most importantly, we reached out and connected with traveling anglers and outfitters who shared our passion for the sport of fly fishing. It wasn't much of a plan but it was ours, and looking back, there isn't anything we would have done differently.

Today, the teachable moments continue. Our clients and outfitters, all of whom we consider friends, have often been our greatest teachers. They have helped us understand that the journey is often more important than the destination, that the relationships we build are more important than catch rates, and that how we treat others is the true measure by which we want to be judged as anglers and individuals. We started Fly Water Travel in part to educate and inform people about the wonders of the fly fishing world, and in return we have received countless lessons on life and what it means to be kind, generous and appreciative of all that surrounds us.

Last year, as we were doing our best to stage for a smooth and relatively uneventful year, we received a call from Far Bank Enterprises, owners of Sage, RIO and Redington. Much to our surprise, they were interested in joining forces, collaborating and a potential acquisition. We initially agreed to a few collaborative projects beginning with a Sage Spey School on Oregon's Grand Ronde River. It was a great success, and in the process, we had the pleasure of getting to know their leadership team. From the start, we knew we liked them and immediately recognized that we shared a great many core values and sensibilities.

With time we learned more about one another's long-term visions and in July of 2018 decided that through joining forces we could ultimately create something whose sum would be far greater than the individual parts.

So once again, we have unwittingly been blessed with change and the opportunity to become more than we were before. Brian and I remain firmly at the helm, but moving forward we have the resources and wisdom of our industry's greatest minds and brands behind us. The excitement within our office is palpable, as we now see the same landscape from a different elevation and the possibilities of what we can accomplish stretching out far beyond the near horizon. In the short term, what will this mean to Fly Water Travel clients? Very little, as our staff, location, leadership and style of doing business will not be changing. But in the long term we will be doubling down on our commitment to providing the industry's best customer service as well as the broadest array of thoughtfully selected destinations in fishing travel. We will also be bringing forward new ways to make booking fishing trips easier and more information-rich than ever before.

## 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Once again we thank all of our customers, outfitters and fans for making 2018 an incredible and dynamic year. We are continually grateful to be able to help travelers see some of the world's best fly fishing destinations. As a team, we ventured forth to explore and revisit a great many destinations including Chile, Argentina, India, the Seychelles, Sudan, Alaska, Mexico, Cuba, Canada, the American West and our home state of Oregon.

With Far Bank's encouragement, we have already invested in our future, bringing on four new full-time staff members. Andy Archer moved to Ashland this past summer from Bend, Oregon, bringing with him a vast knowledge of Oregon and New Zealand fisheries. Andy has integrated into our Pacific Northwest, Mexico and Christmas Island sales as well as taken ownership of our blog, social media and weekly email. Next, after a lengthy nationwide search, we brought on Mike Wedding, formerly from Boulder, Colorado. Mike is our new Patagonia Destination Manager and brings with him a great deal of high-level sales



experience in the outdoor space. Mike has served as the director of national sales for Kelty, Sierra Designs, Golite and Trango but stepped away to pursue his passion for fly fishing and international travel. In November we brought on Jesse Robbins who has spent the past seven years working with Sage and Far Bank. In addition to an impressive angling resume, Jesse knows the players in the fly fishing space like few others and will serve as our Professional Sales Manager. Most recently we signed on Max Saltzburg who will make a move from Fort Collins, Colorado in January to further develop territories including Mongolia, Brazil, Spain, Scotland, Slovenia, Costa Rica and Guatemala. Max's lifelong love of fly fishing, his extensive sales experience and predilection for being the default tour guide in almost every situation, makes him a natural fit for Fly Water Travel.

In the midst of this growth spree, we have lost our couches and shared meeting space but what we have gained in terms of quality individuals who share in our passion for fishing and customer service is immeasurable.

So to all of you who have made these changes both needed and possible, we thank you for your ongoing support and friendship and look forward to improving our service to you over the many fishing seasons to come.

Sincerely,

*Ken Morrish*      *Brian Gies*

Ken Morrish

Brian Gies



*Cuba has become a mecca for discerning saltwater anglers for all the right reasons. Photo: Jon Covich*

## CUBA

The time to visit Cuba is now. With looming uncertainties about the current administration's stance on Cuba's borders, our recommendation is to get there while you can, before policies change. Cuba's diverse and varied fishing programs are in a class by themselves. The fishing can be spectacular and the call of wild, unpressured flats remains the stuff that angling dreams are made of. Beyond all of this, it's truly a magical time in history to visit this remarkable island nation. With so much history, transition and possibility, a trip to Cuba makes for a fantastic travel adventure. A journey to Cuba blends cultural interest, travel adventure and world-class fishing better than perhaps any other destination anywhere today.

### JARDINES DE LA REINA

The Jardines de la Reina (JDR), which translates to the "Gardens of the Queen," is located off the south central coast of the country. This massive archipelago is formed by some 600 cays and parallels the Cuban coastline for nearly 100 miles. The JDR alone is bigger than all the Florida Keys. This vast and prolific marine sanctuary is serviced exclusively by Avalon,

meaning it's likely you will never see a fishing boat other than those from your own party. This area offers anglers true variety and fantastic biodiversity. Migratory and baby tarpon, permit, bonefish, jacks, snapper and barracuda all inhabit these waters. Anglers gain access to the fishery from Avalon's floating hotel called La Tortuga or by staying on one of several motherships located in the area.

**Rates: \$3,990-\$6,850 for a 7 night/6 day package**

### CAYO CRUZ

Cayo Cruz is located in one of the healthiest, untouched and pristine marine environments in Cuba. Located on the north central coast, this newer destination from Avalon is still being explored and producing impressive results. This fishery is defined by great wading opportunities and fantastic fishing for large bonefish, permit and migratory tarpon, when in season (May). Anglers access the fishery via a new, large all-inclusive hotel/resort perfect for couples.

**Rates: \$2,999-\$4,550 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



### CAYO LARGO

Cayo Largo offers an immaculate and highly productive flats fishery alongside a wide range of resort-based activities. Absent of commercial fishing pressure, Cayo Largo (Long Cay) is a meticulously managed biosphere preserve and the area is designated for “fly fishing only.” Trips to Cayo Largo offer guests the ability to explore the island’s beaches, organized tours and dynamic ecosystems without the confines of a mothership. Anglers primarily target large bonefish and permit with occasional shots at resident tarpon. Anglers can either stay at The Sol Club, a large 296-room all-inclusive resort, complete with several restaurants, swimming pools, eco-excursions and additional amenities, or the small, casual, more affordable Villas Marinera. Both options are suitable for couples or families and act as a perfect home-base for general vacation tourism and world-class flats fishing.

**Rates: \$4,600-\$8,200 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### CAYO SANTA MARIA

Cayo Santa Maria has an established track record for amazing tarpon opportunities. Located on the northern coast of the country, approximately a 4.5 hour drive due east of Havana, this area, known as the Jardines del Rey (Gardens of the King), is a prime destination for both resident and migratory tarpon. Some opportunities for bonefish and permit are available as well. This diverse region offers flats, beaches, deep channels and mangrove estuaries. Most fishing takes place from the boat. The best time to visit Santa Maria for migratory tarpon is March

through July, with peak months being May and June. Anglers stay at the large, all-inclusive resort called Iberostar Ensenachos. Santa Maria is also one of Cuba’s more budget-friendly options.

**Rates: \$3,738-\$5,320 per person for an 8 night/6 day package**

### ZAPATA

Unique among Fly Water Travel’s destinations, Zapata is a diverse and untouched shallow-water paradise that is the easiest destination to reach in Cuba and also the best value of all the fly fishing destinations in the republic. From the comfort of the yacht *Georgiana*, a spacious and well-appointed 100 foot live-aboard, guests will strike out to fish a wide range of classic flats in search of chunky bonefish, wary permit and a mix of resident and migratory tarpon. Each day, four guests will set out in individual flats skiffs to fish the expansive shallow water flats for bonefish and permit, while the other four guests head out in two standard skiffs to fish for tarpon. Throughout the course of the week this will enable all guests to enjoy three full days on a single skiff and three days accompanied by another angler. This is an attractive arrangement, seldom seen, that will exponentially increase total fishing time for the week. The boat offers a mix of single and double accommodations and features a fantastic display of Cuban and American cuisine. For anglers that appreciate easy travel, high value and great wade fishing opportunities, this is a must-see destination.

**Rates: \$3,738-\$4,988 per person for a 7 night/6 day package (based on a group of 8 anglers)**





# CUBA CULTURE AND FISHING

A TOUR THAT  
HAS IT ALL

*Story and Photos  
by Jon Covich*

*These custom tours are designed to show guests the real Cuba as well as the country's outstanding fishing. Photo: Jon Covich*

Cuba has a hold on me like no other destination. It's a magical combination of things, starting with a step back in time, vintage American cars, farmers plowing their fields with oxen and humble, hard-working locals using horse-drawn carts throughout the countryside. I continue to be enthralled with the resiliency and kindness of the Cuban people, working together and helping each other navigate the challenges of their daily lives, always with a welcoming smile. These things have brought me back to Cuba nearly twenty times with many more trips planned.

I have always wanted my fishing customers to have more interaction with Cuban life than they typically get when on a week's fishing trip. All too often anglers are quickly transported to their incredible fishing destinations and then whisked out of the country without seeing the historical parts of Havana or taking in a great Cuban band, and ultimately without gaining any real understanding of how Cubans live. Travel, at its best, should expose us to more than just the one passion and allow us to leave more fulfilled, more enlightened and more understanding of the people who host us.

As a result of this desire to share the real Cuba, lots of legwork and a key partnership with an agency experienced in hosting cultural tours in Cuba, Fly Water Travel now offers the ultimate adventure for those wanting the full experience

of what this remarkable country has to offer. I personally host all of these trips and work closely with our Cuban guides on the ground. These trips are not overly fancy by design, but rather more representative of common Cuba. My experience in Cuba enables guests to actively engage and enjoy many of the smaller, more subtle elements of daily life that our guides might otherwise pass over. I am also on hand to resolve any issues that arise during our travels and serve as your fishing expert once the angling portion of the trip commences. I am confident and proud of the relationship I have cultivated with our partners in Cuba, and together, we are able to change our itineraries as we see fit and fully customize trips according to what each group desires.

## **A short outline of a favorite trip follows:**

**Day 1:** Arrive Old Havana and overnight in a small, privately-owned Cuban guest house. Our first night in the city is low-key, giving everyone a chance to get used to their surroundings and rest up after travel. Typically we get together for a drink, go change money together and then have a casual dinner in one of the many nice restaurants I know.

**Day 2:** Meet our Cuban guide for an early walk through Old Havana's most historic sites. After lunch we will tour Havana

---

## CUBA CULTURE AND FISHING

---

in vintage American cars. We will stop along the way for an introduction to the mysterious Santeria religion, which is popular in Cuba. In the evening we will enjoy another nice dinner and music on the town.

**Day 3:** Today will begin with a fascinating tour of one of Havana's cigar factories. Next we will travel to the outskirts of town where we will visit a primary school and drop off much-needed supplies to the staff and students. We then visit Hemingway's ranch and afterwards have lunch in a restaurant near the port Papa used to moor his fishing boat. Back in Havana we will visit at least one of the city's famous bars for a signature drink, have a nice dinner and then spend the rest of the evening in the apartment of a young Cuban couple who are rising stars on the Cuban music scene. This is a special evening and one not usually experienced by the casual visitor to Cuba.

**Day 4:** Get up early and transfer south towards the historic Bay of Pigs. We meet our fishing guides for a day of tarpon fishing on the Rio Hatiguanico and then continue on to our beach-front accommodations in the small town of Playa Larga. This is an old fishing village now frequented by the more adventurous travelers to Cuba. Bordering the famous Cienega Swamp, this area is a haven for anglers, bird-watchers, eco-tourists and

people interested in Cuban history. We will enjoy our casual lodgings on the beach, swim in the bay during the evening and venture out to have great dinners in local restaurants in nearby villages.

**Days 5-7:** Three full days of guided fishing. The greater area adjoining the swamp and the Bay of Pigs is an immense mixture of flats, channels and back-country mangroves. Each day we drive through Zapata National Park to reach the small marina, and then join our guides in search of bonefish, resident tarpon and permit as well as jacks, snapper, barracuda and grouper. Depending upon interest, we may also take time for early morning bird-watching or enjoy short talks from a naturalist regarding the characteristics of Zapata National Park, which is the largest park in the Caribbean. Our last night here we will have a small party and pig roast with our guides and support staff.

**Day 8:** Travel back to Havana for our flights home.

For groups of five or more this trip is customizable to include more time in Cuba or visits to other parts of the country, including the tobacco growing area of Vinales and the historic town of Trinidad. Again, I would accompany your group for this extension and ensure that all goes smoothly.





*Fly Water Travel's Brian Gies with an impressive Christmas Island GT. Photo: Dylan Rose*

## CHRISTMAS ISLAND OUTFITTERS

The fact that virtually every fly angler in North America has heard of Christmas Island is far from a coincidence. Amidst the vast inventory of the world's saltwater destinations Christmas Island is a unique natural masterpiece that magically combines all the elements critical to fly fishing success. Endless hard sand flats, remarkable numbers of cruising bonefish and trevally and consistent year-round weather await all who visit this unique atoll.

Christmas Island Outfitters is a team of highly skilled and veteran guides owned and operated by head guide Bitu Kairaoi. Each day anglers will depart via truck or outrigger for their day's fishing. Virtually all fishing entails sight casting to fish while wading in shallow water. Christmas Island's plentiful bonefish average 2 to 4 pounds, though opportunities to target larger specimens in the 5 to 10-pound class are available as well. The guides at Christmas Island Outfitters

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S  
MOST CONSISTENT YEAR-ROUND  
FISHING FOR BONEFISH, TREVALLY  
AND TRIGGERFISH WITH SKILLED,  
WARM-HEARTED GUIDES.

are among the atoll's most skilled; they are passionate trevally hunters and love nothing more than to share the thrill of hooking these monsters with guests. Excellent blue-water fishing for tuna and wahoo is also available.

Christmas Island Outfitters takes a maximum of 12 anglers per week. Accommodations are simple and rustic and feature air conditioning, running water, private bathrooms, daily room service, double occupancy configuration and are located beachside facing the Pacific Ocean. Meals are very basic and may incorporate fresh seafood (snapper, tuna, wahoo, lobster and mantis shrimp), chicken, pork, rice, pasta and occasionally steak.

Whether you are an experienced saltwater angler or a novice keen on honing your flats fishing skills, Christmas Island Outfitters offers the finest and most intimate angling experience the island has to offer.

**Rate: \$2,570 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

# ANDROS SOUTH LODGE

Andros South is a laid-back Bahamian operation located in the heart of southern Andros's prime bonefishing grounds. If a "bonefish bum" could design the ideal lodge, Andros South would be it.

Guests grab their own beer out of the fridge and relax post-fishing in a beach side tiki hut to watch the sun go down and exchange fishing stories. Don't get us wrong, they take their fishing program very seriously and offer highly experienced guides, high quality boats, a friendly staff, complimentary loaner tackle, long days on the water and warm Bahamian hospitality that is hard to beat.

The southern portion of Andros Island offers anglers an expansive bonefishing playground complete with hard-sand flats, channels, creeks and vast, skinny water lagoons. Access to the famed west side is possible with good tidal conditions,

**DELIVERING A COMFORTABLE, HIGH-VALUE, NO-FRILLS EXPERIENCE ON SOME OF ANDROS ISLAND'S MOST PRODUCTIVE FLATS.**

and if the wind comes up, the interior creeks offer a productive respite. If you're looking for a proven, affordable and quintessentially Bahamian bonefishing experience, look no further than Andros South.

**Rates: \$4,100-\$4,900 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



*The ever-popular beachside bar hut at Andros South. Photo: Dylan Rose*





*Chrysta Rose with a perfect Bahamian bonefish. Photo: Dylan Rose*

## BAHAMAS

When it comes to spectacular bonefishing opportunities, outstanding all-inclusive lodges, skilled guides and a wide range of varied flats environments, the Bahamas still sets the bar. The below operations are among our favorite and represent a dynamic cross-section of world-class Bahamian outfitters.

### DEEP WATER CAY

Deep Water Cay was built in 1958 with the purpose of becoming a world-class bonefishing destination. The small private island of Deep Water Cay is located just off of the east end of Grand Bahama Island and offers a luxurious jumping-off point for an expansive fishery. Deep Water Cay offers easy access to pristine flats, lots of leeward hideaways and a tremendous population of large bonefish, including some that are downright enormous! Recently, a new lodge record was set with an incredible fish that tipped the Boga grip scale at 14.6 pounds. Deep Water Cay remains a thriving and sought-after destination that many anglers visit multiple times a year. No trailering of boats here, just step out of your beach cottage and onto your waiting skiff. Deep Water Cay has withstood the test of time and continues to offer anglers an amazing luxury fishing experience paired with some of the Bahamas' finest guides and amenities.

**Rates: \$5,514-\$5,881 plus tax and fees per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ABACO LODGE

The famed Marls of Great Abaco Island offer a 400 square mile zone of small mangrove islands that are inhabited by copious quantities of aggressive bonefish. The labyrinth of islands that make up the Marls provide a pristine habitat and near endless terrain to explore. Luxurious, tasteful and understated, Abaco Lodge remains one of our favorite and most productive destinations for bonefish enthusiasts the world over. With direct commercial flights to Marsh Harbor from Florida, anglers enjoy easy access to the international airport, bypassing Nassau. Angling packages include local spirits, private seaside rooms and the lodge's fleet of custom Maverick flats skiffs.

**Rates: \$5,950-\$6,150 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ANDROS MOTHERSHIP NEW

Eleven Experience has raised the bar on remote luxury with a unique mothership offering located near the southern tip of Andros Island with easy access to the famed west side in the Bahamas. Up to six guests reside aboard a 74-foot Hatteras yacht complete with three staterooms and ample living space. The yacht is beautiful throughout and features air conditioning, satellite TV and fully equipped 18-foot Beavertail flats skiffs. Custom itineraries are available and groups of four to six anglers



will experience an extremely unique and rich experience outside the typical lodge parameters. The yacht accesses some of the most remote and prolific bonefish waters found on the planet and allows anglers to sleep and reside in luxurious surroundings.

**Rate: \$7,000-\$8,750 per person for a 5 night/5 day package**

### BAIR'S LODGE

Strategically located midway between the South Bight and Curly Cut Cays of South Andros, Bair's Lodge provides easy access to some of the most remote and productive flats in all of the Bahamas. Luxury accommodations, fantastic, locally inspired cuisine and top-tier guides are just the start. Positioned on a beautiful white sand beach, this location easily caters to guests keen on relaxing in a Bahamian paradise. Anglers fish from the bow of 18-foot Dolphin skiffs or wade the famed and prolific bonefish flats of southern Andros.

**Rates: \$5,950-\$6,150 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### H2O BONEFISHING

Located in Freeport, Grand Bahama near the Port Lucaya Marketplace, H2O Bonefishing couples premier angling for large bonefish with a hotel-style resort rich with amenities. Guests stay at the beautiful Pelican Bay Hotel and those who prefer not to fish can enjoy the large pool, hot tub and outdoor bar as well as the area's shopping scene, casinos, restaurants, tourist activities and pristine white sand beaches. Anglers fish the expansive and remote flats of

Grand Bahama's northern shoreline, then cap the day with endless fishing tales in the lively Bones Bar. Guests can then head to the marina and choose from several options for drinks and dinner.

**Rate: \$4,195 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### MANGROVE CAY CLUB

Mangrove Cay Club was built by Liz and Alton Bain from the ground up to be one thing: a world-class bonefishing lodge. It's one of the few destinations that brings all the crucial elements together — location, management, amenities, guides, equipment, cuisine and spectacular flats fishing. With characteristically short runs to some of the best trophy bonefish flats in the world, it is easy to make a case that this is the Bahamas' premier flats fishing lodge.

**Rate: \$5,550 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### EVA'S BONEFISHING LODGE

Eva's Bonefishing Lodge is a beautiful operation located near Staniard Creek on North Andros Island in the Bahamas. With a maximum capacity of six anglers, this lodge offers an intimate and relaxed family-run atmosphere. With ample opportunities to target fish on foot, anglers can cast at large solitary bonefish or smaller schooling fish, depending on conditions and preferences. Eva's has been receiving fantastic feedback from Fly Water Travel clientele and continues to bolster its reputation as a premier option in the landscape of Bahamian bonefish lodges.

**Rate: \$5,050 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**





*A hefty permit from the pristine waters of Espiritu Santo Bay. Photo: Dylan Rose*

## YUCATAN

Located 90 miles south of Cancun is the crown jewel of Mexico's saltwater ecosystems: the 1.3 million acre Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, which encompasses and protects the rich turquoise waters of Ascension Bay. Here, among endless crystal-clear flats, mangrove lagoons, channels and reefs, bonefish, permit, tarpon, snook and barracuda abound. Due to its protected status and a growing conservation ethic among its inhabitants, many agree that the region's fishing is actually improving. Today the area is rich in quality guides and accommodations, the majority of which are located in or near the quaint fishing village of Punta Allen.



At first glance they appear similar, but after years of working the region we have come to understand their subtle differences. Whether you are a family in search of a great fishing vacation or a seasoned angler seeking the coveted "grand slam," we will help you find the lodge that is right for you.

### CASA BLANCA LODGE

Casa Blanca Lodge is widely considered the most established, secluded and professional operation in the greater Ascension Bay region. Located at the southern end of Ascension Bay, Casa Blanca Lodge's superb location puts anglers in incredibly remote locations within minutes. Casa Blanca's veteran stable of guides includes some of the most talented and experienced professionals on the entire Yucatan Peninsula. An attentive, professional and energetic management team keep this venerable operation in top shape and delivering on all fronts. Packages include a private air charter to the private island from Cancun.

**Rates: \$4,487-\$4,754 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### PLAYA BLANCA LODGE

Playa Blanca is a top-quality saltwater lodge that focuses on fishing the little-known and lightly pressured flats of Espiritu Santo Bay. This is a beautiful fishery located entirely within the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. When it comes to getting on the flats first and presenting flies to fish that have not seen

a lot of boat traffic, few places in the region compare. Espiritu Santo Bay is known for healthy populations of permit, bonefish, tarpon, barracuda and jacks. Playa Blanca sits on a remote and beautiful white sand beach and is blessed with one of the most seasoned and longest-tenured guide staffs in Mexico. They also have a remarkable and essentially private Mayan ruin within easy walking distance of the lodge. Fishing packages include a round-trip charter flight from Cancun to the lodge. Playa Blanca is in very high demand, so if this operation is on your radar don't delay getting in a request for dates.

**Rates: \$4,487-\$4,754 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### PESCA MAYA LODGE

When it comes to value, flexible packages, a variety of fish species and warm Mexican hospitality, Pesca Maya Lodge has always been at the top of our list. The lodge maintains skilled in-house guides that rank among our favorite in the Yucatan. Moreover, they offer two guides per panga, ensuring another set of eyes to help you spot and catch more fish. Located on a white sand beach just outside the village of Punta Allen, Pesca Maya Lodge is a casual favorite for serious anglers in search of Ascension Bay's best fly fishing.

**Rate: \$4,163 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### GRAND SLAM LODGE

Grand Slam Lodge sets a new standard for quality lodging in Ascension Bay. It offers seasoned anglers, couples and families world-class fishing opportunities coupled with the region's most luxurious accommodations. Located on a private beach outside the village of Punta Allen, Grand Slam boasts 12 private multi-room villas, a beautifully appointed main lodge, a bar area and a swimming pool. Other than fishing, guests can also enjoy picturesque beach lounging or touring the Sian Ka'an Biosphere.

**Rates: \$3,510-\$4,140 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ISLA BLANCA

For anglers visiting the Cancun area with their families or transiting to other destinations across the Yucatan, Isla Blanca offers incredibly rich baby tarpon, snook and permit opportunities proximal to the bustling tourist center of Cancun. The numerous flats and mangrove systems of Isla Blanca, located northwest of Cancun, are accessed by purpose built, 18-foot panga-style skiffs. This is the perfect way to sneak in some fishing while on a family vacation and day trips are welcome.

**Rate: \$425 per day for 1 or 2 anglers**

### LA PESCADORA LODGE

La Pescadora is a small family-run operation located in Punta Allen on the Yucatan's famed Ascension Bay. With a maximum of only eight anglers, La Pescadora is the perfect option for those seeking a welcoming, casual and affordable home base from which to access the numerous bonefish, permit and tarpon of Ascension Bay. Together with her husband and head guide, Jose, lodge manager Lily Bertram has created a relaxing and budget-friendly operation that works with some of our favorite guides on the Yucatan.

**Rate: Please call for details**

### ESPIRITU SANTO BAY LODGE

Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge is located on the southern shore of Espiritu Santo Bay near Punta Herrero. 2017 was this operation's inaugural season. Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge allows saltwater anglers quick and easy access to the remote and highly productive waters of Espiritu Santo Bay. This exciting new lodge provides an affordable opportunity to target all four of the Caribbean's most favored flats species (tarpon, bonefish, permit and snook) and includes a convenient charter flight to the lodge direct from Cancun.

**Rate: \$4,195 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**





*The quaint and appealing accommodations at Isla del Sabalo. Photo: Dylan Rose*

## ISLA DEL SABALO

Isla del Sabalo or “Island of Tarpon” is the most remote and exclusive tarpon destination on Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula. It is truly the world’s frontier fishery when it comes to fly fishing for juvenile tarpon. This small, off-the-beaten-path operation focuses exclusively on the expansive flats, estuaries and creeks surrounding the small commercial fishing village of Isla Arena. This incredibly large eco-system provides access to a thriving baby tarpon nursery which arguably offers some of the most prolific tarpon fishing opportunities found anywhere in the world. The sheer number of tarpon that inhabit the turtle grass flats, mangrove-lined lagoons, creeks and channels of this area is enormous, and the fish typically range from 5 to 30 pounds. Fly anglers armed with 8 or 9-weight rods, floating lines and stout shock tippet delight in the abundant

A RUSTIC BASE FROM  
WHICH TO FISH THE  
YUCATAN’S MOST REMOTE  
TARPON FISHERIES

opportunities to send these tarpon skyward.

The accommodations at Isla del Sabalo are simple, comfortable and rustic in nature. Guests stay in one of several oceanfront beach cabanas that are equipped with air conditioning, hot water, fans and private bathrooms. Meals consist of traditional Mexican fare and are served in the lodge’s outdoor *palapa*. Furthermore, this operation takes a highly unique approach to its booking calendar by only offering dates during the very best months and tides. Ultimately this means IDS is only available for extremely limited windows from May through September. This policy ensures anglers making the journey to IDS have the very best chance at finding happy tarpon with tides that make them accessible to the fly angler.

**Rate: \$3,965 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

# TARPON CAY LODGE

Not far from the bustling madness of Cancun on the northern shore of the Yucatan Peninsula lies the quaint commercial fishing village of San Felipe and Tarpon Cay Lodge. Tarpon Cay Lodge offers salt-water fly anglers unparalleled opportunities to target juvenile tarpon in the 6 to 25-pound class from boats in shallow water with floating lines. This small operation caters to a maximum of six anglers. This keeps angling pressure low and offers exclusive access to private groups of six. Two massive preserves protect these waters from commercial fishing and provide an expansive refuge for juvenile tarpon.

Here, roving schools of fish vary significantly in size from just a few tarpon to several hundred fish. Similar to their

THE YUCATAN'S MOST  
CONSISTENT AND PRODUCTIVE  
OPERATION FOR TARGETING  
JUVENILE TARPON

larger brothers and sisters, these babies can be sensitive to environmental conditions and may challenge even the most skilled fly anglers. Properly setting the hook and making a well-presented cast is half the battle and the experience is always thrilling and utterly addictive. The Tarpon Cay Lodge guides are a highly experienced crew and are incredibly skilled at scanning for rolling fish and spotting schools of fish moving under the surface.

Guests stay at the Hotel San Felipe de Jesus at the water's edge. The hotel provides air conditioned rooms, fans, private bathrooms and hot/cold water. Meals are served in the hotel dining area and consist of fresh seafood and traditional Mexican dishes.

**Rate: \$3,965 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

*The ultimate 8-weight sportfish. Photo: Dylan Rose*





*Heather Hickman presenting to bonefish on Turneffe Island. Photo: Brain Gies*

## BELIZE

With the lowest population density in Central America, a diverse and laid-back English-speaking population, abundant rivers, numerous inland wildlife reserves, endless flats, hundreds of small islands and the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, Belize is a travel-friendly nature lover's paradise. With incredibly healthy populations of bonefish, permit, tarpon, jacks and snook, there is enough diversity to keep even the most hardened angler captivated. Likewise, those not interested in fishing have countless options, including snorkeling, scuba diving, jungle tours, guided birding, eco-adventures and Mayan ruin tours.



### EL PESCADOR RESORT

Located on the island of Ambergris Caye, hardcore anglers and non-fishing guests alike will find a myriad of activities within easy striking distance. Bonefish, permit, snook, jacks, barracuda and both resident and migratory tarpon are all available from El Pescador. Spectacular snorkeling, diving and kayaking as well as eco-tour programs are all available. For those who prefer to just relax, three on-site swimming pools are ready and waiting. Additionally, the charming tourist town of San Pedro is just minutes away by boat. Small groups can also take advantage of well-appointed, two or three-bedroom private villas. El Pescador Resort combines exceptional service, quality fishing and an abundance of exciting activities.

**Rate: \$4,420 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### BELIZE RIVER LODGE

Belize River Lodge rests quietly on the lush green banks of the Old Belize River and is easy to reach from the states. This historic mahogany lodge is well known for providing a warm tropical experience and easy access to what we consider the most diverse array of saltwater fisheries in Belize. The lodge is close to wind-protected river systems with large resident rolling tarpon and countless offshore cayes loaded with permit, bonefish and snook. Belize River Lodge may be one of the world's best places to capture an elusive inshore super grand slam (bonefish, permit, tarpon and snook all caught and released in a single day).

**Rate: \$4,575 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



### LONG CAYE ISLAND RESORT

Owned and managed by the same team as Belize River Lodge, this small three-bedroom house lies on a small island with a private beach and a productive flat right out the front door. This idyllic outpost gives guests immediate access to a huge number of the most productive waters in the region. Catering to private groups of no more than six people, this intimate operation is the perfect setting for the ultimate small-group getaway.

**Rate: \$4,475 per person for a 7 night/6 day package, based on 4 anglers**

### TURNEFFE FLATS LODGE

For more than 20 years, Turneffe Flats Lodge has been a mecca for serious anglers. Long recognized as one of Belize's top saltwater fly fishing destinations, the lodge also offers premiere scuba diving and marine eco-tourism opportunities. Located on the vast Turneffe Atoll, Turneffe Flats Lodge boasts a remarkable diversity of varied saltwater experiences. The management team consistently provides top-notch experiences and thoroughly understands how to take care of non-angling companions.

**Rates: \$3,990-\$4,490 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### COPAL TREE LODGE

Sitting atop a picturesque jungle ridge above the small Belizean village of Punta Gorda is the beautiful Copal Tree Lodge and farm. Copal Tree is a paradise for adventure seekers, foodies,

spa goers, couples and fly anglers seeking to experience some of the most prolific permit grounds found anywhere in the world. Copal Tree is truly "farm-to-table," as their operation produces 80 percent of everything served at the lodge. Chefs use the farm as their private culinary playground to create virtuosic cuisine with some of the freshest ingredients imaginable. Copal Tree's crops and animals are all lovingly cared for and rest on over 12,000 private acres of pristine jungle. Anglers target permit, tarpon and bonefish with legendary local guides from the nearby Garbutt's Fishing Lodge. We are pleased to offer Copal Tree Lodge as one of the most unique and interesting programs found anywhere in the saltwater world.

**Rates: \$3,675-\$5,150 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### THATCH CAYE RESORT

Located in the heart of southern Belize's famed Permit Alley, Thatch Caye is a 20-person eco-lodge where guests fish with the region's most accomplished permit guides. Thatch Caye is a stand alone operation on a small private island roughly nine miles southeast of Dangriga. The main lodge and surrounding guest bungalows masterfully combine the rustic appeal of an adventure lodge with all the modern creature comforts. Their over-water accommodations offer a unique setting where guests can enjoy a morning cup of coffee while scanning the flats for tailing permit. Guests target permit with the regions most experienced and skilled guides from Blue Horizon, while others can enjoy a wide range of activities provided by the resort.

**Rate: \$4,200 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**





*Giant trevally on the flats are just one of the Seychelles' many appeals. Photo: FlyCastaway.*

## INDIAN OCEAN

The Seychelles have been deemed home to the greatest saltwater fly fishing on earth, largely due to steady streams of large, aggressive bonefish, endless pristine flats, huge trevally and barracuda, mysterious schools of super-charged milkfish, Indo-Pacific permit, triggerfish and some of the best flats guides in the business. The only downside is that once you have fished

here you will be forever spoiled. Let us help you navigate these remarkable waters and aid you in finding the saltwater experience you have been dreaming of.

### ALPHONSE ISLAND RESORT

Alphonse Island Resort is the original and arguably the most consistent Seychelles destination where world-class fishing is complemented by some of the best accommodations in the saltwater world. The resort offers guests refined international cuisine, tasteful waterfront chalets complete with private verandas and bathrooms with open-air showers.

**Rate: \$9,840 plus \$175 conservation fee per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### FARQUHAR ATOLL LODGE

Long known to only the inner circle of adventuresome saltwater anglers, Farquhar was one of the earliest outer islands to be discovered. Its reasonable size, varied flats, coral-strewn lagoon





and prolific blue water fishery make it one of the world's best multispecies destinations. In the past it was only accessed by mothership but today anglers enjoy a small, simple lodge that makes it the perfect island fish camp.

**Rate: \$9,500 plus \$175 conservation fee per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### COSMOLEDO LIVEBOARD

Accessed by the comfortable *Lone Star* liveboard catamaran, Cosmoledo is unquestionably one of the best giant trevally fisheries in the world and has become the benchmark for anglers in search of the epic flats fishing experience. "Cosmo" is a large, untouched ecosystem whose white sand flats, lagoons and channels are ruled by pugnacious packs of giant trevally. However, these fish are not the only species that can be found here in impressive numbers. Big bonefish, bluefin trevally, bohar snapper, barracuda, milkfish, finicky Indo-Pacific permit and a host of triggerfish species all call Cosmoledo home. Hit this trip right and it is as good as saltwater fishing can be!

**Rate: \$15,400 plus \$175 conservation fee per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ASTOVE ATOLL LODGE

Just a stone's throw away from the famous Cosmoledo Atoll lies the lesser-known but equally prolific Astove Atoll. Among anglers in the know, this atoll is recognized as the greatest GT fishery in all the Seychelles. Angling here has historically been limited due to difficulties in access, but with the construction

of a new airstrip and a simple rustic lodge, small groups of six anglers are now able to access this unspoiled saltwater paradise.

**Rates: \$10,362-\$13,160 plus \$175 conservation fee per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### PROVIDENCE ATOLL LIVEBOARD

Providence Atoll ranks among the largest and least discovered fisheries in the Seychelles. It has vast open sand flats, large areas of turtle grass and intricate coral heads scattered throughout deeper waters. There are many channels, coral spits and drop-offs with several deep cuts that become isolated during spring low tides. Top guides have described it as a massive unpredictable beast that changes moods with the tides and will take years to fully discover and tame. Be among the first to unlock and experience the vast potential of this unique saltwater wilderness.

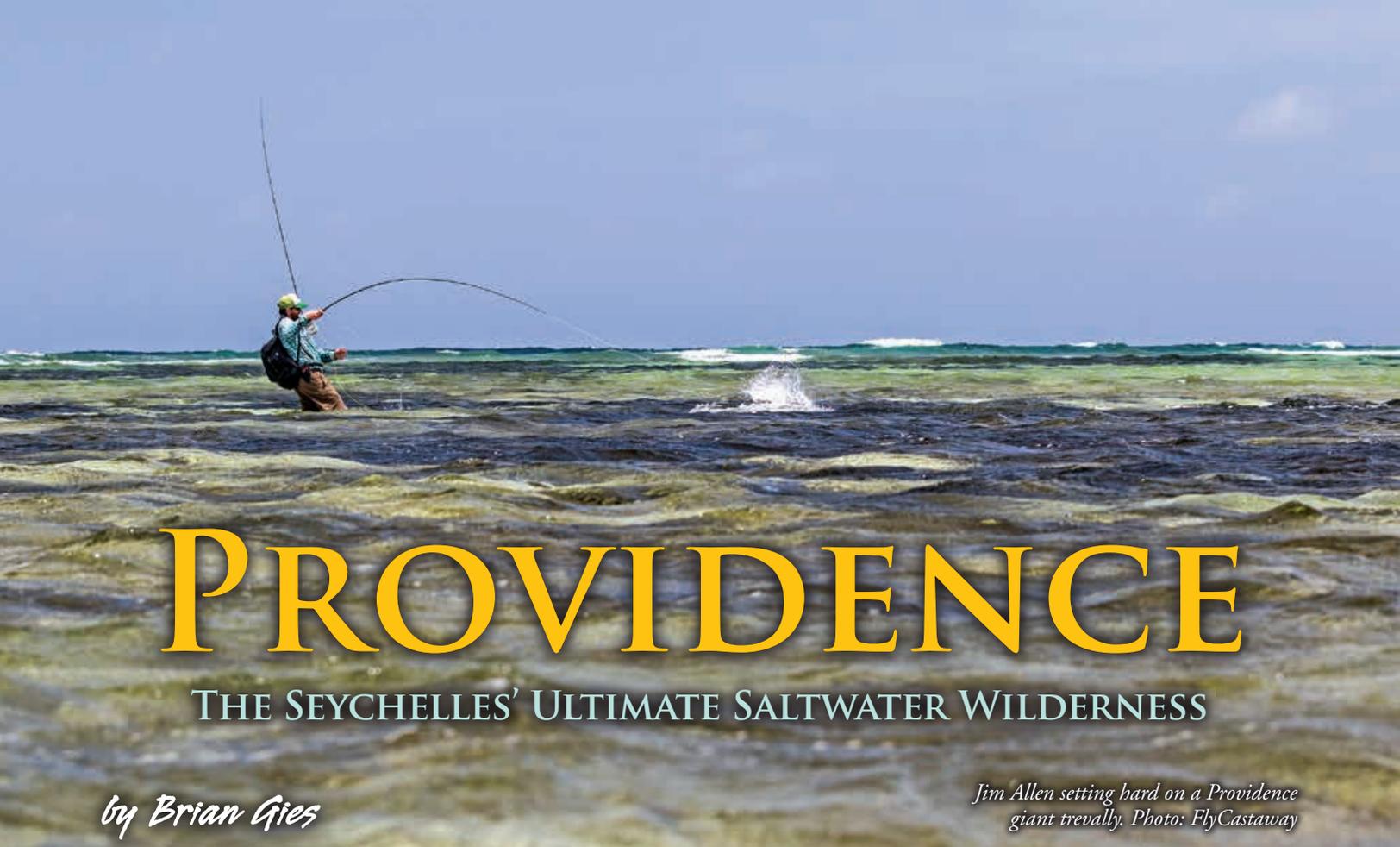
**Rate: \$12,300 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ST. BRANDON'S ATOLL

Due east of Madagascar and 300 miles northeast of the island of Mauritius lies an obscure and seldom-visited atoll that may be the greatest bonefishing destination in the world. Fished from the comfort of a new, simple eight-person lodge, St. Brandon's Atoll is a wade fisherman's paradise blessed with enormous hard-sand flats and staggering numbers of huge bonefish. In addition to this incomparable bonefish resource, anglers will also encounter good numbers of Indo-Pacific permit and a vast array of trevally including bluefin, golden, yellow dot, green spot and the coveted GT.

**Rate: \$8,500 per person for a 10 night/7 day package**





# PROVIDENCE

## THE SEYCHELLES' ULTIMATE SALTWATER WILDERNESS

by Brian Gies

*Jim Allen setting hard on a Providence giant trevally. Photo: FlyCastaway*

For the most committed and adventuresome saltwater anglers, it is appropriate and even fortunate that the wildest and most productive ecosystem in the Seychelles, and likely the world, is named Providence. Providence, after all, is one's fate, destiny or divine predestination. For those that are serious about finding the most pristine and rewarding flats fishing in the world today, all points lead to here.

Providence is a specific atoll within the Seychelles archipelago located in the Indian ocean east of Tanzania and north of Madagascar. Located 440 miles south of the capital city of Mahé, Providence is a large uninhabited complex consisting of two islands (North Island and Cerf Island), and a vast array of flats in-between that has received less than 1,000 total visitors in its recorded history. For the consummate saltwater fly fishing professionals and explorers at FlyCastaway, this complex is truly their providence; the largest, most diverse and exciting saltwater wilderness on earth.

The sheer size and amount of habitat, both on the flats and offshore, create an endless array of angling options. Providence offers fly fishermen the opportunity to wade and sight fish a possible 29 miles of pristine sand and turtle grass flats, an enormous lagoon system as well as the numerous channels which link these structures to the Indian Ocean. Anglers can expect to target enormous giant trevally, bonefish, triggerfish, Indo-Pacific permit, milkfish, and bumphead parrotfish. Add to that a chance at Napoleon wrasse, Bohar snapper,

barracuda, sailfish and multiple species of tuna and it won't take long to recognize this as one of the greatest multi-species destinations our sport has to offer.

### FISHING PROGRAM

The Providence fishing program is based on 12 anglers. The mothership carries four large sea-worthy skiffs, each captained by an experienced South African guide, that fish three per boat. Due to their intimate knowledge of tides and fish behavior, each day the guides will decide which type of fishing to focus on. When the tides are big, they might elect to spend most of the day targeting giant trevally. When the conditions offer minimal tidal movement they might choose to spend the day walking the most productive flats for bonefish, permit, triggerfish and bumphead parrotfish. During a specific shift in tides they might make the call to look for milkfish, and during slack tide they might decide to wind-drift through coral heads blind casting for a wide range of hard fighting fish including grouper and bluefin trevally. All anglers will spend the majority of their time wading. Guests will often spend long periods away from the boat, making this a physically rigorous trip.

### LIVEBOARD ACCOMMODATIONS

The *Mayas Dugong* is an ex-research vessel that has been upgraded and modified into a mothership specializing in long-range fly fishing expeditions. The ship is a bit rustic, but it is

## PROVIDENCE

large, spacious and extremely stable, making it a perfect base from which to explore the remote outer atolls of the Seychelles. It is a four-level vessel and can accommodate 12 anglers in seven snug guest cabins situated either on the middle, main or lower deck. Each cabin has an en-suite shower and flush toilet. There is also a comfortable salon and dining area. Both the cabins and indoor dining areas are fully air-conditioned, allowing guests a chance to relax in a comfortable environment after a long day's fishing on the flats. On the mid-deck there is a spacious partially-covered seating area with magnificent views that is used often by guests. This area is perfect for sundowners and socializing. The lower deck's primary function is to store the tender boats and fishing tackle. The stern of the vessel has a set of stairs leading down to a large swimming and fishing platform. This feature also allows for a safe and comfortable transfer from the tender boats to the main vessel. Basic but hearty Creole

and international meals are served by the helpful crew in the dining area on the main deck.

### NOTES

**Travel:** Guests arrive in Mahé the day before the scheduled departure and overnight. The next morning you will take a charter flight from Mahé to Farquhar. The flight is one hour forty-five minutes onboard a private chartered Beechcraft 1900. Once on Farquhar, you are transferred, in true island style, via tractor and trailer fifteen minutes to the slipway and then transferred to the mothership. Once everyone is on the ship you set sail for Providence (6-8 hours).

**Season:** Late October through mid-December and March through April

**Capacity:** 12 anglers

**Rate:** \$12,300 per person for a 7 night/6 day package



# SUDAN

## HIGH ADVENTURE ON THE RED SEA'S NUBIAN FLATS



*Story & Photos by Brian Gies*

*Stalking triggerfish where the desert meets the sea. Photo: Brian Gies*

If you don't have a lot of friends who have regaled you with stories about their flats fishing trips to Sudan, don't worry, you are not alone. To date, Sudan and the Nubian flats have not exactly been a hot spot for tourists or fly fishers. But rest assured, there are stories to be told. Bordered to the north by Egypt and to the south by Eritrea and now independent, but landlocked, South Sudan, Sudan's history of civil unrest has largely left the country off traveling anglers' radar. This began to change roughly ten years ago when divers, eager to explore the beauty of some of the Red Sea's greatest ecosystems, began successfully visiting the crystal-clear waters and remarkable coral complexes of Sudan. Shortly thereafter, South African fly fishers, headed by the team at Tourette Fishing, followed and today Sudan's Nubian flats have become a blossoming hot spot for flats anglers that appreciate adventure, challenge, value and unpressured wade fishing for a wide variety of desirable flats species.

In March of 2018, I took a group of adventuresome travelers to check it out firsthand. It was an incredible mothership-based adventure spent exploring the interface of two surreal worlds: the harsh, sunbaked, seemingly lifeless desert of the mainland and the incredibly rich turquoise waters of the Red Sea. For anglers that love the playful and highly interactive sport of

chasing yellow margin and titan triggerfish on the fly, Sudan might be the greatest fishery on the planet. We allocated roughly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our time to this fishery and spent a good deal more time targeting and teasing giant trevally, as well as sight fishing for bluefin trevally, bohar snapper, grouper, bumphead parrotfish and barracuda. Ultimately a trip to Sudan is for those that want to explore frontier fisheries and appreciate a real physical challenge in an environment that draws its beauty from extremes beyond what the ordinary angler will ever experience.

### FISHING PROGRAM

Sudan showcases two distinct and very different fisheries. The first revolves around endless miles of hard, easy to wade, white sand and turtle grass flats. These flats, which range from 100 feet to several hundred yards wide, ring the shoreline as far as the eye can see and represent the finest triggerfish habitat in the world. The other significant fishery encompasses the outer edges of the flats, countless coral reefs and pinnacles. These areas are prime habitat for GT's as well as numerous reef species. These areas are incredibly rugged and are only appropriate for fit, agile anglers.

Due to the remote nature of the region, all fishing is accessed by a mothership and two pangas. The pangas are employed to

reach the nearby flats and a wide range of islands that have previously not been visited by anglers as well as the deeper blue-water fisheries when appropriate. The typical program will have teams of three anglers and a guide motoring to the day's chosen areas, anchoring, and then either walking the endless flats or wading their rugged edges. When walking the flats, classic sight fishing will be the norm, but when targeting GT's on the edges, the guides will often throw hookless plugs to tease the trevally in. When practicing this method guests will typically blind cast out into the path of the teaser in hopes of intercepting following fish. This is a rigorous and often rewarding way to target GT's. A good deal of ground is covered each day, and due to hot air temperatures and rugged terrain, we classify this trip as physically demanding.

### MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Six anglers per week will be housed on the mothership *Scuba Libre*. *Scuba Libre* is a 60-foot rustic steel-hulled catamaran. Living conditions are snug and basic but comfortable, and the atmosphere is relaxed. Guests stay in two main cabins in the front of the boat. Each cabin sleeps three people with minimal

space for luggage. The living area is comprised of a small saloon dining area as well as a top deck. There are three very small bathrooms on board, each with a toilet, a shower and a basin. Guests often enjoy snorkeling off the back of the boat after a day on the flats, as well as sleeping on the top deck under the stars. Meals are mostly Italian style and consist of pastas and freshly caught fish dishes as well as vegetables and fresh salads.

### NOTES

**Travel:** Guests fly to Dubai and overnight before flying to Port Sudan the following day and transferring to the mothership

**Season:** March through late-June

**Capacity:** Six anglers

**Essential Tackle:** A 9-foot 8-weight and a 9-foot 12-weight with floating lines

**Top Flies:** Brush fly and flexo crab

**Rates:** €3,600 per person for a 7 night/6 day package





*A hefty dorado takes to the air on the main Secure River. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## TSIMANE LODGE, BOLIVIA

When it comes to fly fishing adventure, Tsimane has it all. Located in a remote indigenous territory of Bolivia where the Andes meet the upper Amazon, Tsimane is home to freestone rivers which will feel both familiar and foreign to the well-traveled angler. Each season hundreds of thousands of baitfish migrate up the greater Secure system and

ONE OF THE  
WORLD'S MOST  
EXOTIC ANGLING  
ADVENTURES

with them come thousands of large, aggressively feeding dorado. Here, anglers wet wade a jade-green river and cast six-inch flies on wire leaders through an endless array of pristine water types.

These waters feature pugnacious, aerial dorado in the 8 to 35-pound class and other jungle species like the fickle pacu and the elusive surubi. With few exceptions, the anglers we have sent to Tsimane rate the trip among the top three angling experiences in their extensive careers.

Tsimane is operated by an Argentine outfitter with exclusive rights to the region. They offer three distinct fly fishing programs, the Secure and Agua Negra safari camps, and Pluma Lodge. All trips will begin with an overnight in Santa Cruz followed by a charter flight to a remote jungle airstrip. All programs have main lodge buildings made from hand-hewn local timber that feature comfortable sitting areas, open bars and fine cuisine. While guests often access the fishing grounds by boat, considerable walking and wading is essential to success. This trip into the heart of the Bolivian jungle is best suited to adventuresome, fit travelers. Their season runs June through October.





### PLUMA LODGE

Pluma Lodge is Tsimane's most deluxe offering and one of the great lodges in the world. Pluma caters to eight anglers per week, all of whom enjoy tasteful double-occupancy cabins with private baths, ample storage and ceiling fans. Much of Pluma's water is characterized by beautiful, rocky, freestone terrain, making it rather physical and best suited to stable waders. Anglers with lesser wading skills will have the option to fish from the boat on multiple beats. Pluma is unique for its wide variety of water types, ranging from pocket water to long pools and has incredible sight fishing opportunities. Pluma fishes two remote tributaries (the upper Pluma and Itirizama), multiple beats of the main Pluma and two beats on the larger main stem Secure, making for a highly varied program. Additionally, upriver out-camps allow anglers to become fully immersed in a stunningly beautiful deep-jungle experience. Overnights at the simple out-camps are voluntary and are perfect for the most adventuresome anglers.

**Rate: \$7,600 plus \$670 native fee per person for a 9 night/6 day package**

### AGUA NEGRA CAMP

The unique benefits of the Agua Negra program include a smaller group size of four anglers (making it perfect for private parties), lower cost and easier wading. This program also offers more fishing from the boat, access to the region's smallest streams (not to be confused with small fish) and the best opportunity to engage with, and experience, the adjacent and endearing local communities. Agua Negra also offers a remote upper-river camping option which is more primitive but easier to reach than the Pluma out-camp options.

**Rate: \$5,800 plus \$570 native fee per person for a 9 night/6 day package**

### SECURE LODGE

Secure Lodge is a deluxe, six-angler, safari-style tent camp much like Agua Negra. They fish both up and downstream from the camp and fish from the bank as well as from boats. Their beats do not overlap in any way with Tsimane's other camps and this lodge offers access to the uppermost reaches of the Secure, where guests can find bedrock gorges and incredible deep-green pools filled with dorado and large pacu.

**Rate: \$5,800 plus \$570 native fee per person for a 9 night/6 day package**





*Kendjam's unspeakably pristine Iriri River. Photo: Ken Morrish*

---

## BRAZIL

---

### AGUA BOA AMAZON LODGE

Located in northern Brazil, the Agua Boa is remarkably clear, with white sand beaches more reminiscent of the Florida Keys than what most would expect of the Amazon jungle. Overlooking the river is the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge, the world's first operation dedicated exclusively to pursuing peacock bass and other jungle species on the fly.

The lodge provides anglers with a level of comfort unrivaled in the Amazon. Guests stay in private, air-conditioned bungalows with two queen beds, a sitting area, a private bathroom and a porch overlooking the river. Home to world-class bird watching and wildlife viewing, the lodge also features a swimming pool, entertainment room and additional amenities for those interested in other vacation activities. With over 100 miles of private water, this is a premier peacock bass destination for discerning fly fishers.

**Rate: \$6,150 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### RIO MARIÉ

Deep within the Brazilian rainforest, near the border of Colombia, lies one of the most remote and exciting peacock bass

destinations in the world. After three very successful seasons, Rio Marié has lived up to its claim of being the greatest trophy peacock bass destination in the fly fishing world. Anglers enjoy true luxury accommodations on a purpose-built mothership that moves about to unfished water each week. With over 400 miles of private water and seasoned English-speaking Brazilian guides, this is the place to target well-rested, double-digit monsters. Be one of the first to experience this wild region that the locals refer to as *Rio de Gigantes*. Their season runs from mid-September through January.

**Rate: \$7,325 plus \$670 native fee per person for an 8 night/6 day package**

### KENDJAM

If the massive Amazon basin were to have an Eden, it would be on the banks of the immaculate Iriri River. Home of the noble Kayapo people, the Iriri, with its clear green waters, countless braids and rocky islands is a surreal, bountiful and friendly place that defies what most envision the jungle to be. From the comfort of a deluxe, safari-style camp, groups of eight anglers will explore the riches of the Iriri by boat and on foot. Using



6 and 7-weight rods with floating lines, anglers will sight cast to a host of exotic jungle gamefish including a unique species of peacock bass, wolf fish, pacu and jaturana. For anglers, adventurers and lovers of the wildest and most remote reaches of our planet, this epic journey into the Amazon's most pristine jungle paradise is truly without equal.

**Rate: \$6,250 plus \$530 native fee per person for an 8 night/6 day package**

### PIRARUCÚ LODGE

Pirarucú is a new Brazilian destination that focuses on catching an unprecedented number of arapaima — the huge, elusive, prehistoric, tarpon-like gamefish that many consider the ultimate jungle trophy. Here, anglers will fish in the Mamirauá Reserve, Brazil's first Sustainable Development Reserve, which

totals more than 1 million hectares and was created to preserve arapaima and their habitat. In addition to the hard-fighting and aerial arapaima, the reserve offers great fishing for timbaqui, a large pacu-like fish; the exotic arowana and yellow peacock bass. The region is characterized by long chains of lakes and interconnected channels. During the wet season it is a world-renowned destination for birders. When the water drops in the fall the angling opportunities reach their peak. Guests will stay at a simple, floating, solar-powered ecotourism lodge built from native hardwoods. The lodge features ten floating cabins. The lodge is also very suitable for travelers looking for a range of general ecotourism activities. This trip pairs well with Rio Marié and packages less than a full week are available.

**Rate: \$5,995 plus \$590 native fee per person for a 5 night/4 ½ day package**





*Ryan Peterson puts the finishing touches on a trophy Zhupanova rainbow. Photo: valatkinson.com*

## KAMCHATKA, RUSSIA

### OZERNAYA RIVER

The “Oz” is without question one of Kamchatka’s crown jewels. In essence, it is a large, wild spring creek with big mouse and sculpin-munching rainbows, dollies and grayling. The rustic but comfortable 10 to 12-person permanent camp features little A-frame cabins, a main dining cabin, hot showers and flush toilets. Anglers enjoy exclusive access to more than 50 miles of river by jetboat as well as walk and wade adventures on productive side streams. This is a system where one need not choose between numbers of fish or size of fish as it has plenty of both!

**Rate: \$8,195 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package**

### TWO YURT RIVER

Were you to design a perfect freestone trout stream with an endless range of interesting water types and lots of big, eager rainbows, you might imagine something resembling this incredible river. Here, parties of six anglers float between comfortable, fixed camps and enjoy some of the best top-water fishing on mouse patterns imaginable. This is an incredibly unique Russian adventure with high catch rates on one of the few systems where virtually every fish is a rainbow.

**Rate: \$6,895 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package**

### RAINBOWS FROM ABOVE

For those who want the ultimate Kamchatka angling adventure, Will Blair has designed a new, weeklong, four-person helicopter fishing program. Based out of a unique and remote base lodge, four anglers and one guide will have exclusive use of a Eurocopter 120B chopper to explore a multitude of rivers that have rarely seen anglers. In the event of bad weather, the unfished headwaters of the Two Yurt River stand at the ready. This is without question the apex trip Kamchatka has to offer.

**Rate: \$7,595 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package plus helicopter time**

### WILDERNESS FLOATS

Imagine helicoptering into a proven system and knowing that you will be the only party to fish that river all year. Not a blade of grass out of place, not a single boot print on the beach. Instead, just heaps of 17 to 22-inch rainbows eager to engulf a skated mouse. If you are the type that likes making and breaking camp each day in return for the best-rested wilderness fly water imaginable, these wilderness floats are for you. The floats rotate through six remarkable Tagil tributaries and yield high catch rates.

**Rate: \$7,395 per person for a 6 night/5 day package**



### SEDANKA SPRING CREEK

More than any other river, this idyllic spring creek is what made fly fishing in Kamchatka famous. Anglers float between three comfortable fixed camps and experience some of Kamchatka's most consistent fishing, finest hatches and the best dry fly fishing Russia has to offer.

**Rate: \$7,850 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package**

### SAVAN FLOAT

Those who want the perfect mix of size and numbers should consider the Savan. This six-person float trip offers great wade fishing and a chance to connect with healthy numbers of fish in the 20 to 22-inch range as well as some super thick rainbows that regularly exceed 26 inches. This trip offers the flexibility to go where the fishing is best and often spends 3 to 4 days floating and camping on the upper river as well as 1 to 2 days jetboating out of the Savan Basecamp on the lower river.

**Rate: \$6,850 per person for a 6 night/5 day package**

### ZHUPANOVA FLOAT TRIP

During this weeklong odyssey anglers will float between comfortable fixed camps and spend lots of time wade fishing for some of Russia's largest river-born rainbows. With dramatic

volcanoes and an interesting array of rocky structure, this is a classic for those wanting a crack at impressively big rainbows.

**Rate: \$6,995 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package**

### ZENDZUR LODGE

From this fixed lodge on the lower Zhupanova River anglers will set out by jetboat to target Kamchatka's largest rainbow trout and kundzha. For experienced anglers and spey casters in search of a half-dozen really high quality fish per day, this is the place. While the number of fish caught per day tend to be on the lower end of the Russian spectrum, there is no question that this operation offers anglers a chance at Kamchatka's largest rainbows, some of which exceed 32 inches.

**Rate: \$6,995 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package**

### KAMCHATKA STEELHEAD PROJECT

For anglers in search of a super remote and unusual steelhead adventure, this is it. Here, a very limited number of guests get to fish two small, low-gradient rivers for very large sea-bright fish while at the same time collecting scientific data on these remarkable specimens. For steelheaders that think they have seen it all, think again!

**Rate: \$9,995 per person for 11 night/8 day package**





*Paul Imperia breaking the magical 30-pound mark on the Yokanga. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## ==== KOLA PENINSULA, RUSSIA ====

### YOKANGA LODGE

For anglers who long for large, challenging, anadromous fish in big water, nothing compares to the mighty Yokanga River. The largest fish of the season arrive around late June, many exceeding 30 pounds. Anglers helicopter into more than 30 miles of diverse water from the comfortable main lodge. Accommodations feature both single and double occupancy rooms with private baths.

**Rates: £4,750-£11,950 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### KHARLOVKA LODGE

If you're after big fish, look no further. With beautiful accommodations and a productive home pool that anglers can fish all night long, this place has it all. Each day, anglers and guides are dropped by helicopter to fish a unique beat on the Kharlovka

or the nearby Eastern Litza. With plenty of fish in the 20 to 30-pound class and a few even topping 40 pounds, this is one of the most sought-after systems in the world.

**Rates: \$4,900-\$20,900 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### RYNDA LODGE

Just north of the Kharlovka on the Atlantic Salmon Reserve flows the Rynda River, one of the peninsula's most exclusive and under-the-radar trophy systems. Many consider this the most nuanced and interesting trophy water in Russia, with sea-bright fish pushing 30 pounds. Anglers relax in outstanding accommodations and are assisted by helicopter transport to their beats. Also included in the package is one day on the intimate and completely private Zolotaya River.

**Rates: \$2,900-\$13,900 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



**RYABAGA CAMP, PONOI**

For consistent, high catch rates, the Kola’s Ponoï River is the ultimate venue. The famous Ryabaga Camp remains a true classic on the peninsula. With comfortable accommodations, plenty of fishing from the boat and a prime season in both June and September, this is a trip that continues to deliver year after year.

**Rates: \$7,990-\$16,590 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

**GREMIKHA CAMP, YOKANGA**

For ultra-hardcore anglers that want a chance at the biggest and hottest fish on the peninsula without breaking the bank, this 10-person tent camp on the lower Yokanga is the place. Anglers hike to their beats, only using watercrafts to cross in specified

areas. This may be the most physically demanding trip we offer, but the rewards are worth it!

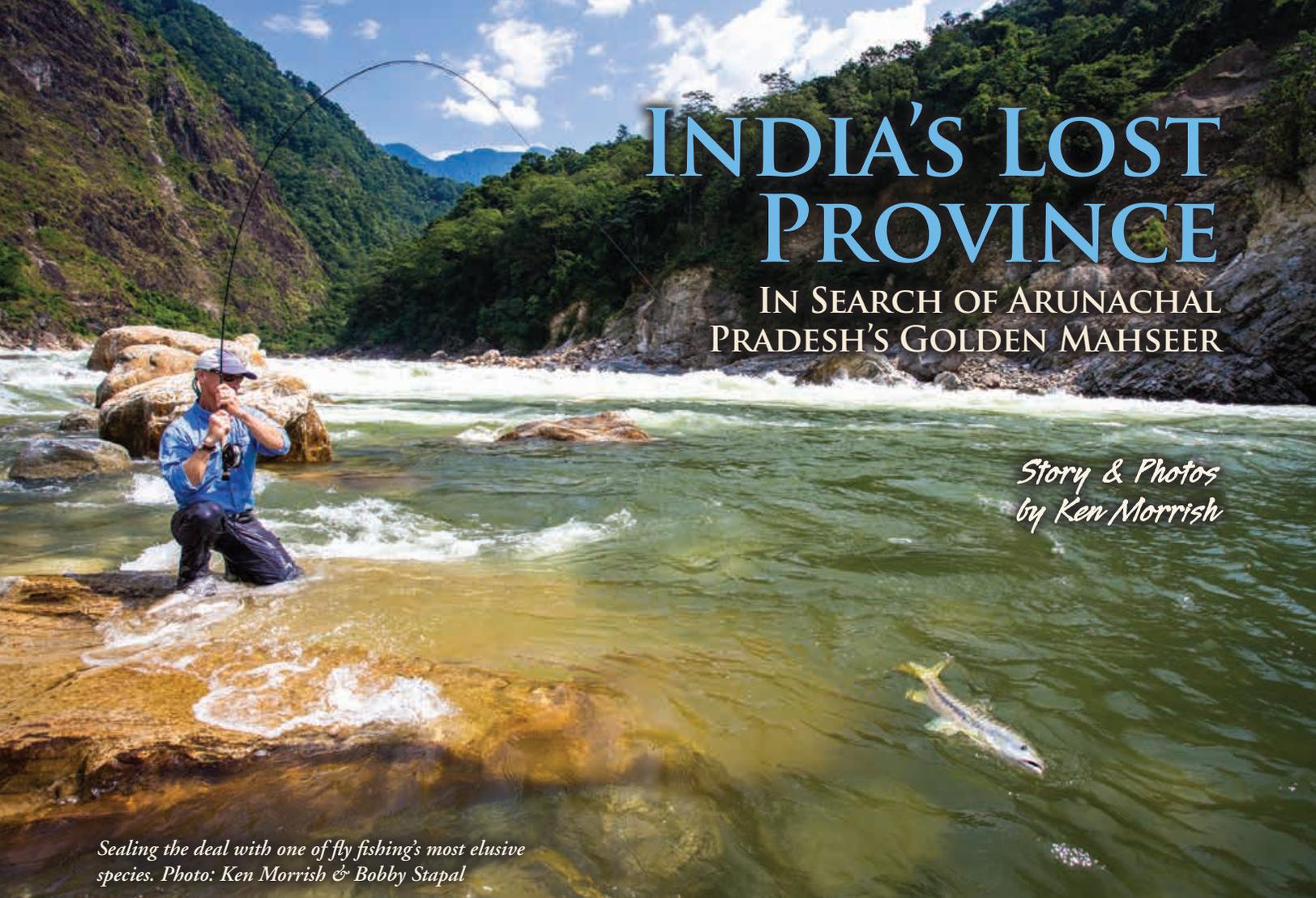
**Rates: £3,500-£5,900 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

**UMBA LODGE**

The Umba is a Russian classic with an endless menu of water types, big fish, gorgeous scenery and a long season. It is also one of the most economical offerings on the Kola Peninsula. This trip is best suited to highly experienced, physically fit anglers who are willing to work hard for their fish. Accommodations feature double occupancy rooms and a comfortable main lodge that overlooks a great home pool. For serious anglers looking for serious value and a chance at quality salmon, this is the place.

**Rate: £3,350 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**





# INDIA'S LOST PROVINCE

IN SEARCH OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH'S GOLDEN MAHSEER

*Story & Photos  
by Ken Morrish*

*Sealing the deal with one of fly fishing's most elusive species. Photo: Ken Morrish & Bobby Stapal*

**D**ue east of Bhutan lies Arunachal Pradesh, India's most wild, mysterious and least densely populated province. It is the easternmost reach of the mighty Himalayan range with a thin band of lowlands and ranks of steep jungle-clad hill ranges that eventually meld with peaks in excess of 23,000 feet. It is not the India we think of, but rather a forgotten refuge where animistic tribes, Bhutanese, Tibetans, Burmese, Bengalis and Indians all coexist in peace. It is also a place where countless clear freestone rivers, headed for the mighty Brahmaputra, create what is likely to become the world's most significant platform for fly anglers in search of the remarkably powerful Himalayan golden mahseer.

Misty Dhillon, fly angler, outfitter and owner of The Himalayan Outback, told me of his fascination with Arunachal Pradesh more than ten years ago. He had made it clear that fishing here was predicated on receiving permission from the leaders of various tribal bands and that historically entering the province as a tourist was difficult due to a long-standing border dispute with China. My group of anglers had been scheduled to fish a specific river in another state nearly 1,200 miles away, but when the regulations suddenly

changed there, we shifted into full-blown exploratory mode and volunteered to be the first commercial group of fly anglers to camp and fish Arunachal Pradesh's mighty Dibang River.

## THE FISH

Granted, India is a long way to travel for fishing, but for the most skilled and adventuresome anglers the chance at hitting the golden mahseer fishery at its best can prove well worth the effort. As a sportfish they have it all; they are large, crafty, attractive and extremely powerful. And best yet they can be targeted with swung flies in big, muscular freestone rivers. The golden mahseer is technically a barbell but think of it more as a large predatory carp with over-sized, armored scales built to withstand the savage silt-laden flows of the Himalayan monsoon.

Each season, as the rivers swell with the rains of the monsoon, adult fish in excess of seven pounds ascend their natal streams to spawn and then drop back downstream as the flows subside. In many cases, this means that they are fighting the full force of the river in near flood stage from May through October, making them some of the strongest freshwater fish to be found. Like permit, they have soft, toothless mouths with powerful rear

crushers. They also have exceedingly well-developed lateral lines, making them rather unforgiving of sloppy approaches or presentations, and they have remarkable suction-striking abilities that enable them to suck in prey from some distance away. I think of them as embodying the challenge of permit, the appeal of steelhead and the strength/size appeal of king salmon. As fly anglers, we view a fish of over 10 pounds as a good fish and a fish over 20 pounds as a big fish. Bait anglers consider fish over 30 pounds as large, and a good many have been landed in excess of 60 and even 70 pounds.

### GUIDES

Misty Dhillon is the father of fly fishing for mahseer in India. His is an appealing, articulate, enthusiastic and regal, prince-like character. He learned everything he knows about mahseer fly fishing the hard way, through trial and error as well as from coaching and observing his many western clients. Ten years ago, Misty had the good sense to hire Bobby Stapal, an eager 18-year old that grew up on the banks of a mahseer river. There was always something special about Bobby, it was as though he

had special senses in relation to these fish. Over time, Bobby became Misty's head guide and today he is the world's foremost authority on catching mahseer on a fly. Bobby has likely caught more mahseer on a fly than anyone else as well as the three largest mahseer ever caught on a fly, all of which were over 50 pounds! Guiding is not a game for Bobby, it is serious business. He rigs gear like a seasoned tarpon guide, he stalks fish like a true hunter and he invariably fishes his guests into pitch darkness. Together he and Misty have amassed an excellent team, all of whom speak excellent English.

### THE CAMP

The Himalayan Outback builds one heck of a camp. While they finished clearing and setting up our exploratory camp mere hours before we arrived, none of us were the wiser. Embarrassing as it may be, there were 14 staff members for our party of six, a fair number of whom we never saw. We had comfortable, well-ventilated tents with heavy-duty cots, mattresses, quality pillows and cotton comforters. There were three outhouse tents for the six of us and one shower tent with

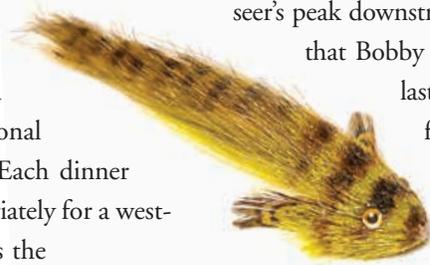
*A small, but hard-earned,  
Himalayan golden mahseer.  
Photo: Ken Morrish & Bobby Stapal*



“THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT BOBBY, IT WAS AS THOUGH HE HAD SPECIAL SENSES IN RELATION TO THESE FISH. OVER TIME, BOBBY BECAME MISTY’S HEAD GUIDE AND TODAY HE IS THE WORLD’S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON CATCHING MAHSEER ON A FLY.”



provided towels. There was a rod rack fashioned from the jungle, an open-walled dining tent with great canvas and leather folding chairs, a myriad of kerosene lanterns and a wonderful fire circle with a little bar and beer cooler close at hand. Meals were beyond compare. Misty has had the same head chef for ten years and what he can pull off without electricity, conventional refrigeration or plumbing is truly amazing. Each dinner had five different Indian dishes (spiced appropriately for a western audience) and the level of cleanliness was the best I have ever seen in a remote location. None of us had so much as a stomach rumble. Breakfasts were equally impressive with porridge, toast, eggs to order, bacon and assorted sides like potatoes and pancakes.



BRASS TUBE  
SCULPIN

rods with 300-grain sinking heads and weighted flies as well as with 7 and 8-weight spey rods with heavy tips and streamers. Things being as they were, we were slightly ahead of the mahseer’s peak downstream migration and the quality sight fishing that Bobby had experienced the season before. On our last day we floated out of the foothills into the flatlands and were pleased with our catch rate, the water type and the discernably less challenging terrain. Likely this float will become a staple moving forward. Additionally, there is a good chance that they will set up smaller spike camps further up the Dibang. Misty and his crew have the resources and wherewithal to remain flexible, and guests who can do the same are prime candidates for this trip.

Mahseer are a noble and challenging fish. Those who dismiss them as a common carp, not worthy of a pilgrimage to India, likely have no real experience with them. They are mysterious, challenging and one can travel a great distance and not be rewarded with landing one. Yet it is equally true that the resource is vibrant and that the rivers of Arunachal Pradesh are big, burly and wild and that, when all the factors align, a good week here, or even a few fish of significance, can make this trip a true angling adventure of a lifetime.

## FISHING PROGRAM

During our week at the Dibang Base Camp we typically headed out in groups of two or three anglers with at least two guides. One guide might be a senior guide and another, less experienced, was there to help as needed. We did a lot of walk and wade fishing, most often in very challenging terrain that consisted of large and, at times, unstable rock. We did a lot of rock hopping, wet wading between perches and climbing around on steep embankments. We fished with both single hand 8-weight

## NOTES

**Travel:** Guests fly from New Delhi to Assam (3 hours) and then take a 5-hour drive to a lodge near the camp. The following day guests drive 3.5 hours into camp.

**Season:** October through April with prime windows of November/December and February 15th through April 30th

**Capacity:** Six anglers

**Essential Tackle:** A 13-foot 8-weight spey rod with a Skagit head and a 9-foot 8-weight rod with a 300-grain integrated shooting head

**Top Flies:** Heavy tube flies that resemble sculpin and baitfish

**Rates:** \$4,800-\$5,400 per person for a 9 night/6 day package



*Top: Local girl in tea plantation, rafting the lower Dibang, dinner in Dibang base camp. Middle: Nils Rinaldi spey casting on the mighty DiBang. Bottom: Images from the Dibang and the Himalayan Outback staff with Misty Dhillon and Bobby Stapal on the right. Photos: Ken Morrish*



*Jako Lucas hoists a hefty Mongolian taimen. Photo: Cpt. Jack Films*

## MONGOLIA

Mongolia is a wild, unspoiled land reminiscent of Montana and the American West before settlement. Here, you will find some of the world's largest remaining tracts of pristine wilderness, clear, free-flowing rivers and some of the largest freshwater gamefish on earth. Mongolia offers two distinct fisheries. The first is an underutilized, world-class trout fishery focusing on lenok (Asian trout) and grayling, and the second focuses on the world's largest salmonid, the taimen: a vicious, surface-oriented predator known for its explosive dry fly takes. While the taimen fish average 28 to 30 inches, anglers have landed fish in excess of 60 inches and encountered some estimated at over 100 pounds!

### TAIMEN JETBOAT CAMP

Located in the north central portion of Mongolia, the Vermillion's original taimen camps offer anglers access to miles of prolific fly water from a comfortable home base. Their two river camps are well appointed with comfortable 18-foot *gers* (traditional Mongolian tents) complete with wood stoves, electricity, tables, chairs and wood floors. Additionally, all camps have hot showers, translators well versed in Mongolian

culture and exceptional guides who will help you stalk the huge taimen that call these rivers home.

**Rate: \$6,500 plus \$330 fishing license per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### WILDERNESS FLOAT TRIPS

For the adventuresome traveling angler, a float trip through the wilds of outer Mongolia is one of the ultimate angling adventures. Rich with native culture, stunning scenery, spectacular lenok trout and grayling fishing and numerous opportunities to hook the exotic and monstrous river taimen, these luxurious wilderness float trips are unlike any other. After a full day of floating and fishing through pristine and dramatic landscapes, you will arrive at a fully set up camp. Camps are complete with a large dining tent, shower tent, multiple outhouse tents and either traditional Mongolian *gers* (Mongolian tents) with wood stoves or expedition-style tents with cots and bedding. For those that enjoy peaceful, solitary river time, this is one of the ultimate adventures.

**Rate: \$6,450 per person for an 8 night/7 day package**

# GREENLAND

If you thought that all the truly pristine fish-filled rivers had been discovered, think again. Why? Because Greenland is the largest island on earth and has twice the coast-line of the U.S. and countless untouched rivers, many of which have huge summer runs of supercharged sea-run Arctic char. Among the finest of these rivers found to date is the Kangia, a spectacularly beautiful and pristine system with fish that average 5 to 7 pounds and top 10 pounds on a regular basis. It is here that Solid Adventures has set up their latest venture, Kangia River Camp.

Their season runs from mid-July through the first week of September. In the early weeks the fish tend to be big, bright and strong and as the season progresses, more and more fish arrive, sometimes stacking three deep in pools. Catch rates tend to be very high, enabling some guests to fish top-water flies and gurglers the entire week. Furthermore, many guests have trouble conveying with words the magnitude and wild beauty of the surroundings.

## WHERE RUGGED ANGLERS ENJOY THE UNTOUCHED FISHERIES OF YESTERYEAR

With all of this, it needs to be clearly noted that this is a primitive wilderness camp with very few amenities. The camp is a very basic structure that accommodates up to 12 anglers, a small local staff and the guides. If you envision the level of amenities as just one step above camping you will be happy and well prepared. Meals at the lodge are a combination of basic continental and local fare. We encourage guests to bring snacks (bars, nuts, etc.) as you will expend a lot of energy hiking each day. Guests can drink directly from numerous springs, smaller creeks or the river. All guests hike an average of 45 minutes to reach the river each morning, and typically hike a greater distance to return to camp each evening. The camp has two guides for 12 guests. The guides will be there to help show you around and in case of emergencies but anglers should be largely self-reliant. Fitness and a fondness for roughing it are absolutely mandatory for all those wanting to experience one of today's most pristine and productive freshwater-angling adventures.

**Rate: \$4,990 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

*A late season beauty in full colors. Photo: Stephan Gian Dumbaj Jr.*





*A trophy river tarpon from the Jungle Tarpon Reserve. Photo: Stephan Gian Dumbaj Jr.*

## COSTA RICA

### WILD OSA, ANGLING AND ECOTOUR

Specially designed for couples and private parties of four, our Wild Osa tour combines incredible accommodations, world-class ecotours and blue-water fly fishing in one thoughtfully prepared package. Located in southwestern Costa Rica, the Osa Peninsula is considered “one of the most biologically intense places on earth” by *National Geographic* and is also one of the best locations in the Americas to target sailfish on the fly. Guests will stay at the luxurious Bosque del Cabo, widely considered one of the world’s top eco-lodges. From this unique jungle base overlooking the Golfo Dulce, guests can elect to head out fishing or engage in a wide range of activities including dolphin tours, snorkeling, guided wildlife-sanctuary tours, waterfall rappelling and canopy tours. For those who would rather stay close to the comforts of the lodge, consider watching the toucans by the pool, hiking one of eight private rainforest trails, taking a yoga class or getting a massage. This trip is best booked well in advance and stay lengths can be adjusted to meet the needs of your party.

**Rates: \$6,950-\$7,450 per person for a 6 night/6 day package**

### JUNGLE TARPON RESERVE

Northern Costa Rica’s Jungle Tarpon Reserve is a vast inland system of freshwater rivers, creeks and flooded lagoons surrounded by verdant rainforest and swampland. During the dry

season the lagoons and creeks are reduced to nearly a trickle, but come August, the area literally springs to life. Runoff from surrounding volcanoes fills the creeks, rivers, and lagoons, creating a vast inland sea teeming with migratory baitfish, monkeys, birds and caiman. Amazingly, the tarpon of the Pacific sense this and journey over a hundred miles inland to feed on the bounty of the jungle’s flooded interior. The feast attracts tarpon of all sizes with the majority of the fish weighing 50 to 100 pounds as well as behemoths in the 150 to 200-pound class.

The most unique and dynamic fishery in the region is the river. Flowing through a mosaic of virgin rainforest and active farmlands, this mid-sized jungle river is among the most intense and intimate landscapes imaginable to pursue trophy tarpon. When hooked, these big tarpon go wild, leaping into overhanging branches or diving into the dark waters to wrap you on countless obstacles. Fighting tarpon here is active-duty jungle combat at its finest.

The other unique fishery is comprised of a network of shallow creek-fed lagoons. These scenic, volcano-ringed lagoons tend to be glassy calm and provide a unique arena for jumping tarpon.

Guests stay in cabanas less than 100 yards from the pangas. Each has two single beds, a private bath with semi-warm water showers and ceiling fans. Meals are taken at one of a number of very small, simple, local restaurants, providing anglers an unfiltered glimpse of this rural ranching settlement. For true-adventure travelers that don’t mind roughing it a bit, this is a remarkable trip.

**Rate: \$4,490 per person for a 6 night/6 day package**

**TARPONVILLE**

Located in the middle of the Manzanillo/Gandoca Wildlife Refuge, just above the Panamanian border, Tarponville is a unique operation where fly and conventional anglers pursue large tarpon in a pristine coastal setting. Most fish will be caught in 5 to 20 feet of water and fly anglers will blind cast, troll and occasionally sight cast to these large, hard-fighting fish. In addition, anglers may encounter jacks, dorado, bonefish and permit. For those wanting to mix it up, the lodge has access to a small permit flat, located within a nearby national park that can be booked in advance.

The lodge is casual and rustic with a relaxed fishing vibe perfectly suited to the region. The guest rooms are located only a few yards from the water's edge on a beautiful beach perfect for swimming, snorkeling or just plain relaxing. Guests often spot howler monkeys, sloths, numerous bird species and other wildlife from their porches, making this a great destination for fishermen and nature enthusiasts alike. If you are looking for a relaxed Costa Rican getaway and a great place for anglers of all skill levels to try their hand at some really large tarpon, this place needs to be on your list.

**Rate: \$3,665 per person for a 6 night/5 day package**

**RAFIKI SAFARI LODGE**

Located on Costa Rica's Pacific coast, roughly twenty miles inland of the famous Manuel Antonio Park, Rafiki is a modest, super friendly, jungle-based eco-lodge perfect for couples and families. Guests enjoy deluxe South African-built safari tents complete with spacious tiled bathrooms and a wide array of nearby outdoor adventures. Enjoy an eight-mile whitewater rafting trip on the Savegre River, kayak the lower reaches of the Savegre through the mangrove delta all the way to the beach, ride horses through the jungle, enjoy guided birding tours, visit gorgeous, spring-fed waterfalls via a dramatic suspension bridge or simply treat yourself to a professional massage in the privacy of your own tent. And, in the offhand chance there is a fly angler in your group, lodge owner and longtime Bighorn River guide Carlo Boshoff can personally guide you on one of two unique outings: river fishing for machaca or targeting snook, snapper and roosterfish in the estuary of the Savegre. Stays of varying lengths are welcome.

**Rate: \$825 per person for a 3 night/2 day package**





*Landis Armstrong enjoying a perfect day on the Bulkley River. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## == SMITHERS & UPPER SKEENA REGION ==

Many towns claim to be the “Steelhead Capital of the World.” Smithers, BC does not make this claim, yet it deserves the moniker. With the Bulkley flowing right through it, Smithers is the hub through which the Skeena’s most sought-after tributaries are reached, including the Kispiox, the Babine, the Morice and the Sustut.

### FRONTIER FARWEST

Located between Smithers and Telkwa, Derek Botchford’s Frontier Farwest Lodge is one of the most diverse and well-run operations in the region. Anglers spend three days fishing the Bulkley out of the main lodge and three days fishing the upper reaches of the Morice out of their second lodge. An option to overnight in one of the remote Bulkley canyon tent camps is also available. With top-notch food, accommodations and guides this is an experience not to be missed.

**Rate: \$7,500 per person for a 7 night/6 ½ day package**

### BULKLEY BASECAMP

The Bulkley Basecamp is an under-the-radar program created by Derek Botchford, owner of Frontier Farwest Lodge. At its core, this operation is the single most versatile operation in the Skeena watershed, enabling guests driving access to the Bulkley, Skeena and the Morice where they will fish two-per-guide in jetboats. For anglers keen to charter a helicopter into the Babine or upper Skeena, this program is truly in a class by itself, offering guests the ability to go where the fishing is best during their stay. Bulkley Basecamp

consists of a complex of four extremely comfortable wall tents, cedar shower houses, and a large safari style tent where meals are served. There is also a great “bar cabin” near the campfire circle, making this a perfect “glamping” base for serious steelheaders.

**Rate: \$6,500 per person for a 6 night/6 day package**

### BEAR CLAW LODGE

Located on the upper Kispiox, the Allens run an operation that combines the finest accommodations in the region with down-home, family-style hospitality and a crew of savvy, hard-working guides. Typically anglers will spend four days floating the Kispiox in rafts, one day jetboating the Skeena and one day jetboating on the lower Bulkley. When and if water conditions really get tough, they have additional options that keep their anglers on the water and in the game. This is a great program and a great opportunity to swing your fly in front of some of BC’s largest wild steelhead.

**Rate: \$7,574 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### BABINE NORLAKES STEELHEAD CAMP

Not far beneath Babine Lake and the weir, Billy Labonte’s operation is a hardcore steelheader’s dream. This is a special section of river where virtually all of the key pools hold fish throughout the season. With dozens of ultra-productive runs, seasoned guides, a cozy camp and an unsurpassed passion for chasing the huge steelhead that call this river home, this operation has it all.

**Rate: \$7,155 per person for a 6 night/6 ½ day package**

### SUSKEENA LODGE

Located on the upper reaches of the pristine and seldom seen Sustut River, Suskeena Lodge offers anglers a rare combination of wilderness trophy steelhead and quaint comfortable accommodations. Of the three Skeena River tributaries most likely to produce steelhead over 25 pounds, the Sustut River is the one least traveled and arguably the one with the most stable water conditions. Anglers at Suskeena Lodge enjoy well-appointed double occupancy cabins with private bathrooms and showers, wood stoves and porches. Thoughtfully prepared meals are served in the comfort of the main lodge. Anglers fly fish for steelhead three per jetboat with experienced guides who truly enjoy the entire spectrum of the steelhead fly fishing experience, especially the chance at guiding their clients into a trophy steelhead on a skated dry fly. This pristine river system boasts dramatic views, long classic runs, a race of extremely husky steelhead that average 14 pounds, and few, if any, freelance anglers.

**Rates: \$7,200-\$7,400 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### STEELHEAD VALHALLA

Located five miles downstream from Suskeena Lodge, Steelhead Valhalla is the Sustut River's original steelhead fly fishing

lodge. Steelhead Valhalla and Suskeena Lodge enjoy a cordial rotation of beats that has removed any sense of competition from the daily program. This adds immeasurably to the overall wilderness fly fishing experience, making the Sustut River the most relaxed trophy steelhead river in the Skeena River system. Steelhead Valhalla Lodge consists of a cozy main log building where hearty family style meals are served. The lodge features a combination of double and single occupancy cabins, all with attached baths. Anglers fly fish three per guide boat and, in addition to the three primary beats on the Sustut River, guests in most weeks can experience a gorgeous section of the upper Skeena River. For the trophy steelhead angler in search of true solitude, few places in the world can compare to Steelhead Valhalla.

**Rate: \$7,300 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### BULKLEY DAY TRIPS

For those interested in adding days to their existing trips, please contact us about day trips on the Bulkley with Denise Maxwell. Denise and her crew of seasoned guides pick up guests at their accommodations in Smithers and fish multiple beats in the Smithers region by jetboat.

**Rate: \$600 plus tax per person per day**





*Something worth working for; a large immaculate lower Dean River steelhead. Photo: Adam Tavender*

## BC WEST

How does one decide between a week on the upper Dean or the lower Dean? Which is more scenic? Where are the fish the hottest and hardest to land? Where do they rise best to dries? Where do the fish stack when the water is high or low? These are tough questions, and as the only operation that enables access



THE ONLY PLACE WHERE  
ADVENTURESOME ANGLERS  
ACCESS THE BEST OF BOTH THE  
UPPER AND LOWER DEAN

both above and below the famous falls, BC West is your answer.

BC West's guests get the best of both worlds and fish half their days guided below the falls via jetboat and the other half self-guided above the falls using personal four-wheelers to access prime runs. Equally impressive is BC West's willingness to go the extra mile and create a split-day fishing program where anglers fish from dawn to lunch, then return to camp for a gourmet meal and a siesta before heading out in the late afternoon to fish until dark. By all standards, this is a rigorous and rewarding routine best suited to experienced anglers with an independent streak.

The lodge sleeps eight anglers in simple double-occupancy cabins and is known for their incredible meals. Their season begins with a focus on kings in late June and ends the third week of August.

**Rate: \$7,295 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 ½ package**

# — SILVER HILTON STEELHEAD LODGE —

Widely considered to be the finest and most exclusive steelhead lodge in the world, the Silver Hilton offers jetboat access to more than 20 miles of the Babine. Babine River steelhead range from eight pounds to over 30 pounds and are among the purest strain of wild steelhead remaining in North America. The Hilton's combination of large fish, pristine wilderness setting, world-class guides, limited fishing pressure and remarkable amenities make it one of the hardest lodges in the world to get into.

Silver Hilton Lodge features two fully staffed, five-star steelhead lodges located approximately seven miles apart. The Main Camp features four double occupancy cabins and caters to eight rods per week on the two lower beats. The Triple Header camp offers single occupancy rooms and takes four rods per week on the upper reach. Anglers fish four per guide at both camps and rotate through most of the beats, ensuring a great variety of water and ample streamside solitude. Due

THE WORLD'S MOST  
SOUGHT-AFTER AND  
EXCLUSIVE WILDERNESS  
STEELHEAD LODGE

to a high rate of repeat clientele, availability is typically limited to early and late in the season. All packages include round-trip, private helicopter transportation from Smithers, BC to the lodge.

**Rates: \$6,445-\$9,805 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



*An aerial view of the home waters above the spectacular Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge. Photo: Ken Morrish*





*An impressive spring steelhead awaiting a timely release. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## TERRACE & BEYOND

The greater Terrace region on the lower Skeena is, in many ways, the ultimate anadromous angling hub. Offering access to sea-bright steelhead and salmon virtually year-round, it features a multitude of rivers including the main-stem Skeena, Kitimat, Kalum and Copper as well as numerous lesser-known systems. This trip is an unbeatable combination of value and opportunity for serious spey anglers.

### SKEENA SPEY

Skeena Spey is a wonderful riverside lodge headed by renowned casting instructor Brian Niska of Whistler, BC. Brian has a great team of guides who pride themselves on putting folks onto big, bright fish as well as helping guests improve their angling and casting skills. Their fishing program focuses primarily on the main Skeena, home to the largest fly-friendly salmon and steelhead in the world. They offer deluxe A-frame cabins, where single-occupancy accommodations and stays of varying length are both available. Unguided anglers are also welcome and can fish their productive, unclassified home waters on the weekends.

**Rate: CAD \$6,950 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### NASS RIVER STEELHEAD COMPANY

For anglers interested in fishing for wild steelhead in a truly remote wilderness setting, this program should be on your short list. Located north of the Skeena watershed, Nass River Steelhead Co. is an intimate four person camp tucked into an old growth forest on the banks of the mighty Nass not far from the confluence of the Damdochax. The nearest road is 150 km away and moose and wolves abound. In addition to five great runs within a short distance of camp, the camp fishes up to eight miles of water, accessing key runs by raft and jet boat. Nass steelhead average 10 to 15 pounds but fish in the 20-pound class are not uncommon. These fish tend to be aggressive and when conditions align, catch rates can be impressive. While the camp is very basic, meals are as good as it gets.

**Rate: \$7,500 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### NICHOLAS DEAN LODGE

Nicholas Dean Lodge should be at the top of the list for anglers looking to experience the many seasons, species and unique systems of the greater Terrace region. This trip is well rounded, with seasoned guides, wonderful meals and comfortable



accommodations at Pioneer Lodge. This is a great operation in the heart of what is considered the world's ultimate, year-round anadromous region.

**Rate: CAD \$5,350 plus tax per person for a 6 night/5 day package**

### **SKEENA WILDERNESS CHARTERS**

Veteran guide Stan Doll has guided the best waters in the Terrace area for more than 40 years. When it comes to knowing where to be and when, few can compete with the trove of experience Stan and his sons offer. With a casual home-style lodge and an enviable menu of classified waters permits (including the Copper), Stan puts folks in front of big fish

year-round. For the ultimate in remote wilderness fishing, Stan also offers an array of sought-after fly-out fishing options for spring steelhead.

**Rate: \$5,000 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### **COPPER BAY LODGE**

For fit, skilled anglers searching for one of the most rewarding winter steelhead challenges, Copper Bay Lodge is the ultimate. Here, groups of four to six anglers fish a wide range of woody island streams on Haida Gwaii. This is a special place and a special opportunity to fish for some the world's strongest winter steelhead.

**Rate: \$5,350 per person for a 7 night/6 ½ day package**





*Owner and head guide Jeroen Wohe with an impressive June king. Photo: Skeena River Lodge*

## == SKEENA RIVER LODGE & NASS BASE CAMP ==

### SKEENA RIVER LODGE

Located 15 minutes upstream of Terrace, Skeena River Lodge is an understated hub from which to fish the fabled waters of the Copper, Skeena, Kalum and Kitimat. Headed by the incredibly fishy and committed Jeroen Wohe, the lodge comfortably takes four or six anglers, depending on the week. In weeks of four

guests, all enjoy single occupancy rooms. The dedicated chef prepares a home-style dinner each evening and guests prepare their own breakfasts before the guides pick them up each day. For those looking for the highest level of guiding without breaking the bank, this is the place.

**Rates: \$4,000-\$4,600 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### NASS BASE CAMP

Located several hours north of Terrace on a secluded lake that feeds into a little-known steelhead river, Nass Base Camp is one of our most under-the-radar BC steelhead offerings. Here, anglers will focus on the scenic and prolific waters of the Bell Irving as well as the lesser-known dry-fly waters of their home system. Up to four anglers enjoy simple, single-occupancy rooms in a modest lakeside cabin. Not only is this a hard-to-blow-out, high catch rate region, it is also the best value in all of BC.

**Rate: \$4,400 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# SPEYWATER LODGE & FLOATS

If the name of this lodge seems biased, wait until you meet the guides! Located on the Grande Ronde River, near Troy, Oregon, this low-key, high-value operation is where some of the Northwest's finest steelheaders and spey casters congregate for a final month of guiding and instruction. Renowned spey instructor Scott O'Donnell heads a crew of diehard steelhead guides who love the Ronde and the steelhead it sustains. As much a spey casting and fishing school as a hard-charging guiding operation, this is the best place we know of to learn the art of spey casting and improve your swing fishing skills. Now offering two distinct options on different sections of river, Speywater Lodge continues to improve and impress.

The Grande Ronde is a Snake River tributary and is considered one of the best late season steelhead rivers in the Pacific Northwest. Throughout the month of October, the Ronde is as good a dry fly and greased line fishery there is. As the season progresses and water temperatures drop in November, anglers spend more time fly fishing light sink tips. The fly fishing can remain excellent through late November and later if water conditions permit. Grande Ronde steelhead are known for their willingness to move to a fly and range from 5 to 14 pounds, with the average fish typically weighing in around six pounds. Rafts are employed to access water, but all fishing is done while wading.

## SPEYWATER LODGE

Located on a productive stretch of the Grande Ronde upstream of Troy, OR, this comfortable lodge is the ultimate hub from which to fish the Ronde in October and November. Guests stay in double occupancy rooms with shared baths and meals



are eaten in the main lodge. Anglers will depart the lodge each day with their guide to float a different section of the river, getting out to wade prime runs.

**Rate: \$2,130 per person for a 4 night/3 day package**

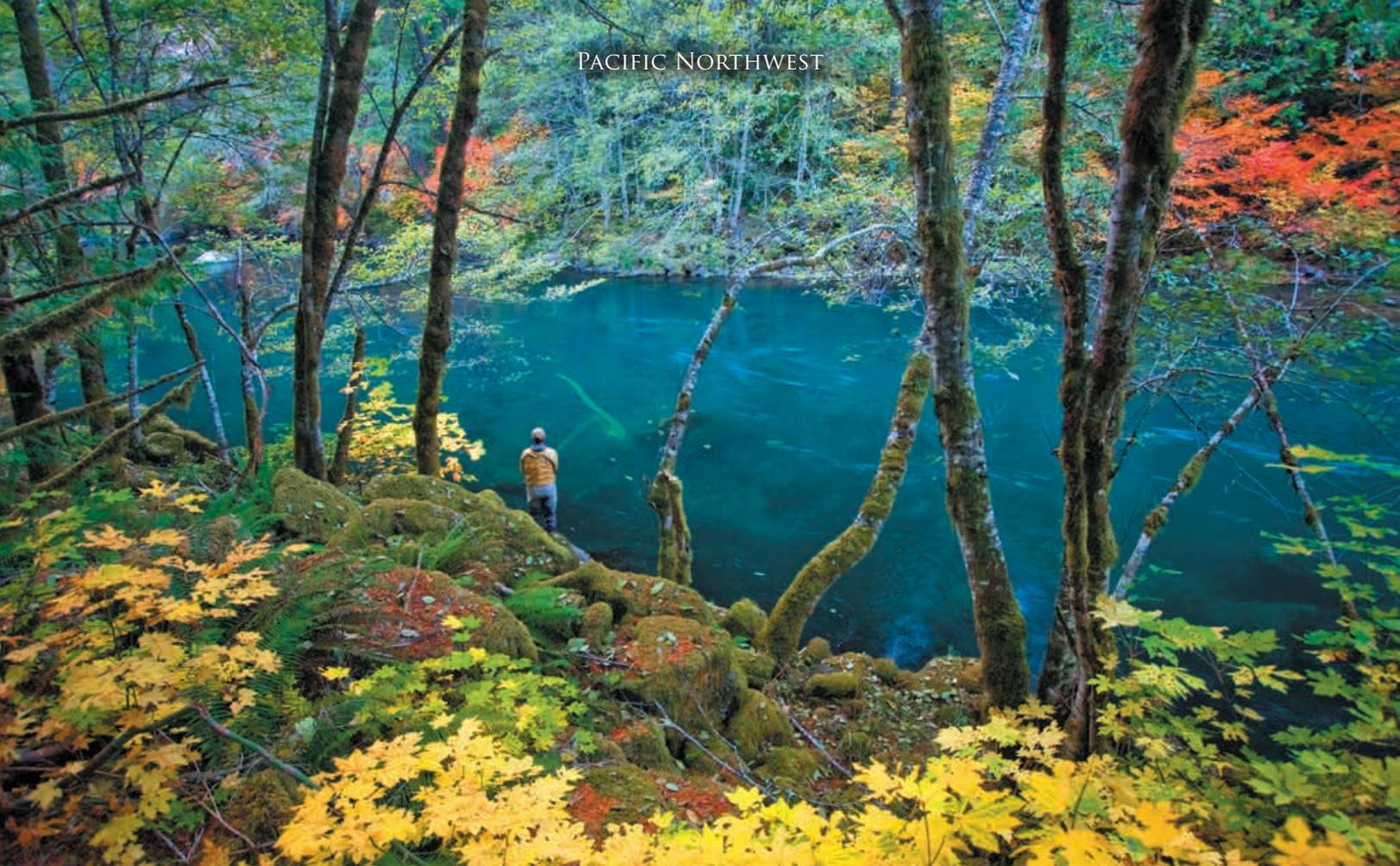
## STEELHEAD FLOATS

For those who want to maximize their time on the water, this multi-day float trip may be the best option. These four-day float trips launch twice per week in October and access the lower Grande Ronde in Washington. Deluxe camps are set up on great home pools and move each day. These mobile river camps consist of large stand-up tents complete with cots and vestibules for every two anglers and a 12 x 14 foot wall tent for dining. Each trip now includes a night's stay at Speywater Lodge on the evening of arrival. Optional day trips on the Oregon section near the lodge can be arranged before the float trip starts.

**Rate: \$2,400 per person for a 4 night/4 day package**

*Floating the Grande Ronde. Photo: Walter Hodges/tenandtwomanazine.com*





*The North Umpqua, arguably Oregon's most scenic and challenging summer steelhead venue. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## OREGON

Oregon is blessed with pristine wilderness areas and bountiful biodiversity. From high-desert rivers teeming with trophy trout, to some of the finest summer and winter steelhead rivers in the lower 48, Oregon is one of those sought-after yet laid-back places that simply has it all. The following is a high-lighted peek at some of our favorite multi-day trips in the state we love and call home.

### WILLIAMSON RIVER FISH SHACK

Southern Oregon's Williamson River is home to the largest average trout of any Oregon river. A river of many moods, the Williamson often requires anglers to utilize every trick in the book. The rewards are worth it: most fish exceed 20 inches and some upwards of 10 pounds are possible.

To best fish this remarkable system we have paired-up with one of our favorite guides, Paul McDonald. Paul is a Kiwi who guides winters at Poronui Lodge on New Zealand's North Island and guides in Southern Oregon the rest of the year. He is a top-level predator, a great all-around guide and a true pleasure to be on the water with. For anglers looking for no-frills, riverside accommodations, simple meals and long hours on the water, this two-person program is a gem that we are confident you will enjoy.

**Rate: \$1,300 per person for a 2 night/3 day package**

### OWYHEE BASECAMP

Tucked away in eastern Oregon, not far from Boise, Idaho, Oregon's finest trophy brown trout river flows discreetly through desert rim-rock and sage. It is a relatively small river but its honey-colored browns are anything but small, averaging 16 to 20 inches with significantly larger fish present. The Owyhee has a long season, a rich progression of vibrant insect hatches, and now, thanks to longtime guide Cory Godell, a full-service camp perfectly suited to visiting anglers. With comfortable tents furnished with cots and pads, anglers can enjoy a great riverside camp near prime water. Cory and his crew will prepare all the meals and serve them up in a dedicated dining tent. After lunch anglers are free to fish or enjoy a siesta before heading out for the evening hatch. If big browns on dries are something you want to experience, this is the very best Oregon has to offer.

**Rate: \$1,250 per person for a 2 night/3 day package**

### CLACKAMAS RIVER LODGE

From January through May, northern Oregon's Clackamas River is arguably the state's most stable winter steelhead system. It may rise and it may fall, but day in and day out it fishes and produces. Additionally it has some of the sweetest fly water a spey angler could ask for. Add to this experienced guides and

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

robust returns of both wild and hatchery winter steelhead and you will see why this is a new Fly Water Travel favorite. The Clackamas River Lodge program is one of very few all-inclusive Winter/Spring steelhead experiences. Catering to only four guests a week enables the staff to take care of every detail. Their beautiful and modern riverfront lodge is very comfortable and offers cell service and Wifi. Guests enjoy private bedrooms with queen beds and a shared bathroom. Meals and guides will be of the highest quality and lunches will be served streamside to maximize the time on the water. Not only is this an easy to reach destination for out-of-town anglers but it is one of the Pacific Northwest's safest venues when it comes to clean productive swing water.

**Rate: \$2,750 per person for a 4 night/4 day package**

### MORRISON'S ROGUE RIVER LODGE

The Rogue River is one of the most consistent and approachable steelhead fisheries in the Lower 48. Regardless of fly fishing technique, the Rogue has wonderful water for all. Morrison's Rogue River Lodge is the region's oldest and most established full

service fishing lodge. With tasteful accommodations overlooking the river, fine dining and daily guided drift boat trips targeting adult and "half-pounder" steelhead, Morrison's remains the region's classic fall steelheading destination.

**Rate: \$1,649 plus tax per person for a 4 night/3 day package**

### NORTHERN OREGON COAST

From mid-January through April, the rivers surrounding the greater Tillamook Bay region on the northern Oregon coast transform into some of the most productive and seductive winter steelhead rivers in North America. Structurally they are a swing fisherman's paradise and the quarry is almost always sea-bright, wild and willing to chase a well-swung fly. For anyone interested in perfecting the art of spey casting while fishing for some of the world's finest winter steelhead, this is a spectacular venue. Lodging options include hotels and inns in Manzanita.

**Rates: \$600 per day for 1 or 2 anglers**

### DESCHUTES AND UMPQUA RIVERS

*Please see article on page 52.*





# RENTON RIVER ADVENTURES

## A FAMILY'S PASSION FOR THE RIVERS OF OREGON

*By Andy Archer*

*The Rentons: David, Debbie, Knut & Dillon. Photo: Arian Stevens*

At 27 years old, Dillon Renton has already established himself as one of the finest fly fishing guides in Oregon whose experience far exceeds his age. I first met Dillon Renton in 7th grade. Then, fly fishing had been the center of my universe for only two years, and the number of flies I had lost far eclipsed the number of trout I had caught. I vividly remember standing there as a 12-year old, feeling baffled, if not perplexed, as Dillon recounted landing his first steelhead on the fly at age seven and rowing the Deschutes River's notorious Whitehorse Rapid at age 11. When we got around to talking flies, he couldn't remember tying his first because he was, literally, still in diapers.

In the following years, Dillon and I became great friends and steadfast fishing buddies. With each new adventure on the river, my initial skepticism about his accomplishments were proven wrong time and time again. When I met the rest of the Renton family, everything came full circle. It began to make perfect sense. He was the real deal, a kid that went from the crib straight to the river and never looked back.

Dillon's parents, David and Debbie Renton, built Renton River Adventures on a foundation of passion, hard work and astute attention to detail. David and Debbie are the ultimate outfitting pair and they shared their love of Pacific Northwest rivers with their two children, Dillon and his younger

brother Knut, from the moment the boys were old enough to take their first steps. David's knowledge of fly fishing, rowing and guiding the rivers of the region spans more than 30 years, and through his mentorship, Dillon blossomed into David's preferred guiding partner by age 16. David and Dillon's shared passion for putting clients on fish, and in the process taking instruction and education to the next level, has not only earned them the distinction of being Sage Elite Pros but also made them Fly Water Travel's go-to outfitters for Oregon's Deschutes and Umpqua rivers.

Debbie Renton's gifts shine brightest in camp with cooking and logistics. She, assisted by Knut, acts as the camp host and chef on Renton River Adventures' trips. Debbie is an extraordinary cook, and her skills are deliciously clear in the culinary wonders she whips up under the canopy of a riverside dining tent. Whether it's a rack of lamb paired with a Caprese salad or king salmon accented by a mint pea puree, Debbie serves it up with style and a smile.

All of the Rentons contribute their unique skills, warm personalities and accommodating attitude to making client experiences on the river unforgettable. For them, this isn't a career — it's what they were born to do. They are living their dream, and luckily for us, they are eager and willing to share it with the rest of us.

---

## RENTON RIVER ADVENTURES

---

Below, you'll find an overview of Renton River Adventures' key programs across Oregon.

### UMPQUA WINTER BASECAMP

From January through March, Oregon's famed North Umpqua River transforms into a brilliant winter steelhead system that is home to some of the largest anadromous specimens in the West. To help share the wonders of this impressive river with guests, the Rentons have secured a large rental home where up to four guests can each enjoy single occupancy rooms and home-cooked meals. This homestay venue is very comfortable and positioned strategically close to the fishing grounds. The program is ideally suited for those keen to target winter steelhead with swung flies while wading the famous "Fly Only" section, as well as with indicators and swung flies in the lower reaches of the river out of drift boats. For those that want the chance at a wild winter steelhead of a lifetime, this is the venue.

**Rate: \$2,250 per person for a 3 night/3 day package**

### UMPQUA SUMMER BASECAMP

Following years of work at his family's camp on the Deschutes River, Dillon created a similar camp in the woods of the North Umpqua. With comfortable wall tents, a camp kitchen and a fire-ring, the Rentons host up to four ambitious summer steelhead anglers during July and early August. Guests will fish a split day schedule, concentrating on raising summer steelhead to dry flies during the prime low light hours. For hard-charging anglers keen on upping their game, few programs compare.

**Rate: \$1,950 per person for a 3 night/3 day package**

### LOWER DESCHUTES FLOAT TRIPS

The lower Deschutes River is a desert oasis that roars its way through a vast, scenic canyon. The waterway has the distinction of being one of Oregon's best rainbow trout fisheries, as well as a fantastic venue for summer steelhead. The Rentons offer a variety of multi-day float trips that cumulatively cover all 100 miles of the lower Deschutes, where depending on the season, anglers can target steelhead, trout, or both on the same trip. The Rentons are well known for setting up some of the most comfortable camps on the river. Guests float into fully equipped camps where they will enjoy gourmet meals and spacious, double occupancy wall tents, all within a stone's throw of fantastic water.

**Rate: \$2,000 per person for a 3 night/4 day package based on 2 to 4 anglers**

### LOWER DESCHUTES STEELHEAD JETBOAT CAMP

For anglers serious about targeting summer steelhead and improving their anadromous fishing skills, the Lower Deschutes Jetboat Camp is an ideal program. To make these trips possible, Dillon and David operate under All Star Rafting's permit to enable jetboat trips of the highest quality. These trips offer the strategic advantage of allowing guests to chase shaded runs both up and downstream of camp. Multi-day trips are available beginning the third week of August and run through November. These trips are best suited for groups of two to five anglers.

**Rate: \$2,400 per person for a 3 night/4 day package based on 2 to 3 anglers**





*A perfect Montana brown that fell for a streamer. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## MONTANA

### HEALING WATERS LODGE

Healing Waters Lodge may have more angling choices within easy driving distance than any other operation in Montana. Guests can choose to float the larger rivers like the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Jefferson and Madison or walk smaller meadow streams like the Ruby, the Upper Clark Fork, South Boulder or Flint Creek. Healing Waters Lodge also offers access to private spring-fed creeks and ponds with advance notice. The lodge itself is exceedingly comfortable with spacious, double-occupancy rooms, a large outdoor hot tub, pool table, exercise room and a beautiful trout pond practically within casting range of your room.

**Rate: \$3,725 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### SAGE LODGE NEW

Sage Lodge is a handsome new 80-person luxury hotel ideal for anglers, travelers, family gatherings and corporate events. Located on the Yellowstone River in the Paradise Valley, Sage Lodge is an exceedingly comfortable year-round facility with two restaurants on-site and great access to Yellowstone National Park. Guests can choose from rooms within the main lodge or deluxe free-standing homes that can sleep up to eight guests. Arrangements with local outfitters allows guests to choose from a variety of activities including fly fishing, park tours, mountain biking, horseback riding and more.

**Rate: \$2,620 plus tax per person for a 5 night/4 day fly fishing package**

### KING OUTFITTERS NEW

Dave King and his crew of hard-charging guides specialize in fishing the trout-filled rivers and streams of southwest Montana. This operation provides a modest home-style base from which four to eight anglers can experience the finest and most diverse

fishing in the region. Packages include a stay at a 1960's style Montana ranch house minutes away from the Beaverhead River. Dave has been guiding anglers on these waters for more than 20 years. In addition to the varied menu of available public waters, King Outfitters holds leases on a range of great private waters that could keep an angler busy for weeks.

**Rate: \$3,295 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### BOZEMAN FISHING LODGE

Unique in the world of fly fishing, Bozeman Fishing Lodge is best thought of as a fly fishing bed & breakfast. Groups of two to six enjoy exclusive use of this spacious home in the heart of downtown Bozeman. While breakfasts are served at the lodge and lunches are on the river with your guide, evenings are enjoyed on your own in Bozeman with a wide range of dining options. The fishing program focuses on an array of blue ribbon fisheries that are easily accessed from Bozeman. Several rivers are at your fingertips, including the Yellowstone, Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson and various streams in Yellowstone National Park, ensuring your trip is filled with a variety of quality options.

**Rate: \$2,950 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### RUBY DRAKE LODGE

Located in the heart of an 8,000 acre ranch on the Ruby River, just outside the town of Twin Bridges in southwestern Montana, Ruby Drake's fishing program and home-style hospitality make it among our top picks for serious anglers who like to put in long, productive days on the water. The lodge has access to close to 20 miles of the Ruby River on the ranch. The lodge's public water program allows anglers to float the Jefferson, Big Hole, Beaverhead and Madison rivers. Ruby Drake Lodge features four private cabins complete with queen beds, living area and reading nook,

## THE ROCKIES

screened porch and gear storage area and a refrigerator. The main lodge sports a relaxing western atmosphere with a comfortable gathering place, fireplace and a spacious dining room.

**Rate: \$3,260 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### FIREHOLE RANCH

Firehole Ranch is a classic Western guest ranch. Their handsome facility sits alone overlooking Hebgen Lake just outside of West Yellowstone, Montana and is an ideal base from which to access Montana's best trout fishing including the Madison, Gallatin, Henry's Fork and the varied waters of Yellowstone National Park. The ranch itself is impressive and offers additional experiences including canoeing, hiking, mountain biking and trail riding. The level of service is outstanding, making this a sought-after destination for anglers and nature lovers alike.

**Rate: \$4,700 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### HARRISON HOMESTEAD

Listed on the National Historic Register, the Homestead is not so much a lodge but rather a charming home-like base where groups of six can set their own schedule. Staffed with a professional chef, all meals are served in the dining room overlooking the impressive property. Located on the banks of the ultra-productive Yellowstone River, Harrison Homestead also fishes the nearby Paradise Valley Spring Creeks, the Stillwater River and the Boulder River. Fall pheasant hunts are also available.

**Rate: \$2,750 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### LINEHAN OUTFITTING COMPANY

The Kootenai River is one of the great undiscovered rivers of America. Located in the extreme northwest corner of Montana, anglers keen on fishing dries typically rack up big numbers of fish every day. With excellent small stream options as well, this is a must-do for groups that thrive on lots of action. Custom packages include sumptuous

meals and multiple lodging options at tastefully appointed cabins.

**Rate: \$3,185 per person for a 5 night/4 day package for 1 or 2 anglers**

### NORTH FORK CROSSING LODGE

Located in the heart of western Montana's least-traveled dry fly waters, North Fork Crossing Lodge shows the visiting angler what classic Montana trout fishing is all about. The Blackfoot River enjoys low angling pressure and prolific hatches of aquatic insects. In addition to the Blackfoot's 50 miles of classic trout water, the Missouri, Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers are within easy reach. Guests at North Fork Crossing Lodge stay in deluxe double occupancy wall tents with wood floors, electricity, heaters, plush beds, fine linens and dressers, ensuring that your "rustic" experience includes all the comforts you'd expect from a fine Montana lodge.

**Rate: \$3,250 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### RUBY SPRINGS LODGE

With arguably the highest re-booking rate in the state, Ruby Springs continues to define the deluxe western trout fishing experience. In addition to fishing a wide range of waters including the Madison, Ruby, and Beaverhead, guests enjoy the finest meals and cabin accommodations Montana has to offer.

**Rate: \$5,375 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### LODGE AT EAGLE ROCK

As the first full service lodge on Montana's Missouri River, the Lodge at Eagle Rock offers the type of fly fishing experience we have waited years for. Arguably the most productive system in Montana, the Missouri should be on every western angler's list. In addition to floats on the Missouri, guests can choose to fish tributaries such as Prickly Pear Creek, Belt Creek, the Dearborn River and others. Jetboat trips to the Land of Giants can be arranged for an additional charge.

**Rate: \$3,575 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**



# SOUTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD

## ROUGHING IT IN THE FRANK CHURCH WILDERNESS

*by Charles Gehr*

*Horse packing into the South Fork's headwaters.  
Photo: Montana Wilderness Lodge*

I feel privileged to manage Fly Water Travel's destinations in the Rockies. I consider it a privilege because I truly love the Rockies and the beautiful trout fishing venues they offer. Professionally I keep an ongoing list of new places and rivers I hope to visit and fish. For years now, the South Fork of the Flathead River has sat squarely at the top of that list. For me, it ticks all the boxes for great trout fishing: fish willingly rising to dry flies, a combination of wading and boat fishing, backcountry travel and camping all set within a stunning wilderness setting.

In a world where true wilderness adventures are becoming harder to find, it is good to know that the South Fork of the Flathead and the Bob Marshall Wilderness are ready and waiting for those that want to push a little harder than the average day trippers. A trip here brings horse packing, rafting, camping and dry fly fishing together in the heart of America's fifth largest wilderness area. This unique region of western Montana received its first protections in the 1930's and was designated as the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area with the passing of the 1964 Wilderness Act. While the wilderness area has many outstanding features, from the perspective of a fly angler, the South Fork of the Flathead River must be considered its crown jewel. The South Fork of the Flathead is a spectacular and pristine clear-flowing mountain river with an extremely healthy population of wild west-slope cutthroat in the 12 to 18-inch class as well as a healthy population of wild bull trout. Finer

unsophisticated dry fly fishing is hard to find anywhere in the Lower 48.

Integral to Wilderness designation is that the region remains roadless and that is where this adventure begins. To get to where the float trip begins, guests will embark on a scenic and rigorous two-day horse packing trip that will take them 33 miles into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Following a layover day of walk and wade fishing guests will load into rafts and fish their way back toward civilization. In many ways, a better multi-faceted western adventure is hard to imagine.

### FISHING PROGRAM

This program features a combination of walk and wade fishing as well as fishing from rafts. The first and second night of the trip, guests are free to walk and wade fish on their own as the guide team sets up camp. On day three guests will spend the entire day walk and wade fishing the upper reaches of the river with a guide. There will be one guide for every two anglers. Days four through six will be rafting days in which anglers can fish a great deal from the boat as well as get out to wet wade and explore side channels and key runs on foot. Once camp is reached, there will be additional time for unguided walk and wade fishing. The majority of fishing will be with dry flies. There will be hatch based fishing, as well as plenty of time to throw attractors between hatches. Ten to 15 cutthroats per person per day is fairly standard with some fish creeping up into the 18-inch

---

## SOUTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD

---

range. Guests also have the chance to target large bull trout with streamers, but these trophies are not numerous and catching one is something the entire team will celebrate.

### MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Guests stay at the Montana Wilderness Lodge the day of arrival as well as the last night of the trip. Cabins at the lodge are rustic and comfortable with en-suite bathrooms, propane lighting and heat. During the wilderness trip, two guests will share spacious four-person tents with provided cots and pads. Guests are encouraged to bring their own sleeping bags, but the outfitter can provide sleeping bags upon request. There will be tables and chairs set up for breakfasts and dinners, and they can cover the tables with a fly in the event of weather.

Breakfasts are hot and hearty featuring standards like bacon,

eggs and pancakes. Lunches are taken as a group streamside and prepared on-site. Dinners are hearty and delicious and often feature Dutch oven specialties. There is no structured lavatory on the trip but rather a trowel, toilet paper and hand sanitizer.

### NOTES

**Travel:** Guests fly to Kalispell Montana where they will rent a car and drive 2.5 hours to the lodge

**Season:** July and August

**Capacity:** Four to six anglers

**Essential Tackle:** A 9-foot 3-weight with floating line

**Top Flies:** Parachute Adams, ants, mayfly cripples and caddis

**Rate:** \$6,000 per person for a 7 night/6 day package





*A perfect September day on Idaho's South Fork of the Snake. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## IDAHO

### HENRY'S FORK LODGE

For more than 20 years, Henry's Fork Lodge has been one of Idaho's premier destinations. In addition to miles of the fabled Henry's Fork, the lodge also ventures out to the Madison, Yellowstone, Firehole, Gibbon, Gallatin, Lamar,

Slough Creek, Hebgen Lake and Henry's Lake. Guests of all persuasions will enjoy the tasteful accommodations in close proximity to Yellowstone Park and additional activities such as hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Whether you are a seasoned traveling angler or a newcomer to the sport and region, Henry's Fork Lodge will provide you with an angling and lodging experience that you will appreciate and enjoy.

**Rate: \$4,040 plus tax per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### NATURAL RETREATS SOUTH FORK LODGE

The South Fork of the Snake River is one of the West's most productive fisheries and has one of the longest dry fly seasons in the lower 48. Hands down the place to stay here is South Fork Lodge, overlooking the river. Their setting and facilities are among the finest in the Rockies with a great restaurant and bar scene in the evening. The majority of the fly fishing is done from drift boats in the early season; wading selected riffles is more common as water levels drop in the fall.

**Rate: \$3,730 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**



## THE ROCKIES

### TETON SPRINGS LODGE & SPA

Located in the idyllic Teton Valley, Teton Springs Lodge & Spa is the perfect venue for larger parties and corporate groups. The facility includes an award-winning 18-hole golf course, full spa, private ponds and conference center. Guiding is provided by the professionals at South Fork Outfitters who know and love all sections of the South Fork of the Snake River.

**Rate: \$2,245 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER

The most prolific and unspoiled westslope cutthroat trout fishery in the world, the Middle Fork of Idaho's Salmon River offers what many consider the finest multi-day wilderness float trip in America. While the fly fishing is excellent throughout the season, the early season favors big whitewater and the late

season favors fly fishing. This is an incredible family trip and perfect for anglers of all skill levels.

**Rate: \$3,490 per person for a 5 night/6 day fishing package, \$2,590 per person rafting package**

### MAIN SALMON RIVER

This 85-mile trip cuts through the largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states and the second deepest river canyon on the continent. The Main Salmon River is undammed and virtually untouched by modern civilization. Most of the fishing entails wading up tributary creeks and throwing dry flies to native cutthroat. With incredible whitewater and glorious sandy beach camps this is an ideal family trip for anglers with non-fishing family members.

**Rate: \$3,250 per person for a 5 night/6 day package fishing package, \$2,390 per person rafting package**





*Evening settles over the main cabin at El Rancho Pinoso. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## COLORADO & WYOMING

### TAYLOR RIVER LODGE NEW

Eleven Experience was created with a singular focus; to provide the world's finest adventure-based luxury destinations for couples and families with children. To this end, their premier property in the Rockies for summertime activities is Taylor River Lodge. Located along a mile of semi-private water on the Taylor River and minutes from float trips on the Gunnison River, Taylor River Lodge is a natural for fly fishers as well as offering a wide range of additional guided outdoor activities. During a week stay guests are encouraged to take part in hiking, mountain biking and rock climbing, all located very near the lodge. True to their mission, Taylor River Lodge is a true luxury facility that has the equipment, staff and expertise to introduce guests of all ages to the activities they offer.

**Rate: Cabins start at \$1,700 plus tax per night for two guests**

### BRUSH CREEK RANCH

Nestled in the high country of Wyoming's Sierra Madre Mountains lies an area that cannot be adequately described in words. This property and facility are so incredibly stunning that many struggle to find the proper adjectives to relay the awe-inspiring

beauty and ruggedness of it all. Add to this a lodge operation whose comfort and elegance exceeds many five-star hotels and a staff that does not understand the word "No," and you will have a sense for this remarkable dude ranch. The number of activities available will take years to fully experience and the lodging options alone ensure that there's a facility custom tailored to your every desire. Whatever it is you seek for your family vacation, Brush Creek Ranch will fit the bill.

**Rate: \$4,400 plus tax per person for a 4 night/3 day package**

### 4UR RANCH

There are places on earth that can stun even the most jaded of travelers. 4UR Ranch is one such place. Its centerpiece is Goose Creek, with over seven miles of private stream that brims with willing trout. Add to that sporting clays, trap, hiking, trail rides, majestic vistas from almost anywhere on the ranch property, mineral hot springs, programs for kids and superb dining, and you will quickly understand why families from around the nation return here year after year for the ultimate Colorado dude ranch experience.

**Rate: \$3,570 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



### NORTH PLATTE LODGE

The North Platte River, from the Miracle Mile to the town of Glenrock, is one of the world's most productive tailwaters. Here, the average fish would be considered a trophy in most other systems. Anglers fish the Grey Reef section of the North Platte from drift boats with the option of wading prime runs. Anglers typically spend the majority of their days casting nymphs and streamers. Fish in the 3 to 4-pound class are expected daily with a very strong possibility of landing larger trophies.

**Rate: \$2,100 plus tax per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### EL RANCHO PINOSO

Hidden within Southern Colorado's San Juan Mountains is a pair of properties so beautiful it's hard not to marvel at their perfection. With significant tracts of private acreage, fully restored historic cabins with all the modern comforts, abundant wildlife and fabulous fly fishing flowing through it all, these properties will compel all who visit to return again. Both El Rancho Pinoso and Weminuche Valley Ranch differ from standard lodges in the respect that they more closely resemble deluxe catered rental properties than hosted lodges. With easy wading, great dry fly fishing and plenty of fish pushing 20 inches, these undiscovered gems are two of the finest and most fairly priced private water venues in the West.

**Rate: \$3,465 plus tax per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### THE HIGH LONESOME RANCH

For families looking for the ultimate high country multi-activity dude ranch experience, look no further than the High Lonesome Ranch. This sprawling property, located at 5,000 feet elevation on Colorado's western slope, encompasses a myriad of ecosystems and provides a range of outdoor adventures for the whole family. In a week-long stay, guests choose from activities that include horseback riding, skeet and trap shooting, hiking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, golf, winery tours and yoga classes. Meanwhile, the anglers in the group will find the 18 spring-fed stillwaters full of healthy, heavily built trout. Accommodations of different configurations are spread throughout the ranch, ensuring guests the level of privacy and amenities they're looking for.

**Rate: \$3,084 plus tax per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON RIVER

A float through the steep-walled Gunnison Gorge is one of the top fly-fishing trips in the lower 48. This wilderness area features spectacular scenery, wildlife viewing and excellent fly fishing for rainbow and brown trout in the 12 to 18-inch class. This trout-filled canyon adventure is a classic not to be missed.

**Rate: \$2,300 per person for a 4 night/3 day package**





*Searching for Westslope cutthroats out of Fernie BC. Photo: Jon Covich*

# CANADA

## EASTSLOPE ADVENTURES, ALBERTA

Cam Jensen's Eastslope Adventures specializes in guiding a host of productive and unspoiled trout fisheries in southwest Alberta, including the Castle, Oldman, Waterton and St. Mary river drainages. Although the bulk of this program is walk and wade, the early season takes advantage of drift trips in rafts. This is a sophisticated wild trophy trout fishery with prolific insect hatches and some of the largest and feistiest fish south of Alaska. Packages include accommodations and meals at a no-frills log home situated on the Waterton River.

**Rate: \$2,640 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

## BEAR CAMP, BC NEW

Located just one hour north of Vancouver, Bear Camp is a multi-faceted wilderness experience perfect for families, couples, adventurers and anglers. Bear Camp offers authentic wilderness experiences including hiking, kayaking, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, stand up paddle boarding, boating, and wildlife viewing paired with incredible scenery, great food and wonderful hospitality. Here, people and bears interact and live harmoniously. With 20 to 25 resident grizzly bears and another 80 to 100 grizzlies coming to visit in the fall to feed on spawning salmon, this deluxe tent camp is built on stilts. Your waterfront tents are elevated, spacious, comfortable and also serve as wildlife viewing platforms. Each day guests choose their activities of choice.

**Rates: \$3,495 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

## ELK RIVER GUIDING COMPANY, BC

Elk River Guiding Company specializes in drift boat and wade fishing the waters of southeastern British Columbia and Southern Alberta. Here, anglers enjoy the magic of exceptional



dry fly streams including the Elk, Wigwam, Oldman, Crow, and other local tributaries. We offer custom itineraries with multiple lodging options including simple hotels, in-town condo units and deluxe, full-service lodges in and around the charming mountain town of Fernie, BC.

**Rate: CAD \$1,850 plus tax per person for a 5 night/4 day package at Park Place Lodge**

## TSYLOS PARK LODGE, BC

This storybook Canadian lodge offers a genuine "off the grid" wilderness experience. The Chilko Lake/River area is wild, remote and stunningly beautiful. Here, anglers focus on fishing large dry flies for substantial wild rainbows on 15 miles of the Chilko River as well as heading out on the glorious Chilko Lake to pull streamers for large bull trout. In addition to spectacular trout fishing, Tsylos is equally renowned for its world-class riding program.

**Rate: \$5,195 plus tax per person for a 7 night/6 ½ day package**





*The Nelson clan on Idaho's Main Salmon. Photo: Brian Gies*

## ROCKIES FLOAT TRIPS

### MONTANA OVERNIGHT FLOAT TRIPS

These trips stand out not only for the nature of the waterways, but also for their guides, equipment, work ethic and remarkable gourmet meals. Clients can select from multi-day overnight trips on the Yellowstone, Madison, Missouri, Blackfoot, Clark's Fork and Bitterroot rivers. Honestly, what could be finer than spending the day floating a river, catching wild trout and then arriving at a fully prepared camp for a lavish meal of rack of lamb, grass-fed bison or wild salmon?

**Rate: \$1,575 per person for a 2 night/3 day package**

### SMITH RIVER, MONTANA

One of the most sought-after float trips in the country, the Smith float is a chance for you to leave the rigors of civilization behind and enjoy one of Montana's most beautiful wild rivers. Towering limestone cliffs, deep pools, fast riffles, abundant wildlife and fantastic fly fishing for wild browns and rainbows make this the trip of a lifetime. This five-day float covers 61 miles of pristine water in remote country.

**Rate: \$4,800 per person for a 4 night/5 day package**

### MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER, IDAHO

The most prolific and unspoiled westslope cutthroat trout fishery in the world, the Middle Fork of Idaho's Salmon River

offers what many consider the finest multi-day wilderness float trip in America. While the fly fishing is excellent throughout the season, the early season showcases big whitewater while the late season focuses exclusively on the fishing. This is an incredible family trip and is perfect for anglers of all skill levels.

**Rate: \$2,300 per person for a 4 night/3 day package**

### SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD NEW

For those looking for great dry fly fishing and a well-rounded wilderness trip complete with rustic camping and horse packing, this is the trip. After two days in the saddle, guests will float 33 miles through Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness, enjoying great dry fly fishing for westslope cutthroats in the 12 to 18-inch class.

**Rate: \$6,000 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON RIVER, COLORADO

A float through the steep-walled Gunnison Gorge is one of the better fly fishing trips in the Lower 48. This wilderness area features spectacular scenery, wildlife viewing and excellent fly fishing for rainbow and brown trout in the 12 to 18-inch class. This trout-filled canyon adventure is a classic not to be missed.

**Rate: \$2,300 per person for a 4 night/3 day package**

# THE ALASKA PENINSULA

Putting westward from the mainland towards the Aleutian Islands, the volcanic expanse of the Alaska Peninsula is arguably the wildest and least-traveled refuge of sea-bright salmon and steelhead in the state. Bordered on the north by Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea and on the south by the Gulf of Alaska, the peninsula remains one of the least spoiled and hardest-to-reach places in North America. With easy wading and rich returns, few places hold more appeal for serious anadromous anglers.

## SANDY RIVER LODGE

This longstanding operation has a rich history of exposing diehard anadromous anglers to some of the best king salmon and steelhead fishing in the world. Free of commercial fishing pressure, this river draws loyal anglers back year after year to experience the riches of this incredibly productive system. With a June king season and a fall steelhead season, this is a must-see lodge for serious spey anglers.

**Rate: \$8,100 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

## HOODOO'S SANDY RIVER LODGE

Rod Schuh's new facility on the lower Sandy River will enable six lucky anglers access to this incredibly special system. Located on the lower reach of the river, this camp offers strategic access to some of the most productive king water as well as the ability to jetboat upstream to the Sandy's best steelhead waters.

**Rate: \$6,650 per person for a 7 night/6 day package plus \$1,400 RT charter flight**

*The remarkable Sapsuck River. Photo: Pat Ford*



## HOODOO SPORT FISHING LODGE

Widely recognized as the most comfortable and organized operation on the Alaska Peninsula, owner Rod Schuh's Hoodoo Lodge is a testament to what vision and hard work can accomplish in an exceedingly remote location. Being the original operation on the Sapsuk, Rod and his crew know this river and the surrounding region better than anyone. With several jetboats waiting at the dock, a fantastic guide staff and a highly competent leader, this operation continues to show anglers the best king salmon, chum and silver fishing in Alaska.

**Rates: \$5,250-\$6,250 per person for a 7 night/6 day package plus \$1,200 round-trip charter flight**

## ALEUTIAN RIVERS ANGLING CAMP

This six-person tent camp on the Sapsuk River is an ideal no-frills base for small groups in search of the peninsula's best salmon fishing. Anglers fish three per guide and are strategically located to pursue sea-bright kings, chums and silvers.

**Rate: \$4,100 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

## EPIC ALASKA WILDERNESS SAFARI

EPIC is a remote wilderness camp located on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula. Few places offer a more picturesque backdrop or a more interesting and varied salmon fishing program. Here, anglers can fish beaches, tidal bays, rivers and creeks in total solitude. These fish are as bright as they come and you can always mix things up with some incredible hikes or halibut fishing.

**Rate: \$5,650-\$6,950 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# THE OTHER STEELHEAD?

## MORE CHROME TO THE NORTH

*By Ken Morrish*

*Heather Hodson with a late-season trophy from Rapids Camp Lodge and the Naknek. Photo: Eric Neufeld*

Many of us have fallen under the spell of spey fishing for steelhead, and for good reason. Once you understand and feel the magic of this style of fishing, it will consume you. The beauty of the rivers, the subtle reading of the water and the sensation of a clean cast that tugs against your reel before dropping across an oily seam, is mesmerizing and rewarding beyond compare. It is an evolved form of sport with a unique meditative cadence and it demands that you give it your whole heart with minimal expectations of reciprocity. It pulls hardest on its devotees in the fall when the mornings sting beneath your fingernails and the colors of the landscapes glow with deceiving warmth. Even though many of us have come to expect that our calls out will be met with little response, it is a style of fishing that rewards devotees even when the fish ignore you.

Steelhead are defined as rainbow trout that head out to sea, feed aggressively and return to their natal streams to spawn. But today, in as much as quality sport is concerned, it is hard not to want to expand the definition of steelhead to include not only the impressive races of lake-run rainbows that inhabit the Great Lakes but also to those that run in and out of two specific lakes in Alaska: Iliamna and Naknek. For

anglers who have landed a chrome-bright lake-run rainbow in the powerful flows of the Kvichak or Naknek, it is hard not to see this fish as a steelhead. They are unique, impressive, unimaginably strong and remarkably reliable.

### THE ALASKA ADVANTAGE

All true steelheaders are aware of the uncertainties of their quest. The variables that determine whether they have an encounter with their quarry are many: Ocean productivity, commercial fishing intercept and the everchanging and often frustrating element of water conditions are in constant play. These days it is harder than ever to know what the rivers that flow into the Pacific will give you. You pick your dates, take your chances and do your best to keep your chin up. But in Southwest Alaska's Naknek and Kvichak rivers, a good many of the anticipated steelheading risks are mitigated. There is no commercial fishing in the lakes that harbor these massive rainbows, and due to the highly filtered lake-fed rivers, blowouts, due to rain and sediment filled runoff, are extremely rare.

The result is that when anglers plan a trip to Southwest Alaska's Kvichak and Naknek rivers between mid-September and mid-October, they are likely to be met with a healthy

---

## THE OTHER STEELHEAD

---

population of super-charged, chrome-bright fish that desperately want to eat large flies before winter sets in. Moreover, these fish, which typically run between 24 and 34 inches, are widely considered stronger inch per inch than the average steelhead, and almost invariably run deep into the backing. Additionally, jet-boat run times to the targeted waters are short, and guests that prefer not to wade have ample opportunities to fish from the boat. On a typical day, anglers will have roughly a half a dozen opportunities, and when you bring one of these trophies to hand you would be hard pressed to not see it as one of the most beautiful steelhead you have ever seen. Is it a steelhead? Well not exactly, but then again does it really matter if it is big, bright, strong and anadromous in its own way?

While there are several great operations from which you can target these remarkable fall fish, we have selected two standouts. Additionally, we have worked with them to set up special high-value packages, exclusively for Fly Water Travel's guests, that will put you on the best waters, without getting in an aircraft, irrespective of the weather.

### RAPIDS CAMP LODGE

Situated on the banks of the Naknek River, Rapids Camp Lodge is a popular full-service fly-out lodge that has created a special late-season program for anglers intent on targeting the biggest and brightest lake-run fish during the late season. This program will focus exclusively on their world-famous home waters and

enable eight dedicated swing anglers to target some of the state's largest fish without incurring the cost of a full fly-out program.

The lodge features eight comfortable double-occupancy rooms with private baths, a large friendly bar, a gourmet chef, a workout room and all the needed waders and tackle their guests require. When it comes to creature comforts, a high value and a chance to tangle with some of the world's largest and hottest rainbows, this is an opportunity like no other.

**Dates: Sept. 20-27, Sept. 27-Oct. 4, Oct. 4-11**

**Rate: \$9,495 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### IGIUGIG LODGE

With 30 years of guiding experience in the region, Brad Waitman has created one of the most unique and intimate operations in the state. Catering to only six guests per week, Brad's program focuses on their trophy home waters, the Kvichak, in addition to two fly-outs. One of the single greatest stretches of swing water in the state is a short walk from the lodge's front door where Lake Iliamna necks down and becomes the Kvichak. This intimate no-frills lodge is a Fly Water Travel favorite, and with Brad's vast experience and drive, this special late-season jetboat program will deliver astonishing rainbows to all that visit. This is not only one of the greatest values in Alaska, but also a shining example of what a hands-on owner-operated lodge can be.

**Dates: Sept. 28-Oct 5, Oct. 5-12**

**Rate: \$6,800 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**





*Picking a rainbow from the spawning sockeyes. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## ALASKA FLY-OUTS

The floatplane is the key to the ultimate Alaskan angling experience. The roar of the radial engine, the crushing beauty of soaring over water-woven landscapes and the unbri-

dled freedom to go where you please are unforgettable parts of the floatplane-angling journey. There are many fine lodges that offer anglers the opportunity to get into an aircraft with an experienced pilot so they can in turn experience all that a given region has to offer. The following are a cross section of some of the finest.

### NO SEE UM LODGE

The No See Um Lodge, owned by the Holman family, has gained a stellar reputation for quality, comfort and hospitality over the past 25 years. No See Um Lodge is one of the few lodges that provides pilot-guides, ensuring that their handsome de Havilland Beaver floatplanes stay with their anglers all day, every day. These folks know the rainbow and salmon waters of the greater Iliamna/Katmai region like the backs of their hands and enjoy one of the highest return rates in the state.

**Rate: \$10,500 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



### ROYAL WOLF LODGE

When asked where to go to focus on hunting big rainbows, Royal Wolf Lodge is always at the top of the list. With a strategic location in the heart of Katmai's most prolific waters and some of the most gifted and experienced guides in the state, Chris and Linda Branham's Royal Wolf Lodge is in a class by itself. When it comes to short flying times and incredible walk and wade fisheries, this is the place.

**Rate: \$9,850 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### RAINBOW KING LODGE

Located on the shores of Lake Iliamna, Rainbow King Lodge has gone above and beyond to ensure that their guests get the most exclusive fishing experience Alaska has to offer. With private leases on fabled waters including the Copper, Dream Creek, Gibraltar and Upper Talarik, competition is minimal and rewards are huge. Rainbow King also offers one of the longest silver seasons in the region, a huge flying range and an ocean program for halibut.

**Rate: \$8,500 per person for a 6 night/6 day package**

### ROYAL COACHMAN LODGE

Of the three primary fishing regions in Southwest Alaska, the Wood-Tikchik is the least traveled, and in the eyes of many, the most beautiful. It is also the home of Royal Coachman Lodge, one of the friendliest and most diverse fly-out operations in the state. From their base overlooking the Nuyakuk River, Royal Coachman targets all of the state's freshwater species and features an incredible, fly-friendly private-water lease with prolific runs of sea-bright salmon.

**Rate: \$9,500 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### IGIUGIG LODGE

With 30 years of guiding the region, Brad Waitman has created one of the most unique and intimate operations in the state. Catering to only six guests per week, his program allows for two anglers to fly out with him each day and four anglers to focus on the trophy home waters of the Kvichak. This is not only one of the greatest values in Alaska, but also a shining example of what a hands-on owner-operated lodge can be.

**Rate: \$6,800 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ENCHANTED LAKE LODGE

Nestled on a private bluff within the Katmai National Park, this luxurious facility is a benchmark fly fishing experience. Short flights in their two immaculate de Havilland Beavers bring anglers to some of the most fabled waters in all of Alaska, including Moraine, Big and Little Ku, Funnel, Battle and Kulik. With seasoned guides, top-shelf cuisine and a remarkable facility, Enchanted Lake Lodge is widely considered the most deluxe fly-out lodge in the state.

**Rate: \$10,750 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### INTRICATE BAY LODGE

Overlooking the serene waters of Lake Iliamna's Intricate Bay, this comfortable and completely renovated facility allows anglers easy boat access to the trophy trout water of the Copper River as well as a wide range of fly-outs to many of Bristol Bay's most productive systems. Additionally, Intricate Bay Lodge offers guests a wide range of price-point packages to choose from.

**Rate: \$8,500 per person for a 6 night/7 day package**





*The early morning view from Rapids Camp Lodge. Photo: Abe Blair*

## RAPIDS CAMP LODGE

Rapids Camp Lodge is a high-caliber, full service fly-out lodge with excellent home waters and one of the most diverse fly fishing programs in Alaska. Seasoned hard core fly anglers appreciate the wide range of waters the lodge frequents, including staples like the Moraine, Battle Creek, Contact Creek, Headwaters Creek and the American River. Other prolific

THE BEST EQUIPPED AND  
MOST VERSATILE FLY-OUT  
LODGE IN THE STATE

“under the radar” rainbow and char fisheries mandate an adventuresome spirit and sturdy walking legs. During the early and late season the lodge concentrates on fly fishing for large rainbows in the “rapids” of the Naknek River near the lodge. Anglers typically employ spey rods and steelhead-like tactics to entice these supercharged rainbows that commonly run in the 5 to 10-pound range. Spey tackle and instruction are available to all interested at no additional cost.

The lodge features eight comfortable double-occupancy rooms with private baths, a large friendly bar, two gourmet chefs, a workout room and all the needed waders and tackle their guests require. With three Beavers, a turbine Otter and handsome jetboats for the home water, Rapids Camp has endless options for all. Whether you’re after silvers or kings, massive rainbows on the spey rod or a crack at wilderness rainbows that rarely see a fly, this is an operation that will show anglers of all skill levels the best Alaska has to offer.

**Rate: \$9,495 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# ALASKA WEST

Long considered the gold standard of tent camps, Alaska West offers anglers the best of the Kanektok River: legendary main-stem fishing for sea-bright kings, chum and silvers and willow-lined side channels teeming with wild leopard bows, char, and grayling. The Kanektok is by all standards a remarkably diverse fishery, perfectly suited to both single-hand and spey rod anglers. Their early season is dominated by spey fishing for big kings, then shifts to phenomenal multispecies fishing mid-season and finishes strong with hordes of fresh silvers. High catch rates, easy wading and open backcasts are the norm.

Alaska West is a large, comfortable tent camp set in the heart of the lower river's finest water. Guests sleep in pairs in comfortable wall tents with carpeted floors, quality mattresses, heat and lighting. Hot showers, a large dining tent, a recreation tent and a drying tent complete the scene. Anglers fish two per guide and move about the system in 18-foot jetboats. For

## ALASKA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AND PRODUCTIVE MULTISPECIES TENT CAMP

those interested in getting a great taste of all that Alaska has to offer without footing the bill for a fly-out lodge, this is a proven crowd-pleaser that keeps serious trout and

salmon anglers coming back year after year.

**Rate: \$6,395 per person for a 7 night/6 day package plus \$850 round-trip charter flight**



*The daily double. Photo: Deneki Outdoors*





*Crossing Big Ku's home waters. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## BASE CAMPS

While the majority of these operations will be reached by small aircraft, their fishing programs are not reliant on them. Once you are on-site these operations will employ boats to reach their fishing grounds, keeping the price down and ensuring that their anglers are on the water irrespective of weather conditions.



### BIG KU LODGE

Big Ku is a small, strategically located six-person lodge in the heart of the Katmai region's most famous rainbow waters. Guests enjoy jetboat access to the legendary waters of Moraine Creek, Battle Creek, Little Ku and Big Ku. The lodge is open from June through September, with August dates filling most quickly. To top it off, just steps from the cabins, all guests can take part in unlimited after-hours access to the trophy home waters of Big Ku.

**Rates: \$6,250-\$6,700 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ANIAK RIVER LODGE

Aniak River Lodge offers a remote, diverse and species-rich fishing program. Combining a fully outfitted tent camp with an on-river lodge, their program enables anglers to see many miles of river and offers the ability to target everything from rainbow trout to sheefish. The Aniak's rainbows are known

## ALASKA

as gluttons for furry rodents, making this one of the very best rivers in the state for “mousing.”

**Rate: \$6,295 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### COPPER RIVER LODGE

Flowing into Lake Iliamna, the Copper is known as one of Alaska’s most beautiful and productive rainbow systems. With a completely renovated lodge, this classic operation is entering a new era of comfort and service. For serious rainbow hunters this operation remains one of the most inviting values in the state.

**Rate: \$5,900 per person for a 6 night/7 day package**

### GOODNEWS RIVER LODGE NEW

The Goodnews system flows through the protected Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and is composed of three distinct forks, all flowing west out of the Ahklun Mountains. With very little outside fishing pressure, Goodnews River Lodge

has the luxury of rotating their waters, enabling guests to fish different, well-rested water each day. The comfortable base camp, comprised of tents and hard structures, is a great place to relax after an active day. Goodnews offers some the least pressured and most varied fishing in all Alaska, with rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, grayling and five species of Pacific salmon all calling its waters home.

**Rates: \$5,950-\$7,125 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### KENAI RIVERSIDE LODGE

Located on the banks of the mighty Kenai, this is a great destination for groups with a range of outdoor interests and hardcore trophy rainbow hunters alike. This operation welcomes stays of varying lengths and a wide range of angling and ecotourism activities. It is also a perfect add-on to longer stays in the state.

**Rate: \$1,925 plus tax per person for a 3 night/2 day package**





*Heading back to camp after an evening session on the Agulapak. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## FISHING BEAR LODGE

Describing a place as unique and special as Fishing Bear Lodge is anything but easy. At its core, this modest and endearing family-run lodge offers their guests just the right amount of “roughing it” and an opportunity to experience a

**AN INTIMATE FAMILY-RUN OPERATION  
PERFECT FOR GROUPS WANTING  
TO STEP INTO THE ALASKAN  
WILDERNESS WITH BOTH FEET**

remarkable diversity of true wilderness fly fishing. Backing up against the surreal spires of the Wind River Range in the heart of southwest Alaska’s 1.6

million acre Wood-Tikchik State Park, Fishing Bear employs jet boats to fish a host of seldom-seen small streams for hearty rainbows, abundant arctic char and large surface-oriented grayling. In addition to these smaller “under the radar” systems, guests can enjoy trophy rainbow sessions on the renowned Agulapak. For dry fly enthusiasts, lovers of solitude and exceptional scenery or families in search of a memorable wilderness adventure and a rewarding introduction to the wonders of wilderness fly fishing, this is a place you will want to visit more than once.

**Rate: \$4,250 per person for a 6 night/6 day package**



# SOUTHEAST ALASKA

## BARANOF WILDERNESS LODGE

For families and couples keen on the ultimate southeast Alaskan experience, Baranof Wilderness Lodge remains a top pick. While much of their program centers on conventional saltwater fishing for salmon and halibut, they also offer great freshwater river and stream fishing for plentiful Dolly Varden and salmon. With whale watching, crabbing, hot springs and hiking, this is a well-rounded experience coveted by novices and experts alike.

**Rates: \$5,450-\$5,950 plus tax per person for a 5 night/5 ½ day package**

## KELP BAY BASE CAMP

Nestled under a canopy of ancient Sitka spruce and old-growth hemlock, the Kelp Bay Base Camp offers a unique and charming setting for a truly memorable group or family getaway. Here, natural bounty and opportunities abound. Guests can choose from fresh or saltwater fishing, hiking in the plush green forest, clamming, crabbing or just relaxing in solitude and watching whales pass by. The riches of the ocean serve as the base for amazing meals and the staff utilize old-fashioned Dutch oven techniques to produce mouthwatering, fresh baked goods. For parties of four to six, it is hard to imagine a more sublime Southeast Alaskan experience.

**Rate: \$5,350 plus tax per person for a 5 night/5 ½ day package**

## THE LODGE AT WHALE PASS

The Lodge at Whale Pass is one of Alaska's finest multi-sport lodges, located along the famed Inside Passage of Southeast Alaska. It is the perfect lodge for friends, families, couples, corporate groups and avid anglers alike. Each day is unique at the lodge and their goal is to provide guests with a flexible program full of options. There is no set itinerary and the day is yours to do with as you please, whether it's fishing from dawn to dusk or sea kayaking in the morning and hiking in the afternoon. Activities include whale watching, hiking, mountain biking, sea kayaking, wildlife viewing, caving, fishing and their not-to-be-missed boat-based glacier tour.

**Rate: \$6,695 per person for a 5 night/6 day package**

## DIERICK'S TSIU RIVER LODGE

Dierick's Tsiu River Lodge has been family owned and operated since 1997. Owner Greg Dierick and his father, Ed, built the lodge after 40 years of fishing the system. Its ocean view and close proximity to the tidewaters of the Tsiu make it a top venue for sea-bright silver salmon. The Tsiu is a clear, pristine, shallow river with a sandy bottom, making wading safe and easy. With the river just a short ATV drive from the lodge, you will have plenty of river time. For anglers interested in high catch rates of sea-bright silvers, we can't think of a better venue. Anglers are also welcome to take home plenty of these incredible eating salmon. Silver salmon, steelhead, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and Dolly Varden, are all present in varying degrees throughout the season.

**Rate: \$3,125 per person for a 5 night/5 day package**

*Southeast Alaska is hard to beat for groups that want to experience more than just fishing. Photo: Ken Morrish*





*The Kitson clan making  
the most of their private tour.  
Photo: Stewart Collingswood*

# HIDDEN GEMS OF SCOTLAND

FINE CUSTOM TOURS FOR  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY

*Story by Ken Morrish  
Photos by Stewart Collingswood*

In 2018 Fly Water Travel tested the waters of setting up small custom tours of Scotland for couples focusing on special off-the-beaten-path attractions and an array of angling opportunities. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, and while we were expecting these trips to be a once in a lifetime tour, many of our guests immediately re-upped for the following year. Pete and Sandra Bracken are among our most widely traveled clients, and they had the following to say. “Sandra and I believe that this trip was one of the best trips we have taken. It may well be the best trip ever for us. We loved our time with Stewart and the beauty of Scotland. Stewart knows Scotland intimately and does his very best to convey his knowledge of and experience with Scotland to his clients.” Better yet is that these trips are easy to plan and each one is built to suit the needs, schedule and interest of the particular group.

At Fly Water Travel few things make us happier than part-

nering with true professionals that take hospitality and service as seriously as we do. Stewart Collingswood, our partner in Scotland, is that man. He is a professional guide, a professional photographer, a skilled and detailed correspondent and the consummate host willing to go the extra mile to make sure that everything on-site is as good as it can possibly be.

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

The process of creating your custom trip to Scotland could not be easier. In a phone conversation we will find out how many are in your group, what your preferred dates of travel are, your party’s physical abilities, how many days the anglers in the group would like to fish, what special interests your party members have, and from that, Stewart will design a draft itinerary for your review. For those that elect activities other than fishing, the offerings will be robust and varied. Once we dial in the plan, Stewart will set up the reservations and then create the final

pricing. Smaller parties of one to three guests will typically be met at the airport by their private driver and guide in a luxury Land Rover Discovery while larger groups will be picked up in one or more new Mercedes touring vans. All state-of-the-art fishing tackle and flies are included so you won't need to pack any of those items unless you want to. Shortly into your trip your guide will go over your entire itinerary and make any required last-minute adjustments. From there it is just you and your crew enjoying the fishing and many attractions of Scotland.

### ANGLING OPTIONS

Stewart's guests can enjoy four distinct types of fishing, often with multiple venues within each type. Again, all rods, reels, lines, waders, boots and flies are provided for all kinds of fishing offered, making packing simple. Because there is so much

to do and see, most of our guests spend less than half of their days fishing, but for those that want to fish nearly every day, that is also possible.

**Salmon:** Scotland is synonymous with the art and lore of fishing Atlantic salmon on the fly. Depending on the time of year and availability, guests can fish the rivers Tweed, Tay, Dee and Spey. This is a great opportunity to spey cast with a real ghillie on some of the most famous waters in the world. Most of these waters are open from February through September or October and tend to fish best in late spring and fall.

**Trout and Grayling:** The options here are far too many to list. Guests can fish for wild browns on countless Highland rivers, streams or select from lochs, many of which are not far from cities of interest. Choose between walk and wade fishing and fishing still waters by boat, depending on interest and physical



---

## HIDDEN GEMS OF SCOTLAND

---

“SANDRA AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS TRIP WAS ONE OF THE BEST TRIPS WE HAVE TAKEN. IT MAY WELL BE THE BEST TRIP EVER FOR US. WE LOVED OUR TIME WITH STEWART AND THE BEAUTY OF SCOTLAND. STEWART KNOWS SCOTLAND INTIMATELY AND DOES HIS VERY BEST TO CONVEY HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AND EXPERIENCE WITH SCOTLAND TO HIS CLIENTS.”

---



abilities. Basic fly fishing classes are also available for those interested in learning the sport near where it all began. Cooked fishing lunches of the very highest quality paired with wines are all part of the package. Year-round with some of the best hatches occurring in late-April, May and June.

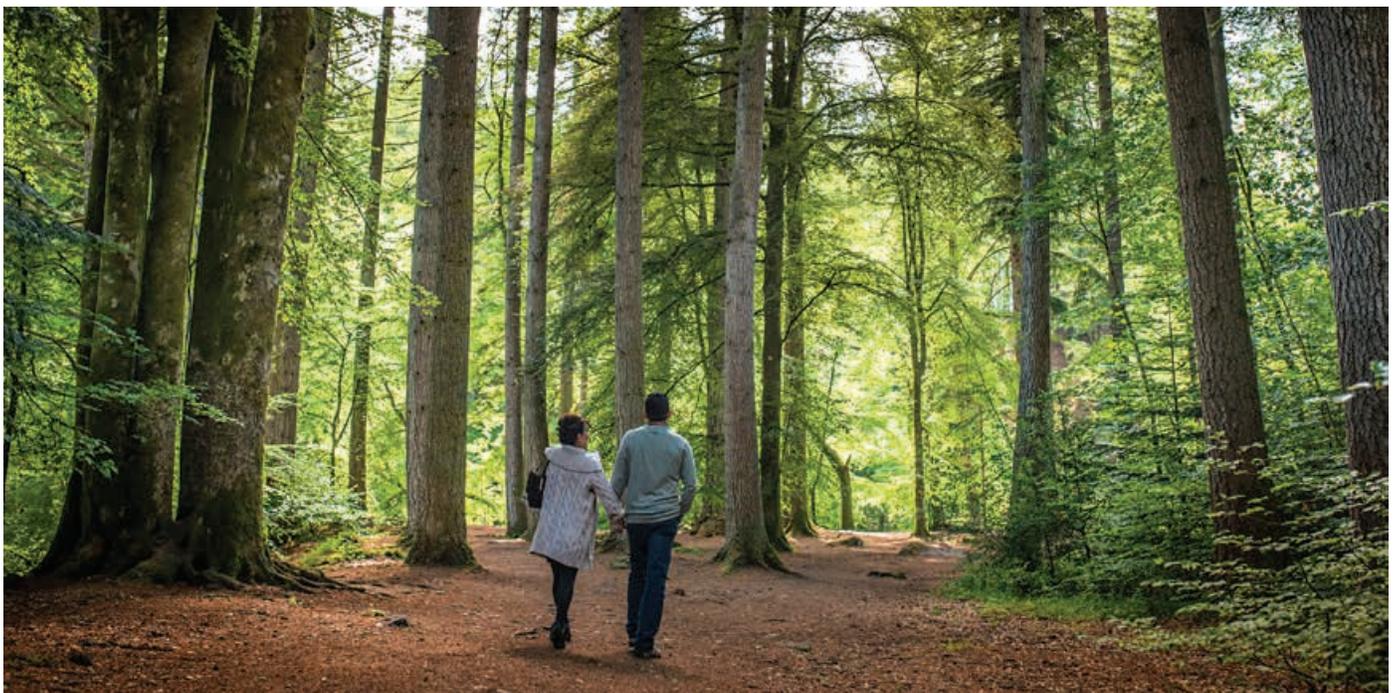
**Pike Loch:** Stewart and his crew have access to an exceptional catch and release pike lake near Edinburgh. These fierce predators range from five to well over 20 pounds, and guests are welcome to fish for them with fly or conventional tackle. This fishing experience will be for your private party alone, and guests will enjoy a fabulous lunch at the loch-side lodge. Year-round.

**Saltwater Pollock:** First off, this is not to be confused with Alaskan pollack. The saltwater pollock of Scotland is a handsome hard-fighting fish that can provide excellent sport fishing for fly anglers. This fishing can be done from the shore (somewhat physical), but most often is done from a cabin cruiser. Fly fishing with sinking heads is very effective, but guests can also choose from a range of conventional methods. Much of this fishing takes place in the Highlands, Berwickshire (near Edinburgh) or on the breathtakingly beautiful Isle of Skye. May through October.

### TOURING

While Stewart and his crew have their origins in sporting pursuits, they are true masters at putting together a great tour which exposes guests to the real hidden gems of Scotland, from the local pub you might have never found to the freshest fish and chips one could ever hope for. They have a wide variety of highly vetted accommodations as well, ranging from castles to country manors or historic downtown hotels. If guests love to hike, they have the trails. If they want to visit churches or historic sites, the options are endless. If guests want to visit distilleries and breweries, no problem. If guests wish to dig into the history and cultural sites in cities like Edinburgh, consider it done. During September and October, the most serious sportspeople can even try the Macnab Challenge in which one attempts to target a stag, a salmon and a brace of grouse in a single day! Whatever it is that you want out of Scotland, we can help make it happen!

**PRICING:** While all trips are custom, to date, they have averaged \$930 per person per day, based on double occupancy.





Top: A break from salmon fishing, Edinburgh. Middle: The Isle of Skye. Bottom: Boutique accommodations, pike from the private loch, touring in style. Photos: Stewart Collingswood



*A Poronui patron getting some of what he came for. Photo: valatkinson.com*

## NEW ZEALAND

Perhaps the greatest of New Zealand's charms is that the list of "must-do" activities inevitably exceeds the number of one's available vacation days. When it comes to countries that offer a wide array of natural wonders, beautiful vistas, professionally guided activities and well-run luxury lodges, New Zealand is at the top. There is no masking our enthusiasm for fishing its countless rivers and streams. Simply put, we consider the trout fishing experience here to be the most distilled, challenging and rewarding in the world. The only issue with New Zealand is that a two-week trip is merely a taste of all it has to offer.

Located in the middle of the southern hemisphere, New Zealand's two main islands are long and narrow. They are centered on the 41st parallel south and stretch almost 1,000 miles on a north by northeast axis and boast 10,000 miles of coastline. Couple this with the fact that the islands lie right along the dramatic geologic boundary of the Pacific and Indo-Australian plates, and you can begin to understand the root of its spectacular and varied topography. The massive shift in these plates that happened millennia ago not only created the islands themselves, but gave rise to the South Island's Southern Alps — a massive mountain range which divides the island's east and

west coasts, and features at least 18 peaks reaching 10,000 feet or higher. Less mountainous but not to be outdone, the North Island is a highly active volcanic zone punctuated by Lake Taupo, which sits smack-dab in the caldera of the world's most active supervolcano. The weather in the country is no less dramatic. Driving through the South Island you can go from rainforest to semi-arid plains in a matter of miles, and many areas of the North Island are subtropical. All told, New Zealand takes top honors for packing a wide variety of stunning landscapes and unique ecosystems into a relatively small space.

### CUSTOM ITINERARIES

Due to New Zealand's unparalleled biodiversity and the vast array of activities available to vacationers and anglers alike, our favorite trips often encompass visits to multiple destinations. To accommodate this, we have greatly expanded relationships with lodges and guides in virtually every corner of the country. Cumulatively, these venues allow us to offer custom itineraries with a wide range of experiences centered on fishing, hiking, golf and sea kayaking as well as visiting the country's top sights and winemaking regions.

## NORTH ISLAND LODGES

### PORONUUI

*Experiences: Fly fishing, riding, mountain biking, hiking*  
 Poronui's unique combination of world-class wilderness fishing, elegant accommodations, gourmet food and wine, varied non-angling activities and modern conveniences has earned them a devout and loyal following from around the world. A true North Island classic.

**Rates: NZ\$5,935-\$8,860 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### PORONUUI OUTBACK NEW

*Experiences: Backcountry fly fishing*

For those who want it all: trophy fish, well-rested wilderness waters, top-shelf guides, fine cuisine and creature comforts interspersed with rustic overnights in the bush, look no further. Poronui Outback is a unique new wilderness fishing program designed by Fly Water Travel and delivered by the incredibly talented crew at the acclaimed Poronui; the North Island lodge that continues to set the bar against which all others are measured. Tailor-made for groups of two to four anglers, this program is based out of Poronui's deluxe wall tent camp on the Mohaka River. From there guests have easy access to more than 15 non-fly out beats and an additional 85 beats spread between 15 fly-out streams. For those that want access to some



of New Zealand's most remote and least-visited wilderness fisheries and who relish in the rustic charm of campfires, wall tents and backcountry huts, this is the pinnacle experience.

**Rate: NZ\$9,500-\$12,500 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### TONGARIRO LODGE

*Experiences: Fly fishing, hiking, golf, whitewater rafting*

As its name suggests, the lodge is situated on the banks of the North Island's famous Tongariro River. Tongariro Lodge is a proven winner with the North Island's most diverse access to trophy backcountry waters utilizing helicopters, rafts and 4x4 vehicles.

**Rate: NZ\$4,800 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

*A rewarding day of fly-out fishing at Poronui. Photo: Brian Gies*





*An evening in New Zealand's outback. Photo: Brian Gies*

## SOUTH ISLAND LODGES

### OWEN RIVER LODGE

*Experiences: Fly fishing, hiking, riding, whitewater rafting, wine tours*

Located in the greater Nelson Lakes/Murchison region at the north end of the South Island, Owen River Lodge is a stylish yet understated destination for discerning fly fishers. With a central location and the largest and most experienced guide team on the South Island, Owen's guests can easily access more than thirty rivers in the area, most of which are less than an hour's drive from their premises.

**Rates: NZ\$6,700-\$8,250 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### STONEFLY LODGE

*Experiences: Fly fishing, hiking, riding, sea kayaking*

Built from local stone and timber, this exclusive riverfront property sits on 156 acres of private forest and offers luxury



accommodations in close proximity to three spectacular national parks (Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi). The lodge's large stone fireplace and the open kitchen adjoining the dining area create a warm, earthy atmosphere and a great base from which to explore the region's parks and fisheries.

**Rates: NZ\$6,275-\$7,425 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### AARON FORD'S NEW ZEALAND OUTBACK NEW

*Experiences: Backcountry fly fishing*

Join master guide Aaron Ford for a week of local and backcountry fishing in the productive trophy waters at the north end of the South Island. Aaron is based out of Motueka and accesses dozens of pristine streams in the greater Nelson Lakes region. Our custom packages with Aaron include fishing relatively easy to reach local rivers as well as overnight trips to remote wilderness streams accessible only by helicopter, boat and a bit of hard work. Fishing with Aaron is an adventure in itself as he is, without question, one of the hardest charging high-energy guides in the country. His passion for the sport and life itself is palpable and we forewarn all our guests to get a good night's sleep and eat a big breakfast before this adventure begins! These trips are limited to two anglers.

**Rates: NZ\$5,250-\$9,000 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### CEDAR LODGE

*Experiences: Fly fishing*

Located along the banks of the Makarora River in the South Island's stunningly beautiful Makarora Valley, Cedar Lodge is New Zealand's only pure helicopter fly-out lodge. Their valley is surrounded by prime fly fishing territory in Mount Aspiring

## NEW ZEALAND

National Park. Established in 1979 by Dick and Robyn Fraser, Cedar Lodge features four rooms with views of their rugged surroundings and a comfortable lounge/dining area where gourmet meals are served.

**Rate: US\$8,995 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### NOKOMAI STATION

*Experiences: Fly fishing, hiking, farm stay*

Nokamai Station is the perfect blend of fly fishing lodge and New Zealand farm stay. The station is one of New Zealand's largest and is owned and operated by the wonderfully hospitable Hore family. Over 12 miles of the Matura River, known for its mayfly hatches, run through the station, giving guests exclusive access to this world-class fishery. Nokamai's central location also gives its guide team access to over 20 other rivers and streams, all within a 90-minute drive.

**Rate: NZ\$4,325 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### FIORDLAND LODGE

*Experiences: Fly fishing, Milford and Doubtful sound tours, hiking*

Fiordland is one of the most dramatic and beautiful parts of New Zealand. Recognized as a World Heritage site, it is home to the Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound, two of the most famous and dramatic fiords on earth. Focusing on environmental sustainability coupled with true luxury, Fiordland Lodge is the perfect base for the ultimate South Island experience.

**Rate: NZ\$5,950 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



### DEAN BELL'S TROPHY WILDERNESS RIVERS NEW

*Experiences: Backcountry fly fishing*

Join expert New Zealand guide Dean Bell for a wilderness fly fishing week in Fiordland, New Zealand. Dean is a leader among New Zealand's fly fishing guides with a hard-earned reputation for having some of the best fish-spotting abilities in the country. Working together we have combined some of Dean's favorite local rivers with a backcountry wilderness trip to the spectacular Fiordland National Park. This is a great opportunity to target trophy fish with one of the country's finest guides and get to out of the way places that few anglers will ever see. This trip is limited to two anglers.

**Rates: NZ\$6,200-\$6,800 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

*Walking and stalking a North Island river. Photo: valatkinson.com*





*In terms of scenery and fishing variety, Chile is hard to beat. Photo: Jon Covich*

## CHILEAN PATAGONIA

### PATAGONIAN BASECAMP

Deep within the seldom-visited Aysen Province of Chilean Patagonia, there is a special lodge perfectly suited to anglers looking for remote, off-the-beaten-path fishing. Marcel and Carolina Sijnesael built their dream lodge on the banks of the Rio Palena with a vision to show anglers the secluded beauty and bounty of Patagonia. Here, anglers will fish a wide range of systems from rafts and jetboats targeting wild rainbows and browns. Most of the fish will range from 14 to 20 inches, with 20+-inch fish caught daily, 24+-inch fish caught weekly and a few fish over 30 inches netted each season. In addition to a great lodge experience, Marcel's guests get to overnight at established and well-appointed riverside out-camps, making for a most memorable Chilean adventure.

**Rate: \$6,995 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### LA POSADA DE LOS FARIOS

Rex Bryngelson is one of the early pioneers who came to Chile in search of whitewater and adventure. He discovered incomparable rivers with remarkable fly fishing, a sense of place, true love and his life's work. The end result is La Posada de Los Farios (The Inn of the Brown Trout), located on the banks of the Rio Cisnes.

Here in the heart of Chile's greatest trout fishing region, the options are nearly endless: productive floats on nearby rivers, small technical spring creeks, seldom-fished high country lakes and excursions into remote coastal systems are all near at hand.

La Posada de Los Farios is the ultimate blend of homestyle Chilean hospitality and high-quality fly fishing.

**Rate: \$4,350 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



### REMOTA LODGE

Located near Puerto Natales on the edge of Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Park, this unique resort is a deluxe base for a wide range of activities and adventures. Its modern architecture artistically compliments the stark beauty of the surrounding natural environment. It features 72 well-appointed rooms, a beautiful restaurant overlooking the water, a heated infinity pool, sauna, outdoor Jacuzzi and a full time masseuse.

With the remarkable Torres del Paine National Park serving as the main attraction, the resort offers over 30 different excursions to the surrounding mountains, glaciers, lakes, rivers, forests and prairies. Activities include day hikes, mountain biking, horseback riding, cultural visits and, of course, fly fishing.

For adventuresome couples looking to explore this remote corner of Patagonia in luxury, Remota Lodge is the place.

**Rate: \$5,350 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### FUTALEUFÚ MULTI-SPORT ADVENTURE

The Futaleufú Multi-Sport Adventure is based out of a deluxe riverside camp overlooking the turquoise waters of the famed Futaleufú River. With whitewater rafting, inflatable kayaking, fly fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and yoga, this southern Chile trip has something for just about everyone.

Each day involves a new and customized mix of activities guided by accomplished and talented international outdoor guides. River-based adventures include whitewater rafting the incomparable Futaleufú River, inflatable kayaking the aptly named Rio Azul, fly fishing for rainbow trout, or taking a lesson in whitewater kayaking. Land-based activities include horseback riding, hiking up pristine valleys and mountain biking a mix of established trails and single track. This river paradise, ringed by snowcapped mountains, showcases the best of what Chile has to offer.

**Rate: \$3,800 per person for an 8 night/7 day package**





*The main room at Coyhaique River Lodge. Photo: Coyhaique River Lodge*

## COYHAIQUE RIVER LODGE

Brothers Gaston and Claudio Urrejola may be the most talented, multi-faceted lodge owners we have ever met

Between them they can do virtually anything, including

THE DESTINATION IN CHILE  
THAT ALL OUR GUESTS  
CONSISTENTLY RAVE ABOUT

build a spectacular lodge themselves and turn it into one of the best-run fly fishing and multi-sport lodges in South America.

Set where the rolling foothills reach up towards the Andes, Coyhaique River Lodge is truly spectacular. This area is widely considered Chile's trout fishing mecca and the lodge's program offers a diverse and exciting array of excellent trout fishing opportunities including private-access fishing properties. There are also a wide range of additional outdoor activities like hiking, mountain biking, rafting and horseback riding. With first-class accommodations and meals, a convenient location, a staff that prides itself on superior service and a long list of available angling and adventure options, this beautiful facility sets the standard for premier fly fishing lodges in Chilean Patagonia.

**Rate: \$4,950 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# AUSTRAL KINGS CAMP

In 2013, Alex and Nico Trochine were confident that king salmon fishing in Chile had enormous potential if only they could find the right system. It had to set up well for swinging flies and offer anglers a chance at chrome-bright trophy fish right off the tides. It was a major undertaking, but eventually they found the river that had it all. In 2016 they built a wonderful camp and ran their first season, which proved a great success. Guests stay in a comfortable four person double-occupancy tent camp that offers easy access to the upper beats of this incredible, free flowing river. The majority of fishing is done with two handed rods, both from the boat and while wading. While there tend to be lots of fish, these brutes aren't easy. Catch rates average roughly one fish per person per day with the majority of the fish

**SWING FLIES IN A SPECTACULAR SETTING WHERE THE KING SALMON AVERAGE 30 POUNDS!**

weighing in at the 25 to 50-pound class. For skilled anglers wanting the challenge of big gorgeous fish in an awe-inspiring setting, Austral Kings Camp is the place.

**Rate: \$5,525 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



*A handsome king fresh from Chile's Pacific. Photo: Ken Morrish*





*Evening on the Alumine. Photo: Brian Gies*

## ARGENTINE PATAGONIA

### PATAGONIA RIVER RANCH

Located in the heart of Northern Patagonia's most productive waters, Patagonia River Ranch is arguably the most deluxe, luxurious and refined fishing lodge in all of Patagonia. If after a great day of fishing, you like attention to detail and all the creature comforts, this is the place. Nestled on the banks of the legendary Chimehuin River, guests enjoy world-class trout fishing, an extensive activities program and a service ethos where the word "No" is rarely uttered. In addition to meals prepared by two full-time professional chefs, Patagonia River Ranch has a fully-accredited sommelier and an impressive wine cellar stocked with fine regional wines.

**Rate: \$7,500 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### LIMAY RIVER LODGE NEW

Located in the arid wide-open expanses of the Patagonian flatlands mid-way between Bariloche and Neuquén, the newly constructed Limay River Lodge sits entirely on its own, overlooking what might be the most biologically rich and rewarding trophy trout river in Argentina. The lodge is a handsome adobe-style structure with luxurious guest rooms, exceptional cuisine, and a seasoned staff of professional guides headed by Patagonia guiding legend Jorge Trucco. Anglers fish a vast braided stretch of river with more than 50 miles of water and ten distinct beats in new

Hyde drift boats, spending roughly half their time fishing from the boat and half their time wading. This system is packed with resident rainbows and browns, the vast majority of which are 18 to 22 inches and eager to eat large dry flies. Add to that even larger fish, including huge migratory browns from March through May and you will see why this operation has gotten the attention of the most seasoned South American anglers.

**Rate: \$6,860 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### ALUMINÉ RIVER LODGE NEW

The brand new Aluminé River Lodge is located on a remote and scenic section of the river's Piloilil Canyon. From Aluminé River Lodge guests enjoy numerous float and wade-fishing options on multiple beats of the prolific Aluminé River. Additionally, guests have easy access to the region's other rivers, creeks and lakes such as the Lower Malleo, Quillen, Malalco, Pulmari and Litran systems. The elegant five bedroom lodge is very well appointed and strategically located in a region with lots of angling options and low fishing pressure. Guests can target healthy populations of browns and rainbows from the boat or while wading in addition to taking time off the water to enjoy horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking and a scenic tour of Lanin Volcano and its surrounding lakes.

**Rate: \$5,950 per person for a 7night/6 day package**



### THE ROUTE OF THE SPRING CREEKS

This boutique-style fishing journey combines the best brook and brown trout fishing in southern Patagonia with stays at three traditional family-run Argentine estancias that date back to the late 1800s. Limited to only two rods per week, this intimate program gives anglers the opportunity to fish four completely private and well-rested spring creeks which hold super-sized brook trout in the 2 to 6-pound class. This small homestay-style venue is a treasure within the vast open Patagonian landscape. The Route of the Spring Creeks offers guests a rewarding homespun cultural experience coupled with some of the finest spring creek fishing south of the equator.

**Rate: \$3,995 per person for a 5 night/6 day package**

### CARRILEUFU RIVER LODGE

The newly constructed Carrileufu River Lodge was purpose-built for anglers with all the amenities one would expect from a well-run trout fishing operation. The lodge is conveniently situated near the quaint rural town of Cholila, just outside the northern border of Los Alerces National Park, a park widely considered one of Argentina's most stunning and biologically diverse national treasures. Carrileufu Lodge has access to a vast network of crystalline lakes and rivers including the Carrileufu, Rivadavia, Arrayanes and Chubut rivers. With such a wide variety of water types at their disposal, anglers fish new water each day. Their spectacular post-and-beam main lodge, overlooking the magnificent Carrileufu River valley, offers a relaxed and inviting atmosphere in addition to excellent Argentine cuisine and tasteful double-occupancy accommodations.

**Rate: \$5,600 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**

### NORTHERN PATAGONIA FLOAT TRIPS

Our Patagonia wilderness float trips are all about racking up time on the water. Trips are run on many of the famous rivers in northern Patagonia including the Calefú, Collón Cura, Chimehuin, and Alumine Rivers. These rivers all run through the semi-arid Patagonian Steppe, a region in many ways reminiscent of eastern Oregon and Washington. Trips range from four to six days and cover 20 to 60 miles with deluxe camping along the river each night.

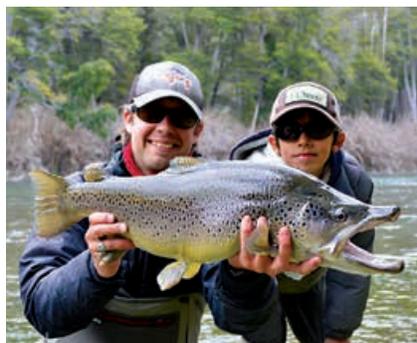
**Rate: \$2,595 per person for a 5 night/4 day package**

### RIO MANSO LODGE

Nestled in the midst of Nahuel Huapi National Park, Rio Manso Lodge and the surrounding waters, ecosystems and bioregions are more reminiscent of Chile than the drier landscapes of Argentina. The National Park is lush, with rainforests and brilliant green rivers. Equally significant is that this region is easy to reach from the thriving hub of Bariloche, yet just far enough away that its stunning fisheries feel secluded.

With great hosts, comfortable accommodations and family-style meals served near a handsome fireplace, this facility is the perfect base from which to enjoy a range of seldom-fished waters. There are multiple downriver floating options as well as great trophy lakes where anglers can sight-fish dry flies to cruising fish.

**Rate: \$4,750 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# SANTA CRUZ PROVINCE

## HOME TO ARGENTINA'S THREE BEST TROPHY RAINBOW DESTINATIONS

by Ken Morrish



*Tight to a trophy mere steps away from Jurassic Lake Lodge. Photo: Jurassic Lake Lodge*

**O**n the barren expanse of the Patagonian Steppe not far from the Argentine mountain hub of El Calafate in Southern Patagonia, a fly fishing miracle is unfolding before us in real time. Why is it only coming to light now, when the rivers and lakes in question have been there for thousands of years? Because only recently have wild trout been introduced into these unique scud-rich ecosystems; ecosystems that miraculously grow trout bigger, fatter and faster than any region we have seen. Today Jurassic Lake Lodge, Capitan Lodge, and Eagle Valley Lodge are living testament to the biological anomaly that has made the southernmost province on the Argentine mainland home to the most productive and accessible trophy rainbow trout fisheries in the world today.

### JURASSIC LAKE

If put on the spot and asked specifically where the most prolific 100 yards of trophy trout water in the world are, my response would be where Argentina's Rio Barrancoso flows into Lago Strobel. The reason being that this enormous lake has only one inlet and no outlet. This makes the mouth of the Rio Barrancoso

of tremendous interest to virtually every fish in the system. If they even think about spawning, they think about the Barrancoso. With so many fish now living in the lake and gorging on an endless supply of scuds, the inlet is used for spawning whenever conditions permit. As a result, hordes of fish, many of which are not staging, regularly cruise in and out the mouth of this miraculous little river.

Not only is this a prolific numbers fishery but Jurassic Lake is also one of the world's premier trophy destinations with plenty of fish over 10, 15 and even 20 pounds. Depending on the time of year, these fish respond to nymphs, streamers and dries, and all the action takes place within a short distance of the lodge.

**Location and Lodge:** Jurassic Lake Lodge sits within stumbling distance of the greatest trout fishing hotspot in the world. This location serves them well and continues to separate this operation from the others on the lake. From the lodge you can easily walk to the lower reaches and mouth of the Barrancoso River as well as to a peninsula which is another proven hot spot. All of the best fishing spots are managed in a beat rotation system to keep the angling opportunities equitable for all and there are several open beats that guests can fish anytime.

---

## SANTA CRUZ PROVINCE

---

The recently remodeled lodge comfortably sleeps ten guests in a combination of eight double and single occupancy rooms. All rooms have a private bath and shower. The main lodge structure has a spacious dining area where excellent meals are served as well as a comfortable lounge area with couches and a craft whiskey and wine bar for guests to enjoy.

**Seasons:** Jurassic Lake Lodge is open from mid-October through April. The lodge fishes incredibly well from mid-October through early January. By some accounts, it is actually too good, due to catch rates that can only be described as ridiculous. As water

temperatures rise in January, the fishing slows considerably until things cool down again in mid-March. This is not to say the fishing is slow during their low season, as multiple fish over ten pounds are expected for each angler each day. As the system cools, the mid-March through April period is considered the second prime-time window, offering some of the biggest, brightest and hottest fish of the season. During their early prime season, the lodge offers full-week packages only but beginning February 1st, the lodge also offers half-week packages.

**Rates: \$5,770-\$6,900 per person for a 7 night/6 ½ day package**



"TODAY JURASSIC LAKE LODGE, CAPITAN LODGE, AND EAGLE VALLEY LODGE ARE LIVING TESTAMENT TO THE BIOLOGICAL ANOMALY THAT HAS MADE THE SOUTHERN-MOST PROVINCE ON THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND HOME TO THE MOST PRODUCTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TROPHY RAINBOW TROUT FISHERIES IN THE WORLD."

---



## CAPITAN LODGE

For anglers interested in the most rugged and diverse trophy rainbow fishery in the Santa Cruz province, Capitan Lodge is the place. Located very near Jurassic Lake (as the crow flies) Capitan Lodge draws the majority of its riches from another huge scud-rich lake named Quiroga. While anglers spend very little time fishing the main lake, its outlet, the Capitan River, is one of the most unique rainbow fisheries in the world. Dropping more than 200 feet per mile, the Capitan is likely the world's steepest trophy trout river and offers a special combination of radical pocket water fishing and sight fishing that is a stand out in the world of fly fishing.

**Seasons and Fishing Programs:** There are two distinct seasons at Capitan Lodge. The early season (November-December) which offers more focused fishing for trophy fish in the outlet of Lago Quiroga and the Rio Capitan, and the main season (January-April) which provides a more varied and rounded angling experience. All beats are within four miles of the lodge and are accessed by either four-wheel-drive truck or a 4x4 side-by-side. In some cases, there will also be a good deal of hiking. This area has been fished by very few anglers and offers lots of fish in the 4 to 10-pound class as well as some fish reaching into the 20-pound class.

**The River:** Capitan Lodge's most unique fishery is the Rio Capitan, which drains the massive Lago Quiroga. Dropping as much as 200 feet per mile, this is the steepest and most unusual pocket water system in the world. This crystal clear river is totally private, physically demanding and fishes well with nymphs and dry flies. It offers three distinct walk and wade beats with large fish hiding in unimaginably small swift pockets. Anglers must be strong hikers to take advantage of these beats.

**Lakes and Lagunas:** The enormous Lago Quiroga produces the region's largest fish, many of which down-migrate into the unique Rio Capitan. Many of these fish are also targeted in the lake's outlet in November and December before they migrate downstream. Additionally, the property has two smaller lakes (lagunas). The favorite, Lago Toro, has a cozy day shelter and incredible walk and wade sight fishing for strong rainbows in the 3 to 10-pound class. Fishing here is like bonefishing where anglers lead cruising fish with well-placed nymphs or dry flies.

**Spring Creeks:** The unsung hero of Capitan Lodge is the petite and productive spring creek that first flows into Lago Toro and later snakes discretely by the lodge. This system is tailor-made for ultra-light fly rods and tenkara style fishing for gorgeous, hard-bodied, surface-oriented, wild rainbows. Recalibrating for this sheltered creek fishing experience is a highlight not to be missed.

**The Estancia:** Capitan Lodge is a warm, welcoming, understated working estancia that features three remodeled double occupancy rooms with private baths. Delicious meals are served in the main

lodge with a spectacular once a week asado served in their neighboring quincho. Guests can share their hors-d'oeuvres with the big trout beneath the spring creek's footbridge, watch the gauchos ride in from their day's work and enjoy fine regional wines. This operation is intimate and authentic and often feels more like a home-stay than your typical fishing lodge. During the first three months of their season, the lodge only offers full-week packages, but beginning February 1st, the lodge offers half-week packages that pair well with Jurassic Lake Lodge.

**Rate: \$6,100 per person for a 7 night/6 ½ day package**

## EAGLE VALLEY LODGE

Eagle Valley Lodge is the newest addition to the treasure trove of Santa Cruz's private walk and wade trophy rainbow fisheries. Located roughly 7.5 hours north of El Calafate by vehicle, Eagle Valley consists of two lakes and a lovely meandering spring creek-like stream connecting them. The upper lake is deep and clear, and its waters flow down through three kilometers of meadow stream into the lower lake which is shallow and colored. Like all the great lakes in the region, both are loaded with scuds enabling their resident trout to reach great sizes in very little time. Fish in the 5 to 10-pound class are common and a few fish over 15-pounds have already been caught.

While both lakes offer areas with excellent hard-bottom wade fishing, the connecting stream is the main draw. This classic meadow stream offers unparalleled sight fishing opportunities for fish in the 5 to 15-pound class, many of which are caught with a moderately short line. For the most part, anglers only need their favorite 6 or 7-weight rod, a floating line and a handful of basic flies. It doesn't get much more straightforward or pleasurable than this! Best yet, this operation offers incredibly easy terrain, and often, anglers will do most of their fishing from the grassy shore, only entering the stream to cross when and if they choose to. The lodge provides two guides to oversee their six to eight guests, as it is easy to keep track of multiple parties in the open terrain. All guides will be true professionals and will speak very acceptable English.

**Seasons and Accommodations:** Eagle Valley is open to anglers from November through March. November through early January is their high season. During this time window big rainbows from both the upper and lower lake stack up in the stream. As the season progresses there are still lots of fish in the creek but not as many as earlier.

The newly purpose-built lodge overlooks the upper lake and is within easy walking distance of the entire fishery. The lodge is very simple and accommodates up to eight guests in four double-occupancy guest rooms, all with attached baths. The lodge has a common lounge and dining area with an open fireplace and serves tasty local and international cuisine paired with fine Argentine wines.

**Rate: \$3,900 per person for a 6 night/5 ½ day package**



*Top: Images from Capitan Lodge. Middle: The meandering and easy to wade river at Eagle Valley Lodge. Bottom: The newly constructed Eagle Valley Lodge and a plump rainbow from its' home waters. Photos: Ken Morrish & Trees Amigos Outfitters*



*The private and incredibly beautiful reaches of the upper Rio Pico. Photo: Bryan Gregson*

## LAS PAMPAS LODGE

Well past the end of the good road where the outermost tendrils of rangeland blend with the rugged snow-capped Andes is a diverse, unique and intriguing angling landscape. This off-the-beaten-path region of Argentina's Chubut province is far beyond the familiar waters surrounding Esquel and San Martin to the north but shy of the harsh steppe country typical of the Santa Cruz province to the south. This area is simply referred to as Rio Pico and it's the setting for Las Pampas Lodge's multi-faceted

WITH A STUNNING LOCATION,  
FRIENDLY LOCAL STAFF AND A DIVERSE  
DRY FLY CENTERED FISHING PROGRAM,  
LAS PAMPAS IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL  
PATAGONIAN LODGE.

and quintessentially Patagonian trout fishing program.

When it comes to available water types, fishing styles and trout species, Las Pampas Lodge may be unbeatable. With a multitude of spring creeks, small

freestone rivers and trophy stillwaters (all within a small radius of the lodge), anglers find an array of rainbow, brown and brook trout fishing options that would take weeks to fully sample. If the lodge-based options aren't enough, anglers can take advantage of a special satellite trophy brook trout camp extension (available during certain times of the season).

This program is featured in the Patagonia clothing company's upcoming film *Finding Fontinalis*, in which the guides at Las Pampas take Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard on an expedition in search of a world-record brook trout.

Their local Argentine staff is dedicated to quality. They work to create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere and truly enjoy making their guests feel like part of their larger family. Its unique and remote location, welcoming atmosphere and multispecies trout fishing program combine to make this a Patagonian classic that should be at the top of your list.

**Rate: \$5,250 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# WORLD'S END LODGE

Relatively unknown to the modern world of traveling anglers, the Irigoyen in southernmost Tierra del Fuego wins top honors for the smallest system with the largest sea-run trout. For trout anglers who enjoy small water, complex woody stream structure, solace from the wind and the chance to land multiple brown trout in the 10 to 20-pound class on their favorite 7-weight rod, no other system even comes close. It's not a river for big numbers, but every fish hooked here will challenge your skill and perseverance.

Located 110 miles south of Rio Grande on the island of Tierra de Fuego, the Irigoyen River runs approximately 28 miles from source to sea. Starting as a mountain stream, it tumbles and winds its way through wooded transition zones before meandering through several miles of structurally rich, low gradient pools and an interesting tidal reach. Four guests enjoy charming, simple, single-occupancy cabins and a main dining cabin perched on a hillside overlooking the river. Their

ARGENTINA'S MOST  
INTIMATE AND UNIQUE  
SEA TROUT VENUE

season runs from late December through March and this trip can easily be paired with other Argentine angling adventures.

**Rates: \$5,790-\$6,290 per person for a**

**7 night/6 day package**



*The intimate and rewarding Irigoyen River. Photo: Brian Gies*





*Nils Rinaldi with a hefty sea trout from Estancia Despedida. Photo: Ken Morrish*

## ESTANCIA DESPEDIDA

Longtime Fly Water Travel favorite Estancia Despedida embodies many of the characteristics we value most in a lodge: a small number of weekly guests, colorful hands-on owner operators, great Argentine guides and a genuine desire to spend long hours on the water. Limited to six anglers per week, Despedida is situated close to their

**SMALL, UNASSUMING AND STRATEGICALLY LOCATED ON THE BEST POOLS OF THE WORLD'S MOST PROLIFIC SEA TROUT SYSTEM**

fishing grounds, which the locals refer to as *corazon del rio*, or “the heart of the river.” In this section of the Rio Grande, sandwiched conveniently between two key tributaries, Ona and Menendez, the question is never “if the runs hold fish,” but rather “how many, how big and how willing.”

At its core, Estancia Despedida is a family-run operation with an intimate atmosphere that permeates every aspect of the place. Danny and Helen Lajous have been hosting fishermen on the Rio Grande for roughly two decades. With a very high return rate, guests at Despedida appreciate the incredibly warm and genuine hospitality that comes from the Lajous family and their dedicated team of professionals. The most distant pools on the ranch are only minutes from the lodge, minimizing drive times and maximizing time spent on the water.

For hardcore anglers who appreciate long hours on the water and a great value, Despedida delivers!

**Rate: \$6,495 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



# LAS BUITRERAS LODGE

Just north of the Strait of Magellan in south-easternmost Argentina flows the lovely and incomparable Rio Gallegos River. For many a seasoned rod, this lovely low-gradient system and the charming Las Buitreras lodge that serves it represent the pinnacle sea trout experience. The international and eclectic cast of anglers that visit the lodge are essentially the only anglers on the entire system. Add to that huge beats of well-rested water, incredible wildlife, some of Argentina's most skilled guides and a chance at some of the largest and best-fighting sea trout in the world and you will start to understand the loyalty of the river's many followers.

As the only lodge on the river, the 290,000-acre Estancia Las Buitreras has private access to over 24 miles of river (on both sides) with 50 named pools. The lodge itself is full of rustic charm and modern conveniences. It features seven comfortable rooms, a large veranda, a spacious, wind-protected courtyard, a fully stocked beer and wine bar and a beautiful covered terrace complete with a stone grill where they host their weekly Argentine *asado*.

The spectacular beauty of the Gallegos watershed is other-worldly and the likelihood is high that you might find yourself

THE MOST SOPHISTICATED,  
SUBLIME AND SECLUDED  
SEA TROUT FISHERY  
IN ARGENTINA

fishing alongside silver foxes, guanacos, rheas, flamingos and wild horses. Fishing for the mighty sea run browns of the Rio Gallegos can be very challenging but also incredibly rewarding. Together with the highly skilled and experienced guides of Las Buitreras, the warm charm of the Argentinean culture and the extreme beauty of this pristine and unpressured system, you're assured to have the angling adventure of a lifetime.

**Rates: \$5,990-\$6,490 per person for a 7 night/6 day package**



*Sunset on the beautiful Rio Gallegos. Photo: Stephan Gian Dumbaj Jr.*



# LOS PLATEADOS



## THE MIRACLE OF ARGENTINA'S ATLANTIC STEELHEAD

*By Ken Morrish*

*Juan Carlos Moreno briefly hoists a Santa Cruz steelhead. Photo Tres Amigos Outfitters*

For more than 20 years anglers have been chasing the mysterious steelhead of southern Argentina's vast, sweeping, blue-gray Rio Santa Cruz. It has never been an easy, high catch rate proposition but recently the river has entered a new era where it is finally well enough understood to make a dedicated trip here a truly worthy world-class steelhead adventure.

To say that the first ten years of exploring the Santa Cruz were tough would be an understatement. Several outfitters scouted the river and some even set up shop, but it was hard to keep the beds filled as the river hoarded its secrets, making the system far more enigmatic than consistent. Roughly 11 years ago a group of very experienced steelheaders from BC floated the entire 240-mile river and were humbled. The type of water that they had been trained to sniff out was rare at best. The Santa Cruz was simply built from an entirely unique and often confounding template. The experienced sea trout guides from the Rio Grande and Gallegos were also met with very modest results. Accordingly, it earned a reputation as a tough nut, and to some degree, faded from the radar of traveling anglers.

Between 2007 and 2013 Loop Tackle invested considerable time and energy on the most promising section of the river. They enlisted many of their best guides from the Gallegos to

learn the most promising section of river 50 to 75 miles upstream of the Atlantic. This was a very fruitful time period and catch rates climbed steeply, but still, the set-up was imperfect with long drives from an awkward estancia to the river. This program was also abandoned, and the river lay fallow except for the continued personal fishing of some dedicated guides like longtime Las Buitreras head guide and manager Claudio Martin. Claudio had seen too much great fishing there to let the dream of the perfect South American steelhead lodge die on the vine. Accordingly, he and his business partners at Tres Amigos Outfitters Juan Manuel Biott and Diego "Pollo" Coscia pushed forward with the building of Los Plateados Lodge; the ultimate four-person mini-lodge. Set in a strategic waterfront location on the lower reaches of the Santa Cruz's best section, this modest and intimate set up will be the first to stand the test of time on this remarkable river.

### A UNIQUE ANGLING EXPERIENCE

While there are a great many appealing and productive steelhead rivers in the world, the argument for Argentina's mighty Rio Santa Cruz being far and away the most unique is near bulletproof. The reasons are many; its massive size, the harsh

---

## LOS PLATEADOS

---

and surreal Dali-esque landscape through which it flows, the subtlety of its lies and structure and the trump card that it is the only true Atlantic steelhead return in the world. We have no real idea as to how many fish it holds, but what we do know is that it is a consistent and viable system that might possibly be the last major river to be added to the cannon of steelhead classics. Like many steelhead rivers, the fish here average 9 to 10 pounds but there are also plenty of fish in the 15 to 20-pound class. Anglers tend to have several encounters per day and average about one quality fish landed a day.

I have often said that all anglers who make the effort to reach the Rio Santa Cruz should get a merit badge. It might be called "Global Steelhead Citizenship," and it would acknowledge the fact that anglers had traveled far, waded deep, fought the wind and cast long into what is likely the largest and most cryptic steelhead river they have set foot in. The Santa Cruz's steelhead are clean, heavy-shouldered specimens free of net scars and they are intercepted roughly 50-miles into a 250-mile journey when they are as bright and beautiful as any steelhead in the world. The joy of the Santa Cruz is making it work and feeling the line draw tight in lies that would have literally taken years to find on one's own.

### FISHING PROGRAM

Los Plateados Lodge fishes four different beats with a total of 30 named pools. Using trucks and zodiac-style boats with outboards, guests will rotate through the different beats to fish the most productive pools and runs. A typical day at Los Plateados starts early and ends late. Anglers head to the river following an

early breakfast, fish until mid-day, take in a riverside lunch and fish into the evening hours before returning to the lodge for a late dinner. All guides speak excellent English and are talented instructors, casters and anglers. The core team is known as Tres Amigos (Claudio, Pollo, and Juan Manuel) and they have spent years guiding the Gallegos as well as a host of other systems in the Santa Cruz province, including Jurassic Lake. Guides will rotate among paired anglers, giving guests the opportunity to fish with multiple guides throughout their stay.

If you are one who often longs for the old days when there were no crowds and still secrets to uncover in the steelhead world, don't miss the opportunity to fish this remarkable river... because, as time will prove, today will soon become the good old days of the mighty Rio Santa Cruz.

### NOTES

**Travel:** Guests fly from Buenos Aires south to the city of Rio Gallegos and are transferred by truck three hours north to the lodge

**Season:** Mid-March through early May

**Capacity:** Four anglers

**Essential Tackle:** A 13-foot 8-weight rod with a floating Skagit head and 12 feet of T14 is about all one needs

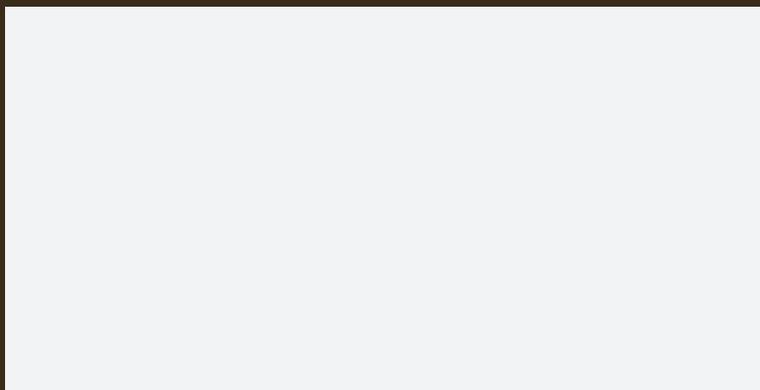
**Top Flies:** Flies are very similar to the larger ones we fish in the PNW and BC. Three to four-inch flies that have good motion are great. Blue with black and blue with purple are great color combinations for the Santa Cruz. Pink is an excellent change-up color.

**Rate:** \$4,990 per person for a 6 night/6 day package



# FLY WATER TRAVEL

479 RUSSELL STREET #103  
ASHLAND, OR 97520



1-800-552-2729 · [WWW.FLYWATERTRAVEL.COM](http://WWW.FLYWATERTRAVEL.COM)