

YELLOW DOG FLYFISHING ADVENTURES

ALASKA

TRIP PLANNING AND TRAVEL GUIDE





*The most trusted name in fishing travel,
booking the world's finest fishing destinations.*

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INTRODUCTION TO ALASKA

STATE CAPITAL:

Juneau

POPULATION:

737,438

LAND SIZE:

Approx. 656,425 sq. mi.

STATE ANIMAL:

Moose

STATE BIRD:

Willow Ptarmigan

STATE FISH:

King Salmon

STATE MOTTO:

“North to the Future”

SIZE RANKING GEOGRAPHICALLY:

1st Largest in U.S.

TIME:

Alaskan Standard Time



ABOUT ALASKA

On January 3, 1959, President Eisenhower signed the official declaration which made Alaska the 49th state. Since then, Alaska has been nicknamed both “The Land of the Midnight Sun” and “The Great Land”. Covering over 371 million acres, Alaska contains one-fifth the total land mass of the lower-48. This great state also contains more than half of America’s national park land, more that 80% of America’s national wildlife refuge land, and over 100,000 glaciers.

Alaskan salmon species have provided countless jobs for the region, along with a sport fishery that is rivaled by no other state in the Union. The incredible sportfishing that can be found in Alaska revolves entirely around the salmon, making it one of the most valuable aquatic resources in this part of the world.

FISHING LICENSES

To legally fish in Alaska you must first purchase a valid fishing license. All residents and non-residents age 16 or older must purchase and possess a sport fishing license to participate in Alaska sport and personal use fisheries. In addition, a king salmon stamp is required to fish for king salmon during the months of June and early July. These laws apply in both fresh and marine waters.

Alaskan fishing licenses and king salmon stamps can be purchased at most fly shops and outdoor stores, or before your trip on-line at the Alaskan Department of Fish and Game.



WADERS AND WADING BOOTS

If you are planning on bringing your own waders and boots for your Alaska fishing trip, you will need to make sure you bring the rubber-soled (stream-tread type) boots for your trip. As of the summer of 2012, Alaska has banned the use of felt soled wading boots! This policy is designed to help prevent the spread of whirling disease and the introduction of other aquatic invasive species and diseases. You will also want to make sure that your rubber-soled wading boots are unstudded, as they can damage the jet boats and float planes you will be utilizing during each day of fishing.

If you do not want to buy new boots for your Alaska trip, then please contact Yellow Dog. Many of our Alaska lodges and outfitters can provide you with waders and wading boots to use during your stay.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The weather in Alaska can vary greatly throughout the summer months. In June and July one can typically expect high temperatures in the 60s and 70s, with lows in the 50s. This time of year provides some of the clearest and sunniest days of the summer. As August and September roll around, the high temperatures peak in the low 70s, with lows hovering in the high 40s to low 50s. When moving into mid-September it is not uncommon to have frost in the mornings with high temperatures in the 50s.

Southern Alaska is known for large low pressure systems that roll in from the Bering Sea. When these big lows come in, it is possible to see several days of rain, so always be prepared with quality rain gear.

The best advice that we can offer when it comes to packing for and preparing for the weather in Alaska is to bring very high-quality rain gear and pack a lot of layers. Fleece and capilene are great, as they allow you to add and subtract layers as the weather and temperatures change throughout the day.



INSECT REPELLENT & SUNSCREEN

Being so far north in Alaska, the sun shines all day and night during the summer, so you can expect to be under the rays for up to 18 hours a day. A high SPF sunscreen is recommended for long fishing days.

Mosquitos and gnats are quite prevalent throughout most of Alaska and can at times be extremely fierce. All lodges in Alaska encourage anglers to bring insect repellent that contains some form of DEET, since in Alaska, citronella and other repellants will not work. We highly recommend "Ultrathon" insect repellent from 3M or Ben's 100% Deet.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRISTOL BAY REGION



The Bristol Bay region - an incredibly remote area of Alaska - is one of the most productive fisheries in the world. Along the banks of the Naknek River and in other areas, the region contains the archeological remains of hunting and fishing camps dating as far back as 4,000 B.C. Even today, hunting and fishing are the life-blood for the residents of this area. Since its initial settlement by the Athabascan Indians, Central Yup'ik Eskimos, and Sugpiaq (Aleut-Russian) Eskimos, the area has always been a place where natives could support themselves solely on the abundant natural resources.

In 1818, the first Russian traders arrived in Bristol Bay, bringing commerce and settlers to this virtually unexplored area. Two years later, the first Russian settlement was established, and in 1841, a Russian Orthodox Mission was built on the banks of the Nushagak River near the present day settlement of Dillingham. The Russians thoroughly explored the region and maintained dominance in the area until the U.S. purchase of Alaska in 1867. At that time, U.S. interests were directed primarily at the fur and fishery potential of the region and in 1883, the first of many salmon canneries in Bristol Bay were opened.

Today thousands of commercial fisherman converge on the area every summer, making fishing the most important industry for the region. From this lucrative fishing industry, the Bristol Bay Borough was incorporated as the state's first borough in 1962. The area has survived economically through commercial fishing, fish processing, government jobs, and transportation services.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

Over the years, we have learned one very important lesson about destination fly fishing trips. The more time you spend preparing for your trip prior to departure, the more you improve your odds for a successful and enjoyable angling adventure. The following thoughts and suggestions will help:

- 1 Do yourself a favor and use the gear and fly lists** contained in this packet. We have spent years creating and fine-tuning these lists to ensure that our clients travel with the right type and right amount of equipment that is applicable and relevant to their destination.
- 2 Practice your casting!** Anglers who are proficient on their local brook trout stream with a 4-weight often times don't realize that casting a heavy 6 or 7-weight all day is a different game altogether. Practice with your Alaskan rod and reel set-ups prior to your departure. For best results, pick a stormy day and practice casting both into and across the wind.
- 3 Check your ID and travel documents** to make sure that everything is valid and up-to-date. Don't wait until you arrive at the airport to find out that your license is expired! Also be sure that your identification is not torn, damaged or delaminated. Be sure to bring your credit cards, travel itinerary and an ATM card as well.
- 4 Try to carry on rods, reels, sunglasses, a pair of fishing clothes, a handful of flies, and other items** that will allow you to fish for a day or two in the event that your checked luggage is lost or delayed. If your bags are delayed by the airlines, this is something that can literally save your fishing trip! In the event of lost luggage, the lodge should be able to help with equipment.



AIRLINE AND PACKING INFORMATION

TRAVELING TO ALASKA

Numerous major airlines service Anchorage, Alaska, the gateway to the Bristol Bay region and western Alaska. Some lodges provide direct flights from Anchorage to the lodge, which may be included in your overall package. For other operations, you will need to fly from Anchorage to either Dillingham, Iliamna, Petersburg, Sitka, Wrangell, Bethel or King Salmon via Alaska Airlines, Pen-Air or Ravn Air. Unless you are traveling from the west coast of the U.S. you will often-times need to overnight in Anchorage the day before your trip begins. It is best to arrive in

arrival day no later than 3:00 PM in order to transfer to your final destination. You will be met at the airport and then driven a short distance to the nearest waterway to be transferred via floatplane. Please contact Yellow Dog for specific arrival times into your final Alaskan destination.

If you are handling your flight reservations on your own, please let us know your arrival and departure details as soon as possible (no later than 30 days before traveling to Alaska) so we can coordinate local air transfers and ground transportation. We understand that many people prefer to book airfare directly on-line. It is always a good idea to do so in order to compare ticket prices and shop for airfare deals.

When packing for a trip and traveling long distances, everyone pretty much agrees that less is more — except when it comes to fly fishing trips! When traveling to your final destination in Alaska, there is a high likelihood that you will be flying at least two separate legs, possibly more. Because of this, we highly recommend that you carry-on your fly rods and a small gear bag (that can double as your boat bag) containing such valuable items as your reels, sunglasses, camera, travel papers and other important fishing items. In addition – if room allows – you may want to carry your personal toiletries kit, a jacket, hat, and a pair of socks and a set of mid-weight fishing clothes. That way, if your checked luggage is lost or delayed for a day or two, you will at least be able to fish until it arrives.

You will definitely want to pack items such as large flies, large hooks, fly tying tools, pliers, forceps, hook sharpeners, pocket knives, nippers and other tools in your checked baggage. Doing this will avoid the trouble of having these items taken from you at a TSA security checkpoint. If all of your flights are with the same airline, you should be able to check your luggage all the way through to Anchorage, Dillingham, Iliamna, King Salmon, Bethel or Southeast Alaska. If you plan on overnighing in Anchorage, you will need to pick up your luggage and recheck your bags the following day. Again, we highly recommend you carry-on fishing “essentials” and all items necessary to survive for one or two days in the event that your bags are delayed.

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT FLY SHOP TO PURCHASE GEAR FOR ALASKA?

Yellow Dog has always supported specialty fly fishing retailers and we always suggest that you buy your equipment from a legitimate, first-rate fly shop. Take our detailed equipment list to your local shop and they will help you select the right gear for your Alaska fishing adventure. One of our highest priorities is making sure

that our customers are prepared and properly outfitted for every fishing destination. Being prepared will make all the difference in your upcoming Alaskan trip! If you need advice on where to purchase quality gear, contact Yellow Dog or check out our list of suggested retailers on-line.

ANCHORAGE ACCOMMODATIONS

Due to airline schedules, many lodge trips require at least one overnight stay in Anchorage. If you find yourself in this situation, then Yellow Dog will be more than happy to assist you with accommodations and hotel reservations for your stay in the city. If you prefer to handle these details on your own, then please be sure to send Yellow Dog a copy of your hotel information along with all relevant details. This will enable us to coordinate continuing flights and in-state transfers. We recommend the following hotels in the Anchorage area:



Marriott Anchorage Airport (\$)

4901 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK 99517
(907) 245-0322

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-deals/ancy-courtyard-anchorage-airport/>

Less than a 5 minute drive from the international airport and Lake Hood, the Marriott is convenient, comfortable and a more affordable option that we recommend here at Yellow Dog. For anyone who is looking for a place to overnight in between flights to/from the interior, this is a great option to consider

The Lake Front Hotel Anchorage (\$\$)

4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK 99517-3236
(907) 243-2300

www.millenniumhotels.com/en/anchorage/the-lakefront-anchorage

Situated on the shores of scenic Lake Hood, the Millennium is one mile from Anchorage International Airport and four miles from downtown Anchorage. They offer 24-hour free shuttle service to and from the airport, as well as a full restaurant and bar.

Hotel Captain Cook (\$\$\$)

939 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage AK, 99501
(907) 276-6000 OR (800) 843-1950

<http://captaincook.com/>

Alaska's Hotel Captain Cook is Anchorage's only true luxury hotel. Located in what is now the bustling hub of America's gateway to the Pacific Rim, the Hotel Captain Cook caters to the international traveler, dignitary, business and leisure traveler with the service and meticulous attention to detail for which the hotel is famous.

CONTINUING FLIGHTS AND IN-STATE DETAILS

ARRIVAL IN DILLINGHAM, ILIAMNA OR KING SALMON, ALASKA

Connecting flights from Anchorage to Dillingham, Iliamna, and King Salmon are about 1-2 hours in duration. Upon arrival you will be greeted by a lodge representative who is easily identifiable. These regional airports are extremely small, so meeting your lodge representative is never a problem. Once your luggage arrives in the terminal, it will be transferred directly to a lodge-owned plane, or to a van for the final travel portion of your trip to the lodge.

TRAVEL FROM SEATTLE TO CHROME CHASERS

Anglers traveling to Chrome Chasers will fly from Seattle into the small coastal town of Wrangell, Alaska. While in route, your flight may make a stop in Ketchikan to drop off passengers then continue on to Wrangell. Upon arrival to Wrangell, you will be met by a Chrome Chasers representative who will help you load your gear into a truck and take you to the lodge.

TRAVEL FROM ANCHORAGE TO SANDY RIVER LODGE

Sandy River Lodge will charter a private flight from Anchorage directly to the lodge airstrip on the Aleutian Peninsula. Flights will typically depart from the Anchorage domestic airport, which is a different location than the international complex that all major airline carriers fly in to! The flight typically stops in King Salmon or Dillingham for a quick break and re-fuel before flying to the peninsula. Estimated flight time is 2-3 hours. Please speak with Yellow Dog to discuss exact flight times.

TRAVEL FROM ANCHORAGE TO QUINHAGAK (ALASKA WEST TENT LODGE)

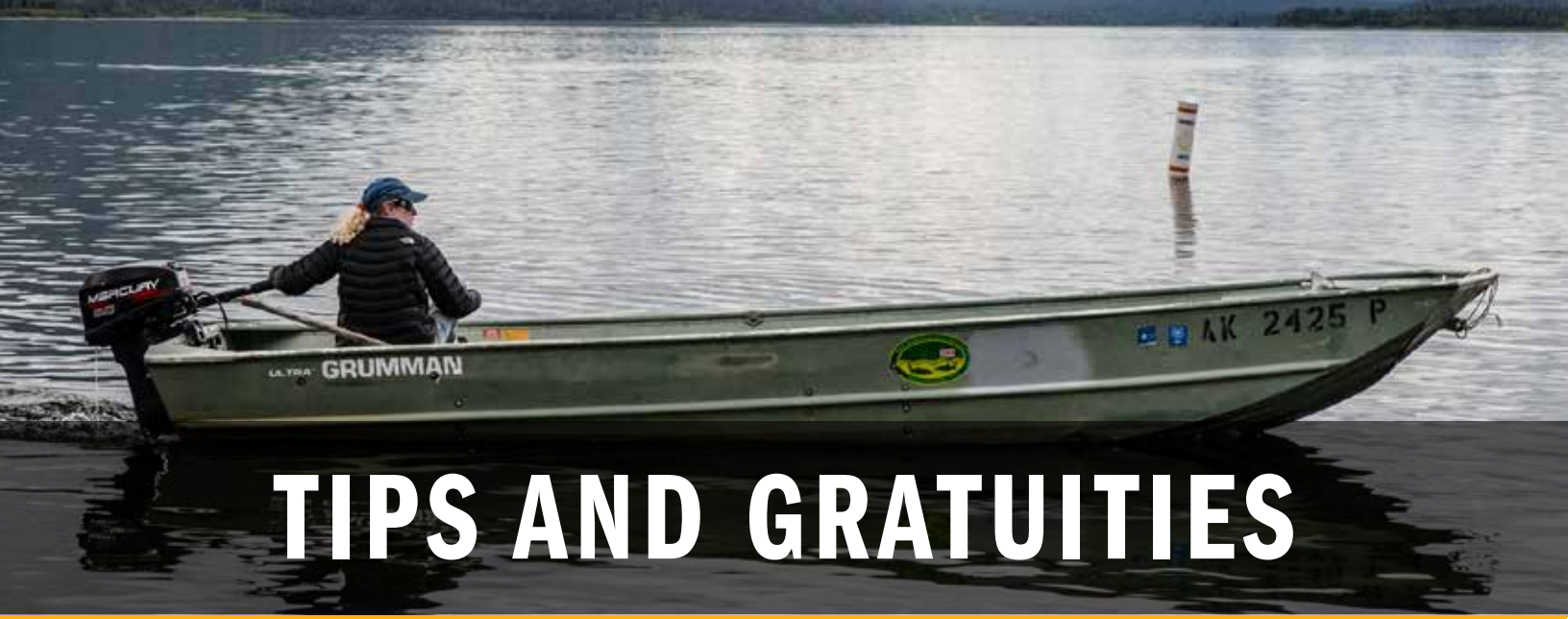
If your final destination is Alaska West Tent Lodge, you will overnight in Anchorage before taking a private charter to Bethel that is arranged by Alaska West, and operated by Ravn Air. The flight takes less than 2 hours and costs approximately \$850 per person, round trip. The charter flight leaves Anchorage at 7:35 am on Sundays and returns to Anchorage at 4:00 p.m. on the following Sunday, weather permitting. Guests traveling back from Alaska West on the charter should schedule connecting flights to leave Anchorage no earlier than 8:00 pm. To check in with Ravn Alaska, be at the ticket counter no later than 6:30 a.m. on your departure day. Bags will be checked at the ticket counter, and we request that travelers arrive with no more than 100 pounds of baggage for the flight to camp. When you arrive in Bethel you will board another charter flight that will take you to Quinhagak. Upon arrival in Quinhagak, you will be met by an Alaska West representative who will take you to the camp by boat. The boat ride to camp is roughly 25 minutes.

TRAVEL FROM ANCHORAGE TO KULIK, BROOKS AND GROSVENOR LODGES

After overnighting in Anchorage, these trips begin when you board a Katmai Air Pilatus P-C 12 private air charter. The Katmai Air main office is located on Anchorage's Lake Hood, adjacent to the Anchorage International Airport. Check-in time for your flight is one hour prior to your departure time. For your return Katmai Air flight back to Anchorage, you will depart the lodge with arrival back at the Katmai Air main office. Upon arrival you will be shuttled directly to the main terminals of the Anchorage International Airport for your domestic return flight, or to a local hotel if you are once again overnighting in Anchorage.

TRAVEL FROM ANCHORAGE TO ALASKA SPORTSMAN'S LODGE, AND NO SEE UM LODGE

Upon arrival in Anchorage, you will typically have to overnight in order to make an early private charter flight to the lodge the following morning. Your fishing trip to Alaska Sportsman's Lodge or No See Um Lodge begins when you board a private charter flight for the village of Igiugig or King Salmon. You will depart from the Anchorage Airport on TransNorthern Aviation or on a Katmai Air Charter plane. Once you have landed into Igiugig or King Salmon, you will be met by lodge representatives who will transfer you to the lodge by van or float plane that will fly you to your final destination. Contact Yellow Dog for more details and information.



TIPS AND GRATUITIES

When it comes to client conversations and pre-trip preparation here at Yellow Dog, we get more questions relating to tips and gratuities than just about anything else. It is important to understand that gratuities for guides and staff are not included in any Yellow Dog trip packages. Tips are completely at the discretion of the client and there is no “set” amount that you are required to leave at the end of your trip.

You may want to have a “general idea” of your tip amounts prior to leaving for your trip, and always plan on paying in cash. One suggestion is to place the amount that you plan on tipping into a sealed envelope to bring with you. That way, you’ll already have the tip “set aside” and will not end up spending it, losing it, or running out of cash before the end of your trip. If you want to tip more or tip less, however, that is completely up to you.

TIPPING YOUR FISHING GUIDES AND LODGE STAFF

Most lodges in Alaska “pool” tips between all members of the staff, making it possible for you to only tip once at the very end of the trip. These tips are then divided equally between guides, pilots, chefs, housekeepers and lodge staff. The tipping standard generally falls somewhere between **10% - 15%** of the total package cost of the trip. (Commercial flights are not included in the total cost of the trip, so instead base this on the lodge and fishing portion of the trip). The lodge manager will be happy to assist you with this part of your trip and distribute the gratuities to the lodge employees appropriately.

There may be times when you will experience a large amount of extra effort on the part of a single guide, or have an incredible day of fishing where a direct personal guide tip may be appropriate. This is entirely at your discretion. Prior to heading out for your Alaska trip, feel free to ask us about the specific tipping guidelines for the lodge or camp that you are visiting. We have been to all of them, and we can give you a pretty specific idea of what kind of tip you should consider leaving. Keep in mind that cash tips are always appreciated. Plan for this prior to your departure, as many of the lodges cannot accept credit cards.



EXAMPLE #1
TIP AMOUNT FOR A STANDARD
7 NIGHT / 6 FISHING DAY PACKAGE
TOTAL PACKAGE COST = \$8000
TOTAL TIP BASED ON 10%: +/- \$800

EXAMPLE #2
TIP AMOUNT FOR A STANDARD
7 NIGHT / 6 FISHING DAY PACKAGE
TOTAL PACKAGE COST = \$5000
TOTAL TIP BASED ON 12%: +/- \$600

TEN SECRETS FOR A GREAT TRIP TO ALASKA



When planning and preparing for any freshwater trip, it is important that you arrive with the right equipment, the right amount of practice and – most importantly – the right expectations! Having booked and organized thousands of trips to the freshwater over the years, we've compiled a few key pieces of advice that can help make your upcoming fishing adventure great.

1

Freshwater fly fishing is not easy.

Regardless of how much you may spend on a trip, nothing is guaranteed when it comes to hooking and landing fish. Trout - especially those in clear, skinny waters - are by nature very spooky, hyper-alert fish. Fooling these fish into eating an artificial fly is always a challenge, even on the best of days.

2

Every fish that you catch is special.

That may sound like a bad Hallmark card, but it's absolutely true. Whether you're landing your first rainbow trout on a fly or finally catching a trophy King Salmon, take a moment to appreciate every fish that comes your way. Always remember where you are and why you are there! With that kind of mind-set, you can't help but enjoy your trip, regardless of the weather, the size, or the number of fish caught.

3

Keep calm and carry on.

Remember that no one wants you to catch fish more than your guide (and all of us here at Yellow Dog). Even if things are tough and the conditions seem to be working against you, remember that your guide is doing his best to hook you up with fish and help you enjoy your experience.

4

Relax and have fun.

Have fun and learn to accept the occasional blown cast, tangled line, and lost fish. The more you stress out, the more likely you are to continue making mistakes and having problems. It is no coincidence that the most laid-back, easy-go-lucky anglers are always the ones that seem to catch the most fish and have the most fun.

5

Protect yourself with trip insurance.

Cover your bases with a simple and easy trip insurance policy. While you may buy a policy and never need it, if and when you do, it will be the best money that you've ever spent! If you do have to cancel your trip at the last minute, a good policy will reimburse everything. Contact Yellow Dog for more information.

6

Practice your casting.

Break out the trout rods and practice your casting before you head to Alaska. Practice your casting, and then practice, practice and practice some more. No matter how good your guide is, how aggressive the fish are feeding, and how perfect the conditions are, you're still going to struggle to catch fish if you can't deliver the fly or make the cast.

7

Make the most of where you are.

Take some time to learn about the area, the people, and the history of the waters you're fishing. Yes, you're there to fish, and we all appreciate long days on the water and a focused fishing mentality. That said, the greatest thing about destination angling is the places that it takes us! Fish tend to live in beautiful places. Try to remember that.

8

Remember, fish don't always eat.

Sometimes, when the fishing is tough, we need to remember this. You can have perfect water conditions, the best guide, great light, ideal water temperatures, and all of the planets in perfect alignment, and still the fish may not eat. Why? Well, think of fish as being similar to people. We don't eat all day: only when we're hungry. When this happens, hang in there. Sooner or later, the fish will get hungry again.

9

Be realistic about your trip length.

If you have only booked a weekend trip with two days on the water, understand that weather and tough conditions can make for frustrating fishing. Longer trips mean a greater chance of good conditions – at least on some of the days!

10

Listen to your guide.

Finally, listen to your guide. Chances are good that they know a thing or two about their waters and their fish. Listen to the advice and instructions of the professional that you're paying!



THE FISHING CONDITIONS IN THE BRISTOL BAY REGION

The Bristol Bay region of Alaska contains thousands of miles of freshwater rivers, countless lakes and ponds, and more tidal water than you could fish in a lifetime. Each summer, this plethora of water provides millions of returning salmon fertile and safe spawning grounds. With all five species of Pacific salmon returning each year to Alaska, the angling opportunities are limitless. Dependant on the salmon are the trout, char, and grayling populations — species which would not exist in the Alaskan ecosystem if it were not for the incredible annual salmon returns. Since the Bristol Bay region of Alaska is sparsely inhabited by humans, these fisheries enjoy a high level of protection, and anglers are provided with a truly wild and remote fishing experience.

To obtain access to these remote fishing grounds, each day will most likely consist of an airplane and/or boat ride. Most Alaskan lodges will fly you out in the morning from the lodge (typically a 15-45 minute trip) to meet boats that have been “staged” throughout a particular region. After arriving at a chosen lake or river, you will usually transfer to a boat for a full day of fishing. At some operations, a popular alternative to this scenario is a walk-and-wade excursion, where you are dropped off via floatplane and set afoot for the day.

When fishing from a boat, one can expect to cover miles of river in a single day. Most of the guide boats in Alaska are powered by a jet-propulsion motor system, allowing guides to access the upper regions and shallow braids of the numerous river systems throughout the region. Aluminum boats with jet motors typically draw only four to five inches

of water while running, and are a comfortable, dry, and safe way to navigate the waters of Alaska. Once you arrive at the given stretch of water, anglers can expect to either drift and fish directly from the boat, or slowly wade and thoroughly fish certain sections that hold large numbers of fish. Often times when fishing from the boat, you will routinely stop to fish a particular hole or run before continuing on to the next “sweet spot.”

If wading without a boat, your day may consist of a few miles of walking and sight casting to large fish. One can expect a variety of conditions on a typical Alaskan wading adventure, from walking through “spongy” tundra fields, to bushwhacking through thick brush to hit countless bends on an untouched stream snaking it’s way through the Alaskan wilderness. When on a walk-wade trip, you can expect river conditions that are conducive to wading. Most waters are easy to wade, great for sight casting, and — most importantly — are fly friendly.

If you would like to target one particular type of fish or fish one particular style or method, then it is important to discuss these desires and expectations with your guide — preferably the night before you head out. Conditions are constantly changing in Alaska, as different species of salmon move in to freshwater at different times of the summer. Trout conditions will also change dramatically over the summer based on where the salmon are in their life cycles. Always discuss current conditions and opportunities with your guide, and plan your fishing from there!

NON-ANGLING ACTIVITIES

For non-anglers accompanying anglers, or those looking to take a day off from fishing, there are boat tours, wildlife viewing, kayaking, nature hikes, scenic plane rides and more that are available at many lodges. If you are interested in organizing a trip or participating in these activities during your visit, please let us know prior to your departure.

Extending your Alaskan vacation to visit some of the area’s popular parks and other natural attractions is a possibility, and highly recommended if time allows. Each lodge has a complete line-up of different activities that they offer aside from fishing. We will be happy to give you a list of options specific to your destination.

THE FISH SPECIES OF ALASKA

Alaska offers fishing for all five species of Pacific salmon, along with some of the best rainbow trout fishing found anywhere in the world. Anglers can also expect to target Arctic char, Dolly Varden, lake trout, grayling, and northern pike. All of these species can be targeted and caught on a fly throughout the Alaskan summer season.

KING (CHINOOK) SALMON



The largest of the Pacific salmon, Kings average between 20-25 pounds, with big fish often times exceeding the 50 pound mark. With the arrival of the Kings in freshwater around the second week of June — a run that will usually continue until late July — anglers enjoy a large window in which to target these large predators of the Pacific. Their size alone makes them the region's most heavily pursued species of salmon. However, Kings can also be the most difficult species to catch on a fly because they typically travel in the deeper channels of a river versus the slower-moving edges and banks. Although this can present a challenge, opportunities to hook these fish do exist. On larger rivers, fishing for Kings takes place in the sloughs and backwaters, and on the “flats” of a river. The flats are areas of a river that actually become islands as the water drops. When submerged, these flats offer Kings a great area to rest against strong currents. In smaller tidal rivers, Kings are much more accessible with a fly rod due to shallower water and a lack of deep channels. On many stretches of water, it is entirely possible to sightcast to these big fish — picking your target and working your fly in front of a fish in the hopes of generating a take.

SILVER (COHO) SALMON



Because of their affinity for hitting top water flies and their incredible acrobatics when hooked, silvers are considered by many anglers to be the most desirable salmon on a fly rod. As they enter their native rivers to spawn, these fish are often found in large pods and — when the conditions are right — are perfect for sight-fishing. Silvers are by far the most aggressive of the Pacific salmon, with their ferocious nature often times making them an easy target. In the later part of the Alaskan summer, anglers can almost always find fresh Silvers just in from the salt — voracious fish eager to eat a popper, a pollywog, or any other type of skated surface pattern. If the surface fishing is slow or the fish are simply not looking up, then the primary way to target these fish is with large, brightly colored streamers. Proven colors for silver salmon are hot pink, orange, purple and chartreuse. The flies can be one solid color with a small amount of flash, or they can be a mixture of two or more bright and gaudy colors. Unless the fish are streaming up by the hundreds, your guide will most likely move you around to several pods of fish in a number of different holding areas. Typically, an angler can hook two or three fish out of a pod before they become wary and refuse to hit. For that reason, finding new fish on a regular basis is important.

CHUM (DOG) SALMON



Running upstream with the Kings in most river systems, Chums are a fun species to target on a fly. When present in strong numbers, chums will readily take a well presented streamer pattern and will give you a tremendous fight, bull-dogging up and down the river. As with silvers, you can often-times enjoy great sightcasting opportunities along with aggressive chases and explosive strikes. Averaging 8 to 13 pounds in most systems, these fish are great fun on a fly. When spawning, these fish also help to create very good trout, char and Dolly fishing, discharging some of the largest eggs of all the Pacific species. Unfortunately for the chums, their life in the freshwater is the shortest of all salmon species. Again, this is a bonus for trout fishing, as the rivers quickly fill with large amounts of decaying chum flesh, something that the trout and char feed on voraciously. As the dying salmon rot and decay along the bottoms of the rivers and streams, the “flesh” or “carcass” fishing for trout can be incredible.

SOCKEYE (RED) SALMON



By far the most numerous of all the Pacific salmon species, the Alaskan sockeye returns to the rivers and streams each summer by the tens of millions. The sheer numbers of sockeyes in the water make these fish a crucial part of the overall ecosystem in southwest Alaska, as they play a major role in the food chain. From birth until death, the sockeye is always under attack from predators. As an egg floating down the river, the sockeye are a main source of food and protein for trout, char and grayling. After hatching, the smolt must survive in the freshwater until they grow strong enough to make the journey to the ocean, where they will pass numerous predators in the water, on the banks, and in the sky. After a few years spent growing fat in the saltwater, the sockeyes then make the long journey back to the exact section of river where they were spawned. Past the predatory whales that are waiting at the river mouths and even up into the freshwater, past nets, commercial fishermen, and hungry bears. All the while fighting strong currents, numerous rapids, log jams, and waterfalls. After all of the hardships and obstacles, the sockeye will finally find its way home and begin to spawn while once again the trout and char move in to feed on their offspring. This species is truly a wonder of nature, without which the river systems of southwest Alaska would dwindle to nothing.

In most of the rivers and streams in southwest Alaska, anglers will literally see thousands of sockeye during a week of fishing. This inevitably leads to great debates between enthusiastic anglers and the guides that have spent time targeting the sockeye. On one side many people believe that sockeye do not actively eat a fly when hooked and are actually “snagged” — often times in the mouth or head. Others believe that sockeye will in fact eat a fly while swimming upstream to spawn. While one can sight numerous examples that support both sides of this argument, the majority of anglers that have spent time in Alaska believe that the sockeyes are not a primary target species. While these fish are on the move, anglers will most likely be targeting other species in the river system, since when the sockeyes are spawning, trout and char will always be present and very catchable!

PINK SALMON (HUMPIES)



The nickname for this particular species derives from the large hump that forms on the back of the males during spawning. These fish arrive with the silvers during the second half of the summer, giving the angler increased diversity when fishing rivers and streams. One unusual trait of the pinks is that they run every other year. When they do arrive and begin to spawn, pinks can easily fill the rivers of southwest Alaska. Not a highly-targeted species for most anglers, these fish still play an important role in the food cycle and ecosystem of southwest Alaska.

STEELHEAD



Alaska's steelhead are among some of the most wild and untouched in the world. With very little pressure by anglers, Alaska's steelhead runs are incredibly healthy - offering anglers the opportunity at high number days that are virtually non-existent in other areas of the world. Very similar to the salmon runs, steelhead move from the saltwater into freshwater to spawn. Unlike the Pacific salmon however, they do not perish post spawn. Instead they are anadromous, meaning they can go back and forth between saltwater and freshwater for many years.

All steelhead within our programs are part of one of the last wild runs on the planet, and should be handled by all anglers with extreme care. All steelhead fishing will be practiced on a catch and release basis. While Alaska's fishing season is typically June through September, the steelhead runs are on a slightly different schedule. Southeast Alaska begins its steelhead season in early April and operates through to mid-May whereas the Aleutian Peninsula begins operating in mid-September on through mid-October. During this time, weather patterns can be relatively tough so it's important for anglers to come prepared for cold and rainy conditions. This is one species where you will want it to rain during your week of fishing!

RAINBOW TROUT



One of the purest and most highly sought-after strains of rainbow trout in the world inhabit the rivers, streams and lakes of Alaska. Completely native to the region, these populations of huge, healthy rainbows will bewilder even the most traveled and seasoned angler. Their size, aggressiveness, fighting displays, and beauty are second to none. From the 30-inchers in the Iliamna region to the ripping 24-inchers in the Wood-Tikchik region, rainbow enthusiasts can find it all in Alaska. Whether you choose to float larger rivers or wade small streams, rainbows can be found in almost any system that has any kind of spawning salmon. In June and early July, trout can be caught on smolt patterns, streamers, nymphs, and — in some cases — dry flies. Coming out of a long winter, these fish are usually on the prowl for any kind of food that comes their way. One can find fish crashing smolt pods, chasing sculpins, eating small nymphs, or sipping dries throughout this time period. While larger fly patterns are usually the most effective, you can at times fish small flies as well.

From mid-July to early August, you will find excellent rainbow fishing over and behind the chum and King salmon spawning beds. In most of the rivers during this period you will find trout eating eggs, roe, and flesh patterns. Some sections will be “hotter” than others depending on the stage of the salmon spawn. Fortunately for the fly angler, these rainbows never forget how to eat a streamer, so if the eggs and flesh aren’t working, its always a sure bet to throw the big fly. As the season moves from mid-August into October, the trout and char will move onto the Sockeye spawning beds for their last chance to fatten-up before the long Alaskan winter sets in. This is the real “trophy time” for rainbows. They have had a few months to gain weight, and they’ve become accustomed to feeding on the eggs and flesh of the salmon. Sockeye beds can exist for weeks, so the rainbows tend to hold in certain areas and are easily targeted with a fly. With extremely large concentrations of spawning beds in the bigger rivers, anglers can find impressive numbers of trout while floating a section in a boat. For anglers who prefer to wade, this time of summer means you can venture down small streams and experience fewer numbers but higher quality and larger sizes. Since the sockeye are literally everywhere, there are beds located in small tributaries of many rivers and lakes allowing the angler to sightcast to large rainbows in very skinny water.

GENERAL SEASONAL SPECIES CHART FOR BRISTOL BAY

FISH SPECIES	APRIL	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
King						
Chum						
Sockeye						
Pink						
Silver						
Dolly Varden						
Arctic Char						
Rainbow						
Northern Pike						
Lake Trout						
Steelhead						

ARCTIC CHAR



This salmonid is found in all almost every lake system in southwest Alaska and can be readily caught during any month of the summer. In the beginning of the summer, these highly predatory fish stage at the mouths of rivers and streams, waiting for the vulnerable smolt to make their run to the ocean. When the smolt decide to make their journey, they will sometimes run in extremely large pods similar to the huge bait balls found in saltwater. In turn, the char crash the bait much like an aggressive school of tuna. Many times an angler will see the water start to boil as smolt jump out of the water in an effort to flee the predatory char. This scenario is quite exhilarating due to the amazing visuals of the feeding frenzy. By casting a fly into these “balls” of smolt and stripping through the boils, anglers will experience violent hook-ups all day long. And, just like the rainbows, the char will move in to the mouths of the rivers and streams as the salmon start to stage and spawn, waiting for the feast to come floating their way.

DOLLY VARDEN



Since they are closely related, Dolly Varden can at times be difficult to tell apart from their cousins, the Arctic char. What differentiates the two are the colors (the skin color and the spots) which tend to be brighter and more vibrant on the Dollies. In addition, the Dollies mostly stick to rivers and streams instead of the lakes. When hooked, the fighting characteristics of the two are very similar, with few jumps and hard runs into deep water. The Dolly is also an anadromous fish, journeying into the freshwater from the salt to both spawn and take advantage on the plethora of food originating from the gigantic salmon runs.

GRAYLING



Alaska is by far the best place in the world to pursue grayling. Found in almost every piece of water Alaska has to offer, the grayling is a true survivor and a product of the harsh conditions of Alaska. Sometimes looked at as an easy fish to catch due to their extraordinary aggressiveness and willingness to eat a fly, the grayling is arguably the best dry fly fish in all of Alaska. The grayling will eat any number of dry flies, even when nothing at all is hatching. They will literally hit a fly in any kind of conditions. During the early part of the season it is possible to catch more grayling than your arm can handle, with larger grayling pushing 18 - 20 inches. Grayling in small creeks are a wonderful target for the beginning angler learning to fly fish. Fortunately, many small creeks in Alaska are absolutely loaded with grayling. This is one of the few places in the world where a guide can take an angler that has never thrown a fly and have them learn the proper techniques coupled with the reward of catching large numbers of fish on their very first day out.

OTHER SPECIES



Although most of the angling days spent in Alaska are focused primarily on salmon, rainbow trout and char, incredible fly fishing opportunities for lake trout and northern pike also exist in certain areas. The lake trout, or “lakers” as they are commonly called, are prevalent in the northern lakes of the Wood-Tikchik system and can be caught throughout the summer months. While the smolt season provides the most consistent fishing, these opportunistic fish hang around the mouths of rivers and small streams all summer long. Lakers also live in some of the most beautiful country southwest Alaska has to offer. With gigantic glacial-cut mountains and pristine lakes, the scenery one experiences while fishing for lakers is a large part of why many anglers have come to appreciate the lake trout.

Northern Pike are also numerous in the waters of Alaska, with the larger fish mainly located in the lake systems of the Wood-Tikchik State Park and throughout the Aniak region. Pike prefer the warmer water of sloughs and shallow waters filled with thick grass and weed cover. If you do find good numbers of pike, then you can expect fantastic top water fishing with explosive strikes on large dry flies.



SELECTING THE RIGHT GEAR: A BREAKDOWN BY SPECIES

RAINBOW TROUT, CHAR AND GRAYLING

ROD: 6 to 7 wt. Fast and stiff enough to deliver a large fly in windy conditions

REEL: Quality reel with a strong drag to hold up against long runs. Should be able to hold a full line plus 150 yards of 20 lb. backing. A high quality, smooth disc drag is important.

LINE: Floating Freshwater Line (WF5 to WF7 to match rod). A sink-tip or "Streamer Express" line is also a good thing to bring (200 – 250 grain head).

LEADERS: 7.5' - 9' ft. tapered leaders, between 6 - 15 lbs. with extra spools of 6, 8, 10 and 12lb. freshwater tippet.

FLIES: Be sure to have a good selection of streamer, smolt, egg and flesh flies in a wide variety of sizes and colors. As a general rule, streamer patterns will be in sizes 2 and 4 with a decent amount of weight. Dry flies will consist of various attractors, caddis, and small mayflies along with larger attractor dries and a few mouse patterns.

KING SALMON

ROD: 9 - 10 wt. Strong enough to cast large flies on a heavy sink tip. Four-piece travel rods are highly recommended.

REEL: Quality reel with a strong drag to hold up against long runs. Should be able to hold a full line plus 150-200 yards of 30 lb. backing. A high quality, smooth disc drag is essential.

LINE: Sink-tip (20-25 feet long) with 300 – 350 grain head. For shallow water conditions have a weight forward floating freshwater line as well to match rod weight.

LEADERS: 5' – 7' sink-tip tapered leaders, 15 to 20 lb. with extra spools of 10, 16 and 20 lb. tippet.

FLIES: A large selection of heavily weighted steamer patterns in various colors (orange, hot pink, purple, chartreuse and black).

SILVER CHUM, SOCKEYE, PINK SALMON, STEELHEAD AND NORTHERN PIKE

ROD: 8 to 9 wt. Strong enough to cast large, heavily weighted flies and sink-tip lines.

REEL: Quality reel with a strong drag to hold up against big runs. Should be able to hold a fly line plus 150-200 yards of 20 lb. backing. A high quality, smooth disc drag is essential.

LINE: WF floating freshwater lines to match rod weight along with a sink tip line with a 250 – 300 grain head.

LEADERS: 7.5' – 9' tapered leaders, 8 – 14 lbs. for floating lines. 4' – 5' tapered sink tip leaders, 8 – 14 lbs. For northern pike, wire leaders and tippet are necessary.

FLIES: A large selection of heavily-weighted steamer patterns in various colors (orange, hot pink, purple, chartreuse and black).



NOTES ON KEY PIECES OF EQUIPMENT

Having the right gear and equipment can make all the difference in the world when it comes to a successful angling experience. A few thoughts on some of the more important pieces of equipment:

Sunglasses

Perhaps the most essential piece of equipment you'll bring with you. The ability to spot fish in the rivers of Alaska is crucial and can make all the difference in the success of a trip. For this reason, you should buy the very best polarized sunglasses you can. For lenses, we recommend either a light amber or brown color, as well as a pair with gray lenses for overcast conditions. If you can, always carry more than one pair in case the first one breaks or is lost.

Rain Gear

With the ever-present possibility of strong low pressure systems, rain can come down for days. Of course you will still be fishing despite the weather, so a high-end Gore-Tex (or equally effective material) rain jacket with a hood is essential. Spend the money on a high-end, completely waterproof fishing jacket system from Simms or a similar company. Spend a couple of days fishing in the rain in Alaska, and you'll be glad you did.

Sunscreen & Insect Repellent

Aside from quality rain gear, these two items will help make your trip to Alaska much more enjoyable. Being so far north, the sun can shine all day and night during the summer, so you can expect to be under the rays for up to 18 hours a day. A high SPF is recommended for long fishing days. Mosquitos and gnats are quite prevalent throughout Alaska and can at times be extremely fierce. All lodges in Alaska encourage anglers to bring insect repellent that contains some form of DEET, since in Alaska, citronella and other repellents will be laughed at. For Alaska, we highly recommend "Ultrathon" repellent from 3M or Ben's 100% Deet.

Clothing

Temperatures during the summer months in Alaska can vary from the 40's to the 80's, with September and October seeing temperatures that can drop below the freezing point. It is important to utilize an effective layering system when packing for your trip. Prepare for cold temperatures with Capilene bottoms layered with more fleece on top. Remember that you can always remove layers if it gets warm! There is no need for any kind of formal attire on your trip. Every lodge in Alaska has casual standards, and most dinners are eaten in fleece pants and fishing shirts.

Waders and Wading Boots

Your waders may end up being one of the most important things you bring on your trip to Alaska. The temperature of the water in southwest Alaska will remain a cool 45 to 58 degrees throughout the entire summer. Quality, breathable waders that do not leak are a must for a trip anywhere in the region — especially considering the fact that you will spend 8-12 hours a day wearing them! Please be sure that your wading boots are rubber soled due to the ban of felt bottom boots. "Spiked" or "cleated" wading boots harm the floats of the airplanes, and most lodges will make you take them off before entering a float plane.

Hearing Protection

Depending on where in Alaska you are going, you may be doing a lot of flying in small planes. While all are loud, the Beavers and Otters are especially loud! Bring a few pairs of ear plugs to throw in your pocket or fishing jacket. You can also bring an iPod or MP3 player with headphones to listen to music during your plane ride.

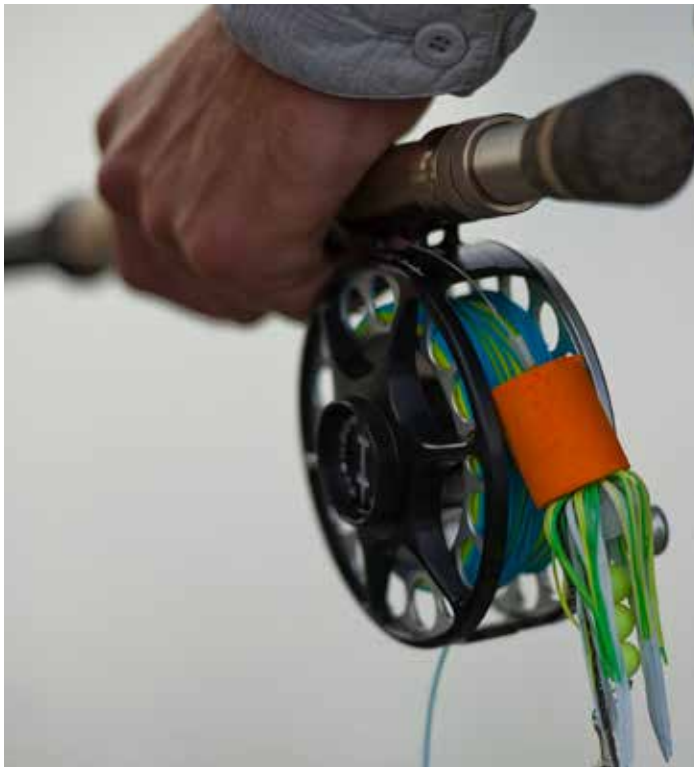


ALASKA PACKING LIST

FISHING GEAR / TACKLE

Note that some of Yellow Dog's Alaskan operations and lodges do provide all terminal tackle (leaders and tippet material) and flies as part of your total fishing package. Check with Yellow Dog to see which lodges provide this equipment. The list below is a reference for those who wish to bring all of their equipment.

- Trout Rods** (6, 7 wt.)
- Salmon Rods** (8, 9, 10 wt.)
- Spey Rods** (7, 8, 9 wt.) - *Optional*
- Travel Rod Tube / Rod Carrier**
- Fly Reels & Extra Spools** (to match rods)
- Fly Lines** (floating / 200-450 Gr. sink tip)
- Trout Leaders** (9 ft. - 0X, 1X, 2X, 3X)
- Standard Tippet Spools** (0X, 1X, 2X, 3X)
- Butt Section Material** (25#, 30#, 40#)
- Boat Bag or Gear Bag** (carry-on)
- Wading Pack / Fly Vest**
- Fly Boxes and Flies**
 - Dry Flies / Nymphs
 - Streamers
 - Trout Beads
 - Salmon Patterns
- Polarized Sunglasses** (2 pairs)
- Sunglass Straps / Croakies**
- Lens Clothes / Glasses Wipes**
- Gore-Tex Waders & Wading Boots** (important)
- Wading Belt**
- Nippers on Lanyard / Zinger**
- Hemostats / Forceps** (5" - 6")
- Neoprene Reel Cases** (for boat)
- Nail Knot Tool**
- Line Cleaner / Line Dressing**
- Reel Oil / Reel Lube**
- Mini Flashlight / Extra Batteries**
- Camera / Batteries / Memory Cards**
- Superglue**
- Waterproof Sunscreen** (at least SPF 30)
- Lip Protection**
- Insect Repellent** (containing Deet)
- Rain Gear**
- Snack Items / Energy Bars**
- Dry Bag / Waterproof Bag for Boat**
- Large Garbage Bag / Ziplock Bags** (3)
- Fishing Hat**
- Guide Tips / Gratuities**
- Fly Floatant / Dry Shake**



PERSONAL ITEMS

- Plane Ticket / Confirmation Numbers
- Travel Itinerary
- Valid Photo ID / Driver's License
- Wallet / Credit Cards
- Cash for Gratuities and Incidentals
- Important Phone Numbers
- Personal Toiletries Kits
- Small Personal First Aid Kit
- Snack Items / Energy Bars
- Books / Reading Material
- Notebook / Paper / Pencil
- iPod / iPad with Headphones & Charger
- Aloe / After-Sun Lotion
- Aspirin
- Cell Phone with Charger

CLOTHING ITEMS

- Long Sleeved Fishing Shirts (2-3)
- Lightweight / Underwader Pants (2)
- Short Sleeved Casual Shirts (2)
- T-Shirts (2-3)
- Lightweight Lodge / Casual Shoes
- Fleece Sweater (1)
- Fishing Hat
- Swimsuit
- Sweatshirt / Light Fleece for Evenings
- Bandana / Sun Buff
- Gloves
- Capilene Top and Bottom Layers

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Eyeglasses / Contacts
- Travel Fly Tying Kit / Travel Vise
- "Essentials Kit" (emergency repair kit)
- Travel Guide Books
- Prescription Medicines
- Travel Alarm Clock
- Travel Insurance Documents
- Charging Cords for Electronics
- Binoculars
- Water Bottle
- Mosquito Head Net
- Head Lamp

NOTES:





ALASKA FLY SELECTION

Please note that the fly list below is only used as a *general reference* for those who wish to tie and / or bring their own flies to Alaska. This list is by no means mandatory. There is no need to go out and buy every single fly pattern on this list. If you already own these patterns, consider bringing them along. Most of Yellow Dog's Alaskan operations and lodges provide and include all terminal tackle and all flies as part of your total fishing package. Contact Yellow Dog for a list of lodges that do and do not provide all flies and terminal tackle.

STANDARD TROUT, GRAYLING AND CHAR FLIES

Plastic Bead Egg Patterns	6, 8, 10 mm	Weighted Clouser Minnow	#2, 6
<i>Aqua Eggs & Flesh (Pink/"Rotting Flesh")</i>		<i>Olive/ White, Pink / White</i>	
Umpqua Happy Meal <i>(Olive, Black)</i>		Egg-Sucking Leeches	#2, 6
		<i>Black, Purple, Pink</i>	
Jerry's Summer Sculpin <i>(Olive, Burnt Orange)</i>		Silvey Sculpin <i>(Tan, Grey, Black, Olive)</i>	
Mr. Hankey Mouse	#4	Moorish Medusa <i>(Tan)</i>	
Morrish Mouse		Elk Hair Caddis	#10, 12
Loop Sculpin <i>(Black/Olive)</i>		<i>Olive, Tan, Brown</i>	
Dolly Lamas	#2, 4	Fat Albert Beetle	#6
<i>Black, White, Olive, Flesh</i>		Royal Wolff	#12 - #18
Sculpzilla	#4	Griffith Gnat	#14 - #18
<i>Black, Olive, Natural</i>		Copper John	#14
Thundercreek Smolt	#10	Adams/Parachute Adams	#12 - #18
<i>Tan/White, Olive/White</i>			

SALMON, SHEEFISH AND STEELHEAD FLIES

String Leach	#2, 4	Intruder Patterns	#2, 4
<i>Hot Pink, Black, Purple</i>		<i>Variety of colors</i>	
Rainy's "King Salmon Special"	#2/0, 3/0	Pink Poly Wog	#2, 4
<i>Black / Chartreuse, Pink / White, Yellow / White</i>		Solitude Popper Wog	#2
Loop Leech	#2	<i>Pink</i>	
<i>Pink</i>		Hareball Leech	#1/0
Starlite Leech	#2	<i>Pink, Purple</i>	
<i>Pink/Purple</i>		Clouser Minnow	#2
		<i>Pink/White</i>	

RAINBOW TROUT FLIES

During the Alaskan season, the trout will continuously change their feeding habits depending on the present life-cycle of the salmon. During the early part of the season - June and July - you will encounter more of a traditional style of trout fishing. Effective patterns for these months will include nymphs, large streamers and some dries. Streamers of various types – especially the big, weighted “ugly” kind – are always an effective producer for trout in Alaska. There are numerous species of sculpins living in the waters of this region, which makes them an extremely important part of the diet for rainbow trout. This is one pattern that the rainbow never forgets how to eat, no matter what time of year it is! For dry flies and surface action, midges, caddis and mayflies are present throughout the entire season. Nymphing-related patterns can also be extremely effective on numerous rivers and streams throughout Alaska.

As the salmon run back into the rivers and streams at the end of their long journey, they begin building their spawning beds by the thousands. These beds attract large numbers of voracious rainbows who feed on the plentiful eggs. A large selection of plastic bead eggs in a variety of sizes and colors is a must. Be sure to take a lot, as it is common to lose dozens of beads throughout the course of a single day of fishing. As the salmon finish laying their eggs and begin to die off, the trout will then begin to feed on the carcasses of dead fish. Large rabbit fur “flesh” or “carcass” patterns are deadly at this time of year. Tie these patterns in a variety of sizes and colors, utilizing as many different shades of tan, white and light grey as you can find. Tie these patterns with quite a bit of lead weight to sink fast in strong currents.

KING SALMON FLIES

Since you are targeting the largest of the Pacific salmon, fishing for Kings requires different fly patterns than other salmon species. Most of the rivers you will encounter will be wide and deep, which require large, heavy flies and big sink tips in order to get to the fish. The majority of the patterns for this type of fishing will be between 2 – 5 inches long, with heavy barbell eyes and large amounts of weight. They will be swung steelhead style or slowly stripped across prime holding water. Depending on your destination, there are some rivers in Alaska that can be more “fly friendly” allowing you to fish smaller flies with less weight. Your King box should contain a number of large, brightly colored flies — many tied with obnoxious amounts of weight. A fly that sinks fast and has a lot of movement in the water will be most effective.

SILVER, CHUM, SOCKEYE, STEELHEAD AND PINK SALMON FLIES

Weighted streamer patterns in assorted attractor colors are the standard for the rest of the salmon species. Pink, orange, purple, black, yellow, red, white and chartreuse are the primary colors, and many of the best patterns are those that contain several different colors! Go heavy on the pink and the pink/purple flies. Be sure that you have a large variety of sizes, colors and weights. Smaller, lighter flies will be needed for smaller creeks and tributaries, while the heavy artillery will be needed on bigger waters. Poppers, large deer hair dries, and skaters (Pink Poly Wog-style patterns) are also important patterns to have in your box, especially if you plan on fishing Alaska during the silver season. These top-water flies can be chugged, skated and stripped across the surface, often times resulting in incredibly explosive strikes.

GRAYLING FLIES

Considered the most opportunistic fish in all of Alaska, grayling will eat a large variety of dry flies, nymphs, eggs, flesh and streamers. Dries are the most rewarding way to catch grayling, and a full day of surface fishing for these Alaska natives is one to remember. A box that contains a basic selection of trout dry flies in sizes 6 to 12 will work perfectly for grayling. Caddis, Wulffs, Stimulators, etc. are all effective.

ARCTIC DHAR AND DOLLY VARDEN FLIES

Since these two fish are very close relatives, the same thing can be said for their diet. Both species will feed heavily on the flesh and eggs of the spawning salmon, and will stage themselves on and below the spawning beds much like the rainbows. The char and dollys are sometimes more aggressive than the trout, making their catch numbers much higher. When the salmon are not present, the char will feed heavily on running smolt and smaller fish. Anglers will not see dollys until the salmon are spawning, as dollys live in the ocean and follow the salmon for food and begin their own spawn during the late fall. A box with a variety of smolt, minnow, egg and flesh patterns is a must for char and dollys.

PURCHASING OR TYING YOUR FLIES FOR ALASKA

Keep in mind that the “must have fly patterns” for fishing in Alaska will always vary depending on the river that you’re fishing, the particular day, the conditions, and the guide that you are fishing with. A pattern that one guide swears by and loves, another guide will avoid. Also, you will more-often-than-not be fishing specific patterns in an attempt to match a hatch or the specific eggs in the water that the fish are “keying” on. That means that the “right fly” is something that is constantly changing throughout the day and throughout the season.

It is virtually impossible to pre-purchase 100% of the “perfect flies” for Alaska since stream conditions and food availability are always changing. Arrive with a basic selection of patterns, and let the lodge and your guide compliment your selection with the patterns that are working on that exact day.

Most of the lodges, guides and outfitters in Alaska include flies as a part of their package. Others may provide them or have them available, but may not include the flies in the cost of the trip. If flies are not included, then a guide will either keep a running tab for you over the course of the trip, or will be happy to take you to the lodge’s “shop” on your first morning and help you select the patterns you’ll want to purchase. This is a great way to ensure that you have exactly what the guide wants to be fishing during your specific day(s) on the water.

If you do want to assemble or organize a basic Alaska selection prior to your trip, then we recommend that you use the enclosed fly pattern list as a starting point. All of these patterns are fairly generic, and most can be purchased at any quality fly fishing retailer. (Support your local fly shop!)



Aqua Eggs and Flesh



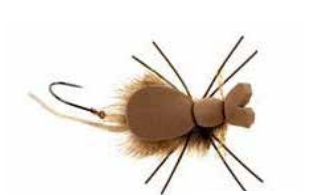
Hareball Leech
#1/0



Jerry's Summer Sculpin



Loop Sculpin



Mr. Hankey Mouse



Sculpzilla



Morrish Mouse
#2, 6



Egg-Sucking Leeches
#2, 6



Starlite Leech
#2



Thundercreek Smolt
#10



Intruder Fly
#2/0, 3/0



Umpqua Happy Meal
#2, 4



Clouser Minnow



Dolly Llama



Silvey Sculpin



Morrish Medusa



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR GUIDED EXPERIENCE

Your guide — and how you work with him — can truly make or break a trip. So to help you make the most of your guided experience, we would like to offer a few pieces of advice that will allow you to maximize the level of communication, understanding and teamwork that you have with your guide.

CASTING ABILITY

If this is your first time fly fishing, or if your experience with a fly rod is limited, have no fear! You are headed to the best place in the world for learning how to fish and — even better — how to CATCH fish. On your arrival day, you can request a casting “how to” or tune-up session from your guide, who will be more than happy to spend time with you giving instruction and helpful advice.

Alaska is famous for turning first time fly-rodgers into life long anglers. Because of the sheer numbers of fish in Alaska, a complete beginner can really learn while at the same time catching plenty of fish. There are many rivers and streams where it is not necessary to make long, technical casts. On waters such as these, a beginner can learn casting, improve fish fighting skills, and — best of all — experience the reward of a nice fish landed on a fly rod. While we always recommend practice prior to any destination angling trip, novice and beginning anglers will have no problems in Alaska.

GEAR AND FLY SELECTION

Review your tackle and equipment with your guide on the first morning of the trip. Be sure you know what tackle you’ll need for each fishery you’ll be visiting and for each day. When rigging, be sure to check your leaders, knots, drag settings and hooks. Each Alaskan operation provides the majority of the terminal tackle that you will need including leaders, tippet and flies. Carry your own personal supply of leaders, tippet and flies, however, especially if you have your own system. Fish in Alaska are famous for their tackle-wrecking capabilities. There are many guide stories out there about exploding reels and shattered rods!

GUIDE COMMUNICATION

The best guides in the world are not mind readers, so it is imperative for you to specify what you would like to experience during your fishing week in Alaska. All of the lodges have a head guide that is responsible for coordinating the fishing for each day. The evening prior is the time you should express your interests and share any special requests. The head guide will lay out options for you to choose from. Remember, these guides have been all over the area and know the water and fishing extremely well. You will definitely hear “the real story” on how your day will most likely unfold. The lodge will be as flexible as possible in accommodating all of your fishing desires. There will not be many situations when you will not be able to visit a specific fishery that you are interested in fishing. That said, the lodge might not be able to accommodate you on special permit water where the lodge is only allowed a certain number of rods per day or where the lodge feels the need to rest or rotate a particular section.

TAKING DIRECTION

In Alaska, you will be traveling to fishing areas utilizing either float planes or jet boats. During these travels, safety is an extremely important factor. Never try to board or exit any aircraft while the propeller is still spinning. You will be informed on exactly what to do during any aircraft transfers. On water, jet boats are the rule in Alaska, and it is important to listen to your guide while riding. Try not to move around while motoring or shift spots in the boat. Keep your weight centered, as balance is a key issue in the performance of the vessel. Wait until the boat is docked, beached, or completely stopped before standing up or trying to exit or enter.



TRIP INSURANCE AND TRAVEL PROTECTION

From severe weather to political unrest, your safety and security is always priority number one.

Our knowledgeable Travel Specialists can help outline the best risk management solution for your trip. There is no point in buying a product you won't use, or one that you can't use. We provide quotes that are easy to understand and easy to customize based on your destination.

At a minimum we highly recommend purchasing trip interruption and cancellation insurance. The reality is that most anglers will never need to use their travel insurance policy. Most trips go smoothly, and it is rare for people to run into serious problems that cause them to cancel or cut short a fishing trip. That said, every once in a while, things can go wrong. And - if you've bought a policy that you end up needing - it will be one of the best investments you've ever made! Complete trip coverage for a week-long international trip usually costs less than \$500 for everything.

To learn more, get a quote, or purchase travel protection, contact Yellow Dog at (888) 777-5060.

Please understand that at most lodges and operations, no refunds or credits will be offered for unused fishing time, unused lodging, or unused land arrangements lost due to inclement or unpleasant weather. Unless the weather conditions are extreme (such as a cyclone or a tropical storm) operators will typically not issue credits or refunds. It is important to remember that these operations have usually expended a fair amount of money up front to lock-in guides, schedule staff, stockpile provisions, purchase food and beverages, etc. These are all factors that an operator has to take into account when deciding whether or not they can issue credits or refunds.

If there is extreme weather that causes an operation to cancel, cut short, or re-arrange your trip, then a credit may be issued for a future week (or a future portion of a week that compensates for the number of days lost or canceled.

TRIP INTERRUPTION AND CANCELLATION INSURANCE

The truth is travel insurance doesn't usually become a thought until you actually need it. While you'll never feel good about an unexpected storm closing down an airport or cancelling flights, you CAN feel good that you did something to help protect your travel investment. Trip interruption and cancellation insurance policies can cover all nonrefundable trip costs in the event of unforeseen events or circumstances that prevent you from enjoying what you have planned. We highly recommend this coverage.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND RESCUE SERVICES

Take the worry out of travel by purchasing an emergency evacuation and rescue membership providing 24/7 access to medical and security professionals. If you are injured, ill, or caught in a dangerous situation 100 miles or more from home, this membership can get you treatment and get you home safely from your point of injury, illness or security event.

A RESOURCE FOR TRIP FIRST AID

Accidental injuries, emergencies, and acts of violence happen every day. A car accident on the highway, or an allergic reaction at private residence - all of these scenarios could result in fatalities if someone at the scene doesn't know how to help. By combining modern first aid supplies with an integrated software application, the bystander is empowered to respond at the scene of a medical emergency while professionals are en route. We highly recommend you don't leave home without this first aid solution.



T.S.A. AND TRAVEL GUIDELINES

T.S.A. REGULATIONS FOR ANGLERS

Traveling with outdoor gear and most fishing-related items is permitted. Outdoor enthusiasts should carefully prepare and pack to avoid removal of prohibited items from checked baggage or surrendering prohibited items at the security checkpoint. Below is a specific list and the exact wording for all permitted and prohibited fishing items off of the T.S.A. web site (January 2018).

Fishing Rods

Rods are permitted as carry-on and checked baggage. However, please check with your air carrier to confirm that rod tubes fit within their size limitations for carry-on items. Ultimately, it is the carrier's decision as to whether or not rods can be transported as carry-on baggage.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS

When packing, keep in mind that you and all of your gear will potentially be flying on small bush or float planes, where weight is always a consideration. Use the included gear lists (especially when it comes to clothing), as almost every person who travels to Alaska ends up bringing too many clothes! Remember that almost every lodge is more than happy to do a load of laundry for you during your stay. You do not need anything that is not on the enclosed clothing list. Also, it is a good idea to bring a large garbage bag for your trip home. This will help separate your wet and muddy boots and waders from the rest of your luggage.

Make sure that every piece of luggage – including carry-on's and rod tubes – are marked with all of your personal information, both inside and outside. It is a good idea to include a slip of paper inside the bag that lists all of your contact and lodging information. This will help airlines and transfer agents deliver your bag in a faster manner in the event that your luggage is delayed.

Tackle and Other Equipment

Most fishing equipment should be placed in your checked baggage, especially tools and other tackle equipment that can be considered sharp and dangerous. Expensive reels or fragile tackle such as flies should be packed in your carry-on baggage.

*** Please keep in mind that these are T.S.A. policies for flights originating within the United States. Other countries may apply different standards and different policies with regards to rods, reels, flies, etc.*

TIP: TRAVELING WITH FLIES



Here's a great solution for traveling with flies. While T.S.A. regulations do not technically prohibit bringing fishing flies in your carry-on luggage, we know that if one security agent decides that they have a problem with you bringing flies or your fly boxes on board, what can you do?

Take a small assortment of flies (maybe in a small box or a zip-lock bag) and load enough flies for a single day of fishing (12 - 18 flies total). Create a very basic assortment that will allow you to fish if your checked luggage is delayed by the airline. Then, pack the rest of your flies in your checked luggage. If everything arrives, then you already have a "go-to," shirt-pocket selection sorted and ready for wading the flats.



USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

TRAVEL

Trip Interruption/Cancellation Insurance

We highly recommend protecting your trip investment with trip interruption and trip cancellation insurance. Planning ahead for unforeseen circumstances!

www.yellowdogflyfishing.com/trip-insurance/

Emergency Evacuation/Rescue Services

Evacuation and rescue services from your point of injury, illness, or security event- transporting you all the way home.

www.yellowdogflyfishing.com/trip-insurance/

Seat Guru

The ultimate source for airplane seating, in-flight amenities, and airline information.

www.seatguru.com

Alaska Official Travel Site

Useful information and tips for travel, adventure, recreation, accommodations for visiting Alaska

www.travelalaska.com

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

All residents and nonresidents 16+ must purchase a sport fishing license to participate in Alaska sport and personal use fisheries. In addition, a king salmon stamp is required to fish for king salmon. These laws apply in both fresh and marine waters.

www.dfg.alaska.gov

Yellow Dog Travel News & Updates

Years of trip reports, news and events, and seasonal trip specials. Organized by category, date and search topics.

<http://www.yellowdogflyfishing.com/blog>

The Yellow Dog Backstage Pass

Useful tips, techniques and interviews. Categorized by topic, species and region.

backstagepass.yellowdogflyfishing.com

Yellow Dog TV

Video content on tips, techniques, destinations and more.

tv.yellowdogflyfishing.com

WEATHER AND HEALTH

Weather Underground Trip Planner

View average and historical annual temperatures and precipitation for most destinations.

www.wunderground.com

The Weather Channel Web Site

Check weather for your destination, monthly averages, track airport delays, track storms and more.

www.weather.com

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A great web site for travel and health information. The latest health-related news and advisories for any destination.

www.cdc.gov/travel

Moon Phases

StarDate displays the approximate moon phases for any given month – both now and well into the future! This can be especially helpful when planning a saltwater trip and considering the tides

<http://stardate.org/nightsky/moon>



THE YELLOW DOG COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

A Yellow Dog project providing an opportunity for anglers to make a direct and meaningful impact in the most significant and important fishing destinations throughout the world.

WHAT IS YDCCF?

The Yellow Dog Community and Conservation Foundation (YDCCF) supports local civic programs, fisheries conservation, stewardship and education in important angling destinations throughout the world. As a company, we are where we work, and the Foundation is Yellow Dog's way of making a direct and positive impact in the places we fish. YDCCF embodies Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures' company commitment to being stewards of the areas in which we operate and fish, and to positively impact fishing around the world. YDCCF works to develop partnerships with local organizations that are directly engaged in preserving and enhancing the local communities and fisheries.

Working to enhance communities, build partnerships, and support conservation in places where great fishing is found.

LODGE MATCHING PROGRAM

With most trips booked through Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, a portion of the trip cost will be donated directly to the Foundation in your name. In many cases, the lodge you visit will also match this contribution, resulting in a modest, yet meaningful, monetary gift for each booking. It is important to mention that the full amount of this donation will be made by Yellow Dog and the lodges on behalf of each reservation. There is never an additional cost added to a trip or invoice. You enjoy the world's best fishing AND Yellow Dog's legendary customer service and support while at the same time, simply by booking with Yellow Dog, you make a difference in the communities and areas you visit and fish.

See a full list of our participating lodges at: www.ydccf.org/lodgematchingprogram

YDCCF also provides a mechanism for anglers to support the destinations and communities they care about. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, anglers, individuals and businesses can directly donate to the Foundation: a great way to truly make more of a difference.

Visit www.ydccf.org to learn more about the projects we support and the impact we are having across the globe.



"I was drawn to YDCCF due to its focus on conserving and preserving endangered fisheries, but most importantly by its emphasis on the communities involved in those fisheries. Local involvement and accountability only adds to the potential impact that can be made."

- Mason Reay, Donor

“RENT THIS ROD” - DEMO AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Heading to a new destination and in need of a specific rod and reel set-up that you don't currently own? Maybe a heavy 12-weight for GTs, or a 9-weight jungle outfit for Golden Dorado? While Yellow Dog always recommends that you purchase your new gear and equipment from a Yellow Dog-affiliated specialty fly shop (we're happy to make a recommendation!) we also appreciate the fact that stocking up and sourcing multiple rod/reel/line set-ups can be pricey. Which is why if you're headed to a new destination or focusing on a particular species for the first time, it may make sense to actually RENT a package to use for your trip.

To that end, Yellow Dog has teamed up with Rent This Rod – the industry's premier source for rental fly rod and reel outfits. Rent This Rod proudly features product lines that include Thomas & Thomas Rods, Hatch Reels, Ross Reels, and Scientific Anglers fly lines: new, top-of-the-line set-ups that are perfectly balanced and completely matched to each destination and the species you're pursuing. Rentals are available for either 10 or 14-day blocks, and all equipment is shipped and insured directly to your location prior to your trip.

Rent This Rod is the perfect option for anglers who are traveling to fishing locations outside of their norm who don't already own regionally-specific or species-specific equipment. Remember that your rental period doesn't include the time that the rod is in transit. You'll have a solid 10 or 14-day period to fish and enjoy your Rent This Rod set-ups.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

1. Contact Rent This Rod at rentals@rentthisrod.com. Provide your destination, trip dates and equipment requests. **Be sure to mention your traveling with Yellow Dog to receive a 10% discount!**
2. Select a 10 or 14-day rental period.
3. Rod and reel packages are shipped directly to your door prior to trip departure – balanced, spooled and ready to fish!
4. Fish the equipment for the duration of your trip and simply return the set-ups once you are home.



KEEPEMWET PRINCIPLES

KEEPEMWET® is a Registered Trademark of Keepemwet Fishing



These are three recommended actions for best practices for catch and release. For more information please visit keepemwet.org

1 MINIMIZE AIR EXPOSURE

Fish need oxygen just like us, but they get it from the water instead of air. Air exposure is more detrimental to bigger fish at higher water temperatures.

- Ideally, keep fish in the water.
- If you do take fish out of the water, try to keep the time short. Hold your breath while the fish is out of the water; when you need to breathe the fish probably does too.
- Don't drip-dry your fish; photographs of fish out of the water should show the fish dripping profusely.
- Photograph fish in the water or dripping wet and slightly over the water.

2 ELIMINATE CONTACT WITH DRY & HARD SURFACES

Fish need their slime the same way we need our skin. Dry, rough or hard surfaces remove slime from fish, and can also remove scales and damage fins.

- If you use a net make sure it has a soft, rubber bag. These nets remove the least amount of protective slime from fish.
- Hold fish with two wet hands, and never squeeze or hug.
- As a precaution, make sure hands are clean and clear of potential contaminants such as sunscreen.

3 REDUCE HANDLING TIME

Handling is the time from landing to release, including how the fish is restrained (i.e. in your hands or a net). Longer handling times can lead to poorer outcomes after release.

- Use barbless hooks as they are easier to remove. If a fish is deeply hooked, cut the line instead of trying to remove the hook. Science tells us this is best for the fish.
- Carry a hook removal device. It doesn't have to be anything fancy and any pair of pliers or hemostats will do.
- Revive fish only if they can't swim away on their own. If a fish can swim, simply let it go.



“THE FINE PRINT”

COMPANY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

The following terms and conditions apply to all offers or trips booked and organized by Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, L.L.C (“Yellow Dog”). **Please read these terms and conditions carefully. Booking a trip, making a deposit, or making a final payment shall be considered acknowledgement that customer has read and accepted all the terms and conditions contained herein.**

Please be aware that Yellow Dog’s terms and conditions are in addition to any terms and conditions of the individual lodges and outfitters that we work with and represent. In instances where Yellow Dog’s general payment and cancellation terms are different from those of individual lodges or outfitters, the terms of the lodges or outfitters will take precedent and become the terms and conditions that apply to related trip packages.

- A 50% deposit per angler of the total package cost for each trip is due to Yellow Dog within 10 days of booking to secure the trip reservation. **In many cases (depending on the destination being booked) deposits are non-refundable.** Please view the destination-specific lodge and outfitter list at the bottom of this page to see what refund terms apply to each destination.
- Yellow Dog reserves the right to charge a handling fee of \$100.00 per person for any date changes after the initial reservation has been made. Date changes to trips that are already booked (if possible) must be approved and accepted by the individual lodge(s) or outfitter(s). Some lodge(s) or outfitter(s) may not be able to offer date changes.
- Full payment for all Yellow Dog trips is due 90 days prior to departure and start of trip.
- When a trip is invoiced at a double occupancy, per person rate, the final invoice amount will be changed to a single occupancy / single supplement rate in all instances where an invoiced double occupancy rate based on an even number of anglers is changed to a single angler situation or odd number (in the case of two or more anglers traveling together or with group travel. Odd numbers of anglers will necessitate a single angler / single supplement fee if changes to a reservation or made or if numbers change from an even number of anglers to an odd number.

GENERAL CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY FOR YELLOW DOG TRIPS

Upon trip cancellation on the part of or based on the decision of the customer, Yellow Dog will assess a \$100.00 handling charge to all deposits and payments received. In addition, each individual lodge, outfitter, and destination may charge their own handling and/or administration fee. All cancellations must be given in writing to Yellow Dog. Please keep in mind that Yellow Dog and all customers must adhere to each individual lodge or outfitter cancellation and refund policy, which supersedes cancellation terms stated below. Lodges and outfitters that have their own policies are listed below by region and country. For the few lodges and outfitters that do not specify or list their own cancellation / refund policy, or for the lodges and outfitters that have not published said policies, then all cancellations will adhere to the following terms and conditions:

- Cancellation outside of 90 days = A portion of the trip deposit or final payment may be refunded or credited for a future trip, or transferred to another date or angler.
- Cancellation inside of 90 days = No refunds of deposit or payment, and no trip credits.
- On cancellation notices inside of than 90 days, partial refunds/transfers may be made IF suitable replacement is provided by customer.

(Please refer to lodge or outfitter terms, cancellation policies and conditions listed on individual trip invoice as well as on individual web page for each lodge listed on the Yellow Dog website at www.yellowdogflyfishing.com).

MEDICAL, TRAVEL AND TRIP INSURANCE: DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Many deposits and final payments for trip packages are non-refundable so it is **highly recommended** that you purchase medical, travel or trip insurance if you must cancel, postpone, or reschedule your trip for any reason.

Please be aware that this is the only way that Yellow Dog can assist you with compensation for a cancelled trip.

Customers are solely responsible for purchasing medical, travel or trip insurance and it is not included in any quote or invoice from Yellow Dog. All medical, travel or trip insurance companies are third party service providers. For more information or assistance in purchasing medical, travel or trip insurance, please contact Yellow Dog for recommendations or visit the section on the Yellow Dog website about Travel Insurance. In light of COVID-19 or any other similar virus, we do know that many standard trip insurance policies will not cover cancellations or offer compensation due to pandemics, epidemics or fear of travel, which is why **"Cancel For Any Reason" policies are highly recommended**. Please read and research all trip insurance policy details to fully understand coverage.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS (AND OTHER INFORMATION)

- Yellow Dog and its members, officers, principals, employees, and agents, have no liability or responsibility for the acts or omissions of any third-party contractors, outfitters, airlines, railroads, ship owners, charter air carriers, shuttle and taxi drivers, hotels, lodges, fishing guides, restaurant or other service providers ("Third Parties") engaged by Yellow Dog on behalf of the customer, or customer directly, in connection with any trip or service. Customer shall hold Yellow Dog and its members, officers, principals, employees and agents harmless from any and all claims, damages, expenses, penalties, liabilities, or attorney's fees, resulting from the acts or omissions of Third Parties including consequential, direct, indirect, incidental, punitive, or special damages to property or persons.
- Customer is subject to all tariffs, terms and conditions of all tickets, vouchers and contracts of such lodges, outfitters, hotels, airlines, operators, owners and contractors issued in connection with the trip or service, and the issuance and acceptance of any such tickets, vouchers and contracts shall be deemed to be consent to such conditions.
- Yellow Dog in its sole discretion reserves the right to: (1) make such alterations in the trip itinerary or service as it deems necessary or desirable, (2) to refuse to accept or retain as a customer, any person at any time (in such case refund will be based on the actual cost of the unfinished portion of tour), and (3) to pass on to customers all expenditures occasioned by delays or occurrences beyond Yellow Dog's control.
- Yellow Dog reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel any trip or service prior to departure or performance, in which case full refunds will constitute full settlement to any customer. Prices quoted are based on foreign exchange values and tariffs currently in effect, and prices are subject to change.
- Baggage and personal effects of customer, including items purchased, are always the sole responsibility of such customer and no agent of Yellow Dog is authorized to accept these for storage, safekeeping, or transportation.
- Customer agrees to comply with any codes, laws, orders, ordinances, regulations, and statutes of any government authority for any trip destination including layovers.
- Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, L.L.C. is a Montana-based limited liability company. These terms and conditions shall be subject to and enforced in accordance with the laws of Montana USA. In the event of a dispute, all parties submit to the jurisdiction and venue of the state courts of Bozeman, Montana USA.
- These terms and conditions constitute the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersede all previous written or oral agreements between the parties with respect to such subject matter.
- Yellow Dog shall not be liable for any nonperformance or delay in performance caused by any act or event beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation acts or omissions of Third Parties, unavailability of labor or supplies, equipment failure, war, strikes, lock-outs, fire, flood, earthquake, hurricane, disease, epidemic, pandemic, plague, quarantine, any other Act of God, any law, regulation, ordinance, or other act or order of any court, government, or governmental agency.
- EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY STATED HEREIN, YELLOW DOG DOES NOT MAKE ANY WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, TO CUSTOMER, AND HEREBY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES ARISING FROM A COURSE OF DEALING AND WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY; FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE; SECURITY OR ACURACY.