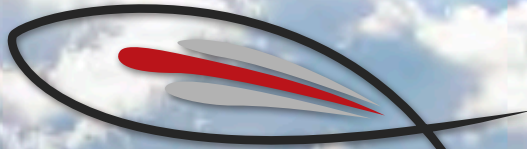
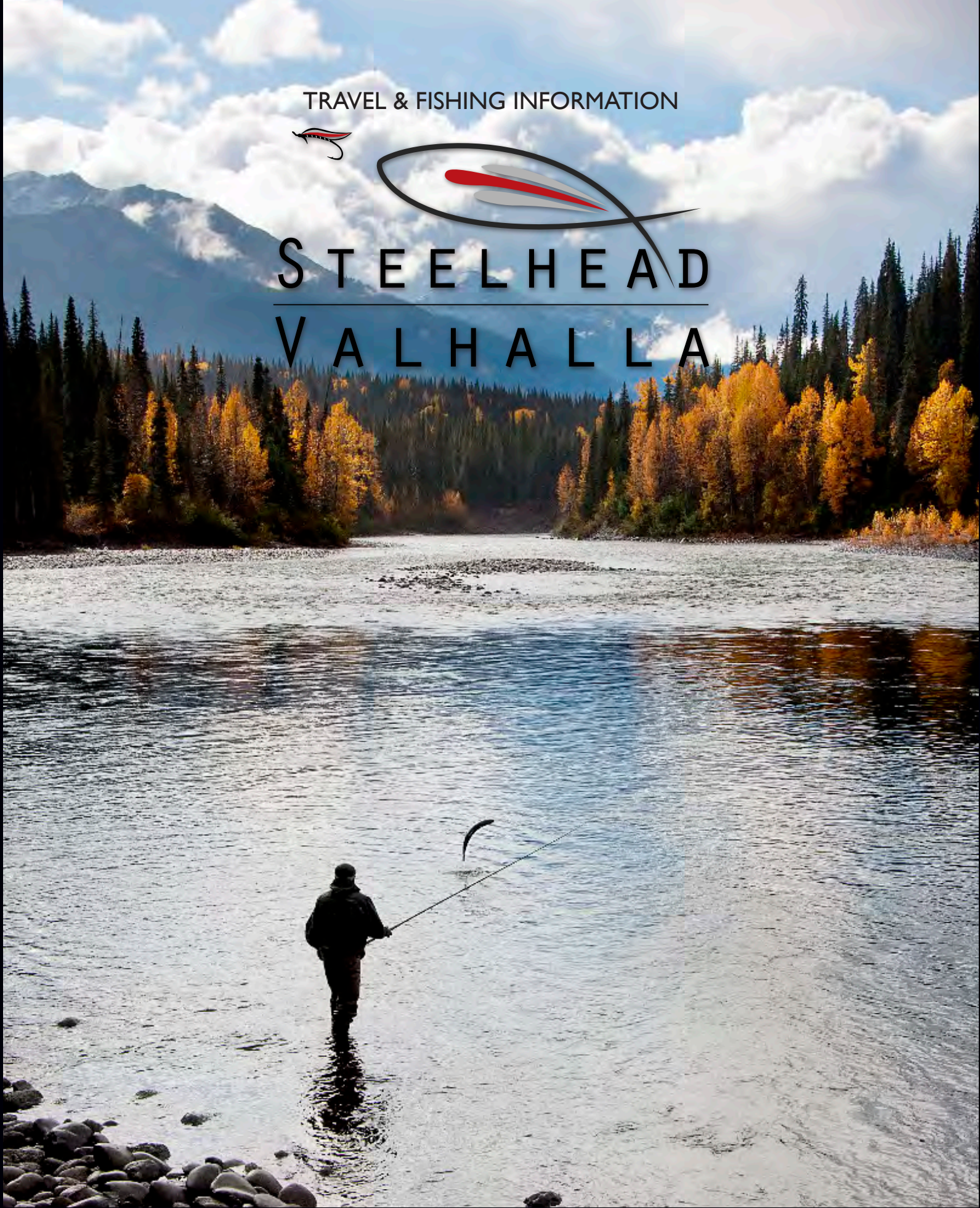


TRAVEL & FISHING INFORMATION



# STEELHEAD VALHALLA



ANOTHER GREAT  
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[www.sweetwatertravel.com](http://www.sweetwatertravel.com)

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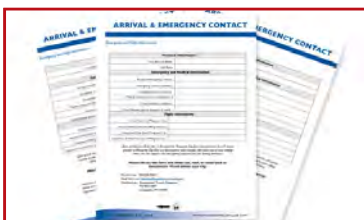
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# ITINERARY & PRICES

## Prices

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### Package Rate:

\$6900 per angler based on double occupancy cabin and 3 fishermen per boat. Package price does not include taxes.

\$1000 Single supplement accommodation only (Cabin 1a or 1b). Price does not include taxes.

### Rate Includes:

6 days of guided fishing, scheduled fixed wing charter to and from camp, accommodations, meals at the lodge and wine with dinner.

### Not Included:

Hotel in Smithers, fishing licenses, alcohol, beer, gratuities or additional helicopter or air charters for whatever reason.

### Gratuities:

Gratuities are not included in the cost of the package and are left to the discretion of the individual angler. However, for planning purposes fishermen can expect the industry standard of 10-15% of the fishing package.

## Itinerary

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### Day 1:

Depart home city for Vancouver with connections to Smithers on Air Canada arriving in Smithers early evening. Take the Prestige Hudson Lodge shuttle from the Smithers airport to the hotel. Evening at your leisure.

### Day 2:

The Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge shuttle will take you to the charter plane at 9:30 am for your approximately 10:00 am departure to the lodge. Flight duration is 50 minutes. You will be met by our staff and transferred to the lodge. Upon arrival you will have time to settle in and unpack before lunch and a brief orientation. Fish Sustut on your own if of interest.

### Day 3 - 8:

Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. with an 8:30 a.m. departure to go fishing. Lunch is prepared at the lodge each morning or by the guide on the river. Lunch consists of homemade soups, sandwiches, bread and salads. Return to the lodge at 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Appetizers and dinner will be served in the evenings after everyone is back at the lodge.

### Day 9:

Depart the Sustut for Smithers at approximately 11:00 am. We recommend scheduling your flight the following morning so that inclement weather and resulting flight delays do not affect your travel home.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Travel Agent

Kevin Martin  
Martin Travel Services  
4644 North University Drive  
Lauderhill, FL 33351  
800-627-8468  
954-748-6881  
kmartin@martintravelservices.com  
www.martintravelservices.com

## Airline service to Canada

Alaska Airlines	800.426.0333
Continental	800.525.0280
Delta	800.221.1212
Northwest	800.225.2525
United	800.241.6522

## Local Smithers/Lodge Contact

Air Canada	250.847.2811
Smithers Taxi	250.847.2306
Steelhead Valhalla Lodge	778.764.1775
Belinda Miller	778.269.0061

## Airline service to Smithers

Air Canada, Collect	888.247.2262
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## Air Charter Service

Tsayla Aviation	250.847.9500
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## Helicopter Companies

Highland Helicopter	250.847.3859
Canadian Helicopters	250.847.9444
SilverKing Helicopters	250.877.1989

## Hotel Recommendations

**Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge**  
**(Group Rate Mention "Valhalla")**  
250.847.4581  
800.663.5040  
3251 East Hwy 16  
[Smithers@PrestigeHotels.ca](mailto:Smithers@PrestigeHotels.ca)

**Storks Nest Inn**  
250.847.3831  
PO Box 2049  
1485 Main Street  
[Info@storksnestinn.com](mailto:Info@storksnestinn.com)  
[StorksNestInn.com](http://StorksNestInn.com)

**Aspen Motor Inn**  
800.663.7676  
4268 Hwy 16 East  
[aspeninn@telus.net](mailto:aspeninn@telus.net)  
[aspeninnsmithers.com](http://aspeninnsmithers.com)

## Restaurant Recommendations

**Blue Water Sushi**  
250.847.5341  
1232 Main Street

**Trackside Cantina (Mexican)**  
250.847.3363  
3815 Railway

**Alpenhorn Pub & Bistro**  
250.847.5366  
1261 Main Street

**Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge**  
West Coast Grill & Don Cherry's Pub  
250.847.4581  
3251 East Hwy 16

**The Riverhouse at the Aspen**  
250.847.4672  
4268 East Hwy 16

**Chatters Pizzeria**  
250.847.6656  
3847 4th Ave

**Two Sisters Cafe**  
250.877.7708  
3763 4th Avenue

**Daddios Family Restaurant**  
250.847.2255  
3735 Alfred Avenue

**Schimmels (Fine Pastries)**  
250.847.9044  
1172 Main Street



# TRAVEL & LOGISTICS

## Flight information

Air Canada flies in and out of Smithers, British Columbia via Vancouver, B.C. The flight schedules are usually two flights per day. If you do need assistance with flight schedules or arrangements, we work with Julz Gilpin at The Travel Station in Bozeman Montana; they would be more than happy to assist you with your travel planning.

## Ground transportation

A representative from Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge will meet you at the airport and shuttle you to the hotel. If you would like to be met at the airport, please let us know and a representative from the company will be happy to meet and assist with your transfer. The following morning at 9:30 am, guests will meet in the Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge lobby with luggage. With clear weather and all systems a go for the air charter, the shuttle will take you to the Tintina Air Base where you will be met by the pilot

for transfer to the Sustut. In the unlikely event that you have not made contact with our representative prior to your charter, please phone Belinda Miller (778.269.0061). If you are staying at a different hotel or have made your own accommodation arrangements, please be sure to let us know so that we can either pick you up or help arrange your transfer to the charter flight. If you miss the charter, alternate charter arrangements and cost will be your responsibility.

Each guest will be allowed 60 pounds total luggage, so please pack accordingly. Luggage will be weighed at the Tintina Air Base to insure flight safety, so please be sure your luggage, including carry on, adheres to this limit. In the event we cannot fit luggage in the plane due to weight allowances, Tintina may ask overweight bags to be reduced in weight. Note we do have laundry services if needed so there is no reason to over pack.



As is customary with our destinations, we like to provide whatever information we can to help you prepare for your upcoming steelhead adventure with Steelhead Valhalla Lodge. We are thrilled to be involved with the Sustut. It is one of B.C.'s finest steelhead rivers.

For returning clients, please rest assured that we will continue in the same tradition that has made Steelhead Valhalla Lodge one of British Columbia's premier steelhead destinations. We are anxious to make improvements, and we would love your input. It is your input that will help keep the lodge and river special for all of us. Please feel free to give us a call, if you have any questions at all. Hopefully the pre-trip to follow will help answer any questions you might have.

## About the lodge

Steelhead Valhalla Lodge is located on the Sustut River in Northern British Columbia roughly 100 miles North of Smithers. The lodge is not road accessible; it is accessed by a Cessna Caravan directly to a private airstrip near the Sustut River. This flight takes roughly 50 minutes. At the Sustut you will be met by Steelhead Valhalla Lodge staff in a vehicle for your transfer to the lodge. It is a roughly 15 minute walk to the lodge.

Once at the lodge, clients will stay two to a cabin. Cabins are well furnished with a sitting area, 3 piece bathroom and a stove. The main lodge building is a charming custom built log structure with ample room to relax, eat a great meal or simply to sit and enjoy drinks by the fireplace.

All meals are served in the main lodge and prepared by the lodge chef. Meals are a blend of home cooking with homemade breads, desserts, fresh meat, fish, and vegetables. Wine is served with all dinners.

**Beer and Liquor:** Please be sure to order and pay for your beer and liquor ahead of time with B, so that we can pick it up and make sure it makes it to the lodge ahead of your trip. Our air charters are extremely limited by weight, and beer weighs a lot. Wine is served at the lodge and included in the package price, but liquor or beer are not for sale at our operations.

## Communications

At the lodge there is wireless internet. The internet does not work flawlessly as it can be effected by weather and excessive downloading. Please remember that the internet system is not meant for downloading photos, movies etc.. If you do, it will stop working. If you need to be in touch daily by phone, we suggest bringing a satellite telephone with you. Please note that due to the terrain on the Sustut, radios are not an effective means of communicating from boat to boat (range is less than a mile at best). We do have them in our boats but they work roughly half the time.

## Emergency facilities

The closest hospital, Smithers, is 50 minutes to 1 hour away by fixed wing plane or helicopter. Please assess your medical problems before booking. If you have medications that you take daily, please keep them with you at all times as your luggage and you can get separated.

We highly recommend travel insurance whenever you travel to British Columbia. If you purchase travel insurance within 21 days of your initial deposit it covers pre-existing medical conditions. There is always the possibility of an arrival or departure delay and/or cancellation due to weather. Please give us a call if you have any questions about travel insurance. Please click here to visit [Travelex](#) or [Global Rescue](#) for travel/medical evacuation insurance.

## Daily Room Cleaning

Guest rooms are cleaned daily. We do have laundry services available for clients if needed in an emergency situation.



## The Sustut River

The Sustut is truly a jewel that is for the most part largely unknown except among a core group of fanatics that fish the river on an annual basis hoping to crack the magic 30 pound mark for steelhead. On that note, there are few rivers where it is even possible. On the Skeena these include the Babine, Kispiox or the Sustut. The Sustut river is in our estimation the finest of these large race steelhead waters. It has several advantages, including no crowds, clear water (it is generally the last river to blow out) and its fish are huge...built for a long cold winter.

Due to its remote nature, it is too expensive for weekend warriors or adventurers to visit. When they weigh the costs of getting in, it is simply easier and cheaper to fish with a lodge. There is little angling pressure and much of the water remains unfished throughout a season. The fish are all wild, large on average and numerous. They travel an average of twenty miles a day during their migration to their spawning grounds and reach the Sustut a few days after they arrive on the Bulkley, Babine, Kispiox etc..

The river and valley are simply stunning. The views are constant and overwhelming. Each bend of the river brings giant cottonwoods and low lying alder in their fall splendor. The backdrop is almost always a high and frosted peak. The contrast is unbelievable. And through it all...a gin clear steelhead river with fish to well over 30 pounds-wild indeed.

## Our guide service

You will be fishing world class steelhead water on the Sustut river. We are a professional guide service and believe that we have a very important role to play in preserving the fishery. During your week, you will fish with different guides. If you have any questions about fishing techniques or fishing etiquette, please do not hesitate to ask. We are happy to help. If our guides aren't professional we'd like to know about it.

Our guides have fished around the world and make this their career; they can help the beginner learn how to cast, or show the experienced fly fishermen how to reach a tricky undercut bank. They will give you as much or as little assistance as you desire. We have 3/1 guest to guide ratio.

## The fishing schedule

After breakfast, clients depart for their day on the river. Hot or cold shore lunches are prepared for you by the guide; homemade soups, sandwiches, breads and salads. If you have any dietary requests, please be certain to let us know ahead of time so that we can accommodate them.

The boats are on the river for the day and return to the lodge by 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. sharp depending on the week. Then appetizers and dinner will be served in the main lodge at 7:00 p.m.

## The fishing program

Steelhead fishing is, we think, for the most part made to sound like a sport for tough fanatical fishermen; granted aficionados seem to fit this mold. However, that is largely due to the fact that many steelheaders are so taken by the fish and country that they pursue the fish like their lives depend on it...in some cases for months at a time eating canned meats and aged bread by a fire until the rivers freeze.

Contrary to public opinion, steelhead are a great fish that are aggressive and catchable for an angler of any skill level. You do not need to be able to throw a hundred feet of line or fish a 500 grain sinking line until your shoulder gives out. Without exception, if you listen to your guide, he will steer you into fish within your ability.

Fishing a dry fly is something that everyone should try for a few days. It is effective on the Sustut and is the most exciting way to catch a steelhead. You may lose a higher percentage of your fish, but the take is well worth it. In the end, you won't remember whether you landed 10 or 12 fish for the week, but you will remember a fish boiling on your skated dry in a glossy tail-out. Don't let the rest of the camp scare you out of it...because they will try. The fish on the Sustut are among B.C.'s largest and they will eat a dry.

The steelhead average 14 pounds and often reach well into the high twenties. There are 30-35 pound fish landed yearly. Consequently, we recommend you come prepared and with the appropriate gear.



## A word about fish numbers

Our guides keep track of your daily catch for the province of British Columbia; they do not keep track of the numbers for any other reason. On average anglers hook 1-3 fish a day. There have been days where a single boat has landed over 15 fish and plenty of days where all the boats have landed nothing. In short, when you return to camp, remember that if you had a great day someone probably had a slow one. Just enjoy the moment. Your slow day will come and nothing makes things worse for lodge atmosphere than a guy bragging relentlessly about being a grand fisherman. If that is you, please consider another venue.

## Regulations on the Sustut River

Single barbless hooks are required by law on the Sustut River. Please do not forget to pinch your barbs. In the past, some anglers have been unwilling to pinch their barbs and have waited until their guide is around the corner to replace a barbless hook with a barbed one. We will be happy to help you arrange an early departure from the lodge if this is the case. The steelhead have a hard enough time making it back to spawn as it is. Barbless hooks are the law, and insure a low catch and release mortality.

We use soft bagged nets and take great care in handling the fish. Do not under any circumstance drag your fish onto the rocks. If your guide is around the corner, pull the fish slowly into the shallows until it falls on its side in the water. At this point, keep pressure on the fish until it relaxes. Move in slowly, grab the tail and ease the hook out before helping the fish to deeper water for its release. Please do your best to photograph all steelhead with their heads remaining in the water; this insures higher survival.

## Fishing licenses

In the upcoming season we will be issuing classified licenses for our guests and guests will be charged for their licenses by credit card only. Please be sure to fill out the "Paperwork" (pages 10 to 12) and return to B by email or fax before April 1. If your license information is not returned to us it could seriously affect your fishing trip as

our internet at the lodge is frequently slow and we may be unable to issue the licenses needed for your trip.

## Weather and water

As you might expect, the weather in British Columbia can vary widely. We have had snow in August and 70 degree days in October and as always the chance of rain is high. So please come prepared for it all. We have attached a packing list to help you get prepared.

Please keep in mind that like any river, the Sustut can blow out. During high water, you can still catch fish, but if it is too high, fishing can be impossible and unsafe. In this event, guided fishing will not be available. The Sustut is the most stable of any of the Skeena systems and is also the first to come back into shape. It is important to understand that poor water conditions are always a risk no matter where you fish in B.C.

Additionally extreme low water can affect our ability to boat the Sustut. In this event angling will be done by raft, walking or vehicle. If there is a helicopter available, we will do our best to insure clients are able to do float trips on the upper river. Please be sure to note that helicopter costs will be billed by the helicopter company and are the responsibility of the client. Under no circumstances will the lodge pay for helicopter charters.

We do not offer rain checks or cancellations due to high or low water; it is impossible to predict. Some days the river will be back in shape in a day. Generally it takes a day to three. In a normal year we generally lose two to three days of fishing due to high water during the entire season. Please note that if you are not comfortable with the risk of dirty water or slow fishing, then Steelhead fishing may not be for you.

Please visit [www.SweetwaterFlyShop.com](http://www.SweetwaterFlyShop.com) for any clothing or equipment you need before your trip.





# PACKING LIST

## Need gear for your trip?

Please call **877.628.FISH** at our fly shop to speak with Dan Gigone or email [dan@sweetwaterflyshop.com](mailto:dan@sweetwaterflyshop.com). Dan has extensive experience at this destination and can answer any questions you might have relating to equipment needed. **When ordering gear please be sure to mention that you are booked with the lodge. As a thank you for your business, Sweetwater Travel Company will pay 10% of your final bill for any gear purchased for this trip. Visit [www.SweetwaterFlyShop.com](http://www.SweetwaterFlyShop.com) for the latest gear for your trip.**

### Documents

- Airline tickets
- Passport
- Cash
- Gratuities - Recommended Amount \$650

### Clothing

- Winter hat
- Fishing hat
- Undershirt/Undershorts
- Heavy weight long underwear - top & bottom
- Heavy weight fleece jacket/pullover
- Heavy weight socks - Several pairs. Not cotton.
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Gore-Tex waders
- Wading socks
- Wading belt
- Wading boots
- Casual long/short sleeved shirts, pants
- Belt

### Accessories

- Waterproof day bag
- Polarized glasses
- Bandana or Buff
- Camera/batteries
- Sunscreen SPF 25+
- Lip balm
- Hand warmers
- Reading material - books, magazine, etc
- Reading glasses
- Toiletries
- Prescription medications
- Headlamp

### Fishing gear

- Fly Rods - Spey or single hand rod
- Fly reels - Make sure to match well with rods
- Spare spools
- Fly lines - 550gr or 600gr Skagit Line
- 8# 15' Floating tip
- Wallet - With a variety of tips, Type 3, 6, 8
- 200 grain sink tip for single hand rods
- Cold water floating line for single hand rod
- Pliers/Hemostats
- Fishing pack/vest
- Clippers/nippers
- Hook file
- Tape measure
- Polarized glasses

### Flies

- Spey flies
- Winter flies (large heavily weighted patterns)
- Low water flies
- Marabou flies
- Leeches - The ones you feel most confident with!



## Deposit, cancellation & refund policy

A 50% non-refundable deposit is required within 10 days of making a reservation to secure a fishing confirmation. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure; participants are responsible for total land costs and no refund will be made unless a replacement is found. There is no refund for any unused portion of the land package. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered to each registrant. Receipt of deposit and/or final payment is acknowledgment that registrant has read and accepts cancellation/refund and responsibility clauses. In the event of a deposited cancellation within 120 days of the trip, the lodge reserves the right to discount the trip by any amount to help fill the space. Any money recovered above the final balance will be refunded to the cancelled client. In the event the trip is discounted by the deposit amount in order to get the trip sold, the cancelling client will not receive a refund. The lodge will always do its best to recover the full deposit for a cancelled client, but late cancellations make that extremely challenging.

## Responsibility & release of liability

Visiting our camps requires flying a private charter fixed wing aircraft and/or helicopters. Passengers must understand and accept the risks associated with such means of conveyance. Travel schedules in British Columbia can change due to adverse weather, strikes, or other factors beyond our control. This can cause delay and even missed international connections as well as missed charter flights to the lodge. Such delays could impose additional cost to you in hotels or in changing airline tickets or an additional charter for which we cannot be responsible.

In the event of inclement weather, fixed wing aircraft will not be able to fly into the Sustut. In such a case, Steelhead Valhalla Lodge may need to utilize a helicopter to fly you into the Sustut. This will be left to the discretion of the lodge. In that event, anglers will be responsible for the additional fee for the helicopter charter. We are still forced to bring in the fixed wing charter for supplies so in the event you need to take a helicopter out, the helicopter cost will be split among all anglers evenly. This cost can range from \$600 per angler if there is a group coming out and the route is clear up to \$1600 if the weather forces the helicopter to fly a longer route. Helicopter charges will be handled directly by the helicopter company. It should also be noted that in the event of severe weather the helicopter may not make it into the camp. It is important to note that hiring a helicopter does not guarantee it will get there. **The lodge will not pay any portion of any helicopter bill for any reason.**

## Voluntary participation

I acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge in British Columbia. I am voluntarily participating in the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, with knowledge of the hazards involved. I am aware that the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge involves hazardous activities with risk of illness, injury or death which may be caused by forces of nature, the negligence of the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, Sweetwater Travel Company, their affiliated agencies, their employees, or other agencies known or unknown. I am also aware that medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during some or all of the time while I am participating in the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge. In order to participate in the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, I am willing to accept the risks and uncertainty involved as being an integral part of my experience at the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge. I hereby accept and assume full responsibility for any and all risks of illness, injury, or death and due to the negligence of Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, Sweetwater Travel Company, their affiliated agencies, their employees, or other agencies known or unknown.

## Release and covenant not to sue

As consideration for being permitted by the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge to participate in the activities associated with Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, I hereby agree that neither I, nor any of my heirs, personal or legal representatives, or family members will bring suit or make a claim for illness, injury or death resulting from the negligence of the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, Sweetwater Travel Co., Dan Vermillion, Pat Vermillion, Jeff Vermillion, their affiliated agencies, their employees, and the supplier of the facilities and equipment I will use during my participation in Steelhead Valhalla Lodge I hereby release, and hold harmless, Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, Sweetwater Travel Company, Dan Vermillion, Pat Vermillion, Jeff Vermillion, their affiliated agencies, their employees, and the supplier of the facilities and equipment I will use during my participation in Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, from and against any and all liability arising out of, or in any way connected with, my participation in the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, including any liability for negligence.

## Controlling law

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the performance there under, including without limitation any claim related to the illness, injury or death, shall be governed by Canadian law. Any lawsuit filed as a result of my participation in the Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, shall be filed in Smithers, British Columbia.

## Knowing and voluntary execution

I have carefully read this agreement and understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract between myself and Steelhead Valhalla Lodge, Sweetwater Travel Company, Dan Vermillion, Pat Vermillion, Jeff Vermillion, their affiliated agencies, their employees, and the supplier of the facilities and equipment I will use during my participation in Steelhead Valhalla Lodge.

---

Signature of Releaser	Dated	Printed Name of Releaser	Dated
-----------------------	-------	--------------------------	-------

Trip Dates:



## British Columbia Fishing License Form

Belinda Miller, our Smithers' office manager will issue your licenses for the trip ahead of time. In order to issue this license we need the information below. Filling this out and faxing this form is critical and will save you fishing time. If you are concerned about providing your information by fax or have any questions at all you can call Belinda directly at 1.406.333.0128 or 1.778.269.0061. Fax number 406.794.0771.

### Information for BC fishing license

First Name:

Initial:

Last Name:

*Angler # if you have an existing BC Angler #:*

Do you require an  8 day BC Basic Fishing License or an  Annual (fishing more than 8 days in BC this year).

Birth Date:

(mm, dd, yyyy)

Sex:

Phone:

Email:

Confirm Email:

I agree that my email address may be used by the BC Government for survey purposes, and to notify me of regulation changes. The BC Government will not release my email for any other reason.

### Mailing Address:

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

Province:

Country:

Postal Code:

Residency:

By checking this box, I certify the information I have provided is true. I understand it is an offence to provide false information.

### Credit Card Information

Credit Card Type:

Name on card:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration date:

Security code:



# ARRIVAL & EMERGENCY CONTACT

## Emergency and Flight Information

**Steelhead Valhalla Lodge needs this information to arrange a driver for your arrival.**

Personal Information	
First and Last Name	
Cell Phone	
Emergency and Medical Information	
In case of emergency, contact	
Emergency contact's address	
Emergency contact's phone	
Medical insurance carrier and member #	
Known medical conditions	
Food allergies, special requests or needs	
Flight Information	
Arrival Date into Smithers, BC	
Arrival Airline/Time into Smithers, BC	
Departure Date from Smithers, BC	
Departure Airline/Time out of Smithers, BC	
Hotel you will be staying at in Smithers, BC	

**Please fill out this form and either fax, mail, or email back to Sweetwater Travel before your trip.**

Fax form to: 406.794.0771  
Email form to: [bmiller@sweetwatertravel.com](mailto:bmiller@sweetwatertravel.com)  
Mail form to: Sweetwater Travel Company  
PO Box 668  
Livingston, MT 59047

