



# WILDERNESS PLACE LODGE

Lake Creek, Alaska

## 2024 Trip Organizer and Packing Suggestions

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We look forward to your stay with us in Alaska this summer! The following document is an overview of our day-to-day operations and helpful hints to prepare for your trip. We also cover the basics of daily fishing, meals etc. Also included is a summary of recommended gear/clothing/personal items to pack for your travels north. Please be sure to take a minute and read through this so that you can ensure you will have the most enjoyable experience possible. For an online guide to FAQs and resources, please visit <https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com/trip-planning/guests/>



**Plan/Pack for the Weather:** Dressing in several layers is important as the weather changes from cool to warm and sunny, you can be comfortable with minimal inconvenience. Our weather can vary from chilly and wet (dipping down to 40 or 45 degrees at night) to warm dry days above 80 degrees, requiring sunscreen. For the most part, our area has fair weather compared to coastal Alaska, but come prepared for all possible

conditions. And remember that at our latitude of about 62 degrees, we have over 20 hours of daylight in June and July! You can check the local weather before coming at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and viewing zip code 99667.

**Travel Light!** When traveling by float plane, baggage space is limited so avoid hard suitcases and bring only duffel bags or soft luggage for your trip to the lodge. If possible, nearly all your clothing and gear for a week's stay should fit inside one medium duffel bag and one smaller personal bag if possible. Here is a good example of a great travel bag that would be the maximum allowable size: <https://www.eddiebauer.com/p/82300256/expedition-34-duffel> Note: please leave your hair dryer at home as the generator is not able to support high wattage items. We have some low-wattage hair dryers available upon request to lend from housekeeping.

### Clothing and Personal Gear to Plan on Packing:

- Polarized sunglasses!
- Fleece or other synthetic pullover/jacket
- Medicines, if required, in original bottles
- synthetic/ light wool socks
- Light gloves, synthetic or wool
- Baseball cap or river hat
- Mosquito repellent (also available at lodge)
- Camera
- a small day pack
- Light-weight, packable raincoat
- comfortable, waterproof shoes for around camp
- Personal toiletry articles
- long underwear for wear under waders
- Thin wool or synthetic stocking cap
- Cash for staff gratuities
- Sun Screen
- Flashlight/head lamp (late summer)

**\*\*If you plan to bring bear spray (we do not recommend that you need it), you will need to call and declare this with our flying service before your flight to the lodge: Rust's Flying Service, 907-243-1595. Thank you!**

If you have any special things you need to bring, such as a sleep apnea/breathing machine, please be in touch so we can assist you. We can accommodate the use of these machines 24/7 at the lodge if we know in advance.

**Arrival & Departure to & From the Lodge** We are a fly-in Alaska fishing & wilderness lodge. There is no road access to our remote Alaska river. Therefore, we fly by float plane via [Rust's Flying Service](#) based on Anchorage, Alaska's Lake Hood seaplane base. Generally, our departure flights to our lodge leave Anchorage at 10:30am and return flights to Anchorage depart the lodge at 11:45am on the final day of your trip with us. For departure flights from Anchorage to the lodge, please arrive at Rust's Flying Service no later than 10:00am to check-in and begin to load luggage on the float plane. For those needing transportation to Rust's, they do provide a free shuttle pick-up in Anchorage. **Please call Rust's the day before your flight at 1-800-544-2299 to schedule a time and place to be picked up.** Flights are typically 45 minutes each way between Anchorage and the lodge. **The pilots appreciate gratuities!**



### **Daily Fishing & Meal Schedules**

We assign one guide per 2-3 guests for your group. This allows your group(s) to plan the day's fishing & activities as you please. We do our very best to accommodate the preferred itinerary of all of our visitors. We offer a very liberal daily fishing schedule but do request that every group take a break either in the afternoon or evening to allow your guide(s) to rest and take care of their other personal chores such as fish filleting, boat cleaning and gear maintenance.

**Breakfast:** For early risers, we have a select continental breakfast available in the lodge along with copious amounts of fresh coffee and hot tea. From 6 – 8am chefs will be available to cook hot breakfast made to order. You have the option of grabbing breakfast and coffee to go as well. We do everything to offer flexible options yet be practical with respect to our service team.

**Lunch:** During the summer, guests usually prefer to take lunches to go to maximize their day on the river. Lunches will be prepared by the lodge chef team and sent on the water with you and your fishing guide. Your lunch is packed in coolers. If you prefer to return to camp mid-day, feel free to bring your lunch to the main lodge, our new dining cabanas, or to one of our creek-side picnic tables. A 12:00pm lunch in the lodge is also an option for you if you prefer to return after your morning on the water. Fireside shore lunches with your guide can also be arranged for one day during your stay. We simply need a one day advance notice to prepare your fresh caught salmon, or other “grillables”. As with breakfast, we will speak with you prior to dinner each evening to coordinate your lunch plan for the following day. We pride ourselves on catering to your individual preferences. Be sure to let us know what we can do for you.

**Dinner:** Dinner at the main lodge is at 6:30 pm. Please join us for beverages and hors d'oeuvres in the lodge before dinner. Our chef team prepares exciting and diverse fare. They strive to use the freshest ingredients that our fine Alaskan purveyors have to offer. The chefs are happy to tailor the menu to your dietary requirements. Talk with them about what works best for you. Beer and wine at our lodge are complimentary (just keep it between the lines, ok?) During this new era of Covid-19, we are operating under special directives by the state of Alaska to encourage social-distancing and minimal “contact points” between staff and guests. We have constructed a



new dining cabin for anyone wanting a social-distanced, intimate and unique dining experience. This is available upon request.

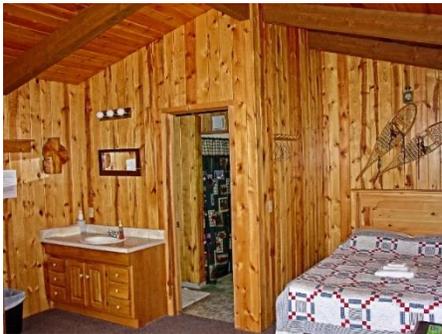
### **Fishing Regimen**

Please always keep in mind we are on a remote, mountain-fed river system. Like all rivers, we experience variable conditions throughout the season and from year to year that are beyond our control. Being in a remote location and accessing fishing areas in a remote river requires a combination of boating, wading, and hiking. Depending on where you wish to fish, current river levels, etc. will determine ease of accessibility. When the river is very low, hiking gravel bars is required to access some areas of the upper river. We ask that each person assess their physical abilities/limitations prior to planning your daily fishing venue. Our focus is on the safety of our guests. We want you to have a great time here, catch fish and make memories but not to push yourself beyond your threshold. At all times, we access all areas of the river exclusively by the safest means possible.

### **Lodge Guiding Hours**

Our guides are eager to help you enjoy fishing on Lake Creek. We try to be as flexible as possible with our guided fishing hours to give you the best fishing experience we can offer. This may mean late night or early morning hours. The most productive and preferred fishing schedule for most of our guests is to rise early, have breakfast and hit the water by 6:30am, have lunch on the river to maximize your fishing time and then return late afternoon... have some drinks, a nice dinner and R&R before a solid night's sleep in preparation for the next day.

Note that legal fishing hours in our area of Alaska for June through July 13 are 6AM – 11PM. We do require that our guides get an adequate amount of rest time to assure your safety and theirs on the river. When you return to camp, they have several hours of added duty time as well as maintaining their boats and the lodge fishing equipment before they are able to break. Thus, if your group is doing late-night or early morning fishing, we request that each guide is allowed adequate time in the afternoon to rest. We suggest returning to the lodge by 2:30 pm if you plan on fishing again in the evening and 4pm if you do not plan on evening fishing. Thanks!



### **Lodge Electrical Power**

The lodge functions on power from a 20kw diesel generator. The generator usually operates from 5:00 AM until 11:00PM - 12:00AM based on need. When the generator is off, the water system does not function. Therefore, showers and flushing of toilets are only possible when the power is on. Periodically, we'll run the generator all night. There is water available in the lodge at all water taps when the power is off. Many guests ask for a pitcher of water and glasses prior to bed time to store in their cabin.

### **Flexible Cuisine**

Although we continue to be known for our fine [lodge dining](#), we are constantly trying to change our menus to exceed our guests' expectations. Please let us know if there are some foods you cannot have or prefer not to have. We are usually able to provide a healthy alternative to each of our meals. The coffee's always on in the lodge!

**Fishing Equipment & Tackle:** We have a good selection of quality rods and reels for both fly & spin fishing, inclusive as part of your trip package. If you intend to use our gear, please fill out the online guest questionnaire (listed at the bottom of this letter) in advance to ensure you have reserved what you need from us. Also included as part of your trip price is the use of our breathable waders and wading boots.

Our tackle shop is fully stocked with all the popular lures and terminal tackle that spin fishermen will need at Lake Creek. We have a good selection of lodge-tied fly fishing flies in all the popular patterns which are included. Also, available to our fly fishermen, there is a fully-stocked fly-tying table in the lodge if you happen to find that perfect pattern of the week and you wish to tie your own.

Whether coming to spin fish, fly fish or both, we will assist you by providing the right gear for fishing during your stay. Either way, remember *all tackle and fishing gear is already included in your trip price.*

While we do provide all the gear you need for fishing, we also understand that sometimes it is more comfortable to simply use the equipment you know best. If you feel that you would like to bring and use any of your own personal rods, waders/boots, or other tackle or flies you are free to do so. We would simply encourage you to check the website link below, or give us a call, to learn more about the suggested rod/reel combos and fly/lure recommendations for each fishing species. <https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com/alaska-fishing/>.

**Fishing Licenses and regulations:** We do have Alaska sport fishing licenses for sale at the lodge for the convenience of our guests. Here is a link to current fishing license prices: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.pricinglist> . **King salmon stamps will not be needed in 2024 due to statewide conservation restrictions placed on king salmon. If you catch a king salmon while targeting other species, you must release it immediately.** You are encouraged to buy your fishing license online in advance to save time once you arrive. You can purchase this license at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.main> Alternatively, you can purchase licenses at the lodge upon arrival. Every licensed fisherman should have a photo-ID with them on the water at all times while fishing.

Please keep up with Alaska fishing regulations prior to your trip! Regulations are not set in stone and can change spontaneously. Anadromous fish populations such as salmon are counted daily by the department of fish and game. Total numbers of incoming fish are compared to historical averages and regulations can be changed if fish numbers exceed or fall short of management goals. General fishing regulations for our region can be found here: [https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs/southcentral/2024sc\\_sfregs\\_s\\_usitna\\_river.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs/southcentral/2024sc_sfregs_s_usitna_river.pdf) We are in "Unit 4". In addition to the base regulations, Alaska Fish & Game will spontaneously release "emergency orders" that may restrict or increase the harvest of a specific species due to their daily fish counts. Amendments to the base regulations can be viewed real-time here: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2024&AreaID=29> (We are in the Mat-Su Region.)

\*\* Wilderness Place Lodge is not responsible for any changes to local fishing regulations. We do our best to keep you in the loop as things change, but more often than not we are unaware of regulatory changes until they have been made. Regulations change regularly in Alaska.

**Alcohol:** Beer and Wine are complimentary at the lodge. Tap Domestic Beer and Alaskan Microbrews are provided as part of your trip package. Alcoholic beverages, other than beer and wine, are not available at the lodge due to Alaska state liquor regulations. Guests should bring their own liquors if they wish. We can provide mixers for you upon request.

**Gratuity:** In the event you plan to leave a gratuity, groups typically bring along a pre-determined amount of cash which they allocate among the guide and staff. We typically receive on average gratuities which range from 5-12% of the lodge trip price. Groups typically divide the gratuity into a 50/50 up to a 75/25 split between their guide and then remaining in-camp staff. Any gratuities you wish to leave for your guide and in camp staff are solely at your own discretion and should be based on the quality of the experience you had.

**Catching and Bringing Fish Home:** When you catch a fish at the lodge, your guide will fillet and freeze the fish for you. This applies to all salmon with the exception of king salmon due to region-wide fishing restrictions for kings imposed by Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G).

For other salmon species you catch and retain in July and August, you have two options to take your fillets home. First option: you may purchase an insulated fish box or boxes from the lodge at \$20 apiece. The fish box will allow you to pack your frozen fillets upon your return from the lodge and check on your commercial. In almost all domestic flights this works quite well.

Second option would be to have the fish processed and shipped home. Note this is a more expensive option with next day shipping from Alaska. While at the lodge, you would fill out an order card and we would ensure that the fish are picked up by Alaska Sausage & Seafood Inc. in Anchorage. They can pack and ship fresh fillets, or smoke and package a mixed % of your fillets upon request. They will then ship the fresh/smoked fish to your home/office when you return from your vacation. Additional Alaska Sausage & Seafood information is available at their website: <http://www.alaskasausage.com> or for current pricing and options please call them directly at 1-800-798-3636. We encourage you to discuss their services with them prior to arriving in Alaska so you are confident they would be a good option for you. We are not directly affiliated with this company.

If you have additional travel plans after your stay with us, we have minimal storage in a chest freezer in our private shed at Rust's Flying Service. We use this freezer for food deliveries, etc. so we ask you only store your fish for a few hours if plan to head to town before catching a flight home. If our freezer is already full, you will have to find other storage options. Note that most hotels in Anchorage have freezer storage for fish as well as the Anchorage International Airport. Finally, we are allocated a 35 lb limit per person for fish on the float planes from the lodge to Anchorage. If you keep more than 50lbs/group during your stay with us, we may have to upgrade our existing plane or find a second plane in the area to bring home your excess fish. This will require an extra fee. Please do keep in mind that even 10lbs of frozen salmon is a lot of protein and will feed your family for quite some time! Be responsible and keep only what you need. This will simplify your trip home as well.

**Estimates for Taking Fish Home:** We do encourage catch and release when possible and ask that you think about how much salmon is realistic for you to bring home. Certain species are catch and release only such as rainbow trout. Other species are non-target/non-retention for 2024 (king salmon). As a planning tool, salmon typically yield 40-50% of their body weight in fillets. Your guide will work with you on the water to determine what you would like to be able to bring home, if any, to satisfy your trip goals. 26lbs of fillets creates a meal for two each week for the year. We encourage conservation and hope that our guests keep only what they truly need to share with friends and family.

In all cases the lodge policy requires strict adherence to current Alaska state sport fishing regulations, and we ask that our guests support us in maintaining this practice. Regulations are constantly changing and being updated by Alaska Fish & Game. If there are any updated or special regulations which increase or decrease catch limits at Lake Creek they will be posted at the

lodge during your stay. The lodge is not in control, nor is liable for any change in state regulations that may impact your fishing options.



**The Alaska Adventure Company:** The Alaska Adventure Company is our side project driven by those of you that seek a diversity of adventures and experiences while in Alaska. In addition to operating Wilderness Place Lodge, we also offer [bundled packages](#) to our two unique [outpost cabins](#) for DIY retreats, guided day floats, etc. These experiences can be added on to your existing fishing lodge package. We also work in tandem with other lodges and tour operators that offer experiences that we cannot such as helicopter-glacier tours, Coastal Flight-seeing tours, Bear-viewing excursions, dog-sledding, white-water rafting, etc. If at any time prior to your Alaska trip you would like to add on any additional tours or experiences, we would be happy to help you do so. Please email us at [wildernessplacelodge@gmail.com](mailto:wildernessplacelodge@gmail.com) to inquire about any additional add-ons, rates and availability!

**So we can plan for your arrival, Most Importantly:** Please be sure to fill out the online guest questionnaire as soon as possible so we can accommodate any fishing, dietary, medical or other special requests you may have.

Please go to site and fill out this questionnaire for each member of the group:  
<https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com/questionnaire.html>

We wish you a pleasant trip to Alaska! We are sure that your stay with us at Wilderness Place Lodge will be a memorable one. We recommend that you plan to overnight in Anchorage the night before traveling to the lodge in order to avoid any inconvenience caused by airline or baggage delays traveling from your home. Please don't hesitate to phone/email us if you require any further information or assistance in planning your trip.



We'll see you soon in Alaska!

*Jason Rockram & Cory Wenst*

### ***Alaska's Wilderness Place Lodge***

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1-877-753-FISH or (907) 733-2051

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Email: [wildernessplacelodge@gmail.com](mailto:wildernessplacelodge@gmail.com)

On the net: <https://www.wildernessplacelodge.com>

Adventure bundles: <http://alaskaadventurecompany.com>