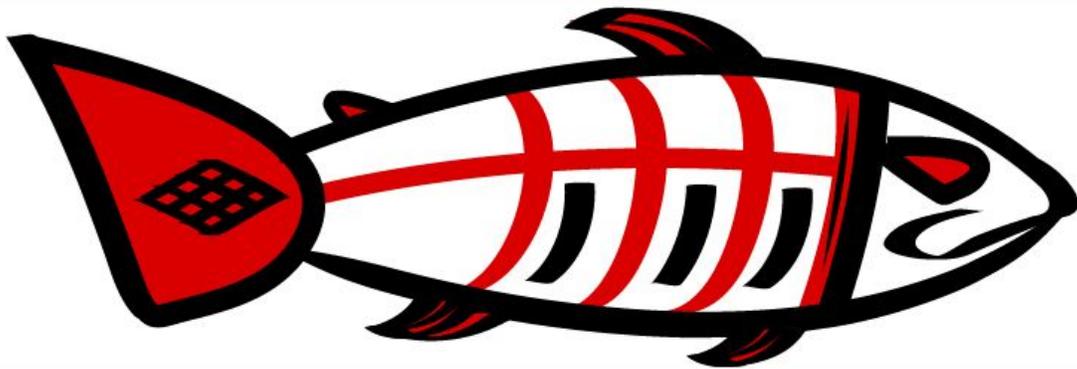


Suskeena Lodge



Wild steelhead on the Sustut River

Travel Planning Guide

Fall 2017

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Trip Itinerary & Pricing

2017 Prices

Package Rate:

\$ 6,900 USD per angler based on a double occupancy cabin and fishing 3 anglers per boat. Package price does not include applicable taxes which is an additional \$350-\$400 USD. An individual may request a single occupancy cabin for the duration of their stay at an additional charge of \$1,500 USD.

Package Includes:

Fixed wing charter flight into and out of the camp from Smithers, BC; 6 fully guided days of angling on the Sustut River, meals, non-alcoholic beverages, accommodations while at the lodge, and select wines served with dinner.

Package Does Not Include:

Meals and accommodations while in Smithers, hard alcohol, beer, BC fishing licenses, gratuities, and additional unforeseen air charters fixed wing or helicopter.

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, guided anglers can expect an industry standard of 10-20% of the fishing package.

Trip Itinerary

* In 2017 we will be running a **Saturday to Saturday** program- Flying into the lodge from Smithers on a Saturday and departing the lodge for Smithers the following Saturday.

Day 1 (Friday):

Depart home city for Vancouver, British Columbia with a connection that day to Smithers, BC via **Air Canada** or Central Mountain Air. Arriving in Smithers Friday afternoon or evening, use the shuttle service provided by Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge to that hotel (recommended). Enjoy an evening in the Steelhead Capital at your leisure. Upon booking at Hudson Bay Lodge mention you are with "Suskeena Lodge" and receive our exclusive rate.

Day 2 (Saturday):

After enjoying breakfast in Smithers, take the Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge complimentary shuttle to the Tintina Air loading area located near to the Tsayta Air hangar at 10:30am for a planned 11:00am departure time. After a 45 min flight you will be met by our guides and transferred to the Lodge via Polaris Ranger. Please dress warm for the transfer to the lodge. Upon arrival you will have ample time to settle in and unpack, enjoy a sit down lunch, and fish the local camp pools provided you are licensed appropriately.

Trip Itinerary Continued....

Day 3 (Sunday)- Day 8 (Friday):

Breakfast is served in the lodge at 7:30am with an 8:30am departure to go fishing for the day. Hot lunch is prepared by your guide riverside consisting of various dishes including various gourmet soups, burgers, salads, sandwiches etc. Hot beverage choices are available in the boats every day. Return to the lodge between 5:30-6:00pm to enjoy appetizers prior to a world-class plated dinner accompanied by different wines of BC and the world. Dinner is served between 7:00-7:30pm each night.

Day 9 (Saturday):

After a leisurely breakfast you will be transferred from the lodge to the airstrip to board a flight planned for 11:00am departing for Smithers. Once in Smithers you will transfer to the Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge for the night OR to your outgoing evening flight at the Smithers airport.

*** We highly recommend scheduling your return flight home the following morning (Sunday) so that any flight delays from the lodge, as a result of poor weather, do not affect your travel home.**



Travel & Logistics

Flight Information

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is your gateway to BC's interior. Most larger US cities have direct flights to Vancouver using all major US and Canadian airlines. If there are no direct flights from your home city then alternatively you can fly to Seattle, WA and get a short connecting flight over the border. Once in Vancouver your flight options are limited to Air Canada, which, during the steelhead season will operate 3 direct flights daily (morning, afternoon and evening) between Vancouver and Smithers. **Contact Air Canada at 1-888-247-2262.**

The only other airline to operate this route is Central Mountain Air on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays with a layover in Prince George. This schedule is subject to change. For further information you can call Central Mountain Air 1-888-865-8585.

Travel Agency

We at Suskeena Lodge are happy to assist with any of your travel plans, however if you would like detailed assistance with flight arrangements please contact **Julz Gilpin at The Travel Station**. Julz can help by booking all flights and hotels with 24/7 assistance available during your trip. Contact Julz by email at julz@thetravelstation.com or call her direct at **1-406-522-1314** or toll free **1-800-522-8747**.

Ground Transportation

The Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge is our recommended accommodation in Smithers. They provide a shuttle service that will meet you at the airport with a sign that says "Suskeena Lodge" and transport you to that hotel for the night. The same shuttle will be provided to transport you the next morning at approximately 9:30am to the hangar for your flight into the Sustut. **Contact the Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge at 1-800-663-5040**: mention you are with "Suskeena Lodge" and receive our exclusive rate.

Local taxi service in Smithers: **Bulkley Valley Taxi Service at 1-250-247-2262.**

Instead of flying, some guests choose to drive to Smithers. From Vancouver, BC it is about a 12 hour drive. This does enable you to stay on your own schedule and fish on some of the other rivers in the area.

For guests planning on spending extra time in Smithers there are two car rental companies. **National Car Rental 1-250-847-2216** or **Thrifty Car Rental 1-250-847-3332.**

*** If you require any further assistance with your travel arrangements or your travel plans have been altered in a way that affects your trip logistics please contact us at 1-250-566-1407 or sustutriver@gmail.com.**

Resources & Business Directory

Suskeena Lodge & Partners	Smithers Airlines & Helicopters	Accommodations & Dining out
Angela Brennan; 250-566-1407 sustutriver@gmail.com Skype Name; SuskeenaLodgeSteelhead	Air Canada; 1- 888-247-2262 www.aircanada.com	Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge; 1-250-847-4581 smithers@prestigehotels.ca Mention Group: Suskeena Lodge
Eric Van Velzen; 250-566-1272 sustutriver@gmail.com Skype Name; SuskeenaLodgeSteelhead	Central Mountain Air; 1-888-865-8585 www.flycma.com	Storks Nest Inn; 1-250-847-3831 info@storksnestinn.com
Joanne Campbell; (expeditor) 1-778-210-0406 campbell.joanne@gmail.com	Smithers BC Regional Airport 1 250-847-3664	Aspen Motor Inn; 1-800-663-7676 aspeninn@telus.net
	Tysata Air (Charter); 1-250-847-9500	West Coast Grill & bar (located at Prestige Hotel) 1-800-663-5040
*We will inform you if expeditor is different than stated above	Highland Helicopters - Shane Menzel; 1-250-847-3859 smithers@highland.ca	Blue Water Sushi; 1-250-847-5341
	Canadian Helicopters; 1-250-847-9444	La Cantina, Mexican; 1-250-847-3363
	SilverKing Helicopters; 1-250-877-1989	Alpenhorn Bistro; 1-847-5366



About Suskeena Lodge

Built in the 60's Suskeena Lodge is the first commercial operation on the Susut River to host anglers to fish for native wild Steelhead. Located in Northern BC roughly 100 miles North of Smithers, the lodge is inaccessible by road. The area is only accessible by fixed wing airplane flying directly into a gravel airstrip near the Sustut River or a privately chartered helicopter directly to the lodge. The flight from Smithers is approximately 45 minutes.

Once at the lodge, clients will stay two to a cabin. Cabins are well furnished with good quality wood stoves for warmth and each cabin has its own en suite bathroom with on demand hot water and flushing toilet. They are some of the nicest cabins in the Steelhead industry. The main lodge is a charming custom built log structure with plenty of room to relax by the fire place, eat and socialize. All meals are served in the main lodge prepared by our lodge chef using top quality ingredients. Foods include freshly baked breads, home-made soups, various meats, local sustainably sourced fish, seasonal vegetables and decadent desserts. Select wines from BC and beyond are served with all dinners and paired according to your meal.

Please note hard alcohol and beer is not included in the package. If you would like to bring premium wines, they can be ordered here in Canada and shipped ahead of time. We are more than happy to help you source your preferred beverages and fly in your order in advance of your arrival. All orders are the expense of the individual by Credit Card. It is possible to bring 3 bottles of wine per person into Canada tax-free. Bear in mind these may not be packed in your carry-on baggage onto commercial flights and only can be transported in your checked baggage. They are fine as carry-on luggage for the charter flight into the lodge. A great selection of wine, fine scotch, beer and other liquors are available at the BC Liquor store located near the Safeway foods in Smithers.

Communication. There is Wireless Internet at the lodge and can be used for basic emails. We strongly recommend you not download large files, stream videos as this will use the daily bandwidth allowance very quickly and cease to work. Internet is our main form of communication to the outside world so it is imperative it remains functioning at a decent level. If you need daily phone communication we suggest you bring a satellite phone. There is radio communication on the river between boats for safety reasons, range is approximately a mile so can be 'spotty' at times, especially during bad weather. Welcome to the Canadian wilderness!

Emergency facilities. There is basic first aid and an emergency plan at the lodge. The nearest hospital is in Smithers, which is an hour away by air. Please assess your medical situation prior to traveling and keep any medication you need with you at all times. We highly recommend travel insurance whenever you travel to British Columbia. There is always the possibility of arrival or departure delays or cancellations due to weather. Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or visit these recommended **Travel Insurance** websites: <http://www.globalrescue.com> or <http://www.travelgaurd.com>

Fishing the Sustut

The Sustut River is truly a jewel that is largely unknown except amongst a core group of steelhead fanatics that fish the river annually. It is the remotest of the famous Skeena steelhead tributaries meaning that guests at Suskeena Lodge will enjoy solitude on the river while they try to crack that magical 30-pound mark. The 100 percent wild strain of steelhead entering the Sustut is some of the largest in the world and compare only to its neighbors in the Babine, and the Kispiox to the South. Being so far from the ocean these fish can take on a very trout-like behavior reacting to skated dries and other floating line techniques remarkably well.... even in water temps of 40F and less. Imagine a 20-30 pound male steelhead crushing a dry fly on a glassy tail-out..... It happens on the Sustut!

This is a **steelhead fly-fisher's dream** with sections of long freestone pools in the lower river, to canyon water in the upper river. The legendary upper river has beautiful glassy pools enabling stunning visuals of large steelhead in their habitat and is a sanctuary for numbers of fish preparing to winter over before they spawn in the spring.

Visiting anglers can expect stunning views of snow-capped peaks and raw wilderness surrounding you. Sightings of mature bull Moose, Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, and Wolves are common, along with beaver, mink, and four species of pacific salmon abound in the Sustut at different times of the season.

The Fishing Program at Suskeena Lodge enables anglers to spend over half of the day, every day, angling on water that has been unfished by anybody else! Meaning there is no racing amongst guides or 'low-holing' and everybody gets to experience the Sustut for what it is..... a wild remote river with the most well-built steelhead in the world. At a maximum capacity of 9 anglers at the lodge you can expect to fish three to a boat with a rotation on the river that enables everyone to have equal and fair opportunity on each section, or "beat" as we call them. These beats are very large and seldom can a group of anglers fish every pool within.

All anglers, whether beginner or expert, can count on knowledgeable, experienced guides that have spent seasons on the Sustut to help you, or not help you, as much or as little as necessary. It is not uncommon for beginner anglers to have some of the highest catch rates in camp proving that a long cast, although valuable, is not always necessary to be a successful steelhead angler. Catch rates are highly variable depending on endless environmental factors. But generally as a rule of thumb, one fish landed per angler per day is a wonderful goal that is very achievable. There are many occasions throughout each season when catch rates exceed this number.

Fishing The Sustut Continued....

Catch and Release is mandatory when fishing for wild steelhead anywhere in British Columbia. **Single Barbless Hooks** are also mandatory on all streams/ivers in British Columbia year round. Anglers visiting the Sustut should come prepared with all flies tied on single hooks with the barbs pinched in advance. Fish handling is to be as minimal as possible and at all times fish should be kept in the water; this also applies to photographing your catch. Your guide will advise and help with obtaining great photos of you with your fish while keeping the fish in the water.

A **BC Freshwater Angling License** is mandatory to fish any freshwater stream, river or lake in BC. The Sustut is a Class 1 water after September 1st which requires guests of Suskeena lodge to be equipped with a **Classified Waters License** as well as a **Steelhead Stamp** which is mandatory when fishing for steelhead anywhere in BC. All of the mentioned licenses can be obtained once at the lodge, however we have provided a form on [Page 11](#) you can fill out that allows us to obtain your license in advance of your trip. The licenses issued for **Guided Angling** will be issued under **BC Angling Guide Angela Brennan**.

Double-handed rods or spey rods are the most effective tools of this trade and are especially useful to beginner anglers enabling them to cover water efficiently after a short lesson from your guide. A 7wt or 8wt rod in the 12 to 14 foot range paired with a skagit or modern shooting head in grains 375 to 650 depending on your setup is recommended. Longer rods are generally better for less experienced anglers.

Full **floating** and a range of **Sinking Tip** lines or “sink tips” are most useful. Either a selection of varying lengths of T-14 or a selection of the modern MOW tips are best and commonly understood in the industry. A selection of 30/20/15/12/10 pound Maxima or equivalent is the standard in monofilament leader material.

Suskeena Lodge has a selection of **Loaner/Demo Rods** that are set up perfectly for beginner steelhead anglers that we are happy to lend. In the unfortunate event of a broken demo rod, we will charge \$150.00 to cover shipping and replacement costs.

For the **dry-fly and floating line** aficionados there is no better way to pursue wild steelhead than with a **single hand rod!** For this we recommend rods no lighter than an 8 wt equipped with floating lines and a good selection of dry and low-water flies such as deer/moose hair Muddlers, Pom skaters, Lady Caroline's, Skunk variations, Purple Perils and the like.

Steelhead Flies for the Sustut include all the popular steelhead patterns and styles. A variety of sizes and weights will best serve you in colors such as black, blue, purple, orange and pink. Intruder style flies and streamers like the Kilowatt, trailer trash, pick-ye-pocket and hobo spey are productive along with the above mentioned low-water patterns. Natural flies work very well on the Sustut and include moose hair and deer hair muddlers, and rubber leggy girdle-bug types.

Packing Checklist

Suskeena Lodge want you to be comfortable throughout your stay and want you to have everything you need for your trip. Here is a helpful list of items to bring with you from fishing gear to clothing. Need gear for you trip? Suskeena Lodge works with **Oscars Source for Adventure** located in Smithers who can accommodate all your Steelheading supply needs at the store. Tell them you are with Suskeena Lodge and receive a 5% discount on all gear. Other online sources of gear include [Sweetwater Fly Shop](#) and [The Fly Shop](#). For waders and outerwear visit [Simms Fishing Products](#).

For any additional advice on gear please email Eric at sustutriver@gmail.com

Documents	Clothing & Accessories	Fishing Gear
Passport and other Identification	High Quality Waders & Wading boots	Fly Rods - Spey or single hand or both 7,8,9 wt
Airline ticket & flight details	Wading Belt and whistle	Fly Reels - with lots of backing
Cash	Waterproof jacket (with hood)	Spare spools
Cell phone	Thermal underwear - top & bottom	Fly Lines - 550gr or 600 skagit line
Gratuity	Heavy fleece pullover/vest/jacket	Leader/tippet material 15lb
Credit Card(s)	Wool socks - not cotton. Several pairs	Tip Wallet - with variety of sinking and floating tips
Flies	Headlamp and flashlight	Floating line for single hand rods
Spey flies	Winter hat/ fishing hat/toque	Pliers/hemostats
Winter flies (large heavy weighted patterns)	Casual long/short sleeved shirts & pants for evening	Clippers/nippers
Low water flies - sparse/deer hair	Outdoor footwear	Hook file
Marabou Streamers- blacks/blues/purple/orange	Casual Indoor footwear/slippers to wear in the lodge	Polarized glasses
Leeches - what feels right to you!	Buff/Bandana and gloves	Waterproof day bag
Tube flies	Lip balm/sun screen	Camera
Dry flies (skaters)	Reading material	Tape measure
Rubber legged nymphs	Toiletries and Medications	Hand warmers

Paperwork

Please print and fill out pages 11, 12 and 13

To fish the Sustut River you need specific fishing licenses. Your license for your trip can be issued ahead of time, if you require assistance please let us know. In order to do this we need the information below, filling out this form and sending it back to us is critical and will save you fishing time. If you have any concerns providing any of these details please call Angela or Eric directly at 1250-566-1407.

Information for BC Fishing License

First name;	Last name;	Initial;
Phone;	email;	Sex;
Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy);	BC Angler # if known;	
Do you require an 8 day or Annual BC fishing license? <small>*If you plan to fish anywhere else in BC after Suskeena you will need an annual license</small>		

I agree that my email 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

Line 1;	Line 2;
City;	Province;
Postal code;	Residency;

By checking this box I hereby 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;	Exp date;
Security code;	Credit Card number;	

Suskeena Waiver

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 90 days prior to departure; participants are responsible for total 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 acknowledgement that registrant has read and accepts cancellation/refund and responsibility clauses.

Responsibility & release of liability

Visiting our camp 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 Suskeena Lodge cannot be responsible.

In the event of inclement weather, fixed wing aircraft may not be able to fly into the Sustut. In such a case, Suskeena 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 charter will be split among all anglers evenly. This cost can range from \$600 per angler if there is 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 camp. It is important to note that hiring a helicopter does not guarantee it will get there. Suskeena Lodge will not pay any portion of any helicopter bill for any reason.

Voluntary Participation

I acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to book and participate in a trip with Suskeena Lodge in British Columbia. I am voluntarily participating in the Suskeena Lodge, with knowledge of the hazards involved. I am aware that the Suskeena Lodge involves hazardous activities with risk of illness, injury or death which may be caused by forces of nature, the negligence of the Suskeena Lodge, their affiliated agencies, their employees, their contractors, 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 Suskeena Lodge. In order to participate in the Suskeena Lodge, I am willing to accept the risks and uncertainty involved as being an integral part of my experience at the Suskeena Lodge. I hereby accept and assume full responsibility for any and all risks of illness, injury, death due to the negligence of Suskeena Lodge, their affiliated agencies, their employees, contractors, or other agencies known or unknown.

Release and covenant not to sue

As consideration for being permitted by the Suskeena Lodge to participate in the activities associated with Suskeena 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 Suskeena Lodge, Eric Van Velzen, Angela Brennan, their affiliated agencies, their employees, contractors and the supplier of the facilities and equipment I will use during my participation in Suskeena Lodge. I hereby release, and hold harmless, Suskeena Lodge, Eric Van Velzen, Angela Brennan, their affiliated agencies, their employees, contractors and the supplier of the facilities and equipment I will use during my participation in Suskeena Lodge, from and against any and all liability arising out of, or in any way connected with, my participation in the Suskeena 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 unforeseen additional cost, illness, injury or death, shall be governed by Canadian Law. Any lawsuit filed as a result of my participation in the Suskeena 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 Suskeena Lodge, Eric Van Velzen, Angela Brennan, their affiliated agencies, their employees, contractors, and the supplier of the facilities and equipment I will use during my participation in Suskeena Lodge.

Signature of releaser;	Printed Name of Releaser;
Dated	Dated;
Trip dates;	

Flight arrival & Emergency contact

Please fill out as much information as you can, Suskeena will arrange a driver for your arrival into Smithers and organize any beverage preferences ahead of time. Please note hard alcohol and beer is not provided at the lodge, we are more than happy to organize and pick up your alcohol ahead of time in Smithers. Please note all purchases are the responsibility of the client.

First & last name;	Cell phone #
Emergency & Medical Information	
Emergency contact name;	Number;
Address;	
Medical Insurance carrier & member #	
Known Medical condition(s)	
Food allergies - please inform us of all food allergies and strong dislikes;	
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 pages 11, 12 & 13 and scan onto an email or mail to Suskeena Lodge before your trip.

**Email to; Angela Brennan - sustutriver@gmail.com or
Mail to; Suskeena Lodge, Box 1001, Valemount, BC, V0E 2Z0, Canada.**