



## **Suskeena Lodge 2023 Information pack**

**Thank you for your booking, please read through this guide to help you prepare for the trip of lifetime!**

# Suskeena Lodge

## Your home away from home on the Sustut River

### Trip inclusions:

- 6 GUIDED DAYS ON THE SUSTUT RIVER
- EN SUITE SHARED ACCOMMODATION - (Each cabin is double occupancy unless you are booked into a week of 6 rods whereby we can offer the majority anglers a single cabin).
- ALL MEALS, WINE WITH DINNER, CASUAL BEER & SOME HARD ALCOHOL FROM THE BAR
- PRIVATE CHARTER FLIGHT INTO AND OUT OF THE LODGE
- LOANER FISHING RODS AND GEAR IF NEEDED

### Trip exclusions:

- TRAVEL EXPENSES TO AND FROM SMITHERS, ACCOMMODATIONS IN SMITHERS & SHUTTLE/TAXI
- FISHING LICENSE (\$350-\$450 CAD)
- STAFF GRATUITY (10-15% OF YOUR TRIP PRICE) - PLEASE BRING CASH OR CHECK, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS FOR GRATUITIES
- FLIES/MERCHANDISE
- SCOTCH AND PREMIUM BEERS/SPIRITS

### Suskeena & Covid-19

Although we have come a long way from the travel challenges faced during the pandemic, as a very remote operation we continue to be conscious of the impact of Covid-19 and other illnesses. We ask that guests ensure they are in full compliance with International, Canadian and regional health mandates in regards to Covid-19 and other illnesses. If you are noticeably sick, please consider removing yourself from the trip beforehand so as not to risk passing your illness onto others in this intimate, wilderness lodge setting.

## Travel Itinerary:

Currently the only flight into Smithers is late in the afternoon. This means you will need to **overnight in Smithers** and will fly into Suskeena the following morning. We recommend overnighing at the **Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge** - please quote 'Suskeena fly fishing lodge' to receive a discounted rate. Our expeditor will meet you all at the airport and have taxi(s)/shuttle(s) ready to make the transfer to the hotel.

**Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge** - please make your reservation on the front end of your trip by emailing [smithers@prestigehotels.ca](mailto:smithers@prestigehotels.ca) or call 1-250-847-4581.

## FLIGHTS

**AC 8461 16:15 Vancouver (YVR) to 17:50 Smithers (YYD) – 1hr35m - Operated by Air Canada Express - Jazz**

Please book this Air Canada flight on the **day before the start date of your trip**.

**AC 8462 18:30 Smithers (YYD) to 20:01 Vancouver (YVR) – 1hr31m Operated by Air Canada Express - Jazz**

Please book this Air Canada flight on the **last day of your trip when you fly out from Suskeena**, unless your preference is to stay overnight and leave the next evening.

For quick reference, here is the 2023 Arrival/Departure schedule for Suskeena.

Trip Dates	Fly into Smithers	Fly into Suskeena	Fly out of Smithers
August 25th - September 1st	August 24th	August 25th	September 1st
September 3rd - 10th	September 2nd	September 3rd	September 10th
September 10th - 17th	September 9th	September 10th	September 17th
September 17th - 24th	September 16th	September 17th	September 24th
September 24th - October 1st	September 23rd	September 24th	October 1st
October 1st - 8th	September 30th	October 1st	October 8th

October 8th - 15th	October 7th	October 8th	October 15th
October 15th - 22nd	October 14th	October 15th	October 22nd

Our expeditor will meet you at the main airport terminal in Smithers and ensure that everyone is transferred to the hotel for the night. The following morning, the shuttle/taxi will pick you up and transport you to Tsayta Aviation for a 10:00AM departure to the lodge. We ask that anglers **limit their luggage to 50lb per angler** as space can be tight on the charter plane. Please enjoy the scenic 45 minute flight over the mountains and onto the dirt landing strip. You will be met by the Suskeena guides and transferred to the lodge where lunch will be waiting!

## Your week at Suskeena!

**Lodge** - Arriving at the lodge your luggage will be transferred to your cozy cabin that you can call home for the week. Please settle in, unpack and soak up the views. Lunch will be served at 12:00PM. If you wish to fish UNGuided in the local pools feel free to do so and reach out to one of our guides to help get set up. The bar is stocked to make yourself a drink, you will be required to provide your own preferred scotch or premium spirits. Snacks and appetizers are available from 4:00pm onwards. A delicious 3 course gourmet meal is served at 7:30pm each evening complemented with wines from around the world. Please note dinner will be served a little early on your day of arrival. An orientation will be given with a full rundown of how the camp works and the week ahead. Breakfast is served at 7:30am and lunch is provided by the guides shoreside each day.

**Fishing Program** - 6 guided days on the Sustut are included in your trip. Fishing groups can be decided ahead of time, or discussed at the orientation at the lodge. Your first guided day starts the morning after your day of arrival to maximize your time on the water. Boats leave at 8:30am and return at 6pm. We share the river with our downstream river neighbor splitting the river exactly in half each day. We manage our half of the river between Suskeena boats giving you virgin water to fish each morning, and managing the afternoon pools accordingly to be fair for all. Please take everything you need for a day on the water including spare clothes, gear and boat bag. If you need any flies, leaders or hooks please visit our fly shop on site and browse our locally sourced Steelhead flies from Oscars Source for Sports. A fish log book can be

found in the lodge, please be sure to record your best catches of the week and sign our guestbook. We look forward to reading over the memories honoring our wild Steelhead.

**Lodge departure** - Sadly, the week must end. The charter flight is scheduled for **11:30am out of the lodge** on the last day of your trip. We ask that each angler be packed and out of their cabins as soon as possible after breakfast, or by 9:00am at the latest, to allow our housekeeper time to facilitate the change over. You're welcome to relax in the lodge until your flight - a bagged snack/ lunch will be provided for your departure.

**We wish you a safe onward journey back home. Please share your photos with us by emailing [sustutriver@gmail.com](mailto:sustutriver@gmail.com) and we will update our gallery with the season's best memories!**

## Notes on the Lodge

**Diesel generator** - Suskeena is powered by a diesel generator and supplies power to the entire camp. It is turned on at 5:45am and off at 10-10:30pm. Lanterns are provided for after hours illumination but please bring a head lamp as well. If you use a CPAP machine overnight please let us know ahead of time and we will have a battery unit set up in your cabin.

**Internet** - There is good working satellite internet throughout camp while the generator is turned on, feel free to email and check in with your loved ones, but please refrain from large downloads and video streaming as this will use up the bandwidth very quickly. There is no cell reception at the lodge but you can make calls with the WIFI Calling function through the internet. If you need to make calls but do not have the WIFI calling function you are welcome to use one of our phones during your week. We strongly urge anglers to use their discretion on what they share on social media, and if you do share any fish photos please ensure they are respectful and follow the 'keep 'em wet' recommendation.

**Safety** - Your safety is our priority and we take our wild surroundings seriously. Large game animals are present around the area and on the river, you will be provided with bear spray during your stay. It is **mandatory** to wear it on your wading belt while you are fishing. Your guide will also have a bear spray and be your eyes behind you but please communicate if you are walking away from the river or away from

camp. Please do not tamper with the bear spray, and use it only when needed. A demonstration of how to use it will be given in camp.

**Emergency medical and evacuation** - There are first aid kits and emergency evacuation plans in place at the lodge along with our staff who all have First Aid Level 1 - 3 training. 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 recommend travel insurance whenever you travel to British Columbia. There is always the possibility of arrival or departure delays or cancellations due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. For any questions regarding insurance please visit this recommended Travel Insurance website: <http://www.globalrescue.com> and email Daniel Chomko at [dchomko@globalrescue.com](mailto:dchomko@globalrescue.com)

**At Suskeena we are all about efficient time on the water and a fun comfortable camp experience. Nightly bonfires will be encouraged along with music and games. Please make yourself at home and if there is anything we can do to make your stay more comfortable please let us know!**

## **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 and by fixed wing or helicopter only. The main lodge is a charming custom built log structure with plenty of room to relax by the fireplace, eat and socialize. Our cabins are double occupancy along with one single cabin and are cleaned daily. They are equipped with on-demand hot water heaters which are to be used while the generator is running. You are still able to flush the toilet after shutdown, but the hot water heater will not ignite. Each cabin is provided with drinkable filtered water each day. All the beds have REAL mattresses and are plumped up with a memory foam topper and made with quality flannel linens. Complimentary toiletries are provided and laundry facilities are available upon request.



**Food** - All meals are served in the main lodge and prepared by our chef using fresh quality ingredients. Paired to each evening meal is a good quality complimentary wine or casual beer. Please help yourself to our bar for a cocktail or other beverages. If you wish to drink **premium** scotches, wines, beers or spirits please purchase those ahead of time and bring them with you. If you would like us to shop for you and fly them in please let us know and you can reimburse the lodge at the end of your stay. Non-alcoholic beer and pop is always available. If you have any dietary restrictions please let us know ahead of time. A hot breakfast is served at 7:30am, coffee and continental breakfast is available from 6:00am onwards. A hot lunch is served on the river by your guide and ranges from soups, sandwiches, stews and more. Our lodge staff will pack up a cooler with your desired thermos and beverages each morning. There is always plenty of water and snacks available in the boat! A 3 course gourmet meal is served from 7:30pm onwards.

**Please eat hearty, it is a long day on the water!**





**Merchandise** - Browse the Suskeena fly shop on site and mark down anything you would like to purchase. We have collared shirts, sweaters, down jackets, ball caps and toques available, along with an excellent selection of flies as well as leader material and hooks. You can settle up your bill at the end of your week by credit card or cash.

**Gratuities** - Gratuities are to each angler's discretion and shared equally amongst the Suskeena staff at the end of the week. The industry standard is between 10-15% of your trip price and based on your overall experience at Suskeena. You will be provided with an envelope at the end of your stay to utilize for cash or a check. If you intend to leave a check, please keep the payee line blank. **Unfortunately we can not charge your credit card for your gratuity.**





## 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 compares only to its neighbors on 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.

**The Fishing Program** at Suskeena Lodge enables anglers to spend over half of the day, every day, angling on water that has been un-fished 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. 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. 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.

**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, T-11** or a selection of the modern MOW tips are best and commonly understood in the industry. A selection of 30/20/15/12 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.

**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, Deuce wigalo, pick-ye-pocket and hobo spey** are productive. Natural flies work very well on the Sustut and include moose hair and deer hair muddlers, and rubber leggy nymph types. 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.

**Catch and Release** is mandatory when fishing for wild steelhead anywhere in British Columbia. **Single Barbless Hooks** are also mandatory on all streams/rivers 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 will 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.

## Licensing;

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. In total your license will cost between \$350-\$450 CAD. Please obtain your license ahead of time following these instructions, and email a copy to [sustutriver@gmail.com](mailto:sustutriver@gmail.com).

Log into the Elicensing tab on the BC freshwater fishing website at -

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/fishing/recreational-freshwater-fishing-licence>

- Purchase an **8 day or Annual license** depending on how long you intend to fish in British Columbia. If you are booked into a one week stay at Suskeena and do not intend to fish anywhere else in the province you will only need an 8 day license, starting on the first day of your trip.
- Once you have the basic license you need to add the Steelhead Stamp, please follow the **add a species** prompt as they are shown on the screen.
- Once you have your steelhead stamp you will need to purchase your Classified Waters Guided days. Your first guided day starts on the day after your arrival to the lodge, please purchase 6 consecutive days. The Guided name you need to use is **'JADEN FRENCH'**.
- If you wish to fish **UN**guided on your day of arrival please add this additional day to your license. Please note you will be arriving into the lodge late morning and having lunch at the lodge, which will give you approximately 4 hours of time on the water in the afternoon at the most. The foot

trails to the river take 15-20 minutes to get to so please take this into consideration when purchasing your license.

## Packing Checklist

We want you to be comfortable throughout your stay and for you to have everything you need for your trip. Please use this list of items from clothing to gear to help you pack.

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 (gratuity, shuttle, merchandise)	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 for fishing - 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

**Thank you for choosing Suskeena, we look forward to  
fishing with you!**

### **Smithers Resources & Business Directory**

Suskeena Lodge & Partners	Smithers Airlines & Helicopters	Accommodations & Dining out
Kara Knight - 1-403-827-8058 <a href="mailto:sustutriver@gmail.com">sustutriver@gmail.com</a>  Eric Van Velen; <b>1-250-566-1272</b>  <b>Wi-Fi Calling, iPhone; iMessage, Facetime, WhatsApp!</b>	Air Canada; 1- 888-247-2262 <a href="http://www.aircanada.com">www.aircanada.com</a>	Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge; 1-250-847-4581 <a href="mailto:smithers@prestigehotels.ca">smithers@prestigehotels.ca</a>
Expeditor - To be confirmed	Tysata Air (Charter); Clarence Hogan 1-250-847-9500	Stork Nest inn; 1-(250) 847-3831 Contact Brian or Kim
	Smithers BC Regional Airport 1 250-847-3664	Blue Water Sushi; Located on Main Street 1-250-847-5341
<b>*Please note there is no cell signal at Suskeena. Please contact our expeditor in Smithers for emergencies or if you have an iPhone you can use Wi-Fi calling, facetime and text Kara anytime.</b>	Silverking helicopters - 1-250- 877-1989	Noir Kitchen & Bar (located at Prestige Hotel) 1-250-847-4581  Alpenhorn bistro 1-250-847-5366



**Wild Steelhead on the Sustut River**