

Suskeena Lodge 2024 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

Included in Trip Cost:

- 6 GUIDED DAYS ON THE SUSTUT RIVER
- EN SUITE SHARED ACCOMMODATION - (Cabins are double occupancy depending on week).
- ALL MEALS, WINE WITH DINNER & CASUAL BEER
- PRIVATE CHARTER FLIGHT INTO AND OUT OF THE LODGE
- LOANER FISHING RODS AND GEAR IF NEEDED
- SHUTTLE SERVICE IN SMITHERS

Trip exclusions:

- TRAVEL EXPENSES TO AND FROM SMITHERS, ACCOMMODATIONS IN SMITHERS
- 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 (Cash or Card permitted for payment)

Travel Itinerary:

****NOTE**:** This schedule is based on the information currently available. All travel is subject to change of commercial airline schedules.

We recommend our guests fly into Smithers **the day before your trip** begins and overnight in town. Our expeditor will meet you at the main airport in Smithers and ensure that everyone is transferred to their hotel for the night. The following morning, the shuttle/taxi will pick you up and transport you to **Alpine Lakes Air** 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. After a 45 minute flight, you will be met by the Suskeena guides at the landing strip and transferred to the lodge where lunch will be waiting!

FLIGHTS

AC 8461 13:00 Vancouver (YVR) to 14:41 Smithers (YYD) – 1hr41m - Operated by Air Canada Express - Jazz

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

AC 8462 15:20 Smithers (YYD) to 16:54 Vancouver (YVR) – 1hr34m 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**.

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

Smithers Hotels

Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge – Email smithers@prestigehotels.ca or call 1-250-847-4581. Quote ‘Suskeena Lodge’ for a discounted rate.

Stork Nest Inn - Contact Brian or Kim by phone at 1-(250) 847-3831 or email info@storknestinnsmithers.com

Sunshine Inn – Email smithers@sunshineinn.ca or phone 1(250)847-6668

Your week at Suskeena!

Lodge – Upon arrival at the lodge you will be shown to your cabin, after which lunch will be served in the lodge. There is an option to fish UNguided your first afternoon – your guides can help prepare you for this. Snacks are available from 6:00pm onwards and a delicious 3 course meal is served at 7:00pm each evening. Please note dinner will be served a little early on your day of arrival. At this time, an orientation will be given with information about the camp and the fishing program. Breakfast is served at 7:30am and lunch is provided by the guides shoreside each day.

Fishing Program - 6 guided days on the Sustut River are included in your trip. Fishing groups can be decided ahead of time, or discussed at the orientation at the lodge. Boats leave at 8:30am and return at 5:30pm. 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.

Lodge departure - The charter flight is scheduled for **11:00am out from the Sustut** 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.

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

Notes on the Lodge

Diesel generator - Suskeena Lodge 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.

We strongly urge anglers to use their discretion on what they share on social media. The draw of the Sustut is how remote and untouched it is and social media can jeopardize that. When taking photos of steelhead please ensure to treat fish with respect and follow the 'keep fish wet' guidelines.

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

Emergency medical and evacuation - First aid kits and an emergency evacuation plan are in place at the lodge and the majority of our staff have first aid training. Bear in mind, 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 strongly 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. To obtain insurance that covers cancellation, medical and unforeseen closures (such as government closures, fire emergency etc.) please follow the link below or contact:

<https://lifestylefinancial.ca/get-a-quote/suskeena-lodge-get-a-quote/>

Maria Delaney - Acera Insurance

Phone: 1(250)542-8577 Ext. 1872

About Suskeena Lodge

Built in the 1960's, Suskeena Lodge is the first commercial operation on the Susut River to host anglers fishing for wild Steelhead. Located in Northern BC, roughly 100 miles North of Smithers, the lodge is accessible only by air using bush planes or helicopters. Our cabins are double occupancy, along with one single cabin, and are equipped with en suite bathrooms, on-demand hot water heaters which can be used while the generator is running, and a wood stove for heat. Each cabin is provided with filtered drinking water each day.



Food — Continental breakfast is available from 6:30am onwards and hot breakfast is served at 7:30am. A hot lunch is served on the river by your guide and ranges from soups, sandwiches, stews and more. Your boat will be outfitted with a cooler containing your requested cold/hot beverages as well as plenty of snacks. Dinner is a 3 course meal served at 7:00pm, including an appetizer, main and dessert. Dinners are paired with complimentary wine and beer, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. If you wish to drink **premium** scotches, wines, beers or spirits please purchase those ahead of time and bring them with you (we can assist you with this as well). **If you have any dietary restrictions please let us know ahead of time.**

Merchandise - We have a small fly shop on site where you can purchase collared shirts, sweaters, down jackets, ball caps and toques (beanies) gloves and more. There is also an excellent selection of flies, leader material and hooks. At the end of your trip you can settle up using cash, Visa or Mastercard.

Gratuities — We are often asked about tipping. Gratuities are very much appreciated and are a great way to show the staff your thanks for the service you received. We feel that hospitality is a team effort so all the tips are pooled between the staff – because of this **cash is the preferred method**. Industry standard for guided fishing lodges is 10-15% of the package price (\$800-\$1200 USD). 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 the most remote 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 wild strain of steelhead entering the Sustut is one 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 and they react to skated dries and other floating line techniques remarkably well.

The river has sections of long freestone pools in the lower river as well as canyon water in the middle river. The legendary upper river, accessible by helicopter in our 3 'peak weeks' (September 17 – October 8) 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 every day angling on water that has been un-fished by anybody else. All anglers, beginner & expert, can count on knowledgeable, experienced guides that have spent seasons hunting steelhead to help you, or not help you, as much or as little as necessary. We access the river using both jet boats and rafts, depending on water levels.

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-yer-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 dry fly fishing, bring 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**, etc.

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 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.

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
Jaden French (Head Office) 1 (250) 612-7449 Kara Knight (Lodge Manager) 1 (403) 827-8058 sustutriver@gmail.com Wi-Fi Calling, iPhone; iMessage, Facetime, WhatsApp!	Air Canada; 1- 888-247-2262 www.aircanada.com	Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge; 1-250-847-4581 smithers@prestigehotels.ca
Expeditor - To be confirmed	Alpine Lakes Air (250) 846-9488	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
*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.	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