

Suskeena Lodge

2025 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
- SHARED ACCOMMODATION – Single Cabin available in some weeks, first come first serve basis.
- ALL MEALS, NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, 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 – Within one day either side of trip dates only.

Trip exclusions:

- TRAVEL EXPENSES TO AND FROM SMITHERS, ACCOMMODATIONS IN SMITHERS
- FISHING LICENSE (Approximately \$450 CAD)
- STAFF GRATUITY (10-15% OF YOUR TRIP PRICE) – **Please bring cash for gratuities; Personal check's will not be accepted** and credit cards will have a 2.81% processing fee added.
- FLIES/MERCHANDISE (Credit Card Preferred for incidentals, Cash accepted)

Travel Itinerary:

This schedule is based on the information currently available - all travel is subject to change of commercial airline schedules.

Our charter flight is slightly later this year, however, we still recommend our guests fly into Smithers **the day before the trip** begins and overnight in town – please book the afternoon flight into Smithers if possible. Our expeditor will meet you at the airport in Smithers and ensure that everyone is transferred to their hotel for the night. The following morning, the shuttle will pick you up and transport you to **Alpine Lakes Air** for a **11:30AM** departure to the lodge. We ask that anglers **limit their luggage to 50lb per person** 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. Please have access to warm layers as both the charter flight and 30 minute drive to the lodge can be cold some days.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a Wednesday morning Air Canada flight that is currently scheduled to arrive in Smithers in time to make our charter, but please understand that if you choose this option and your flight is late, we cannot promise to hold the charter for you. You will be responsible for any additional travel costs to reach the lodge if you miss the charter. If you need to consider this option due to your schedule, please contact us to discuss further.

You will fly out from Suskeena on the last calendar date of your trip, with the charter flight planned to depart at roughly 12:30-1:00PM – the shuttle driver will meet you at the Alpine Lakes Air hangar to transport you to the airport to catch your outbound flight, or to Smithers for the evening should you choose to stay overnight. Thursday morning, the shuttle will again be available to collect any guests that stayed overnight and return to the airport for the outbound flight to Vancouver which departs at 10:15AM.

FLIGHTS

Vancouver (YVR) to Smithers (YYD) – Please book this flight **the day before the first calendar date of your trip:**

Arrival Day Before - AC 8461 AFTERNOON FLIGHT 16:10 – 17:48 Operated by Air Canada Express-Jazz

Smithers (YYD) to Vancouver (YVR) – Please see below for outbound flight options, **to be booked the last day of your trip dates OR the day after your trip ends:**

Same Day Departure - AC 8462 AFTERNOON FLIGHT 18:25 – 20:02 Operated by Air Canada Express-Jazz

Day After Departure - AC 8460 MORNING FLIGHT 10:15 – 11:51 Operated by Air Canada Express - Jazz

For quick reference, here is the Arrival/Departure schedule for Suskeena 2025:

Trip Dates	Fly into Smithers (PM)	Fly into Suskeena	Fly out of Smithers (PM/AM)
September 3rd - 10th	September 2nd	September 3rd	September 10th / 11th
September 10th - 17th	September 9th	September 10th	September 17th / 18th
September 17th - 24th	September 16th	September 17th	September 24th / 25th
September 24th - October 1st	September 23rd	September 24th	October 1st / 2nd
October 1st - 8th	September 30th	October 1st	October 8th / 9th
October 8th - 15th	October 7th	October 8th	October 15th / 16th
October 15th - 22nd	October 14th	October 15th	October 22nd / 23rd

Smithers Hotels

Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge – Email smithers@prestigehotels.ca or call 1-250-847-4581. Quote ‘Suskeena Lodge’ for a discounted rate. Restaurants on site, 15-20 minute walk to Main St.

Stork Nest Inn – Email info@storknestinnsmithers.com. 5 minute walk to Main St.

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

Sandman Inn – Email reservations@sandman.ca. 5 minute walk to Main St.

Your week at Suskeena!

Lodge — Upon arrival at the Suskeena you will be shown to your cabin, after which lunch will be served in the main lodge. At this time, an orientation will be given with information about the camp and the fishing program. There is an option to fish UNGuided your first afternoon – your guides can help prepare you for this and assist you with purchasing the additional license needed, if you haven't done so already. Through the week, the happy hour snack is available from 6:00pm onwards and a 3 course meal is served at 7:00pm each evening. 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 to **depart the Sustut at roughly 12:30-1:00PM** on the last day of your trip. There is **no fishing** on the last day of the trip, so breakfast will be served slightly later on this morning. We ask that each angler be packed and out of their cabins as soon as possible after breakfast, or by 10:00AM at the latest, to allow our housekeepers time to facilitate the change over. You're welcome to relax in the lodge until you depart for your flight at approximately 11:30AM.

We wish you a safe journey 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 which supplies power to the entire camp. It is turned on at roughly 5:45am and off at 10-10:30pm. Lanterns are provided for afterhours illumination but please bring a head lamp if you have one. 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 operating - 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 using WIFI Calling through the internet (activate this feature before leaving cell service).

We strongly urge anglers to use their discretion with what they share on social media. The draw of the Sustut is how remote and untouched it is, which social media can jeopardize. 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. Many large wild 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 keep tabs while you fish, 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 we have a staff member on hand with basic first aid training. Bear in mind, the nearest hospital is in Smithers, which is at least 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 (first come, first serve), and are equipped with ensuite 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 hard liquor 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 inform us in your pre-trip questionnaire.**

Merchandise - We have a small fly shop on site where you can purchase shirts, sweaters, insulated jackets, ball caps and toques (beanies) gloves and more. There is also a good selection of flies, leader material and hooks. At the end of your trip you will be given an invoice for your purchases – credit card is the preferred method of payment for merchandise, but cash is also accepted.

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. **Personal check's will no longer be accepted for gratuities due to the complexity of distribution.** Credit cards will only be run for gratuities as a last option, and will have a 3.5% processing fee added to them.

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 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, 8wt or 9wt rod in the 11 to 14 foot range paired with a well matched Skagit, Scandi or modern shooting head is recommended.

Full **floating** and a range of **Sinking Tip** lines or “sink tips” are quite 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 USD 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/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. Conservation Officers do visit the Sustut on occasion and do not hesitate to give out fines for violations. Fish handling is to be as minimal as possible and at all times fish will be kept 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 approximately \$450 CAD. Please obtain your license ahead of time following these instructions, and email a copy to sustutriver@gmail.com.

Log into the E-licensing 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 second calendar 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 Guide 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: given you arrival time at the lodge, you will have approximately 3-4 hours of fishing time in the afternoon. The foot trails to the river take 15-20 minutes to get to so please take this into consideration when choosing whether to purchase a license (UN guided, classified, steelhead tag still required) for this day or not.

The lodge manager can also assist you with your license once you have arrived at the lodge.



Wild Steelhead on the Sustut River

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 (if needed)
Cell phone	Thermal underwear - top & bottom	Fly Lines – Skagit, Scandi or modern line(s)
Gratuity (Cash)	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 dry fly fishing
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
Suskeena Lodge Phone: TBD Email: sustutriver@gmail.com	Air Canada; 1- 888-247-2262 www.aircanada.com	Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge; 1-250-847-4581 smithers@prestigehotels.ca Sunshine Inn 1-250-847-6668
Jaden French (Head Office) 1 (250) 612-7449 Brent Gill (Lodge Manager) manager@sustutriver.com Wi-Fi Calling, iPhone; iMessage, Facetime, WhatsApp!	Alpine Lakes Air (250) 846-9488	Stork Nest inn (250) 847-3831 Sandman Inn 1-250-847-2637
Expeditor Kara Knight – Phone # TBD Please provide this phone number as contact for lost luggage claims. sustutriver@gmail.com	Smithers BC Regional Airport 1 250-847-3664	Blue Water Sushi 1-250-847-5341 Roadhouse 1-250-847-2101
*Please note there is no cell signal at Suskeena. Please use the Suskeena Lodge phone number for all communications – it is monitored during business hours (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm PST).	Silverking helicopters - 1-250- 877-1989	Noir Kitchen & Bar (located at Prestige Hotel) 1-250-847-4581 Alpenhorn bistro 1-250-847-5366



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