

FLY FISHING TOPICS

FLY FISHING GEAR & FISHING GEAR



I hope you enjoy this book...

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Alaska Fly Fishing Lodges

Alaska is well known for its incredible fly fishing, but it's also a great place to go for a fly fishing vacation in a rustic lodge setting. You can find all kinds of lodges in the rustic country of Alaska that can make your fly fishing vacation a real adventure. This article will outline a few of these great destinations.

The Alaska Rainbow Lodge claims to have the finest, most centrally located accommodations in Alaska. A short flight from Anchorage will put you in the middle of prime fly fishing territory. You can fish for rainbow trout and salmon and stay in a gorgeous lodge with all the amenities. They offer float planes to their guests that will take you to some of the most remote fishing areas where you will find quality fishing in any season. They can be found online at www.alaskarainbowlodge.com.

Wilderness Place Lodge offers some excellent fly fishing accommodations along with some terrific amenities. They have guides that will lead you to the best place to fly fish for salmon or trout and boast riverside cabins and a 1:1 customer/guest ratio to insure excellent service during your stay there. They also offer classes to their guests on topics like fly tying and effective casting. They can be found online at www.wildernessplacelodge.com.

The Lake Marie Lodge is another option for your fly fishing vacation. They specialize in rainbow trout and salmon fly fishing as well as sight fishing and surface fishing. Their experts offer fly fishers the opportunity to catch huge salmon and they fish all sorts of rivers and streams that are accessible to them only. They average about 14 guests at a time which allows them to provide the utmost in service. Their web address is www.lakemarie.com.

The Alagnak River is known for its excellent fly fishing, and if you're looking for a quality lodge located on the river, you may want to look at the Katmai Lodge. They have single, double, or private cabins that adjoin a common area where you can gather to share "fish stories" after a day of angling. They also offer Orvis sanctioned fishing expeditions that are led by some of the most experienced guides in the area. Research them online at www.katmai.com.

When you are considering an Alaskan fly fishing vacation, you will want to find a lodge that can comfortably accommodate those in your party. The choices are many, and you will want to do your research before you book your trip. But most of these Alaskan lodges are committed to making your fly fishing trip the best you've ever had.

Finding Solitude While Fly Fishing in Montana

One of the best parts about the sport of fly fishing is experiencing the scenery and calmness around you as you are trying to land your big fish. Montana is a great place to find some solitude while fly fishing. In fact, the vast expanses that surround the rivers and streams in Montana can provide you with some of the most relaxing solitude anywhere.

Montana fly fishing is legendary. Anglers from all over the world travel to Montana to experience fly fishing the blue ribbon trout rivers and pristine mountain lakes. Whether an angler seeks to battle trophy sized wild rainbow trout on the Yellowstone River or to experience the solitude of a high mountain lake, Montana provides fly fishing experiences like no other place can.

Montana provides such an abundance of opportunities that visiting anglers frequently have difficulty in deciding where to start their fly fishing adventure. There are so many beautiful places in the hills of Montana that can provide both solitude and great fishing, many people might be overwhelmed. But so many choices provide for some amazing chances at bagging that championship fish!

For example, Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park is a beautiful spot for fly fishing. Flanked by mountains, this lake is not only a beautiful place to catch fish; it's also an amazing spot for reflecting and relaxation.

Of course, the Yellowstone River is the longest river in Montana. It is free of any major dams, and its flow is not regulated in any way, so you can find an abundance of fish in the solitude of the mountain air. In fact, the Yellowstone River is internationally known as one of the premier trout rivers in the United States.

Even though you can expect to catch a variety of trout including rainbow and brown, you will also find whitefish and sturgeon aplenty. Even though the Yellowstone River is quite well known for its fly fishing in Montana, it is not overtaken by so many fly fishers that you can't find a spot. It remains a beautiful secret available to those who are looking for the solitude of the Montana countryside.

Finding solitude while fly fishing in Montana is a relatively easy proposition. All you need to do is a little bit of research and ask around. Those who are proud of the fly fishing waters in Montana are always more than happy to share the beauty of their state with people who are wanting to fish the waters.



Fly Fishing

The sport of fly fishing has been around for years and years. In medieval times, anglers fished for food, but the sport has evolved over the years to become a real test of skills. Anyone who has become involved in the sport of fly fishing knows how addictive it can be – but in a very good way!

Fly fishing is markedly different from regular fishing. With plain fishing, you use lures and often live bait to bring fish to your line and hook them. When you are fly fishing, you use a fly that resembles a real insect that the fish feed on naturally. The line is longer and you mimic the movement of the fly or insect on top of the water so that the fish thinks they are biting at a real insect.

Casting is constant in fly fishing. You put the fly out in the water and then draw it back several times so that the fish thinks the fly is landing on the water and then taking off again. With regular fishing, you cast your line and let it rest until the fish bites making the bobber sink into the water.

You can catch some pretty hefty fish using either method, but when you are fly fishing, you have the opportunity to “battle” the fish for survival. This can be extremely satisfying as man battles nature for the top position.

Flies are made out of natural materials in fly fishing while regular fishing utilizes latex and plastic lures made out of man-made materials. Many avid fly fishermen say that the fish are much more attracted to the natural lure rather than the man-made ones. This, they say, makes fly fishing an amazingly satisfying sport.

You can fish just about anywhere – a local pond, a lake, or even a reservoir. When you are fly fishing, you will want to go where the fish are most plentiful. That means traveling (perhaps) to rivers and streams where fish like trout and walleye are known to live. The challenge in fly fishing lies in making the fly look real to the fish below water.

Fly fishing in remote places like Alaska and Canada are great vacation getaways. You can plan a fly fishing trip to many different spots including Mexico, South America, and even Russia. That can be a great adventure – much more so than just fishing your local lake or pond.

Chess has been called “the sport of kings”, but many avid fly fishermen consider fly fishing to be the real sport of kings. It takes skill, finesse, and a lot of patience to get good at fly fishing. Thousands of anglers couldn’t agree more. When you’ve been fly fishing once, you’ll want to go back over and over and over again. May the fish bite well for you!

Fly Fishing in Canada

Canada is a beautiful place to visit. When you are planning a fly fishing trip, you'll find an amazing adventure in Canada! Many of the rivers and lakes where fly fishing is the best are in remote areas, so when you choose fly fishing in Canada, you'll have privacy with the added perk of some great fishing!

Some of the best fly fishing in Canada is found in the province of Ontario. There are many lodges you can choose from to stay at when you are there, but be warned that most of them are in very remote places where you are likely to be left alone with your party and can only get in and out by plane or train.

The Brown Bear lake system in Ontario is considered one of the best fly-in trophy smallmouth bass lakes in the area. The fish here average between two and three pounds, but four pound fish are common every season with some trophy wall hangers of 5-6 pounds being caught each year.

Norse Lake is a prime example of a remote Canadian fly-in wilderness lake. The lake is protected by a high, picturesque landscape that stays relatively calm even in windy weather. Here, you can catch beautiful walleye, Northern Pike, and smallmouth bass. Trophy sized fish are found every year, so fish this lake for some great opportunities.

Populus Lake offers twelve miles of beautiful water and land for you to explore when fly fishing in Canada. There are numerous channels and bays dotting this lake with all sort of landscape features like rock outcrops and weed beds which are prime breeding ground and hiding places for fish. This lake is situated in a very remote area with walleyes, trout, and Northern Pike in abundance.

Picture a cool, clear Canadian lake with lots of trophy sized smallmouth bass and Northern Pike and you'll have Treelined Lake. This lake is so clear, you will be able to see the fish clearly near the shoreline. Wildlife is abundant here and it's not uncommon to see a moose feeding on the shoreline in the twilight. You'll find some real trophy sized fish on Treelined Lake with Northern Pike averaging over 5 pounds and smallmouth bass at 4-5 pounds.

Because so many fly fishing spots in Canada are located in remote locations, you'll find peace and serenity during your fly fishing trip there. Enjoy the beauty of the Canadian wilderness while you catch the fish of your dreams. There are so many choices available to you that when you choose Canada for your next fly fishing trip, you're sure to come away a winner either way!



Fly Fishing Books

Although experience is a great teacher when you are learning about fly fishing, you may also want to look into the myriad of books that are available on the topic. Fly fishing involves a lot of things, and you'll need to know about these things if you're going to be effective in the sport. Fly fishing books are a great way to start learning!

A quick search on Amazon.com shows over 8,000 titles on fly fishing available! Prices range between \$10 and \$50. Some of these books are purely instructional while others contain anecdotes and fish stories designed to entertain. You can get books that tell you the best places to fish at and the most satisfying fly fishing destinations.

Fly fishing books are great resources as well if you want to learn how to tie your own flies. One of the first things you need to know in fly tying is what the flies look like that you're trying to mimic. When the book comes with illustrations, you can easily match your fly to the picture.

Online books are another great way to get information about fly fishing. There are many e-books available for download. Look for the ones that will fit your needs. If you're a beginner, you may want a comprehensive guide to all aspects of fly fishing. If you're more experienced, an update book may be the way to go.

When choosing a fly fishing book, look at the author first. Are they qualified to write this book? What experience do they have in the sport? Can they provide you with compelling reasons to take his or her advice? You will get more accurate information from a person who has personal experience to offer.

Is the book easy to read? When you are reading a book filled with technical language, it can be overwhelming and it isn't likely to help you much. The author should define unfamiliar language early on in the book and keep reminding you throughout the text what they are referring to.

Don't opt for long winded tomes of pages akin to War and Peace. They aren't likely to give you much good advice plus the boredom factor has to come into play. A lot of great information can be packed into a few pages. Opt for the shorter book rather than the longer one so you get what you pay for!

Fly fishing books are wonderful sources of information when you are learning about this sport. Find a book that you are comfortable reading that also gives you what you are looking for. The choices are vast, so go online or get to the bookstore today and learn what you need to about the sport of fly fishing!

Fly Fishing Calendar

What are the best times to try and schedule a fly fishing expedition? When we talk about a fly fishing calendar, we aren't referring to a printed date book that you can hang on your wall. We are talking about targeting and specifying the right times to fish and the right places to fish at.

The things you need to look at most when considering a fly fishing calendar is when the water will be at the right temperature that is prime for catching fish. Depending on the area you are looking at for your fly fishing trip will depend on the right time to go.

In some places like California, the fishing is pretty good year-round. While in other places such as Washington, you'll want to avoid the water in the winter as the cold temperatures will stress the fish and they won't be as plentiful.

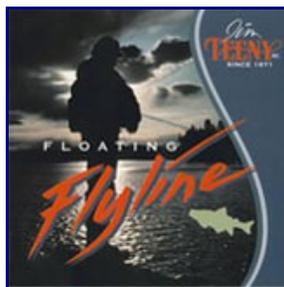
Generally, the fly fishing calendar shows the best fishing in the spring and summer months. Early fall will also find some places showing good fishing as well. Almanacs can be helpful guides to guide you towards the best fishing times as can constant updating through Internet web sites.

Most places will give weekly, and sometimes daily, fishing reports on their websites. They can tell you where the fish are biting and where the best places are to cast your line. They generally keep these areas of their sites updated pretty regularly, so you can get quality reports just by looking at what others have to say.

Fish like warmer waters, although, there are other species that thrive in cold water such as salmon or steelhead. In general, warm water will attract more fish. However, if the water is too warm, the fish will be sluggish and will navigate to places where the water is cooler.

The fly fishing calendar used most often by experienced fishermen has been compiled over a period of time. They spend a considerable amount of effort to estimate where and when the best fishing will occur. Then they share it with others. That's one of the best parts of fly fishing – the camaraderie and sharing that can come about with a love of the sport.

You can compile your own fly fishing calendar with a little time and effort. Just do your homework and keep copious notes. When you see a trend, you'll know it's time to fish! Then be sure to help your fellow fishermen as they try to figure out what you already know. They'd do it for you!



Fly Fishing Clubs

Fly fishing clubs are a great place to learn, apply, and share knowledge of a great outdoor sport. Fly fishing clubs are the best "hands on" resource if you are thinking of entering the fly fishing experience. If you want to learn more about casting a fly rod, how to tie fly's, how to make fly rods from blanks, or just have a great outdoor experience, check out a club in your area.

If you don't have a fly fishing club in your area, you might want to access some of the resources available to you on the Internet. There are many places you can go to online where you will find camaraderie, advice, and tips about fly fishing.

Fly fishing clubs are often regional in nature. You can usually find a club that caters exclusively to residents of the state of Michigan or Washington. You can also find a fly fishing club that is geared toward beginning fly fishers or one that gives tips and advice about how to tie flies or the best casting techniques to use.

One of the greatest advantages of a supportive fly fishing club is the opportunity to go on fishing vacations with people you meet. When you get to know people who share your love of fly fishing, they are eager to co-mingle with other people who share their passion.

If you are a member of an Internet club for fly fishers, it can be fun to make plans to meet at a designated spot to get together for some well deserved R & R while fly fishing. You can find camaraderie and friendship by joining a fly fishing club plus, you can learn a lot about the sport from fellow club members.

When joining a fly fishing club, you can further your fly fishing education, practice conservation, and enjoy the company of some interesting people who share your interest in the sport. You can draw on each other's knowledge and learn new things just by talking and participating in club activities.

Not only are there local clubs, but there are also national fly fishing clubs that you can become a part of. The Federation of Fly Fishers is dedicated to enhancing the sport of fly fishing for all species of fish. International Women Fly Fishers aims to educate women in the sport of fly fishing. Trout Unlimited is committed to the preservation of all cold water species and habitats.

Many people join more than one fly fishing club as the choices can be endless. If you are truly dedicated to the sport of fly fishing, joining a fly fishing club can truly enhance your enjoyment of this exciting and diverse sport!



Fly Fishing Equipment

Just as with any other sport, the equipment you use when fly fishing can be very important. There are various types of equipment that you need when you undertake fly fishing, and be prepared because some of it can get quite expensive!

Of course, you'll need a rod and reel. What type of rod you choose depends on the type of fish you will be angling for. Fly rods are ranked according to their net weight capabilities (nwt). The nwt number will tell you what type of fish you will be able to catch. Fish that weigh 8 pounds will require at least an 8 nwt rod, etc. The larger the nwt number, the larger fish you can catch.

Some rods are multi-rated (e.g. 7-9 nwt). These rods are good to use because they can accommodate a variety of fish, but multi-rated rods tend to be less flexible than single rated rods.

Rods are made of fiberglass, graphite, or bamboo. Fiberglass rods are durable and less expensive. Fiberglass rods are best for beginning fly fishermen because they can be used in a variety of situations. Graphite rods are lighter and will give you more fighting weight when it comes to landing a fish. Bamboo rods can be expensive, but they are extremely strong and are suited to a more laid-back casting style.

Your fly line will need to match the nwt of your rod. If you have an 8 nwt rod, you'll need to use an 8 nwt line. It is acceptable to go one or two sizes above or below your rod weight (i.e. 9 nwt or 7 nwt). Buy line that is strong and durable. Some lines are specially designed for freshwater, saltwater, etc.

You will also need to have a durable net that you can carry with you. After the fish has lost its will to fight, a good net is used to scoop them out of the water. This can be a big part of your fly fishing equipment because without a good net, you won't be able to get your fish out of the water!

Having the right fly fishing equipment is important for both the beginner as well as the experienced angler. As you get better and better at the sport, you will begin to see how important having good equipment can be. You can always upgrade, so it's good to start out small and work your way up to the more expensive stuff. Your fly fishing equipment can make a world of difference between landing that big fish or catching an ordinary one.



Fly Fishing for Bass

When you mention fly fishing to people, many times they think you are fishing exclusively for trout. However, there are some amazing spots you can fly fish for trophy sized bass as well. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass abound in rivers and lakes, so why not try your hand fly fishing for bass?

Many experienced fly fishermen report that bass fly fishing can be extremely challenging as well as extremely satisfying. Bass have larger mouths than trout, so your choice of lures is much more diverse. They strike hard and fight strong, so when you are fly fishing for bass, expect to be exhilarated by the fight in these guys!

Experts suggest that you use a 6-7 weight rod, but if you are especially experienced, you can use a 4-5 weight rod. If you choose the smaller rod, you may have trouble casting the larger flies, so be aware of that. You can use a floating or a sinking line with a weight forward taper. You should have a 7 ½ to 9 foot leader tapered down to a 10 pound test.

Most bass are opportunistic feeders and will bite at anything. In general, however, flies for bass fishing are usually larger and influence a bigger bite. Try big muddler minnows, clousy minnows, wooly buggers, poppers, leech patterns, and crayfish patterns. Size 8 or 10 would be a little on the small side while size 2 or 1/0 would be a little too large, so opt for something in between.

Largemouth bass live in shallow water habitats among reeds, water lilies, and other vegetation naturally found in the water. They are adapted to warm waters in the 80 degree range and are seldom found deeper than twenty feet down. They prefer clear waters with little or no current. They stay fairly active year-round, but tend to stay near the bottom in the winter months.

Great bass fly fishing can be found in various locations throughout the United States. In the northeastern United States, try the rivers and streams in the Adirondack Mountains such as the Mohawk or Black Rivers. There are also some prized bass in the Great Lakes region. Southern Ontario in Canada can also provide some great opportunities to catch trophy sized bass.

Bass fly fishing can be a great experience for both the beginning fly fisherman as well as those with a little more experience. Fly fishing for bass requires a little bit of finesse and some tenacity when they bite. Stay with the fish and pull a whopper out of the water you can be proud of!

Fly Fishing for Steelhead

Fly fishing for steelhead fish can be a challenging and rewarding experience. These amazing fish share their heritage with the Atlantic and Pacific salmon. Although they are native to the West Coast of the United States as well as in Russia, they can also be found in the tributaries of the Great Lakes. This is because they were planted in the lakes many times in the 1800's.

There are numerous places you can go when fly fishing for steelhead. As we've already said, they are most plentiful in the Western United States. You can find plenty of steelhead in the rivers of Northern California, Oregon, and Washington state.

Steelhead are cousins of the rainbow trout and have a decidedly chrome-like coloring. They are amazingly acrobatic and can provide any fly fisherman with a fulfilling challenge when trying to catch them.

Most of the fly fishing techniques used to catch steelhead are based on those historically developed to catch Atlantic salmon. Flies are cast downstream from the angler on a floating or sinking line. The take, which can sometimes be quite violent, usually occurs towards the end of the swing. You can also use nymphing methods usually used by trout anglers.

Winter steelheads are often considered the "hard core" of fly fishers, sometimes enduring hours of repeated casting in cold water and freezing conditions for that one tug that can occur when you least expect it. Many fly fishers will spend a lot of time trying to land that prized steelhead only to be frustrated near the end.

The main thing to keep in mind when fishing for steelhead is to practice a lot of patience. For people who fly fish for steelhead regularly, the success of a day consists of one good hook. You will not see big numbers of catches like you will on trout rivers. Keep a positive attitude and watch what the fish are doing.

Most steelhead pockets are found downstream, but other anglers know this as well. Steelhead are most plentiful in the cold, winter months, but you can often find several other fly fishers trying to fish the same spot in hopes of landing their fish. As you can imagine, this is not especially good for the fish or the fisherman. Practice appropriate etiquette when on the river fly fishing for steelhead.

You will probably need a 9 foot single hand rod or a 12-15 foot double handed rod for best results. Line weights should range from 7 to 9. The best flies to use when trying to land a steelhead include the Woolly Bugger, the Conehead Zuddler, and the Black Bear Green Butt.

Fly fishing for steelhead can be an amazingly gratifying experience when you are patient and wise when it comes to the natural patterns of these fish. When you are able to land one, you will be surprised at how much fun it is to reel it in!

Fly Fishing for Trout

Fly fishing is most often done for the various species of trout that exist in the waters and streams of the Western United States. For example, a fly fishing trip to Colorado will find you catching mostly rainbow trout, but if you are fishing the Great Lakes region, you will be looking at more bass fishing than trout.

The best places for trout fishing, besides in Colorado, include North Carolina, Ontario, Northern California, and Washington. Trout prefer smooth, clear running streams and rivers that can be found in the mountains, so you'll get some great scenery while you are fishing.

Rainbow trout can be wild and explosive fish to hook. Expect it to take some work when you land your rainbow when trying to reel it in. These fish have very colorful markings, and are a favorite food fish for many people.

Rainbows thrive in cool, clear streams and rivers. They prefer a water temperature ranging from 55 to 60 degrees. The best time to catch rainbows is in the spring and fall before spawning. They respond well to a variety of flies including spinners, streamers, and nymphs.

Brown trout don't fight as hard as rainbows, but they are much more cunning than their cousins. They can be a challenge to hook in the first place, so use some patience if catching brown trout is your goal. They are timid fish who are very aware of their surroundings as well as any predators including you!

The ideal home for brown trout is a slow flowing stream containing lots of minnows. They like warmer water in the 60 – 70 degree range. For the larger fish, you will want to fish during darker light. They can be caught with dry flies, streamers, and stonefly nymphs

The brook trout has brilliant coloring and are smaller than their other trout relatives. They can be quite wild when hooked, so expect a bit of a fight with brook trout. They are not as plentiful as rainbows or browns, but they can be found. They prefer colder water from 40 to 50 degrees.

If you are lucky enough to hook a brook trout, you will be rewarded. The fish travel in schools, and once action begins, it can be overwhelming. In the summer, use a spinner and cast into shallow bottoms. You can also use bucktail on a sinking line to try and land one of these beauties.

Fly fishing for trout is an exciting experience for any fly fisherman. When you have a rainbow hooked and have to fight for your own leverage, the challenge can be enormous, but when you pull that baby out of the water, you will be satisfied with your performance. Seek them out and enjoy the experience of fly fishing for trout.

Fly Fishing Gear

The term “fly fishing gear” can be used to refer to a lot of parts of your fly fishing supplies. In this article, we’ll discuss various piece of fly fishing gear that are important to have on hand. You already know you need a rod and reel, but there’s so much more involved in your fly fishing gear.

Of course, you’ll need to have a variety of flies to use as bait for the fish. Flies are meant to mimic the look and movement of a fish’s natural food source. Some fish prefer different flies, and when you use what they are used to eating, your chances are better of landing a bite. Keep several different types of flies close at hand so you can choose the right fly for the specific fish you are angling for.

You will also need to have several different weights of lines so you can switch them out if you find yourself in waters with larger fish. Of course, your fly rod has a lot to do with what line to use, but if you have an 8 nwt rod and are finding some 10 pound fish, go ahead and switch to a 10 nwt line to increase your chances of winning a fight with that prize-winning trout.

Part of your fly fishing gear includes what you wear while fishing. You’ll need to have a good pair of waders so you can keep dry while going after your fish. Pick a pair of waders that will meet your fishing situation. Chest high waders are usually a good choice because they allow you to wade in all depths of water.

You will also need a fishing vest with lots of pockets that will hold your flies, line, and other pieces of gear. The pockets should fasten with Velcro so that you have easy access to what you need. You don’t want to be on the water and realize you need a different fly only to miss out on a passing school of fish because you were fumbling with your pockets.

A good pair of fishing pliers is almost a necessity. Many rivers and streams are exclusively catch and release water. That means that once you catch the fish, you need to let it go. This helps propagate the population and promote healthy fishing at all times. You will want an easy way to get the hook out of the fish’s mouth without causing harm to its body. Fishing pliers are designed to do just that.

Finally, your fly fishing gear should include a waterproof camera. If you are lucky enough to land a whopper, you’ll want to document it as part of your prize!

When you are amassing your fly fishing gear, things can eventually get out of hand. Many fly fishermen have an abundance of gear with the possibility that they might need something specific in a certain situation. That’s just fine, but the essentials that are listed above are a start!

Fly Fishing Gifts

Are you looking for the perfect gift for the fly fisher in your life? There are many options you have when giving a gift to the person who loves fly fishing. Some of them can be expensive, but they don't have to be. You can choose a gift that your fly fisher will love no matter what your budget is.

One option is to get them a new rod and reel. This is going to be one of the more expensive options as reels can run anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000. Buying a rod can be a very personal decision for people who love fly fishing, so if you're going to go this route with your gift, you'll need to do your research.

You could purchase a gift certificate to your local sporting goods or fishing store. This is a great choice for the fly fisherman as then they can pick out what they want or need. While some people feel gift certificates are impersonal, they can be a very welcome gift to the fly fisher.

Consider getting a nice basket and filling it up with various fly fishing supplies. You can stock it with various flies, lines, and tools that your fly fisher can use during their fishing trips. If you're not sure what types of flies and such to stock the basket with, just ask the clerk at the store, or simply go hog wild and pick out a nice variety.

There are other beautiful gifts you can get as well. People who love fly fishing have a natural love of the outdoors and everything "fishy". The organization Trout Unlimited has a great selection of fly fishing gifts including mugs, glasses, shirts, and hats with fish pictures on them. This can be another great gift idea.

Fly fishing apparel is just as important to the fly fisherman as the equipment they need. Fly fishing requires waders, vests, and boots. A good fly fishing vest can make a very thoughtful gift. Most fly fishermen claim you can never have too much equipment. Even if your fly fisherman has a vest, a new one might be just the ticket for a good gift.

When giving a fly fishing gift, use your imagination. There are all sorts of great gift ideas that can please even the most experienced fly fisherman. Ask him or her what they are wishing for and then fill that wish. You have lots of options. When giving a gift, it's the thought that counts, of course, but when you consider all that's involved in the sport of fly fishing, you're sure to find a gift that's more than appreciated!



Fly Fishing Guides

Fly fishing has grown in popularity over the years to the point it is at now – an almost obsession for many avid outdoorsmen (and women!) When looking for a guide to fly fishing, you need to find one that will cover both the basics along with the advanced techniques. There is no one way to fly fish right or wrong. It takes practice and persistence, but you will find an amazing recreational value when you take up this sport.

Fly fishing isn't a complicated sport, but if you can find an expert to guide you along the way, you will become a better angler. Looking for a fly fishing guide can be a huge undertaking as there are all kinds of informational books and websites on the market that can help you along the way.

A good guide to fly fishing is one that will tell you about the most basic casting maneuvers, how to pick out a fly rod, and where to look for the best fish. A good guide will teach you rather than lead you. When you learn how to do things, you will become a better sportsman (er, person).

In the sport of fly fishing, the word “guide” can have a double meaning. You can look for a printed guide to teach you how to fly fish, or you can hire a guide, who is a person, to show you the best places to fish in.

When hiring a competent fly fishing guide, you need to consider his or her qualifications. What type of experience do they have on those particular waters? How familiar are they with the area? Are they able to offer you tips and tricks on how to find the biggest fish?

Many lodges will offer up the services of their own fishing guides when you book a cabin or vacation with them. These fly fishing guides are very valuable resources when you are on a fly fishing trip. These guides are included in the price of your stay, and they often know certain nuances of the area that no one else can offer you. You should definitely take advantage of any fly fishing guide that your lodge offers you.

A printed guide to fly fishing, as we've said, will offer you information about even the most basic of techniques. They can also guide you towards the best fly fishing destinations to make any trip you take a success.

Whether you're looking for a fly fishing guide who is a person or a printed fly fishing guide, you'll need to consider your options before buying or booking. Fly fishing guides can mean the difference between a good trip and a great trip!

Fly Fishing Knots

When you are fly fishing, tying the right knots can make a world of difference in your success or failure. It's important to not only select the right knot for the situation but also to tie it properly. Poorly tied knots will mean lost fish and frustration for you, so knowing about the right knots and how to tie them can be a huge part of the fly fishing experience.

Before you tighten a knot, moisten it with saliva or with water you are fishing on. This will help the knot slide and seat properly. Lubrication also decreases excessive heat which can weaken the monofilament. Heat is generated by friction created when the knots are drawn up tight. Moistening the knot will reduce this heat and allow you to have good, strong knots.

Tighten knots with a steady, continuous pull. This is called seating the knot. Make sure the knot is tight and secure. To check this, pull on the line and leader to be sure it holds. It's better to test its strength before you cast rather than to have it break once you get a hook.

There are plenty of books available that give step-by-step instructions on how to properly tie specific knots. You can also find many tutorials online that can show you how to tie specific knots.

You will need to know how to secure your line to the reel. This is called "Backing to the fly reel" and there is a specific knot as to how to achieve that. When you are backing to the fly line, you should use either an Albright Knot or a Nail Knot. The Nail Knot is also good for using when tying the fly line to the leader.

When securing the leader to the tippet, good knot choices include the Surgeon's Knot or the Barrel Knot. Securing the tippet to the fly can be achieved easily with a Clinch Knot or a Duncan's Loop.

It has been said that the weakest part of a fly fisherman's equipment is his knots. A fighting fish will test every link in between the angler and itself. If one of these link is lacking, the line will break and the fish will be lost. Unless you're really eager to share a "the one that got away" story, learning to tie knots can be the most important part of your fly fishing experience.

Some fly fishing knots are simple to do – others are a little more complicated. Practice tying knots before you get on the water. Become proficient at it and be sure you can do it in low light in case you have a broken line. There is no one knot best for any specific situation – the choice is personal. But when you are fly fishing, you need to depend on your knots and it's worth taking the time to learn properly.

Fly Fishing Lures

In the general sport of fishing, you use lures to catch your fish; however, when you are fly fishing, the word lure only marginally applies. Sure, you are trying to lure the fish to your bait, but when you are fly fishing, you use flies to entice the fish. So when we talk about lures in the sport of fly fishing, we are really speaking about flies.

You see, fish eat bugs. They rely on flies, grasshoppers, and other insects for their food source. When you are fly fishing, you attempt to mimic the look and movement of their food. Therefore, the lure that you are providing them with are called flies.

There are all sorts of fly fishing lures, or flies, that you can use depending on the area you are fishing and the type of fish you want to catch. Most of these lures are available at commercial retail outlets, but you can also make them yourself. The key is to have several different lures available to you so you can adapt to the situation you are fishing in.

Take a few moments when getting on the river or stream to observe the types of insects that are around you. Take a small net like they use for goldfish and skim the top of the water. See what you collect inside and then use a lure that looks like the bugs in the net.

Whatever type of fly or insect that is predominantly in the area is what the fish are feeding on. You'll catch more fish when you lure them with what they already know are food sources. While most fish will eat whatever they can find, if they are used to seeing may flies on top of the water, they will be more apt to bite than if you dangle a caddis fly over their heads.

Your fly fishing lures should be simple. Regular fishing lures are often huge with all sorts of shiny danglers and bright colors. They, too, are meant to mimic food sources, but the idea of fly fishing is to catch fish using the natural food that is always available. That's why flies are kept simple looking and small.

You can lure fish to your line using a variety of tools. But when you are fly fishing, lures become one of the most important tools you can have in your arsenal. Using the right lure, or fly, is so important. It can make a big difference between catching a ton of fish or just a few. Choose your lures carefully when fly fishing and reap the benefits!



Fly Fishing Reels

Your fly fishing reel can be as important as your fly fishing rod. At one time, many people thought of the fly fishing reel as just storage for your line, but it has evolved into so much more. The reel can make a big difference in being able to drag in your fish or failing to do so.

Most fly fishing reels are made of aluminum. When using, the fisherman strips line off the reel with one hand while casting with the other. He (or she) then retrieves the slack line by winding it back up on the reel. The type of reel you use depends on the fish you are trying to catch. Some reels are better suited for larger fish as well as more demanding conditions while on the water.

Your fly fishing reel should have a solid handle that is easy to manipulate. Some reels come with double handles – one on each end of the spinner – that makes it much easier to grab hold of and wind up. Which one you choose is up to you!

The spool holds the fishing line. Attached to the spool on the outside is a small weight called a counter balance. This assures that the reel spins smooth and true without any interference from the rod or the angler. Many spools have exposed rims. This actually serves a very useful purpose when you are struggling with a fish. You can cup your hand on the outside of the room so you can play with the fish and save your tackle if you are using light flies.

The drag on a fly fishing reel creates pressure and prevents the line from free spooling or back lashing. You can have a click drag on your reel which are springs that put pressure against a gear stopping it from moving. These reels are noisy, though, so keep that in mind. Disc drags are either pads or gears that have calipers like brakes on a car. As the pressure on the gear increases, the pad clamps down stopping the drag.

The reel clamps to your fly rod with a “seat” that clamps down on the handle with “feet”. All reels are made to the same standard so the seats that are on fly fishing rods with handle all fly fishing reels. So, basically, you can pick out your rod and then choose the reel you want and not have to worry if it will fit your rod.

Choosing your fly fishing reel depends a lot on what type of fishing you will be doing. If fishing for large game fish, you will want one that can handle the pressure of the weight of the fish. If you are just fishing for trout and bass, you will want a standard reel that will make bringing your fish in just a little bit easier.



Fly Fishing Rod

In the sport of fly fishing, your rod is one of your most important pieces of equipment. Fly rods come in various shapes and sizes, and which one you choose depends a lot on how you are going to be using the rod.

Fly fishing rods come rated in terms of the net weight they can handle (designated by nwt). That means if you are fishing waters for fish up to 8 pounds, you should use an 8 nwt rod. The higher the number, the bigger fish the rod will be able to handle.

Some rods are multi-rated (i.e. 8-10 nwt). These rods are good because they can handle a variety of situations, but you will sacrifice flexibility in the performance of the rod. A multi-rated rod is good for beginning fly fishermen because of its ability to adapt to various fishing scenarios.

Rods are made of three different materials: fiberglass, graphite, and bamboo. Fiberglass rods are the best choice for beginners. They are durable and considerably less expensive than the alternatives. Most fly fishing rods are made of fiberglass.

Graphite rods are a little more expensive, but they are lighter than fiberglass. They are better at casting than other rods and can handle many types of fishing situations. Graphite rods are strong so they'll give you more fighting weight when trying to finish your catch.

Bamboo rods were the earliest rods used in the sport of fly fishing. Today, bamboo rods are quite expensive, but they are amazing strong and durable. These rods are suited for a slow, soft casting style associated with slow, leisurely fishing. Bamboo rods are very graceful, but they can be difficult to handle in certain situations, so this is not a good choice for beginners.

The length of your rod makes a difference as well depending on what type of fishing location you are in. Rods less than 8 feet long are good for tight, narrow places and areas with overhanging trees. Eight to nine foot rods are ideal for trout and bass fishing in open areas where you can get casting distance. Anything nine feet and over is for wide open waters and long distance casts. You can also use a nine foot and above rod for fishing from a float tube.

Put some thought into your fly fishing rod. While it's not the only piece of gear that matters, it can be the one piece of gear that can help you bring in a monster fish or a baby fish. Think about what you want to accomplish on your fishing expedition and choose a rod that you help you achieve your goal.



Fly Fishing School

When you are learning how to do something new, it is always helpful to get some instruction. There are schools all over the country that teach people how to fly fish, and they can be a wonderful way to learn fly fishing from people who are experts in the field.

One of the most popular fly fishing schools is provided by the Orvis company who manufactures various fly fishing gear. They offer these schools in various locations throughout the country, usually in the springtime. The Orvis school will teach you proper casting techniques, tying the best knots, how to choose your gear and tackle, and much more!

Outdoor classes are held by The Fly Fishing School in various locations throughout the United States and Canada. This school goes to some of the most popular fly fishing spots and shows anglers the proper ways to enjoy the sport. This school is a very effective way for beginners to learn the fundamentals of fly fishing and is a great refresher course for more experienced anglers.

The Fly Fishing School also offers a self study course available for purchase. These courses come in book form as well as compact disc. You can even take the course online is that is more convenient for you.

When you choose a fly fishing school, you will get the benefit of experienced instructors who are eager to share their knowledge with you. They will guide you step by step through the process of tying your line, how to hold the rod, and being able to make the most effective casts. Many schools will also teach you where to look for the best fish as well as what bait to use for certain species.

Other fly fishing schools will teach you how to become a fly fishing guide for other people. If you have a love of the outdoors and a love of fly fishing as a sport, becoming a guide could be a great career move for you. You can learn along with your students and teach them what you know helping them become better anglers themselves.

Schools vary in price with the Orvis school running around \$400 for two days of classes. Of course, you'll have to worry about your own transportation and lodging when you get to the location of your class. Many people think this is a small investment when considering the amount of information and expertise you will be getting.

Fly fishing schools are great places to learn about this sport you are coming to love. When you employ the advice of experts, you will be well on your way to learning more about the sport of fly fishing. Of course, practice is the best teacher, but you sure have to start somewhere.

Fly Fishing Shop

There are many shops that cater exclusively to the sport of fly fishing. Whether you are looking for them in your hometown or online, you can find plenty of places to shop for your fly fishing supplies.

Amassing your fly fishing gear doesn't have to be a headache. There are many places that sell supplies and apparel for fly fishing – all you have to do is look for them. Shopping for fly fishing gear can be a very enjoyable expedition albeit an expensive one. But when you love a sport, you will want to have the best equipment you can find.

Online fly fishing shops offer you the convenience of shopping from your home and they will deliver your product right to your door. You will have many more choices when you shop online, and the selection will be everything you could ever think of. Following are a few of the websites we've found that offer a wide variety of fly fishing supplies.

The Fly Fishing Shop (www.flyfishusa.com) has both an online store as well as a brick and mortar shop in Welches, Oregon. They offer everything from rods and reels to pontoon boats. They have been in business for over twenty-two years and even offer free shipping for orders over \$50.

The Orvis Company (www.orvis.com) has long been a well-known manufacturer of quality fly fishing equipment, and their online shop offers all kinds of supplies for the fly fisher. They have clothing, gifts, and collectibles as well as home furnishings and hunting supplies.

The Hook and Hackle Company (www.hookhackle.com) has just about everything in their shop that a fly fisher would need. They have an extensive amount of fly tying supplies plus separate parts of fly fishing rods so you can build your own rod. They also offer waders, footwear, and much more.

Like many other online fishing shops, Angler's Lane (www.anglerslane.com) also has a storefront in Virginia where they sell their fishing supplies. You can order rods, reels, flies, and clothing from their online shop, too. They have a special section with products on sale and boast discounted items daily.

There are a lot of fly fishing shops out there. While it can be much more satisfying to be able to pick up a rod and know how it feels in your hand, you can often find some great deals through an online shop plus you're likely to find less expensive merchandise.



Fly Fishing Show

When you are an avid fly fisherman, attending a fly fishing show can be an integral part of your mastery in the sport. Fly fishing shows offer so much valuable information, attending one is virtually required if you want to improve your skills and stay up to date on the latest equipment and techniques.

One of the biggest traveling shows is “The Fly Fishing Show”. This show annually travels to some of the most popular fly fishing destinations like Bellevue, Washington, Denver, Colorado, and Charlotte, North Carolina, among others. This show boasts several exhibitors offering new equipment for sale as well as seminars and symposiums about how to improve your fly fishing skills.

The Fly Fishing Show offers classes on fly tying and much, much more. They have casting demonstrations along with the opportunity to win some amazing door prizes including fly fishing trips, equipment, and gear. You will also be able to talk with other people who share your love of fly fishing.

Another huge show is “Fly Fishing Retailer” which is held annually in Denver, Colorado. Again, this show will provide exhibitors with their wares for sale, but Fly Fishing Retailer also offers you the chance to hob-nob with fly fishing experts, ask them questions, and partake of their expertise.

With the growing popularity of fly fishing as a sport, there are shows held all over the country for the avid fisherman. Admittance is usually free, and attendance is almost always heavy. Keep an eye out in your favorite fly fishing magazine or local newspaper for fly fishing shows that are coming near where you live.

Often, people will travel long distances to these shows because they certainly do have so much to offer. You can find a quality fly fishing show nearly anyplace in the United States. Do a quick Internet search for “fly fishing shows” and pick from the various locations that you will find are hosting fly fishing shows.

The best part about attending a fly fishing show is the vast amount of information you will learn. Because almost all these shows offer various classes that pertain to fly fishing, when you sit in on the seminars, you will gain knowledge you didn't know before. Even if you have been fly fishing for years, a little refresher course never hurts!

There's no doubt that a quality fly fishing show can not only help you with your fly fishing skills, but you can also be introduced to new technology in fly rods and reels as well as helpful items that can make your fly fishing more productive than it has ever been. Find a show near you and share your love of fly fishing from those in the know!

Fly Fishing Supplies

Besides the obvious supplies of rods and reels, there are really a lot of other supplies you should have in your fly fishing arsenal. It can make the difference between a great fishing trip and a so-so fishing trip when you have a variety of products at your disposal. So what types of supplies will you need to have on hand?

To begin with, you should have an ample supply of flies. When you are out on a river or stream, you will want to match the food source that is readily available to the fish. They are much more likely to bite when they recognize their normal food as opposed to anything else. When you have several flies available, you can adapt depending on what types of insects you see on your particular stretch of water.

You will also want to have a supply of different lines that you can use. Different lines are adaptable to different types of weather as well as different types of casting. If you have some particularly windy weather, you will want to change your line to adapt to the conditions and make your casting more productive.

Apparel is part of the fly fishing experience, and you'll want to get the right supplies that will best match your situation. Vests, for example, are almost necessary for the avid fly fisherman. Fly fishing vests come with lots of pockets for you to hold your supplies in and have easy access to them at the same time.

Where can you get your fly fishing supplies? The outlets are everywhere. You can start with your local sporting goods store to find different brands and suggestions for various supplies. If you have a local specialty fishing store, these can be excellent places to get your fly fishing supplies. The people in these stores are also very knowledgeable in the sport and they can make suggestions as to what you should be carrying with you.

The Internet is probably the widest and most diverse place to shop for your fly fishing supplies. You have literally thousands of places that sell equipment for fly fishermen including fly tying supplies, various pre-made flies, lines, and apparel. Just do a quick search on your favorite search engine for fly fishing supplies and be amazed at the amount of resources that are at your fingertips!

Be creative when looking for fly fishing supplies. Ask other fly fishermen, talk online, and utilize the resources of fly fishing organizations. Once you begin amassing your supplies, you'll be surprised at how addictive it can be!

Fly Fishing Tackle

When we refer to fly fishing tackle, we are really talking about the tools and supplies you need to become an effective fly fisherman. Tackle is basically the equipment you use to catch fish. The basic tackle includes a rod, reel, line, and hooks and lures. You will want to pay special attention to the type of tackle that you carry with you when you are on a fly fishing trip.

Your rod is your most important part of fly fishing tackle. It will make or break your fishing trip. Having the right rod for the right conditions is very important. You need to take into consideration what you will be fishing for and where you will be fishing at. The higher weight rod, the bigger the fish you can catch. But you won't want to overdo it either. Choose your rod carefully and practice using it.

Your line is also an important part of your fishing tackle. Again, it will depend on what you are fishing for as to what strength of line you will be using. You may have to switch in the middle of your fishing trip when you begin to find different types of fish. Having a variety of lines available at your disposal will make your experience satisfying.

Fishing lines serve as the link between the angler's reel and the lure or bait. The most popular line used for sport fishing is monofilament nylon line, which is strong and durable and has a certain amount of stretch, which helps when an angler sets the hook. The line comes in a variety of strengths, from 2-pound test to more than 100-pound test. Pound test is the amount of pressure that can be put on a line before it breaks. Most monofilament is clear, making it difficult for fish to see.

There are many different types of fishing line available to you. Choose the one that fits both your budget and your needs. Of course, you will want to have many different types of flies and lures to bring the fish to your line. What you are trying to do when fly fishing is to mimic the look and actions of the fish's natural food source. If the fish in the area you are fishing are used to dining on may flies or caddis flies, you will want to have these types of lures to increase your chance of bagging the big one.

A fly is a special type of lure used in fly-fishing. Flies are made of feathers, hair, and plastics, which are wrapped around a hook and designed to imitate water insects such as mayflies and stoneflies, or land insects such as beetles or grasshoppers. They come in a variety of types: dry flies, which float and imitate adult aquatic insects; wet flies, which lie below the surface and imitate immature aquatic insects; nymphs, which resemble the larval stage of aquatic insects; and streamers and buck tails, which imitate small fish.

Having the right amount of tackle along on your fly fishing trip is important. However, don't overdo it. You may find yourself bogged down with way too much equipment which will make you uncomfortable. A little research before your trip can go a long way and tell you about the type of fly fishing tackle you will need.

Conclusion

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