



Naknek River Camp “Septembows” Alaska September 12th- 19th, 2026

Thanks for signing up for Mad River Outfitters excursion to the Naknek River Camp in Alaska!

We are looking forward to having you along.

Following is some important information on the trip including an equipment listing. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact any of us at the shop.

Also, if you haven't already, a *50% deposit is required* to hold your spot and the full balance is due no later than 90 days prior to the trip

Itinerary-

You should plan on arriving at the King Salmon airport on the afternoon of Saturday, September 12th. You will be picked up by a lodge representative and taken to the camp where we will have dinner and get ready for the fishing frenzy. We will then fish with guides for the next six days. Weather depending, you'll have the option to add on a fly out trip to hike in/hike out to remote creeks. Costs vary and can be discussed with staff during the week. We will depart on the morning of Saturday, September 19th back to Anchorage. We will get you to the airport for your departure from King Salmon. Included in the price of the trip is all accommodations and meals at the camp, fishing with boat, guide and lunch. Package does not include airfare from hometown to King Salmon, overweight baggage charges, alcoholic beverages, gratuities for guides and staff, items of a personal nature.

****Please specify any dietary restrictions, allergies or health concerns to the shop upon booking****

Daily itineraries will vary depending on what you want to target that day. Breakfast will be at 7am at the dining hall every morning. We'll usually have things like eggs, bacon/sausage, biscuits and gravy, french toast/pancakes and oatmeal. When we're fishing the Naknek proper or

taking boats across the lake to various creeks we'll depart from the dock at 8am and usually end our fishing days around 4pm. If you choose to add on a float plane fly out trip to the week, departure times from the dock will vary depending on weather and pilot schedules. Fly outs are not included in the trip and will be an added cost should you choose to do one. Prices fluctuate year to year with AV gas prices so we'll find out exact costs for each destination when we get there.

When we are on the Naknek we'll come back to the lodge for a hot lunch typically around noon. For fly outs and across the lake adventures we'll pack in lunches. Dinners will be at the dining hall at 6pm and will include appetizers, hearty proteins/sides and homemade desserts

Accommodations: The riverside cabins are booked as double/triple occupancy with private showers and bathrooms in each. They'll have towels, bedding etc but you'll need to bring your own toiletries and shower essentials

Tipping-

Tipping of the guides and camp staff is greatly appreciated! The best way to do it for guides is daily at the end of each day. Tipping at the end of the week is totally fine as well just let your guide know that is what you'll be doing. Typically we recommend \$100 per angler per day. Of course the sky's the limit for an exceptional guide! Cash is preferred but most can take Venmo or Zelle. Should you need cash there is an ATM in King Salmon we can run you to.

You can tip the camp and kitchen staff at the end of the week by card or cash to Phyllis (Jim Johnson's wife). Around \$200 is pretty typical. If you have any more questions about this, don't hesitate to ask the host.

Flight Information-

Fly into Anchorage (ANC) and then switch over to Alaska Airlines for the final leg to King Salmon (AKN). Booking through Alaska Airlines all the way through has been the easiest. They typically partner with American Airlines. When booking flights and afternoon/evening arrival and a morning departure is preferred if available.

****Once you have your travel plans made, please forward them to Mad River Outfitters so that we can keep track of when everyone is arriving/departing!!!**

Recommended Tackle List-

Please note that the guides will have tackle and flies for you to use should you choose not to bring your own! Waders, boots and raingear are a must have but most of the other gear is completely optional.

Rods- Spey rods will be the preferred tools for this trip, details on what rods to take are below. For single hand rods have a 9 foot 5 or 6wt. That will be great if you choose to do a fly out or go to Brooks Falls

-The Naknek is a big river that holds big fish- quite often in fast water. It is a great river for a spey rod.

- Spey Rods- Full Spey rods are best suited for this time of year. 12'-13'6" rods in 7-8wt are what is recommended

Reels- Should be anodized, corrosion-resistant saltwater type models, with a high quality drag, that will hold a fly line and at least 125-200 yards of backing. Quality equipment is a must!

Fly Lines- For your 5 or 6wt a weight forward floating line will be all that is needed. For the Speys it is recommended that you have a floating skagit head as well as an intermediate one. An assortment of 10ft sink tips ranging from T-11 to T-20 will be necessary. You'll be able to cover any run at any water level with that.

Leader/Tippet- Standard tapered leaders in 0X-3X along with corresponding tippets will do most everything for your floating fly lines. For swinging streamers and sinking lines the leaders are very simple.....the 4' store bought "streamer leaders" or the 3 part Brian/Flip formula ending in .012" is fine.

Flies- The Naknek rainbows love natural colors with minimal flash. Black, brown, olive, and tan are great colors. Flesh flies in bright and dull colors are good to have on hand as well. Streamer sizes range from 3-6in. Make sure your swing streamers have a size 1 or 2 stinger hook in the rear of the fly.

- Leeches
- Sculpins
- Flesh flies
- Basic intruder flies
- Dolly llamas

Guides will have an assortment of painted beads to use on the Naknek and smaller creeks

Other Accessories-

- chest waders and rubber soled wading shoes (studded soles not allowed on float plane) *NO FELT!!
- polarized sunglasses (green mirror or amber lenses)
- wading staff
- nippers
- strike indicators
- split shot
- fly floatant
- hook sharpener
- needlenose pliers/forceps
- small day pack/backpack (WATERPROOF) for storing tackle, camera, clothing etc.

Clothing-

- Long underwear
- Layering type clothing system
- Fleece insulation, hats and gloves
- GOOD RAINGEAR!!
- Fishing hat for sun/wind protection on face, neck and ears

Miscellaneous-

- Camera and accessories
- Insect repellent/mosquito head net
- Sunscreen, waterproof with an SPF of at least 30 and lip balm of the same
- Any medications you may require
- Personal items
- Flashlight

For more information, please see www.naknekrivercamp.com

Further Fishing specific info-

Spey fishing rainbows on the Naknek: One of the reasons this river has become so famous is because of the fantastic number of trout between 24"-28". Shots at fish above the 30" mark are caught almost everyday! Something you just don't find too much in the lower 48. We commonly swing out of 18ft jet boats so that we have the advantage when casting and fighting these big fish. There are areas to wade but you must be an experienced wader. **If this is the way you want to target the rainbows, you'll need to have a good understanding of Spey casting before arriving. Taking a couple lessons and practicing your casts at home before coming up will greatly benefit**

you! If you talk to any of the guides most of them will say this is their favorite time of the season!

Bead fishing rainbows on the Naknek: The Naknek annually receives several million sockeye salmon. These salmon are in full spawning mode the week that we're there so fishing a bead to imitate eggs can be very productive. We highly recommend trying out this tactic if swinging streamers is not proving to be productive. Remembering when we're fishing the Naknek it is a trophy fishery not a numbers fishery! These rainbows that inhabit the river this time of year are truly fish of a lifetime.

Arctic Char/Dolly Varden: Several fly outs offer great options to target these species and streamers and bead rigs. Some creeks you can find some exceptional size and numbers!

Brooks Rainbows: The famed brooks falls in Katmai National Park boasts some epic fishing this time of year along with the chance to fish alongside the park's many coastal brown bears. While the rainbows don't grow near as big as they do on the Naknek they are plentiful and hungry!

Mad River Outfitters
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www.madriveroutfitters.com

Pay Deposits or balance online by visiting our "Fly Fishing Trips" page on the top menu bar of our website...

Please remember that final payments are due 90 days prior to trip date. Late payments are subject to a 5% late fee. Please be sure to read over our Payment/Cancellation Policies.