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UMBA RIVER INFO - 2010

In this information you will find essential information and terms on your coming salmon trip to Uмба- if you still have questions please don't hesitate to contact us



Uмба River – The Golden Mix

Low-priced and great Salmon fishing in the most gorgeous surroundings. This answers everything a Salmon angler can ask for and really lift quantity and quality into a higher level. Few Salmon Rivers on the Kola Peninsula, or in the world for that matter, have had such a spellbinding and deeply felt effect on Salmon anglers from all over the world. For many of them it has almost become a lifelong love affair and you may witness hardened and weatherbeaten anglers become all "mushy", when they reflect and talk about Uмба. Such is the character of this river and there are really very few places left in this world like it.

Uмба Lodge

The new Uмба Lodge on the banks of the fabled Home Pool was opened in the year 2000. The fantastic centre building contains the dining area and a very comfortable lounge with a big fireplace. Two wings fan out from the round centre building and accommodate the staff and contain the guest rooms as well as kitchen facilities. The dining area is tastefully decorated and very stylish. Here all Uмба guests will feel like "Knights of the Round Table" enjoying high quality and tasty cuisine. A narrow hallway leads to the guests' warm and cosy rooms.

All rooms accommodate two anglers and contain a private bathroom. The interior is built in style, entirely out of local timber materials. The rooms have been designed for storage of all the gear and tackle salmon anglers always carry with them. A porch circles the entire lodge with access from all rooms. This is convenient for drying wet clothes and waders – and a very nice place to watch salmon jumping in the awesome Home Pool. A very unique experience awaits you at the incomparable Uмба timber lodge – for sure one of the most luxurious lodge on the entire Kola Peninsula. It is like a small palace in the wilderness – just the right place to discover the enchanting soul of the



Uмба River

What can you expect fishing the Uмба River? Uмба is for the guy who is seeking demanding superior quality fishing. AND- Uмба is also tough wading and long (healthy) walks. We have no fancy hovercrafts or jet boats, who can ferry you up or down the river the whole day - except on the lower beats in Uмба. The Krivetz River (upper section of Uмба) is a fast river with strong currents, big boulders and strenuous wading on slippery boulders, long casts and monster salmon. Uмба is a demanding chase for silver and suited for the experienced and committed Salmon angler prepared battle for his salmon. No matter what time of the season you choose to come, you will encounter a week of unforgettable salmon fishing!

Each part of the season encompasses its magic and lure along this wonderful forest river on the south side of the Kola Peninsula. Silvery salmon lie in its many demanding pools from early May until the end of October providing for a long and exciting season. There are rivers on the Kola Peninsula, where you have the chance of catching higher numbers of smaller fish - but the unique mix of quantity-size and quality, i.e. ocean fresh fish, that you will find on in Umba is unparalleled! The Umba river system has something like five different salmon runs each year and some of these consist of fish specially "designed" (pumped up in protein) to spend almost 2 years in the river before returning to sea! An incredible feat actually - homage and respect to the salmon. As May ends and we move into the middle of June, the summer will manifest itself with highpressure weather and sunny weather.



The amount of summer fish on our beats is probably peaking at end of June and beginning of July, and the reason why the catch per rod is a bit higher in June is probably related to weather and temperature being more optimal for the salmon to take the fly. Regarding the fish - two major things happen during this period. We see an increase in fresh grilse so that the salmon to grilse ratio goes up towards 1:1. But we also encounter some of the overwintering or hibernating fish bound for an 18 month stay in the river before spawning, and you will not be in doubt when you hook one of those. Being up to 25% heavier measured in length these bombs will make your lower jaw hit your chest and have you recheck your backing.

The average summer run salmon will be between 7 and 15 lb. but every week will see bigger fish landed - usually males and sometimes well over 20 lb. In September the life giving and short polar summer is coming to an end. Autumn sets in quickly and the surrounding forest literally explodes in a spectacular explosion of colours along the banks of the river. This is the time and call for fulfilling one of the edicated salmon anglers' wildest dreams - big, ocean fresh autumn fish! Do not be surprised if you catch sealed fish right into October and later - these are the mythical Osenka salmon. The average catch per rod at this time of year will drop a bit compared to the wild and sometimes "hysterical" summer weeks, but you will still have good chances for numbers in double figures and with some bright, sparkling fresh run salmon from 15 to 30 lbs. - "Umba whoppers". Autumn fishing for Umba salmon is comparable to steelhead fishing in British Columbia - Quality and challenging fishing in every sense of the word.

Daily Schedule in Umba River

The daily fishing starts after Breakfast approx 09.00 and continue until Lunch where approx half of the group will return to the main Lodge for Lunch - the other half will have a bank side lunch together with the guide at one of the fireplaces we have along the spectacular Krivetz stretch. The daily fishing stops around 19.00 and dinner will be served at 20.00 in the lodge. After that the program is off schedule and usually- social relaxation in front the Lodge's big fireplaces where the air soon will be filled with good stories.

Organizing the Fishing

For Umba the camp manager will setup a weekly fishing schedule that suits the conditions and actual numbers of guest in camp and usually there will be a mid-dayrotation after lunch. This system is tried and trusted and every guest will usually fish all pools more than once. The manager schedule is worked out with the main purpose to give all an even share, but this does not mean that it cannot be altered. The only criterion that must be fulfilled in that context is that all affected guests agree and that this agreement is found between the guests and the presented to the camp manager. Fishing after dinner is usually free around camp - but it is still under the directions of the camp manager. If necessary there will be made up a schedule for evening fishing. Early morning fishing is restricted to the beats you are going to after breakfast. For an extra tip guides will be available for evening fishing also on the beats further from camp. Make these agreements before dinner directly with you guide.



Fishing and Tackle

The fishing starts in late May when the usual spring flood is running of and the white polar nights normally create a euphoric and exhausting fishing trance among our guests. As May moves into June we see a period that must be considered prime time. If wind and weather also plays along these are weeks where the salmon-ceiling is popped of like corks from our Russian champagne.

Most fishing today is carried out with modern double hand rods between 12 ½ and 15 feet for line 8 -10 - Regarding reel. Please remember to bring some reliable reels that won't let you down when your + 30lbs

salmon take off. Reel for double handled rod should contain minimum 200 meters backing – Single handed reel minimum 150 meters backing. (Buy the best available gear to avoid any failure – Cheap gear will always let you down) Lines: Early season sinking line Floating – Intermediate and sink tips. Important: Bring some fast sinking lines if you are fishing May / June – Leaders: 12 – 14 – 16 – 18 – 20 – 24 – 30 lbs braking strength.

As June moves into July the summer will manifest itself with high-pressure weather and sunshine sometimes 24 hours pr. Day. Needles to say that these conditions will can affect the fishing, but you may be astonished to hear that it sometimes can improve catches. Dry fly tactics is very worthwhile and it can be absolutely essential in July. Here we recommend singled handled rods 8 – 9 ½ feet for line 7 – 9. By middle of August we are back again into the more rock-solid Spey rods

Flies for Umba

All rivers have their favorites and Umba is no exception. That said though it must be added that – probably due to the decent neutral color in most of the rivers – very many and very different types of flies seem to work. According to the rules and regulations your flies can be tied on either single or double hook and before you release them to swim the Russian rivers you must pinch down the barbs. Hereby some of the hot patterns you should bring to Russia.

Traditional Flies

Red But / Silver Doctor /Black Francis / Ally's Shrimp / The Cascade / Green Highlander / Thunder & Lightning / Willie Gunn / Black Sheep / Hairy Mary / Blue Charm / The Undertaker. Billy But. Black bear Green But. Monroe Killer. Recommendation towards sizes would be in direction of: 2 – 4 from end of May too middle of June - 6 – 8 in late June early July and further down to 10 and smaller in summer. In September we are back again in size 4 – 8. In middle of June towards end of July remember some dryflies etc. Bombers, muddlers and skaters size 4 – 6-

Tube Flies

Bring tube flies with a wing length around 1 inches – 1 ½ inches – Get them in the classic "Scandi" design with a long profile in the wing a'la Tempel dog style – Productive colors – Black / Yellow / Orange / Green / Brown. The tube fly Body should be in length 10mm – 20mm – recommended in Brass, Cobber or aluminum.

Clothes and Accessories

The weather is very unpredictable on the Kola peninsula, and it can change dramatically within very short time so it will be very sensible to bring both something that will keep you warm and dry in rainy and windy day and on the other hand something that is more comfortable, when the sun is dancing for 20 odd hours a day.

Clothes

Fleece trousers and jacket - Warm socks - Fleece gloves - Hat and scarf - Waterproof fishing jacket - Waders (breathable) - Fishing shirts and vest

Accessories

Measure tape - Leader material - Clippers. - Repair kit for Waders - Some sinking tip for extreme situations – Pliers - Wading stick - Pocket torch with fresh batteries - Camera and video (You can recharge in the camp / 220V) - Bag or backpack for daily equipment - Mosquito repellent - Sun glasses. It is also advisable to bring: Ear plugs for helicopter flights, snoring partners and screaming fly reels. A couple of plastic bags for wet clothes and boots when leaving. Personal medicine and painkillers. Cash in USD or Euro for bar, gratuities etc.

Catch and Release

All our programmes operates a strict catch and release policy. All fish must be reported and registered daily in the camp's catch statistic book. All fishing is strictly Fly only, with use of single or double barbless hook. We request extremely care in handling fish.

- Please do not beach the fish on dry land/rocks. Use a knotless landing net.
- When fishing from a boat try to land big fish from the bank.
- For photographs please ensure the fish is supported underneath.
- Wet your hands (never hold it up by the tail or the mouth) and return it to water as soon as possible.
- When returning the fish support it in the water (mouth pointing upstream) unto it has fully recuperated before allowing it to swim away.



Visa and Travel Information

Everyone travelling to Russia is responsible for obtaining their own visa. Please notice that regulations require that you can only do so within three months of the start of your Russian holiday. The Russian Embassy will stamp the Visa direct into your passport and we feel it is both safer and more convenient for everyone that you

send the paper to one of the many specialist travel companies in your country that deals with this. If for any reason you have problems with your invitation paper or visa, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately. The normal time to get a Visa is 7 working days plus mail, which means approx. 2 weeks. WE WILL MAIL YOU THE INVITATION FORM IN APRIL 2010 – THIS FORM HAS TO BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED TO US. After receiving your booking form correctly completed and signed we will send the special Russian invitation that is needed to get the Visa. For the 2010 season WE will start the invitation process in the 1 month April. To process your Visa application it must be sent to a consulate or local visa agent. We strongly advice you to contact one of the many specialist travel company in your country that deal with this.

You will need following

- Russian Invitation (You will receive an invitation from us in April month)
- Questionnaire form to be filled out and signed at the bottom – This questionnaire can vary from country to country, so please contact your local Russian consulate or visa support for further information – Today you can download this Questionnaire from your local consulate or travel agency web page
- Your Passport
- Four Passport photos (with some Embassies it is enough with two)

The Russian Visa Application form will require you to confirm that you have both travel insurance and medical evacuation cover valid in Russia. Please double check your passport and visa in plenty of time before departure from your home country. Remember a passport must be valid for six months after date of planned departure from Russia. Your visa must have your name exactly as it is written in your passport and the dates in your visa must cover your entire visit to Russia. If these details are not correct you could be refused entry into Russia

Travelling to Murmansk

- Helsinki – Murmansk (MMK). If you want to use the charter flight from Helsinki to Murmansk, each Saturday, than please contact us and ask for our electronic booking form. As soon we receive the form from you, we will do a reservation for you. We will know all 2010 details, price and time schedule after 1st January. Our representative will meet you at Airport and arrange the further transport to the camp
- Saint Petersburg – Murmansk – for info and booking contact – <http://www.pulkovo.dk/enindex.htm> You arrive Friday evening Murmansk (MMK.) – You have to stay one night in Murmansk (We recommend Hotel Meridian. Saturday morning you take a Taxi Airport. You have to be at the Airport no later than 11.00 Am.
- Moscow – Murmansk – The same process as above – for info and booking – <http://www.aeroflot.ru/eng/>
- Oslo – Kirkenes – MMK. – Bus from Kirkenes to MMK. for info and booking contact <http://www.flysas.com/Default.aspx?vst=true&epslanguage=EN> – Bus from Kirkenes to Murmansk contact booking@russland.ru

Please keep our office aware of your travelling route to Murmansk – Thanks

We will of course keep you updated regarding the exactly time table for 2010 as soon we get them

Notice: Fishing Umba, you have a chance to extend you fishing trip with some extra days for a minor extra cost. The travel to Umba will be in a comfortable bus departing Murmansk every Saturday morning 11.30 Am. If you of some reason arrive Murmansk earlier or later we can arrange a private transport for you – Please inform us

Terms and Conditions

Included in cost: Round-trip car transportation from Murmansk to the Umba camp; Seven nights and six full fishing days at the Umba; all meals and accommodations at the river; fishing permits; one guide, boat and motor for each two anglers.

Not Included: Round-trip airfare from your home to Murmansk; meals and accommodations in Helsinki or other en route cities; visa processing. Alcoholic beverages and other items of a personal nature; gratuities to guides and camp staff.

Deposit/Cancellation/Refund: A 50% deposit is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment 1st March 2010. Deposit and final payment are non-refundable in case you have a business conflict or change your mind. Trip cancellation insurance will respond to illness (with certain preexisting condition limitations) or accident precluding your travelling. In case there are any untoward developments prompting the U.S. State Department to advise against non-essential travel to Russia or, specifically, the Kola Peninsula (within one week of departure), the payments are fully refundable.

Travel in Russia: Visiting the Umba requires driving in bus, and boats in wilderness country. Passengers must understand and accept the risks associated with such means of conveyance. Travel schedules in Russia can change due to adverse weather, strikes, or other factors beyond our control. This can cause delays and even missed international connections. Such delays could impose additional cost to you in hotels or in changing low-cost airline tickets (which often have tight restrictions) for which we cannot be responsible.