



LEED

TRAVEL

ITINERARY

RIVER THURSO | 2024

YOUR PROPOSAL



RIVER THURSO | 2024

Thank you for enquiring with LOOP Travel, we are very excited to share this special trip for you and your group, to the River Thurso - Scotland.

We are on hand to ensure that you are fully prepared for your trip so that it is as exciting as possible! This week will be Hosted by Ross Macdonald who was brought up fishing the River Thurso and knows it intimately

Below you will find a breakdown of the trip itinerary, and further information.

If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch any time.

Best Wishes

Alastair Peake

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FISHING



RIVER THURSO | 2024

The beautiful and prolific Thurso River is located in Caithness in the far north of the Scottish Highlands, and is rightly regarded as one of Scotland's premier Atlantic salmon rivers. The river flows for 26 miles/41km from its source, above Loch More, to Thurso Bay where it meets the Atlantic.

The Thurso has a long and productive season, where Salmon can be caught on the fly from the start of the season on 11 January, until its close on 5 October. The river enjoys strong runs throughout the spring, summer and autumn periods and, when the conditions are right, the sport can be truly exhilarating!

The Thurso River is a charming medium to small-sized highland river that changes dramatically throughout its course.

The Thurso is one of the first Northern rivers to produce early strong spring salmon and the runs continue to build throughout the season, seeing the arrival of a strong grilse run in the summer months.

FISHING



SALMON & GRILSE

2 Anglers fish each beat each day, the next day they move down two beats, this allows all guests visiting the Thurso to fish the upper, middle and lower river in a given week.

Anglers visiting the Thurso should be prepared to fish different tactics, we recommend a 12' - 14' rod combined with an integrated scandi line to cover most of the pools, anglers should also approach the river with small switch rods and single handed rods when the river is running at low levels.

There are areas of the river with slow moving deep pools, some may say it is not the best fly water but anglers that preserve and utilise the backing up approach will be rewarded when there are good conditions and a ripple on the water.

By July the river will have a good head of fish in it and will be spread out across the system. Early spring salmon often hold up in the slower moving pools whilst the grilse and summer salmon will be running if water levels allow.

This time of year there are multi sea-winter springers in the pools and Grilse running populating much of the river.

LODGE



ULBSTER ARMS HOTEL

The Ulbster Arms hotel is situated in the small village in Halkirk, right on the river at beat 4. It provides the perfect base with a restaurant and lively bar for evening meals and is the focal meeting point for all ghillies and guests each morning.

The hotel provides a superb accommodation option for anglers fishing on the River Thurso. Recently renovated there are 13 rooms in the Hotel with a selection of premium double rooms overlooking the river. With 9 premium double rooms, 4 small premium double rooms, 2 premium twin rooms and a premium family room – all rooms are en suite with free WIFI connectivity, tea and coffee making facilities with shortbread.

There are also 3 luxury lodges available to let for larger groups that would prefer to experience the fishing in a lodge environment. The Dale Lodge contains 7 small double en suite bath or shower rooms and 2 family en suite bath or shower rooms, The new Executive Lodge – 'Milton Lodge' – which contains 4 en suite bath or shower rooms. Again all are WIFI enabled and included tea and coffee making facilities.

FOOD & CUISINE



LOCALLY SOURCED HIGHLAND CUISINE

The Restaurant at the hotel caters for all of the visiting guests. The Head Chef, Craig Brown, and his highly skilled team prepare menus each day, reflecting local seasonal fresh produce.

From a hearty cooked breakfast and continental options, the hotel will prepare either a packed lunch, or welcome guests back to the hotel for a hot lunch option. Dinner is served in the dining room, where there is always a vibrant atmosphere of anglers sharing stories of how their days' fishing went.

The hotel prides itself on using only the best local produce reflected in the seasonal menus. Guests are encouraged to make special requests, and should you wish to try some of the wonderful variety of freshly available local seafood, such as halibut, scallops, lobster or langoustines, the kitchen team will endeavour to source these from local fishing boats.

After dinner, guests relax over coffee and homemade Petit fours in the newly furnished library, or retreat to the Lounge for a "wee dram" of the finest Highland Scotch.

ITINERARY

Date	Description	Link	
Sunday	Arrive to Halkirk by own means and check into the Ulbster Arms Hotel in the afternoon / evening. If there is time enjoy a drive up the river to Loch More before dark. Enjoy a lively evening in the Ulbster Arms Hotel and eat in the Bar or Restaurant. Fill out lunch requirements for the rest of the week.	Hotel Link: https://www.ulbsterarmshotel.co.uk	
Monday	8:30am Meet with the ghillie team at the ghillies bothy outside of the hotel. Guided fishing for the day.		
Tuesday	Guided fishing		
Wednesday	Guided fishing		
Thursday	Guided fishing		
Friday	Guided fishing		
Saturday	Guided fishing		
Sunday	Check-out and continue with own travel arrangements.		

QUOTE - 2024

APRIL - £1996

August - £2821

PER PERSON BASED ON / 6 DAYS FISHING / GHILLIE & HOTEL / LUNCH

INCLUDED

- 6 days fishing
- Salmon fishing on 12 beats rotating daily
- Wader room, laundry facilities
- Accommodation (Based on Premium room at Ulbster Arms Hotel £155 per night)
- Shared ghillie 1:2 ratio (£90 per day)

NOT INCLUDED

- Gratuities
- Hire Car
- Excellent food available in the bar and restaurant and picnic lunch options available from the hotel.



A 50% deposit will secure the fishing.

The balance is payable no later than 120 days prior to the date of the trip commencement date.



ACCOMMODATION

Ulbster Arms Hotel has a total of 55 bedrooms, with several categories and price points, depending upon levels of comfort and quality. All rooms are let on a first come, first served basis. (The above price is based on staying at Dale Lodge)

- Bed and breakfast prices, per person, per night are:
 - **Single occupancy S/O Double occupancy D/O**
- Ulbster Arms Hotel small premium room - S/O £122 - D/O £145
- Ulbster Arms Hotel large premium room - S/O £155 - D/O £190
 - Ulbster Lodge £185
 - Milton Lodge - £210
- Dale Lodge Double - S/O £115 - D/O £130
- Commercial Hotel Small Double- S/O £75 - D/O £105
- Commercial Hotel Large Double - S/O £90 - D/O 120

GHILLIES

The services of a ghillie are not mandatory while fishing the river Thurso system. There is a team of ghillies that have been working on the river for many year and are available to work with groups on a weekly basis. Ghillies are charged out at £90 per day and are usually shared 1 ghillie per two anglers and will rotate around the guests beat rotation for the week.

Gratuities are not included in this day rate and should be paid at the end of the week.

PREPARATION FOR YOUR TRIP

We are here to ensure that you are fully prepared for your trip. The conditions for your trip can change at the last minute and we will contact you before your trip to give you a summary of what to expect.

The weather in the spring can be ferocious and varied therefore we advise to pack good quality layers and waterproof outer jackets. The midges shouldn't be too bad this early in the season but will begin to be active from June onwards.

TACKLE



SINGLES, DOUBLES AND SWITCH

THURSO

The river itself is a small-medium sized river. Double-handed rods are the norm in the spring and autumn months, but stout single hand and switch rods are more desirable during the warmer months and low water periods.

We recommend double handed rods between 12' and 13'6" combined with an integrated scandi line that will take poly leaders. Line rating in between 7# and 9# are ideal as we will be casting tube flies and there will be plenty of wind. Remember there will be occasions where over head casting will be required.

In the summer we also recommend fishing with a switch rod or single handed rod for those more narrow pools and when the river level is low.

Quality Waders - Check they don't leak and light wading boots

NEXT STEPS



If you would like to proceed with the above proposal, please respond via email to confirm and our administration team will issue the deposit invoice which secures the booking.

And if you have any further questions regarding the lodge, fishing, transport or simply need some tackle advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email or phone and we'll be able to assist you.

We look forward to welcoming you to the River Thurso soon!

Alastair Peake - LOOP Travel

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