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Fly Fishing - Scotland, North Esk 12.-19.3.2023

Fly fishing trip to one of Scotlands premier salmon rivers - the North Esk. Fishmaster will arrange a hosted fly fishing trip to the Stracathro beat on 12th-19th March 2023. Jouni Rauha will work as a host for this fishing trip. The previous years same period there has been caught a good number of spring salmon, also called as springers.

North Esk. The North Esk is one of Scotlands premier salmon rivers and is located in the eastern part of Scotland. It runs through the valley of Glen Esk, over the dramatic gorges at Edzell Loups, then across Morphy Dyke and finally enters the sea just North of Montrose. River North Esk is well known for its early run salmon and the best spring fishing season is from March until May. The North Esk is a very beautiful river which suits well for fly fishing. Overall, the main stem of the river is around 45 km with tributaries like the West Water providing additional fishing.

Fly Fishing - Stracathro Beat. Our fly fishing group of four persons will fish exclusively the private Stracathro beat. Stracathro is one of the best beats of the river. It is situated about 11 km from the sea, and about 3 km below the Edzell Loups. It can all be fished from the north bank, on which stands a large and comfortable fishing hut. The beat starts at the confluence of the North Esk with its major tributary, the West Water. It is double banked for all but the last 200 metres of its 2 kilometres and comprises 11 pools.

This is superb fly water, with easy access to the pools given the right water height. The beat fishes well throughout the season, and even in low water fish can be taken in the deeper pools. This is especially true of the Junction Pool, where many salmon will collect until conditions are suitable for ascending the West Water. Stracathro is a beautiful beat, with stunning backdrops, excellent fishing and easy access. The spring fishing on the Stracathro beat is fly fishing only and catch and release.

Fly Fishing Tackle. For fly fishing for salmon on the North Esk we recommend 12-14 ' feet double handed rods for lines #8-10 and suitable fly reels with good quality brakes. Floating, sink tip or intermediate shooting heads are most used fly lines but please bring also sinking shooting heads for possible high water conditions.

Flies. Good salmon fly patterns for North Esk are: Dee Sheep, Willie Gunn, Black Sheep, Black & Yellow, Black & Orange, Cascade, Monkey, Allys Shrimp and Garry.



Accommodation. Accommodation for guests will be in a nice Scottish house close the Stracathro beat. In the cottage there is a toilet, a shower, a large living room, a well equipped kitchen and several bedrooms. We will cook the meals together in the accommodation.



Travel Arrangements. Fishing trips to the North Esk are hosted trips. Anglers will first take flight to Aberdeen. At the airport they will meet the host Jouni Rauha and continue to the North Esk with a rental car, it is about one hour drive to the destination.

Trip length: 6 fishing days/7 nights

Group size: 1 host + 3 persons

Fishing trip includes: Fishing, Guiding, Accommodation

Fishing trip excludes: Flights to Aberdeen, Rental car, Meals



General information. Please book flights for yourself. Try to find a flight that will arrive to Aberdeen 13-16 on Sunday afternoon to avoid waiting at airport. Please pack the luggage into a big soft bag, it's easier to back it into a car.

Trip Schedule:

12.3. Sunday. Gathering at the Aberdeen airport in the afternoon. Try to find a flight that will arrive to Aberdeen between 13-16 hours on Sunday afternoon. Meeting host Jouni Rauha from Fishmaster and other fishermen at the airport. Car transport from Aberdeen to the North Esk. Arrival to the North Esk destination in the afternoon/evening. Showing the house and Stracathro beat. Dinner in accommodation.

13.-18.3. Monday - Saturday. Fly fishing for salmon at Stracathro beat. Breakfasts at accommodation, lunch at at accommodation. Dinners in the accommodation.

19.3. Sunday. Leaving the accommodation in the morning and heading back to the Aberdeen airport. Flight back home according to everyone's flight schedules. Try to find a flight that will departure from Aberdeen airport between 11-14 hours.



North Esk - Flies

Tube flies with 4-7 cm wing is normal size

Black Sheep

Tag: Red
Butt: Red
Body: Black floss
Rib: Silver
Hackle: Blue
Wing: Black and Yellow arctic fox
Head: Red or black conehead



Willie Gunn

Body: Black floss
Rib: Silver
Front hackle: Blue
Wing: 1/3 yellow arctic fox
1/3 light orange arctic fox
1/3 black arctic fox
Head: Black



Dee Sheep

Tag: Red
Body: Black floss
Rib: Oval Silver
Front hackle: Blue soft hackle
Wing: Bright Yellow and Black arctic fox
Electric Yellow Angel Hair
Head: Red



Golden Killer (Black & Yellow)

Body: Gold
Wing: Yellow and Black arctic fox
Yellow angel hair between yellow and black hair



Cascade

Tag: Red and yellow bucktail, 4 pearly flashabou accent
Body: 1/2 silver, 1/2 black floss
Rib: Oval Silver
Wing: Black squirrel, 2-4 silver flashabou accent
Front hackle: Yellow and Orange hackle
Head: Black



North Esk - Tackle List

General

Warm hat with bill
Polarized sunglasses
Long sleeve shirts, sweaters, fleeces
Short sleeve shirts, t-shirts (several)
Underwear
Warm, long underwear to use under waders
Fleece pants, fleece shirt
Long pants
Warm socks, several
Sandals or camp shoes
Raingear or wading jacket
Sunscreen
Camera, memory cards, extra batteries, battery charger
Backpack (to carry camera & other gear)
Small flashlight
Mobile phone
Garbage bags or waterproof bags for laundry and wading boots.
Books, magazines
Passport
Airline tickets and other travel documents
Pre-trip information, maps, Fishmaster phone number (+358-400-824530)
Cash, English pounds for meals, drinks, rental car etc.
Credit card
Notebook and pen
Toiletries, including; tooth brush, shampoo, hand lotion, bandages
Razor
Pain killers, Prescription medications
Adapter for electronic equipment

Fishing Equipment

Fly rods, rod tubes (Rods 12'-14' # 8-10)
Fly reels, reel covers
Spare spools
Fly lines, leaders
Fly boxes, flies
Waders, wading belt, repair kit for waders
Wading boots
Pliers (rustproof)
Hook hone/file
Extra spools monofilament: 0.35, 0.40
Needle clippers
Hemostats
Tape measure