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Norway, Austnes Salmon Lodge

Fly fishing for salmon on the Verdal River in Mid-Norway. A fine Austnes Salmon Lodge and prolific Austnes beats are located on middle

Verdalselva. Austnes beats are some of the finest and most productive beats of Verdalselva including famous Blåmelshölen, Ivar Bend and Austnesfossen pools.

VERDAL RIVER. Verdalselva is one of the good salmon rivers in Norway and flows into the sea at Trondheimsfjord about 80 km north from Trondheim. The average size of salmon is about 4-5 kg but biggest Verdalselva salmon are around 20 kilos. The annual salmon catch from the Verdal River varies between 600-1200 salmon.

AUSTNES BEATS. The guests are fly fishing beautiful Austnes beats situated middle Verdal River about 20 km from the estuary. Total length of the Austnes beats is about 5000 metres. Number of rods fly fishing on Austnes beats is 8 rods per week. Austnes beat is 1200 metres long on the Left bank and 800 metres on the Right bank. Austnes beat can be fly fished every day. Austnes beat is exclusive for Austnes anglers. The first 50 metres downstream from the Austnes waterfall is not open to fishing.

Vest Grunnan beat length is 500 metres on the Left bank and 1000 metres long on the Right bank. Vest Grunnan beat is exclusive for Austnes anglers only and can be fly fished every day. Breeding beat is 600 metres long on the Right bank. We share Breeding beat with another Lodge, the beat can be fly fished 50% of the time with 8 hours rotation schedule. Walberg/ Auskin beat is 1500 metres long on the Right bank. This beat we can fish with 2 Austnes rods at a time. There are some other anglers also fishing the Walberg/ Auskin beat.

FISHING RULES. Fly fishing is allowed. Bag limit is one salmon per person per day. If fisherman kills a salmon, he must stop fishing until midnight. The season bag limit is 3 salmon per person, of these 2 salmon may be over 65 cm. Season bag limit for season 2024 might be changed to 1 salmon above 80 cm and 2 salmon below 80 cm. It will be confirmed before the end of March. Released salmon is not counted on quotas. All female salmon must be released 15.7.-31.8. We recommend also coloured male salmon to be released. All sea trout must be released. **We recommend catch & release.**

FISHING SEASON. Fishing season on the Verdal River starts on the first of June. During the two first weeks of the season only big salmon enter the river weighing often 7-15 kg. At this time you have a good chance to hook and catch a salmon of your lifetime. During the early season water level is often



high and water temperature is about 6-10 degrees. For these high and cold water conditions as fly lines we recommend Sink 2/4/6, Sink 1/3/5 ja Float/S2/S4 shooting heads. In these conditions tube flies with 7-12 cm long wing are recommended.

By mid June the numbers of salmon in the River Verdal will increase and in addition to big salmon there is often a good run of two sea winter salmon weighing 4-7 kg. The main run of salmon in Verdalselva is from early July to mid August, that period we can catch all sizes of salmon and the catch numbers per week are highest. During mid season the water level is often medium or low and water temperature is about 10-16 degrees. For these medium/low water conditions we recommend our guests to fish for example with Float/S2/S4, Float/Int/S2 ja Floating/Int shooting heads and tube flies with wing length 3-7 cm.

During the last two weeks of August there are still some fresh salmon running but we also catch coloured salmon which have been in the river for a while – often very big ones. During late season the water level is often medium or low and water temperature is about 9-15 degrees. For these medium/low water conditions we recommend our guests to fish for example with Float/Int/S2, Float/Int and Floating shooting heads and tube flies with a wing length 3-5 cm. Verdalselva fishing season ends on the last day of August.

FLY FISHING TACKLE. For fly fishing for salmon on the Verdalselva we recommend 12-15` foot double handed fly rods for lines #8-11 and suitable fly reels with good quality brakes. Single handed rod of for example 9-10` for lines 7-8 will be also fine in low water conditions. Floating, sink tip or intermediate shooting heads are most used fly lines but please bring also sinking shooting heads for possible high water conditions. Before fly fishing everyone must disinfect fishing gear and buy a Norwegian state license.

FLIES. Good fly patterns for the Verdal River are: Banana, Black & Orange, Black & Yellow, Black Sheep, Dee Sheep, Green butt, Red butt, Greenlander, Green Highlander, Sunray Shadow, Monkey, Willie Gunn and Allys Shrimp.

AUSTNES SALMON LODGE. Accomodation for guests is in charming Austnes Salmon Lodge cottages. Those cottages are located on the river bank of the Austnes beat and have been well equipped for fishermens needs. Each cottage has a living room, a well equipped kitchen and single bedroom for every guest. Toilet and shower are in the cottage or in the neighbouring building. Guests can cook their own food in the cabins but it's not included in price. Full board can be arranged with extra payment.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. Fly fishing trips to Austnes Salmon Lodge will be arranged throughout the fishing season and the packages can be booked according to the client's preferred dates. Anglers will take flight or car transport to Norway. It is 60 minutes drive from Trondheim airport to the Austnes Salmon Lodge and beats. Fishing week begins on Sunday at 15 and ends next Sunday at 12. Owner of the Austnes Salmon Lodge will introduce accomodation and beats to new guests on arrival.



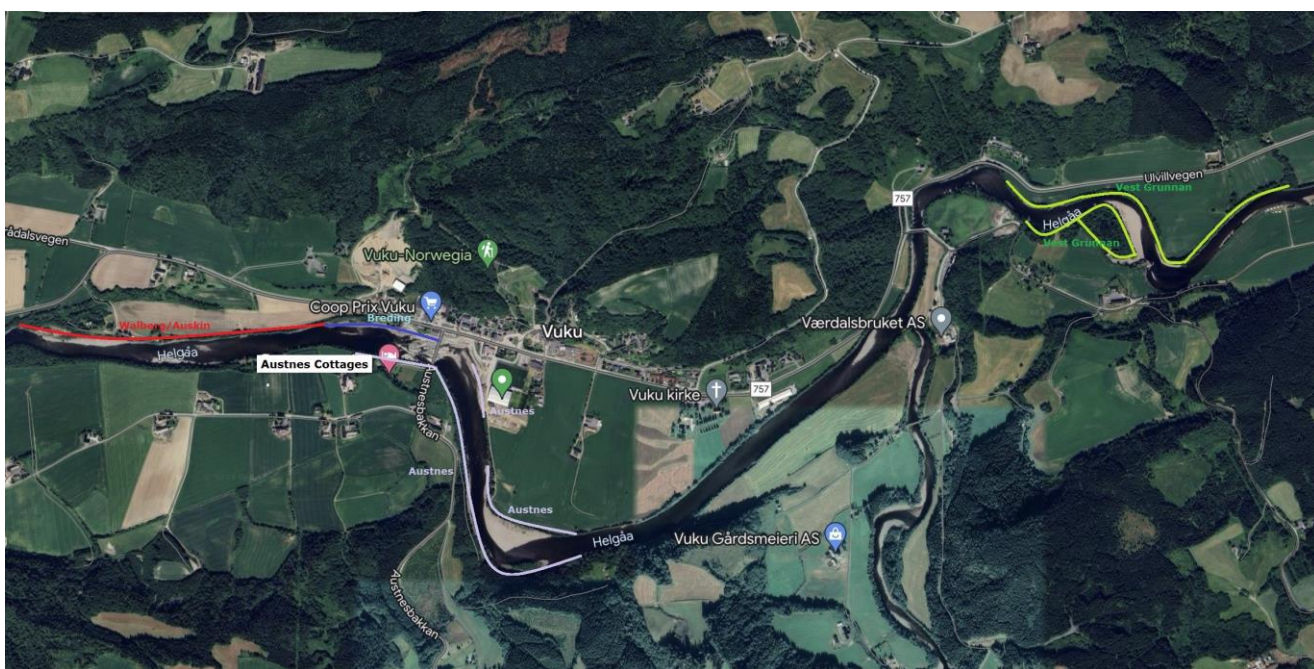
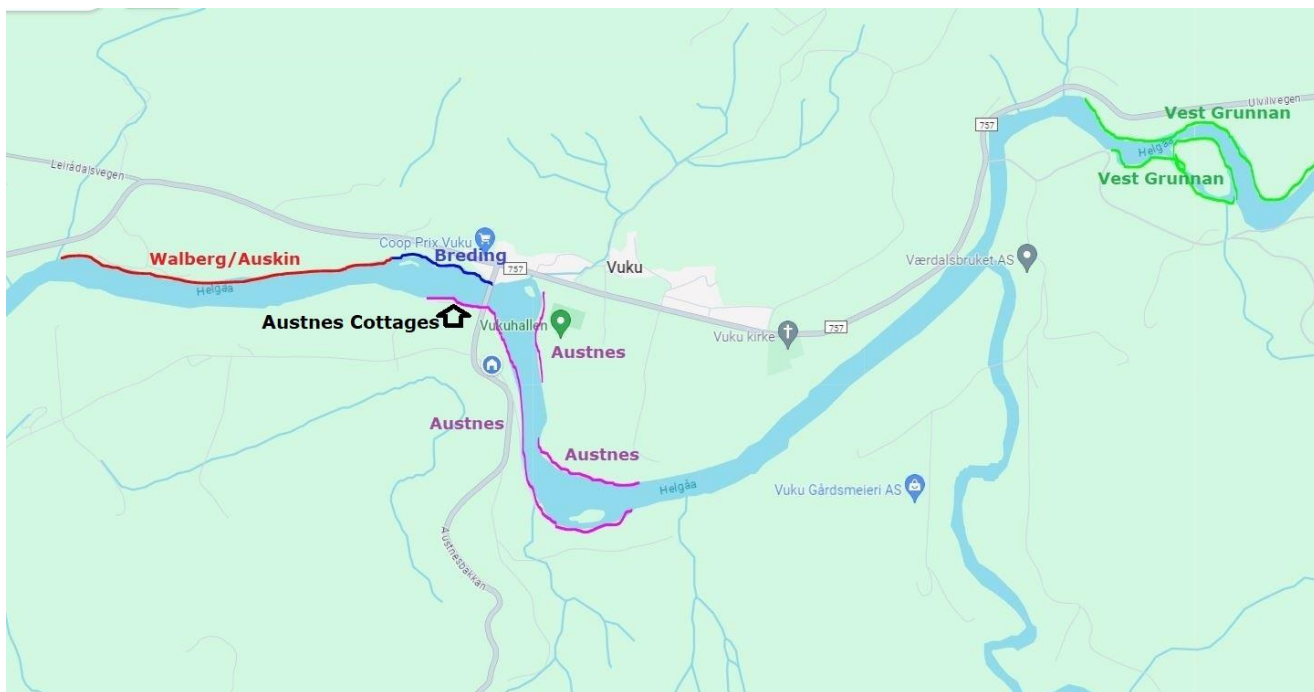
Number of anglers: 8 rods per week

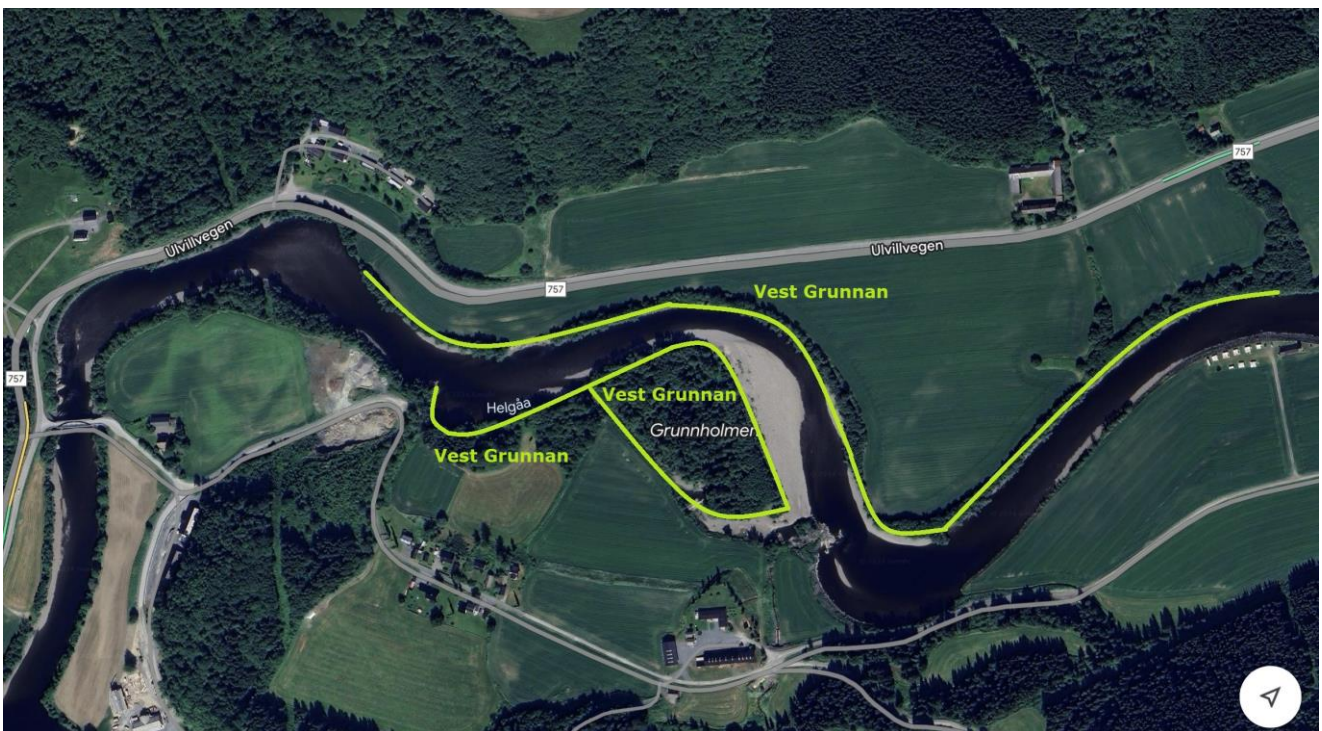
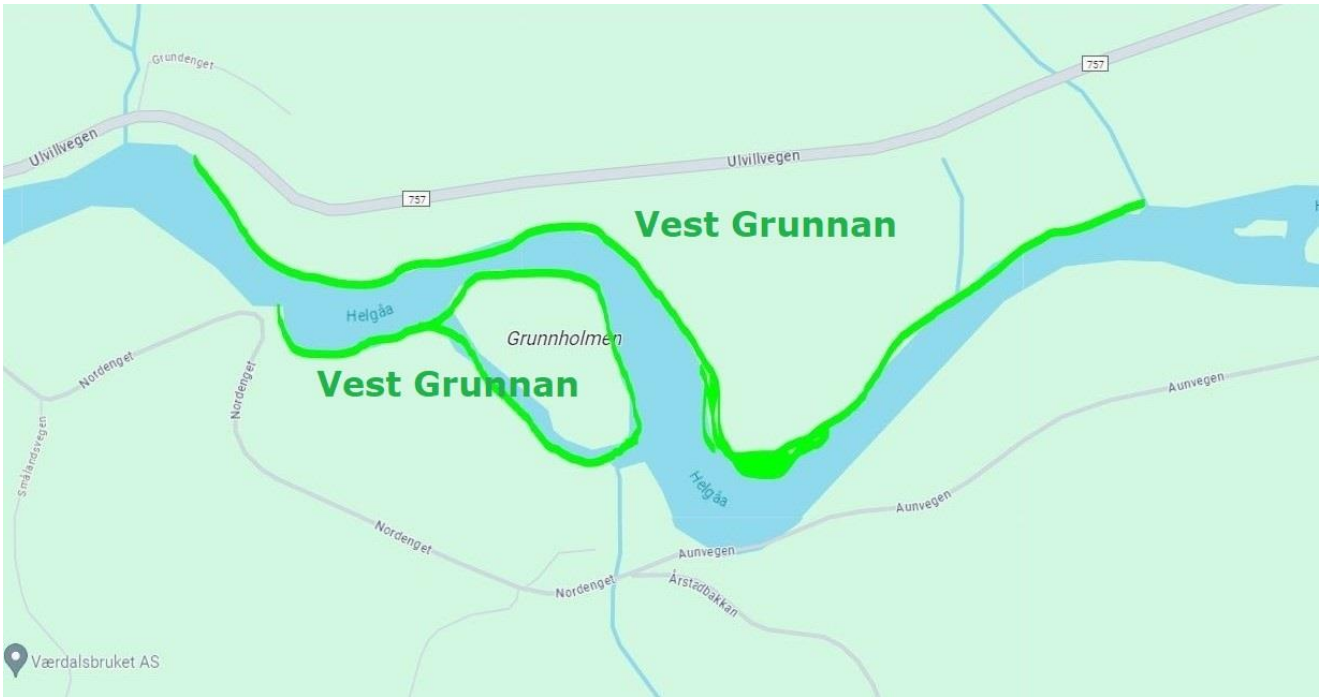
Price includes: Fly fishing, Fishing license, Accommodation, Introduction of beats on arrival

Price excludes: Flights/transport to Norway, Norwegian state fishing license (310 NOK = approx 30 eur), Disinfection card (200 NOK = 18 eur), Food/drinks

Austnes Salmon Lodge: Austnesbakkan 18B, Verdal, Norge

Austnes Beats





The Beat

The Austnes Beat is long and varied. Here are big rocks, deep pools, quiet parts and streams. The beat is very well suited for fly fishing.

If you rent the beat for a week or two, you and your companions have exclusive access to two kilometres of shore. All of the 1200 metre long stretch on the farm side belongs to Austnes, from the lower end of zone 1 below Austnes Waterfall all the way up to the top of Marka Pool.

On the southern shore everyone may buy a fishing licence for zone 1, Austnes Waterfall. You and your company who rent Austnes Beat can also fish there; it is part of the package. The only stretch not included as of today, is the eastern shore of zone 3, Austnes Stream, which is hired by the local hunters and anglers association.



The Austnes Waterfall

Zone 1

No spot in the Verdal River has larger fame than Austnes waterfall. This is where the first foreign fishermen arrived with their 5-6 metre long bamboo rods without reels.

When fishing is allowed from 1 June, there is often a considerable amount of salmon on their way to jump up the waterfall. Not too long ago, 26 salmon were taken during the first day of fishing, all between 7 and 15 kilos. Zone 1 is also favourable later in the season when water levels increase after periods of low levels.

At medium flow of water or more, the river constitutes two courses with a separate little pool in the southern course. Here you find the Tora Cliff, named after Swedish Tora Sjødin. She was an able fisherwoman and her "own" cliff was her favourite spot.

On the southern shore by the camping ground you will also find places to sit down and a "gapahuk", a shelter, were you and your friends and/or family may discuss the day's catch or plan the next attack.

PS. The first 50 metres downstream from the waterfall is not open to fishing.



The Ivar Bend

Zone 2

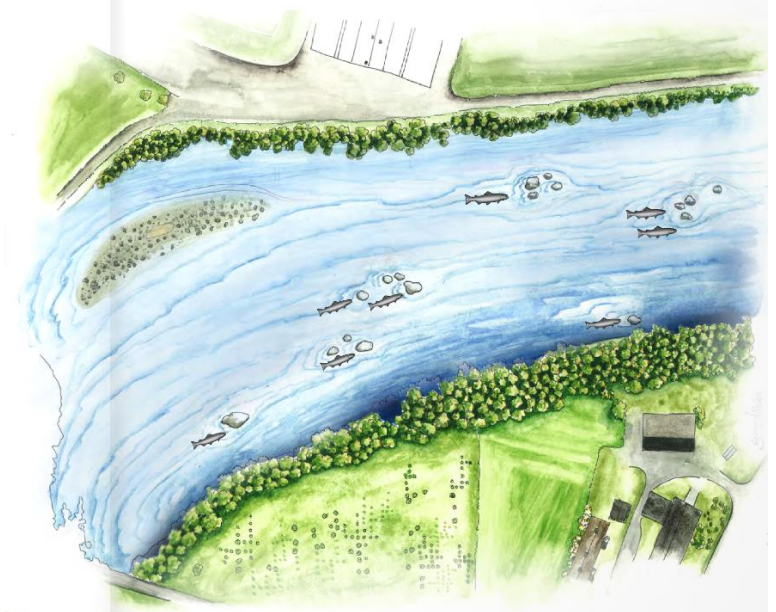
This bend is a natural resting place for the salmon after negotiating the waterfall. It has its name after today's grandfather at Austnes. Ivar has landed innumerable salmon in this zone and knows it better than anyone.

The pebble shore on the eastern side of the bend is perfectly suited for beginners in fly fishing. On the farm side, vegetation is dense close to the river, so spey casting is preferable.

It was in this zone Ivar hooked the biggest salmon he has ever seen. He had gone down to the river to try his luck for a little while before receiving guests at the house. After having played the salmon for an hour, the guests started arriving. Liv came down to the river to fetch him. He had to tighten the line. The salmon went out the waterfall and was gone.

At the top of Ivar Bend is the Sereanna Rock. Sereanna was the great great grandmother of today's youngest at Austnes. She was a wizard at angling, and always from this rock. Sereanna also had a reputation for being enormously strong. At one time she is said to have killed an ox calf with her bare hands. Not many dared tease her. Ivar Bend has a brand new gapahuk.

"A natural resting place for the salmon after negotiating the waterfall"



The Austnes Stream

Zone 3

In this zone you don't have access to both sides of the river. The eastern shore is rented by the local hunters and anglers association.

The upper part is calm. Further down the water gains speed. Here, there are a number of large rocks where salmon fancy resting. This zone is best fished at medium and high water flows.

Austnes Stream is not the easiest to wade. Luckily, fish mostly lie on the farm side, so you don't need to cast so far. If you hook a big one here, chances are you will have an exciting journey along the river.

"If you hook a big one here, chances are you will have an exciting journey along the river"



The Blåmel Pool

Zone 4

The mention of Blåmel Pool leaves many an angler misty-eyed. A good number of the largest salmon in Verdal River have been caught here. From year to year, several specimens in the 20 kilo class may be seen. However, getting them on shore is another story.

If you want to see the really big salmon roll over at sunrise, Blåmel Pool is the place to be. You may also spend the night in the timber cabin by the shore or light an evening fire by the gapahuk.

This stretch offers favourable fishing at all water levels. The salmon finds natural resting spots at both high and low river.

Ivar relates about a Swede who came to Austnes for the first time. He was a keen fisherman, but had never caught a salmon. "Come with me," Ivar said. They went down to Blåmel Pool. The fisherman was instructed to begin where the road from the farm flattens by the shore and continue downstream. "When you come to that rock in the river, you should pay extra attention," Ivar said. "That's where it lies." Indeed. When he came to the rock, the salmon took the fly. Ivar is happy to show you this rock any time.

"This stretch offers favourable fishing at all water levels"



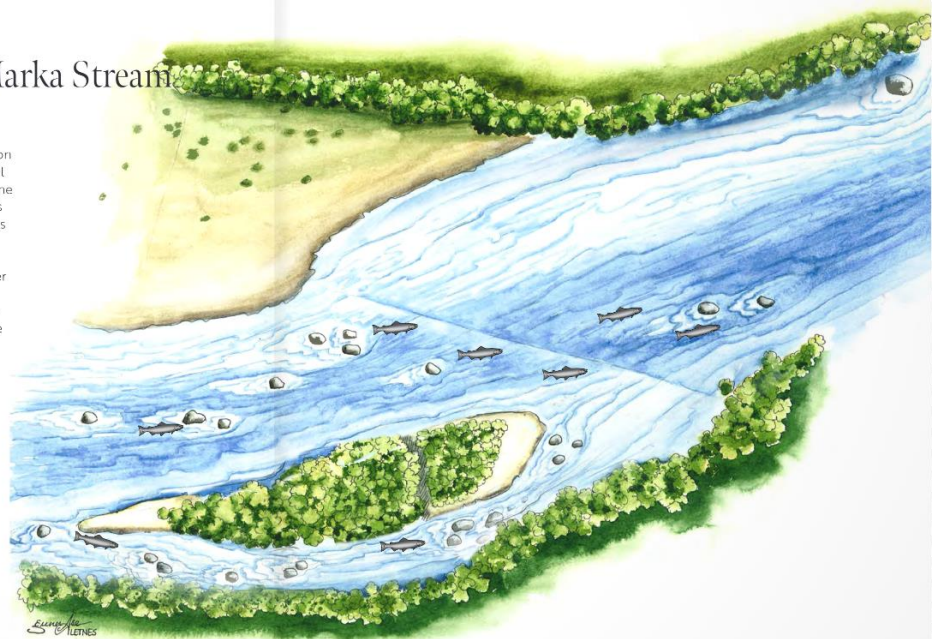
The Marka Pool and Marka Stream

Zone 5

Marka Pool is broad and quiet-flowing, with vegetation on both sides. On this stretch there is a deep channel near the southern shore. Here is salmon, but this is one of the more demanding stretches to fish and one has to be careful. At dusk, fish move downstream towards the lower end of the pool.

Marka Stream has two runs at medium and high water levels. Then an island is formed in the river. In the largest run the stream is lively, with several big rocks where salmon lie to rest. The smaller run towards the forest on the southern shore is calmer. Fish go here when the river is high. And here you may have company: from the forest above you, roars from the numerous red deer may be heard.

"this is one of the more demanding stretches to fish and one has to be careful"



Verdalselva - Flies

Black Sheep

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



Green Butt

Tag: Silver
Tail: Fluorescent green
Body: Black floss
Rib: Silver
Hackle: Yellow and black
Wing: Black arctic fox
Head: Black



Greenlander

Tag: Fluorescent green
Butt: Fluorescent green
Body: Pearly ice-dubbing
Rib: Silver
Body hackle: Olive green
Front hackle: Black and white (badger cock)
Wing: 1/3 yellow, 1/3 light green,
1/3 black arctic fox
Head: Light green conehead



Willie Gunn

Tube: 1/2 inch brass tube
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



Black & Yellow

Tube: 1/2 inch brass tube
Body: Gold
Wing: Yellow and black arctic fox
Yellow angel hair between yellow and black hair



Verdalselva Austnes Salmon Lodge - Tackle List

General

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
Shorts
Sandals or camp shoes
Raingear or wading jacket
Sunscreen
Insect repellent
Camera, memory cards, extra batteries, battery charger
Backpack (to carry camera & other gear)
Small flashlight
Mobile phone
Water bottle, thermos bottle
Garbage bags or waterproof bags for laundry and wading boots.
Books, magazines
Passport (If you come outside EU) or proof of citizenship
Airline tickets and other travel documents
Pre-trip information, maps, address
Credit card, cash, norwegian crowns for state fishing license, food
Notebook and pen
Liquor
Food (Best to buy in Norway)
Toiletries; Razor, tooth brush, shampoo, hand lotion, bandages
Pain killers, Prescription medications

Fishing Equipment

Rods, rod tubes
Reels, reel covers
Spare spools
Fly lines, leaders
Fly boxes, flies
Waders, wading belt
Repair kit for waders
Wading boots
Reel lube/oil
Pliers (rustproof)
Hook hone/file
Extra spools monofilament: 0.35, 0.40
Needle clippers
Hemostats
Fly tying gear
Tape measure, Scale
Rod rack for car