



TAIMEN FISHING IN KHABAROVSK

Fishing in Russia is the ultimate wilderness adventure with the ultimate reward. Traverse the remote Uda River by raft in search of the Siberian taimen - the largest salmon in the world.

In every part of the world where fishing is regarded with passion and reverence, there is one fish, upheld above all others, as the ultimate prize. In Siberia, this fish is the taimen, the largest salmonoid fish in the world. The locals sometimes refer to the taimen as the water tiger or river wolf, and not without good reason. The taimen is a voracious, swift and powerful predator, preying not only on fish, but birds and small mammals, launching itself from the water to catch them on dry land. 20 to 30kg taimen are not uncommon, and the largest caught have measured up to 200cm long and a whopping 100kg. This is one gnarly trout that has to be seen to be believed!

Taimen fishing is challenging, and requires travelling to some of the most remote places on earth. In Russia, the tributaries of the Uda River in Khabarovsk, southeastern Siberia, are some of the most taimen-rich waterways in the world. This tour takes you into one of the least-visited regions of Russia for the wilderness fishing expedition of a lifetime. The environment of the Uda watershed is for the most part, pristine and undisturbed. There are no roads here (except for an ice road in winter) and the local people are mostly engaged in traditional activities such as hunting and fishing.

Reaching the remote Uda River requires a helicopter journey from the nearest village. Upon landing, we travel using 14-20 foot motorised rafts that allows us to comfortably navigate the river and take in the stunning alpine scenery – picture wide, gentle plains giving way to towering forests, tall cliffs and wide valleys. By night, we camp, share stories and enjoy the spoils of our catch by firelight. The best time to target taimen and other fish is during the spawning from late May to early July, as well as late September through to early October.

The remote rivers of Siberia and Mongolia are some of the few places left on earth that support relatively stable taimen populations. As a travel company with a commitment to sustainable tourism 56th guests must adhere to a strict catch and release policy when catching trophy taimen. However, there are plenty of other excellent table fish in the Uda that you are welcome to catch, keep and eat.

TOUR DURATION
10 days / 9 nights

GROUP SIZE
6 -12 people

REGIONS VISITED
Khabarovsk region

START CITY — END CITY
Khabarovsk — Uda river -
Khabarovsk

SEASON
May - October

TOUR CATEGORY
Active

PRICE
From US **\$6500***

* price p/person, based on 6 people in the group and will vary less than 6 travelers.

Call us on 1300 742 374 (toll free from Australia) or +61-2-9388-98-16 from the rest of the world, or visit our website www.56thparallel.com



DAY 1: WELCOME TO KHABAROVSK

We meet at either Khabarovsk airport before transferring to Briakanon village on a large, comfortable bus. You'll be able to sleep on board. This is an overnight trip, taking a total of 14 hours*.

**Helicopter flight is available straight away from Khabarovsk, instead of 14-hours bus transfer.*

MEALS INCLUDED:

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DAY 2: HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO UDA RIVER

We arrive in Briakanon early in the morning. From here, we take a sunrise flight directly to the Uda River. Please note, in case of adverse weather conditions, the helicopter flight may be delayed by one or two days. If this is the case, we may have to deduct consequent days from the fishing trip. However, you are welcome to extend the fishing trip for up to 5 days if the schedule of the group permits.

MEALS INCLUDED:

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DAYS 3-8: FISHING DAYS

The next six days are spent navigating the Uda River and its tributaries, scoping out the best spots for taimen, grayling, whitefish, pike and other game fish. The Uda River flows at a fairly relaxed pace, snaking its way through swampy lowlands. In its upper reaches, as it reaches the confluence of the Udykhin tributary, originating in the Stanovoi mountain range. Here, it becomes hemmed in by the huge cliffs of under which there are deep holes and whirlpools, interspersed by rapids. The Udykhin is especially suited to fly fishing, with large fish often lurking in the calm, deep holes of the river. We'll also spend some time exploring the Shevlee River, the largest tributary of the Uda and is one of the favourite habitats of truly enormous trophy taimen. The Shevlee is particularly scenic and has plenty of fast, exciting rapids and whirlpools to forge our way through. A rough plan on where to head will be drawn up ahead of our flight to the river, based on the conditions, tides and reports from fellow anglers. Each night, we'll camp in the forest in comfortable tents, enjoying fresh cooked food from our personal chef.

MEALS INCLUDED:
B, L, D.



DAYS 9-10: TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Today we depart from the river and fly back to Briakanon village by helicopter. We board our sleeper bus for the overnight journey back to Khabarovsk. We arrive in Khabarovsk city in the morning, where our tour comes to a close. From here, we can arrange optional accommodation and activities for you, or transfers to the airport for your onward journey.

MEALS INCLUDED:
B, _ , _

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SIBERIAN TAIMEN (TROUT)

Siberian taimen can be fished in Mongolia and most of Siberia. Whereas Mongolia has become a popular destination for taimen fishing, most of the sportsmen don't realize, that the best taimen fishing and the largest trophies are found in Russia. There are few reasons for this.

First, taimen prefers rivers with variable depths, which allow it to seek deeper, cooler waters during hot summer months. It also likes rivers with a relatively fast current. Mongolia is a dry country with few such rivers.

Second, taimen is a very territorial fish. Once it finds it's own pool, it tends to stay there or close to it for the entire season. It quickly learns tricks employed by fishermen and once it gets caught and released it tends to avoid being caught again. Because all of the fishing camps in Mongolia are stationary camps it means that sportsmen have a limited number of pools to fish within a reasonable distance from the camp. Taimen fishing in Russia on the other hand is usually organized as rafting trips with helicopter drop-offs. This not only allows fishermen to fish from different pools during the trip, but also allows outfitters to choose different segments of taimen rivers, or different rivers, which exist in the hundreds.

And most important: the IGFA record belongs to Russia.



Grayling

GRAYLING - (*THYMALLUS THYMALLUS*)

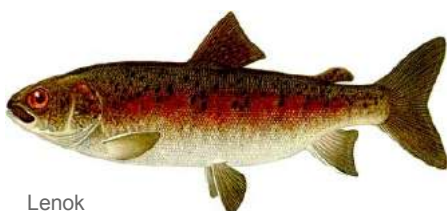
The grayling is essentially a river fish and prefers clear, well-oxygenated water in the upper reaches of rivers with sand or gravel bottom. A strikingly colored fish; the dorsal surface is steel blue shading to silvery-green on the sides and silver ventrally. The sides of the body have stripes of violet and in breeding season, the colors are heightened with the dorsal fin having an orange-red margin.



Whitefish

WHITEFISH - (*COREGONUS CLUPEIFORMIS*)

This is a member of the salmon family, as can be noted by the presence of the adipose fin and pelvic axillary process. Overall coloration is silvery to satiny white with olive to pale greenish brown on the back. The back may be dark brown to black in some inland lake specimens. The mouth is subterminal and the snout protrudes beyond it. Because the head is small in relation to the length of the body, older fish may develop a hump behind the head; thus the name "humpback".



Lenok

LENOK - (*BRACHYMYSTAX LENOK*)

The lenok, *Brachymystax lenok*, is much easier to find and fish for. Similar in size and coloration to brown trout, it occurs in abundance in all clear flowing rivers of Siberia. It will take a variety of patterns with little hesitation and provides great sport. Both Siberian taimen and lenok are newly recognized sport species by the International Game Fish Association, with record book entries a distinct possibility and bonus for fly anglers visiting Russia.



Pike

PIKE - (*ESOX LUCIUS*)

It is considered a delicious food fish. The flesh is sweet, white and flaky, but like other members of its genus, it sometimes has a "weedy" or "muddy" taste during the summer months. This taste is probably due to the skin mucus and can be eliminated by removing the skin prior to cooking. It has considerable commercial value and is an excellent sport fish. Pike are usually taken by trolling with large spoons, plugs or natural baits, but casting and still fishing are also frequently successful

INCLUSIONS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Registered fishing license for each day of fishing
- All transfers
- Helicopter flights to and from the Uda River
- 6 days of rafting and fishing
- All meals, prepared by our personal chef
- 14-20 foot motorised rafts
- Lifejackets
- All camping equipment (tents, sleeping bag, generator, camp utensils, campfire gear etc.)
- Experienced, armed tour guide
- Russian visa support letter

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees
- Optional extension of fishing trip
- Fishing tackle

WHAT TO KNOW

VISAS AND PERMITS

All foreigners require a valid Russian visa to visit Russia for tourist purposes. For most travelers, a tourist visa (single or double entry is valid for a maximum of 30 days from date of entry) is what you will attain.

Getting a Russian visa involves 3 easy steps: Invitation, Application and Registration.

Please note, if you book a tour with us, we will supply you the Visa support document, FREE OF CHARGE.

* In case you just need a support document without a tour itinerary, the simplest, most comprehensive guide to [getting a russian visa is here](#).

INSURANCE

You must have medical travel insurance to travel with 56th Parallel. You'll need to supply details of your travel insurance policy to your tour group leader before embarking on your Russian adventure. It's extremely important that your chosen policy covers all aspects of the trip you're undertaking. We recommend contacting your insurance provider for advice if you're not sure which policy to take out.

LOCAL TOUR LEADERS

56th Parallel employ local Russian tour leaders, guides and drivers. This way, we're able to provide much-needed jobs within Russia's fledgling tourism industry, while our guests benefit from our guides' intimate knowledge of the regions we visit. All our key staff are English speaking, and we absolutely encourage you to engage them with your questions and cultural comparisons. A great rapport with your tour leader goes a long way to making your holiday experience truly memorable.

TIPPING

Tipping of guides, drivers and hotel/restaurant staff is up to your discretion. While it's not considered compulsory in Russia, a tip of 5-10% is reasonable if you're happy with the service provided. Tipping is common in restaurants and makes up a significant part of the take-home pay for wait staff.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

At 56th Parallel we are firm believers in sustainable tourism and responsible travel.

Our tours and tour leaders are committed to an environmentally and culturally sensitive approach to visiting wilderness areas and local communities. Please visit our Sustainable Tourism page (<http://www.56thparallel.com/how-we-travel-russia/sustainable-tourism/>) for more information.

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ABOUT THIS INFORMATION

All information here is provided in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, our itineraries and accommodation sometimes have to be adjusted according to booking availabilities, weather conditions and other factors. We do our best to keep all the information on our website and information kits up-to-date, but please be aware that things can change at the last minute. We encourage you to contact our customer service team if there's anything you need to be sure of – we're always happy to help!

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