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Thank you for booking your Montana vacation with The Stonefly Inn & Outfitters!

To assist you in planning for your trip, please read through this document and let us know if you have any questions afterwards. Our contact information is above, and you can reach us anytime via email or telephone. Please let us know your travel schedule, and keep us apprised of any changes that may affect your arrival time. Not unlike any fishing destination, getting to Montana can require some homework before you leave for your trip. Before you string up your rod streamside, there are several things to consider ~ flight reservations, gear requirements, weather, river conditions, and car rentals.

Seasons and Packing Suggestions:

Early season - April, May, and June – The Rocky Mountains can deliver some pretty severe weather during these early months of the fishing season. You should plan accordingly, and realize that the weather can be here today - gone tomorrow. You will want breathable waders, felt or rubber soled boots, raingear, layers of fleece, gloves, hats, glasses and hats. We could also have summer weather as early as late May, so make sure to pack a couple pairs of shorts and your favorite fishing shirt.

Summer season - June, July, August, and September - With the summer upon us, you can expect temperatures to range from cool in the early a.m. to downright hot in the afternoons. Long sleeve fishing shirts, broad billed hats, and polarized sunglasses can relieve some of the summer sun. Although shorts and wading sandals are the norm, summer thunderstorms are common in SW Montana, so always have a light rain jacket in your gear bag.

Fall season - September, October and November - As the summer winds to a close, we say goodbye to the dog days and welcome cooler mornings and warm afternoons. September is hopper month in these parts, so a stout 6 wt. is a good choice. By the middle of September the water temps have fallen to the point that you'll likely be more comfortable wearing waders. For those that plan an October trip to Montana, your gear bag should include layers of fleece, raingear, a warm hat, gloves and of course a good pair of glasses.

Rod, Line and Fly Recommendations:

We strongly recommend a 9ft or 9.5ft, 6 weight rod. A 5 weight will do almost anything a 6 will, but you might have to work harder to get the fly to the fish in the wind. And yes, the wind has been known to blow out here in the Rocky Mountains!

We prefer WF lines. Our favorites are the Scientific Anglers Sharkwave and Trout Stalker. When it comes to leaders, anything 7.5ft 2,3 & 4X class will work fine.

When you fish with us, the flies are included in your package, and we have plenty of them. Our guides carry hundreds if not thousands of the patterns that work on our local waters and our shop bins are fully stocked with tried and true flies. However, if you would like to tie some flies of your own we recommend giving the shop a call and we can advise you further. In the meantime you can rarely go wrong with these:

1. *Chubby Chernobyl – Peach, Orange, Purple, Tan, size 6-12*
2. *Prince Nymph – tungsten beads are better, CDC Collars are great, size 12-16*
3. *Pat's Stone – Tan, Brown, Black and Olive, size 4-12*
4. *Pheasant tail – Tungsten, no flashback, size 12-20*

Montana Fishing License Requirements:

You will need to purchase a conservation license, along with a fishing license that will cover the amount of days you plan on fishing. They are sold in 2's and 10's as well as a full season. We recommend purchasing your license online prior to arrival, as we are not a license agent – it will help expedite us getting you on the river! You can buy yours online here - <https://app.mt.gov/als/index/index.html>

Air Travel:

You will need to book air travel into Bozeman (Gallatin Field) or Butte (Bert Mooney Airport). Twin Bridges is about an hour and 15 minutes from Bozeman, and 45 minutes from Butte. As a general rule, most of our guests find better connections in and out of Bozeman an (BZN). Please forward on your itinerary to us so we know when to expect you!

If you are flying private air, consider landing right here in Twin Bridges, or 25 miles to the SW in Dillon. Below are the links to the local airports and facilities available.

Twin Bridges: www.rubyvalleyaviation.com Dillon: <http://www.airnav.com/airport/KDLN>

Car Rental:

If you decide that you would like to have independent transportation we recommend renting a car at the airport. Many guests find that they do not need a car while staying at the lodge. Twin Bridges is a little town and the few amenities available are within a 5min walk. We recommend using Karst Stage for a shuttle to The Stonefly – you can contact them through their website, <http://www.karststage.com/>

Driving Directions to The Stonefly:

Traveling east or west on Interstate 90, exit off the highway at Whitehall, Montana. Head south on N Whitehall St towards W Legion Avenue. Turn right at West Legion Avenue and travel approx 4/10 of a mile to MT-2/MT-55/MT-69. Turn left and head south on MT-55. MT-55 will eventually change to MT-287/MT-41 just before the small town of Silver Star. Continue on this road, and you'll run right into Twin Bridges. Look for the Stonefly Inn on your right, just as you come into town. From Whitehall to Twin Bridges the driving distance is about 27 miles or so.

Gratuities for your guide and the staff:

Our guides and crew are hardworking, dedicated individuals that will stop at nothing to make your trip better than expected. Guides have trucks and boats to maintain, families to look after, and flies to buy. Your tips help with all of the above. Quite frankly a considerable percentage of a guides income comes from gratuities. We encourage tipping on a daily basis, as we tend to mix and match our guides throughout your stay. For planning purposes, the average tips we see vary from \$50 to \$100 per man in the boat.

Our Kitchen and Housekeeping staff are the glue that holds our operation together. Our lunches are timely and delicious, our cabins are cleaned daily, laundry done on request and a myriad of other things. At the end of your trip, a staff gratuity is very much appreciated. The amount is variable, as our operation is so diverse and there are so many folks involved in making your stay a great one. In general the average gratuity ranges from 5% to 10% of your accommodations bill. Holly, our manager is very candid and will be happy to help with any figuring in this department.

For a great read on "Tipping your guide" – check out this link on Midcurrent.
<http://midcurrent.com/travel/how-to-tip-fishing-guides-and-lodges/>

Food and Drink:

We are certain that your dining experience will be a highlight of your fishing trip! We strive to accommodate all dietary restrictions. If you require any special dietary consideration or have food allergies please do let us know and we will make sure your needs are provided for.

We generally serve wine with dinner. If you are someone that enjoys an evening cocktail or beer, there is a liquor store a few doors down that is well stocked. Many of our guests provide a bottle or 2 to share with their fellow anglers during the course of their stay at Stonefly.

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Dan "Rooster" Leavens – 406.925.2181 cell

Holly Phipps, manager – 406.925.2177 cell

Stonefly Office/Shop – 406.684.5648