

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC WEST LODGE – THE DEAN RIVER

Outstanding Steelhead fishing amidst overwhelming surroundings



Image: DAVID LAMBROUGHTON

TO fish the Dean River is a privilege. The surroundings are awe-inspiring, with mountainous snow-covered backdrops reaching into the clouds in every direction. If the environment is humbling the fish that run it are fearsome. Seemingly harder, stronger and more powerful than those in other rivers, stripped reels and stories of fish which are unstoppable perpetuate the legend.

What separates the Dean from other similar rivers is a narrow and fearsome gorge, which is impassible by fish until the river subsides somewhat in mid-summer. Even then it

prevents all but the strongest fish from ascending to the upper river and this seems to have led to a genetic strain of Chinook Salmon, (Kings) and Steelhead which surpass normal boundaries of strength.

Whilst the Steelhead may be the most sought after trophy fish on the Dean, the Chinook salmon are probably indicative of the power that both fish have. Quite simply it is a rare feat to land a Chinook of over 20lbs on a fly rod. Not that they do not exist; fish of 40 lbs and above are present, but they simply have a habit of disappearing in the direction they came, equipped with your fly, line and backing!



Contact us for full trip details at:

Tel: 0845 603 1552 **RoI Tel:** 1890 882 347
E-mail: info@wherewisemenfish.com **USA Tel:** 347 284 6333

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The Area

Breathtaking wilderness is how one might describe the surroundings. From your flight in via a floatplane, either over the mountains or winding your way beneath the clouds along the Dean channel, you cannot fail to be entranced by the backdrop. The snow and glacier covered peaks drop almost vertically, thousands of feet downwards, and yet somehow pine trees cling precariously to their slopes.

The Fishing

The lodge has access to both the Lower and Upper Dean, either side of the gorge. The fishing is confined to the lower section during June when the King Salmon runs are at their peak. Moving into July and August the focus shifts from the Kings to the Steelhead, which will now be running the gorge and resting in the pools above the falls prior to tackling the rest of the river. This is a much more intimate part of the river and the Steelhead will readily take a dry fly skated along the surface. Due to guiding restrictions the upper river is only semi-guided and for the most part you will have free rein to explore using a 4x4 quad bike to move up and down the river.

BC West Lodge

The lodge is located on the Lower Dean in the shadow of Kimsquit Peak and within earshot of the Dean River canyon. The accommodation is in simple but comfortable wooden stove heated twin and individual cabins. Alongside these is the central lodge building containing the dining rooms, kitchen and lodge staff, giving it an extremely homely feel. In the evening there is a cosy log fired cabin for supper, drinks and the usual post conflict debriefing.

Wise Men Tips

The Dean has an enviable reputation and as such openings are infrequent. Book as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

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TRIP DETAILS

Season:	June-August
Fish Species:	Steelhead and King Salmon.
Tackle:	3-15 ft double hand salmon rods with floating and fast sink lines.
Clothing:	Chest waders combined with a mix of warm windproof clothing.
Rate:	See separate rate card for latest prices.

Package includes:

- **Seven nights accommodation**
- **Six days fishing - Semi guided**
- **Transport on arrival at Bella Coola**
- **All meals, beer, wine and soft drinks.**

Lodge Capacity: **Six anglers**

Getting there: **Fly into Vancouver and take a connecting flight to Bella Coola. Overnight at a hotel prior to taking a floatplane to the lodge.**

Want to see more?: **DVD available on request**



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