

RUSSIA

ACHA CAMP — PONO I

Bulletproof Atlantic Salmon Fishing on the Kola Peninsula



THE Pono I River has gained worldwide recognition as one of the most productive Salmon rivers on earth and you will have to search hard to find such a unique and un-spoilt Salmon stock.

The Pono I River, with an overall length of 400 kilometers, is the longest river on the Kola Peninsula. It flows parallel to and just north of the polar circle, through the largest nature reserve on the Kola. With numerous lakes in the system, water flow is very stable and remains almost unaffected by rain or dry conditions.

The Pono I is regarded as a big river with 60 to 150 meters from bank to bank, but it is quite shallow with an average depth of about 1.5 meters. It is therefore possible and productive to fish either by wading or from a boat and in many places you will find pools and holding places side-by-side across the river as if two or three rivers were braided together.



Contact us for
full trip details at:

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

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The Area

The area is sparsely populated, mostly by descendants of the ancient northern Sami people. A few miles west of Acha camp is to be found a village with around 60 residents who live there throughout the year. Wildlife is prolific and from May onwards the area is invaded by a variety of birds of all species varying from ducks and songbirds to falcons and eagles. One of the best pools on the beat below Acha camp is overlooked by a falcon who on occasion reminds anglers how one should really make a catch.

The Fishing

The first sight of the Ponoï from above can be somewhat intimidating and bewildering on account of its size, but do not be put off as the view from the helicopter is very different from that on the ground. You will very shortly start to discover that the river is easily readable and very accessible with classic Salmon lies ranging from riffles to smooth glossy runs, with bars and big rocks scattered around long curving pools. The relatively inexperienced will probably learn more about Salmon lies during a week than your entire combined fishing experiences. Each guide has his own spacious aluminium boat for both transportation and fishing and whilst some pools are only accessible from a boat, if you prefer wading or fishing from the bank all options are available on each beat. For the most part the wading is easy and should not provide anyone with difficulties.

The Camp

Acha camp is situated at the junction where the very productive Acha River enters the Ponoï, just above the well-known Ryabaga beat. In 2004 Acha River became available for foreign anglers. This pearl of a river produces a high number of Salmon during the months of June and July.

From 2008 there will be 10 new wooden cabins all with twin beds and stoves. There is a central cabin for meals with sofas for relaxing as well as a fly-tying corner. The camp has a central, recently built sauna and shower house.

Visitor Comments

"Week 28, at Acha camp turned out to be my dream vacation. The fishing was fantastic, in 6 days I landed no less than 72 beautiful Atlantic salmon with an average of 12 to 14 pounds. More than 50% were fresh fish from the sea. All the fish were very aggressive on the fly, and dry flies were deadly when the river was clear. Thanks to the always smiling local staff who did a fantastic job. I often find myself dreaming about the incredible week I had in Ponoï, this is truly a "salmon paradise". Hope to be back next year."

Henrik Nielsen Denmark July 5-12



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TRIP DETAILS

Season: **March – July**

Fish Species: **Atlantic Salmon.**

Tackle: **13-15 ft double hand salmon rods and a single-hand 7-8 wt rod.**

Clothing: **Chest waders combined with a mix of warm windproof clothing.**

Rate: **See separate rate card for latest prices.**

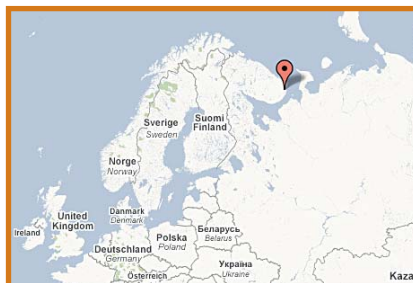
Package includes:

- **Transport on arrival at Murmansk**
- **Guide shared between two anglers**
- **All meals, board and lodging.**

Lodge Capacity: **Ten anglers**

Getting there: **Fly into Murmansk. Charter flights are available from Helsinki.**

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



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