

THE FLY SHOP

Patagonia

Trout Fishing Guide

ISSUE N° FORTY

2024 SEASON

Chile
Argentina
Jurassic Lake
Tierra del Fuego

Planning the perfect Patagonia fly fishing trip!

Chile & Argentina

The next 46 pages of this magazine contain some of the best ideas and most accurate information you'll find about fly fishing for trout in Patagonia

WE'VE BEEN TO every one of these places and worked with most of these lodges, outfitters and guides for decades. They represent an excellent cross-section of the Chilean and Argentine fly fishing geography, a broad range of price options, and a wide variety of different quality angling experiences. Give us a call and we'll hook you up!

THE FLY SHOP'S PATAGONIA PORTFOLIO

Each and every one of the lodges and outfitters we represent has been fully vetted by our staff. They are, hands down, the top-rated trout fishing destinations in all of South America

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SEVERAL OF these Patagonia lodges are represented exclusively by The Fly Shop®. These 'Signature Destinations' carry our complete endorsement, our promise of satisfaction, and The Fly Shop's iron-clad guarantee that the experience will be exactly as advertised. Like all the places we promote, they've been completely vetted and met the highest standard in the industry. Ours.



THERE ARE FEW places on this map where we haven't left our tracks; few rivers or streams where we haven't wet a line; and there isn't another company in the fly fishing world with as much angling experience in Patagonia as the travel team here at The Fly Shop®!

Some of what you need to know about Fly Fishing in Patagonia

THE RAINBOWS found in Chile and Argentina are descendants of eggs and smolt delivered to Bariloche a century ago from California's McCloud River Hatchery.

Those Golden State immigrants were wild fish in every sense of the word – and what they met in Patagonia is a near-perfect environment; no predators, an ideal climate, rich food source, and pure, ice-cold water. Soon they were joined by brookies, European browns and sea trout, and a few Atlantic salmon.

Sport fishing for these species wasn't then a part of the native tradition or Latin American culture and the fish were left unmolested by anglers for decades until air travel came of age in the mid-20th century and European and North American fishermen found out about the phenomenal fisheries flowing east and west from the Andes in a part of the world called Patagonia.

Now, nearly 75 years after Joe Brooks and other outdoor writers and angling pioneers first introduced the fly fishing community to Argentina and Chile, trout fishing there remains an enigma. Though most of sparsely populated Patagonia's rivers are public, much of the fishing is technical, many of the fisheries require sophisticated drift boats or rafts, and a great deal of the countryside remains protected behind locked gates.

THE RIVERS OF ARGENTINA

The four great Argentina trout fishing regions (*San Martin, Bariloche, Esquel, and Tierra del Fuego*) are unique with a diverse menu of angling options. The most popular fly fishing itineraries usually involve a stay at one of the famous riverside fly fishing estancias or a combination of a few days at more than one of those elegant properties.

Guides provide transportation and move with anglers from one destination to another.



CHILE'S FISHERIES

The nation is a third the size of Argentina, and there are fewer rivers, lodges, and guides on the western slope of the Andean cordillera. But what Chile lacks in numbers of fisheries, it makes up for in quality.

Few destinations on the world's trout fishing map can compare with the level of service, the rich cultural experience, or the angling diversity that accompanies the fabulous fly fishing synonymous with all of the lodges, outfitters, and guides we partner with in Chile.



Patagonia? We've been there!

In fact, there's no other angling travel company in the sport that's spent more time learning what there is to know about fly fishing for rainbows, browns, and sea trout in Chile and Argentina.

THE FLY SHOP® has been part of cutting-edge South American fly fishing for more than 40 years and our experienced angling travel sales staff has spent a collective lifetime exploring Patagonia.

Our first forays to Chile and Argentina followed the footsteps of Ernie Schweibert and Joe Brooks along the shorelines of the rivers they made famous. The guides and outfitters we chose to work with are those same pioneers who opened the Latin American fly fishing frontier: Trucco, Dufflocq, Menendez, de las Carreras, La Riviere, Gorroño, and others. Often, we were there to help them.

Now, with more than 4 decades of experience under our belt and a well-documented passion for Latin American angling, we're confident when we boast that The Fly Shop® staff knows more about fly fishing in Patagonia than any other angling travel agent in the business.

We've chosen the lodges, guides, and every one of the outfitters we work with carefully, and most veteran Patagonia fly fishermen would agree that our portfolio of fly fishing destinations is the finest in all of South America.

The Fly Shop® has been proving for decades that there's nobody better at helping plan a successful Patagonia fly fishing holiday!

Our staff continues to visit Chile and Argentina each season, keeping our fingers on the pulse of Patagonia in order to remain intimately familiar with all of the operations we represent.

We've done all the homework. You don't have to.



Wherever you fish. We've got your back!

THE UNCERTAINTY OF travel is real. That is why the travel insurance industry thrives. Health problems. Weather delays. Missed connections. Mechanical delays and cancelled flights. Over-booking. Business or family emergencies. And even when you have an ultra-legitimate reason, dealing with the problem is a pain in the ass! Receipts. E-mails. Phone calls. Text messages.

When the pandemic struck there were hundreds and hundreds of anglers stranded all over the fly fishing map, and tens of thousands of other vacationing travelers whose plans hit the fan.

What happened to the fishing trip when a hurricane hit the Bahamas? What about the Atlantic salmon trips to Russia's Kola, or the once-in-a-lifetime trout fishing trip to Kamchatka when Ukraine was invaded? Not to mention the airline going on strike.

Probably nothing if you booked your trip with The Fly Shop®. You had us in your corner to help deal with the insurance and work with the lodge.

There's no outfit in the sport you can trust more than The Fly Shop® to ensure you get the help you need to make the right destination choices, or to weigh in if there's ever a problem.

And if you don't think that it's important to have a travel pro in your corner when you're planning any angling holiday, just ask somebody who didn't.



The Fly Shop's 46th Annual 2024 Retail Catalog

More than a hundred pages of great fishing stuff. Brand name fly rods, thousands of flies, dozens of reels, and the best selection of fly fishing accessories ever assembled in a magazine!

Bahamas Fly Fishing Guide

48 articles-packed pages with the how, where and when to find the best bonefishing and permit fishing lodges in the Caribbean.

North American Fly Fishing Destinations

We've selected the best fly fishing rivers, streams, guides and lodges from the Mexican border to the Northwest Territories.

The Fly Shop's Guide to International Angling

Argentina, Chile, Mexico's Yucatan, Honduras, Baja, African tigerfish, Alaska, Canada, Belize, Guatemala sailfish, Peacock bass in Brazil and Colombia, Bolivia, the Seychelles, Australia, and Christmas Island.

Fly Fishing the Jungle

Focus on Peacock Bass, Arapaima, Dorado, Tigerfish, Payara, and other exotic jungle sportfish, techniques, tackle, and destinations.

The Fly Shop's Annual Fly Tying Catalog

Everything you'll ever need to tie flies for trout, bass, steelhead, salmon, carp, sailfish, tarpon, bonefish, permit, perch, shad, crappie, bluegill, stripers, and any fresh or saltwater target.

Northern California's Angling Vacation Planner

A guide to fly fishing in our backyard! Our recommended regional lodging, local rivers, streams, lakes, and all the private angling spots you'll find in the Northern part of this Golden State.

*E-mail, call, write, or visit our website to request a
FREE copy of any or all of our catalogs and magazines.*

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digital versions of our
free, information-packed
travel magazines or our
new 2024 Fly Tying or
the new Retail Catalog.*



PATAGONIA

An introduction to fly fishing in Chile



Michael Caranci photo

A fly fishing trip below the Southern Cross will re-define what angling travel is all about!

IN THE LANGUAGE of the native Tehuelches, Chile means “where the world ends.” It is an apt description when you consider the country stretches farther south than any other inhabited land mass in the world.

The narrow, dagger-shaped nation is a complicated land of extremes. The far north (*Atacama*) is one of the driest places on the planet, yet the Patagonia coastline is shrouded in mist much of the year and bordered in near-entirety by rain forests, uninhabited islands, and fjords similar to Alaska’s Inland Passage.

Many of the rivers, streams, and mountain lakes in the plateau on the east side of the Andes might easily be re-imagined in Wyoming or Montana, and the Chilean coastline’s glacier-swollen rivers are mindful of Canadian Pacific steelhead fisheries. Much like the weather in our Rocky Mountain states, Chile’s summers are short and the days are often punctuated by unexpected thunderstorms.

*Chile is a
place where
Christmas comes in
the summertime
and trout
season
coincides with
our winter in
North America!*

When The Fly Shop® first arrived in Chile nearly four decades ago, the Carretera Austral – Augusto Pinochet’s grand design to connect Chile’s sparsely populated, distant south to the more developed and rural north by a single road – hadn’t yet stretched beyond Puerto Montt, the northern border of Patagonia.

It was an exciting, cutting-edge era, and The Fly Shop® was an integral part of the Chilean fly fishing scene while it was developing. We brought the first float plane to Chile and helped explore the uncharted angling of the rugged coastline for rainbows and sea trout.

Though there were only a few coastal streams in Chile that could still be considered true angling wilderness, we stumbled upon a few great trout fisheries farther south on the Andean plateau that hadn’t seen any pressure.

Certainly, Chile has changed in the ensuing years. The grand camino is all but done, and Balmaceda, Punta Arenas, and Puerto Montt all have modern, first-world airports. God hasn’t made any new rivers recently and most of Chile’s top-tier fisheries and best lodges today are the same ones we were raving about a decade ago.

In truth, South American trout fishing is usually no better than the very best found in the lower 48. Then why travel thousands of miles to fish this part of the world? Because fishing is usually as good as the best we have at home, and because the Patagonia fishing experience is uncrowded and solitary, punctuated by magnificent scenery, accented by wonderful people, and alive with a friendly, rich and rural culture that is like a step into our own past.

Since our first visits, The Fly Shop® staff has spent a collective lifetime sampling Chile’s destination angling resorts, and kept our finger on the pulse of the trout fishing in that part of Patagonia. Most veteran Chilean anglers and even our competitors would have to grudgingly agree that The Fly Shop® is the most knowledgeable angling travel agent in this part of the world and that we represent the top tier of Chilean lodges and guides.

**Put that experience to work for you when you’re
ready to check Chile off your bucket list!**

Patagonian BaseCamp

PATAGONIAN BASECAMP is in the seldom-visited Palena Province, and reached by way of a scenic charter flight from Puerto Montt. This place rates as one of the best-in-class fly fishing experiences in South America!

It is a remarkable adventure, run by a true professional with superb lodging, amazing scenery, excellent guides, and fine fly fishing.

The lodge is tucked away in a remote valley midway between the Pacific coastline and the Andes. Not enough can be said about the location. It is surrounded by a rainforest, snow-capped mountains and is one of the most stunning and isolated locations in Chile.

There are few people in the region and angling pressure is all but non-existent on the spider-web of rivers and streams within easy driving distance of the lodge. All of it is ideal habitat for a mix of trophy rainbows and muscle-bound browns.

Further separating Patagonian BaseCamp from most other Chilean and Argentine lodges is the variety of the regional angling. There are even jet boat trips up river canyons that can't otherwise be reached except on foot or by horseback.

Patagonian BaseCamp specializes in scenic full day drift trips in nearby mountain valley rivers. Some can be extended to include an overnight stay at either of two ultra-isolated wilderness camps on sections of rivers seen by only a few guests each season.

And when guests return in the evening, tired of catching fish, they'll be arriving at one of the finest lodges on either side of the Andes.

This is the perfect spot for the angler seeking diversity, solitude, and a hard-core South American fly fishing adventure. It's everything you imagine, and more!



The arrival of Marcel Sijnesael to the Palena Valley in 2001 signalled a dramatic change to the regional Chilean fly fishing scene.

Recognizing that some of the most exciting trout fishing was hidden deep in roadless canyons protected from angling pressure by Class IV rapids, this creative Dutch expatriate imported sophisticated rafts and skilled whitewater/fly fishing guides.

Then Marcel built a first class, riverside lodge, added two wilderness camps and introduced a sense of true angling adventure to Patagonia.

The ideal spot for anglers seeking diversity, visually spectacular scenery, solitude, and a rewarding, hard-core South American fly fishing adventure!

BASECAMP IS HARDLY a camp, but it is a base in the heart of the evergreen, beech, and bamboo forest that makes up most of the Palena Province. It is also one of the most scenic and isolated locations in Patagonia, and within easy striking range of some of Chile's best rainbow and trophy brown trout.

Custom built two decades ago for fly fishermen on the shoreline of the Rio Palena, the elegant lodge is only a stone's throw from unlimited after-hours fishing. Guests enjoy a sauna, hot tub, private rooms, full private baths, daily laundry service, optional massages, and every imaginable creature comfort.

Every aspect of the lodge reflects the uncompromising standards of Marcel Sijnesael, his passion for flyfishing, gourmet cuisine and his commitment to service.



Val Atkinson photo

The spirit of outdoor adventure in every angler will be satiated with Patagonian BaseCamp's two optional out-camps; one on the Rio Palena, and another on the Rio Figueroa. Fishermen and guides arrive at deluxe campsites at the end of a full day of fishing and floating through remote river canyons that most natives to the region have never seen.

patagonian basecamp

Other than your tip at the end of the week, you won't have to reach in your pocket to pay for anything at Patagonian BaseCamp. Everything is covered, including the Puerto Montt round trip charter flight to the Palena rural airstrip.

▲ 7 night/6 day \$8,495 ▲ 11 night/10 day \$13,995
▲ 10 night/9 day 12,995 ▲ 14 night/13 day 16,995

Bryan Gregson photo



Scan this code for more info about
Patagonian BaseCamp.

El Saltamontes (2.0)

WHEN THE GATES to El Saltamontes first opened to anglers in 1987, the lodge established the bar by which all the other Chilean fly fishing lodges have since been measured.

El Saltamontes was blessed with breathtaking scenery and the Ñireguao, one of the top fly fishing rivers in Chile and rated by experts as among the most consistent trout fisheries in all of South America.

There are no other fishing lodges in the “Valley of the Moon” and no need to rise early to get to the stream before the crowd. Fishing often begins a stone’s throw from the lodge and there’s little wasted motion or much time spent traveling.



Earl Harper photo



Michael Caranci photo

El Saltamontes has exclusive access to eight miles of the Ñireguao and several spring creeks, private lakes, and oxbow lagunas – all packed with thick-bodied trout.

For the first time in 2025, newly arrived, specialty float equipment will enable El Saltamontes access to the rugged, seldom-fished canyon stretch of the nearby Ñireguao and the ability to float the magnificent Manihuales. Too, new leases to other (previously) off-limits regional fisheries will put the next generation of El Saltamontes guests on water visited by only a handful of anglers each season.

The rugged cordillera that separates Chile from Argentina is often visible on the Ñireguao River’s angling horizon.





AFTER 34 YEARS hosting anglers from around the world, the Gorroño family is passing responsibility of management and operation of the lodge to Dane & Chiara Emerson - owners of the renowned Espiritu Santo Bay Lodge.

These two talented hospitality professionals plan to capitalize on the phenomenal, existing angling resource and usher in a new standard of Patagonia fly fishing and guiding excellence.



Scan this code for more info about El Saltamontes and the exciting news for the lodge's future.



This lodge is legend!

THE FLY SHOP TRAVEL STAFF stumbled onto the Gorroño ranch in 1982 while exploring Chile's seldom-fished rivers south of Puerto Montt and the lake district. We'd left the helicopter and float plane behind, and accepted a vague invitation to join a whitewater rafting fanatic rumored to have discovered the newest fly fishing El Dorado.

What we found was Jose Gorroño, an educated engineer and entrepreneur with an Australian wife, building a cattle ranch in the middle of nowhere – more than an hour from the nearest street light. This guy had dozens of horses, a thousand cows, three kids, lots of dogs, and big dreams.

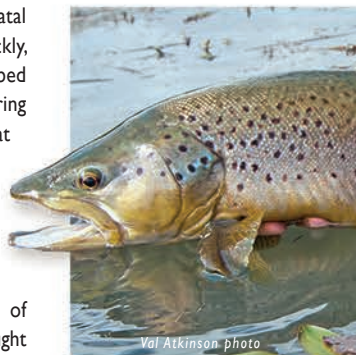
The Ñireguao River begins in the high desert and its natal springs come together quickly, flowing clear and undisturbed through a couple of neighboring ranchlands before arriving at the fenceline of what was soon to become El Saltamontes.

That first permission-asking stroll to Jose's meadow cabin raised a huge cloud of streamside hoppers which caught in the wind, prompting an explosion of trout, and even provided the name of the lodge (*The Grasshopper*) that young Chilean promised he would build.

The lovely riverside lodge Jose finished that year is surrounded by a guest complex of handsome, well-appointed duplex cabañas. Each room enjoys a spectacular view of the river valley and nearby Andes. The days are long and the sun comes up early and sets late in the Patagonia summer. From the comfort of their guest suite, anglers often find the after-hours temptation of the nearby trout-filled laguna irresistible.

Each day's fishing is tailored to mirror every individual guest's interests. Fly rodders often begin or end their fishing day near the lodge. Even the most distant float trips return in time for cocktails and to relax before dinner.

There's plenty of water around and anglers seldom repeat a stream or river experience during their visit.



el saltamontes guests usually overnight in Coyhaique, then are met on Saturdays, and driven two hours to the lodge. They're delivered back there 7 days later, after a visit which includes everything but flies and tackle. There are no extras.

Transfers, licenses, superb meals, wonderful accommodations, expert guides, and every soda, beer, pisco sour, and glass of fine Chilean wine are part of the package.

▲ 7 night/6 day, double occupancy fishing package \$6,500

▲ 7 night/6 day, single occupancy, private guide package \$9,500

▲ Two private rooms are available on a first come basis

The Chilean season begins in November, and the fishing really gets going just before everyone opens their Christmas presents. January, February, and March are dead center.



COYHAIQUE, CHILE

Estancia de los Rios

This enormous, ultra-remote rancho is riddled with fish-filled streams, spring creeks, and isolated lagunas.

ESTANCIA DE LOS RIOS is located in the remote Cisnes (*Swan*) Valley of Chile, Patagonia. It is a massive private ranch with a property line surrounding 360,000 acres (*562 square miles*) of rugged, remote, mountainous landscape that is bordered on nearly three sides by the Andes and distant Argentina.

Behind its locked gates are more than 60 miles of private rivers, spring creeks, lakes and lagoons providing world-class dry fly fishing for brown trout.

Estancia de los Rios is owned and managed by the Dufflocq family, a name synonymous with fly fishing in the Southern Hemisphere, and the pioneer family of fly fishing in Chile.

Located northeast of the mountain town of Coyhaique, not far from the tiny village of Villa Tapera, the estancia's extensive private water access allows guests to fish over well-rested water each and every day without having to repeat a fishery unless they want to.



Estancia de los Rios photo



Bob Stoverski photos



Angling guests at Estancia de los Rios are accommodated in a spacious log-constructed lodge, with six double occupancy rooms, each with its own private bathroom.

The lodge sits a mere 300 yards from the home river and views of the distant mountains from the front veranda are spectacular – it is always a popular spot to share an adult beverage with friends and relive the day's trout angling.

A week's fishing at Estancia de los Rios is a total immersion into a quickly disappearing way of rural Patagonia life, where an 8-hour horseback ride through the mountains is what it takes to visit your closest neighbor, and time seems to have stood still for decades.

THE DUFFLOCQ FAMILY has a long history of fly fishing in Chile, and are arguably the first family of fly fishing in Chile. Their love and respect for Patagonia is reflected in every facet of their working estancia and the fishing program they orchestrate. This is an authentic glimpse into the fascinating world of rural Patagonia where gauchos work the land as they have for a hundred years...it will be sure to have a lasting impression on you.

estancia de los rios

The main lodge is a majestic one story log building with six spacious double guest rooms. Each has a private bath and an incredible mountain vista.

There are also several attractive common rooms for guests to enjoy at their leisure. Satellite Wi-Fi is available to stay in touch with family, and there's a fly tying bench for those who like to twist their own bugs.

▲ 7 night/6.5 day \$6,850 shared room & guide

▲ 7 night/6.5 day 8,000 private & shared guide

▲ 7 night/6.5 day 9,000 private room & guide

Transfers, transportation, meals, license, liquor, all beverages, wine, and guided fishing are included in the package.

*Scan this code
for more info about
Estancia de los Rios.*



Trouters Patagonia

This team of fly fishing savvy natives is the absolute best independent guide service in Chile!

TROUTERS PATAGONIA is a team of seasoned, talented, fly fishing-savvy Chilean guides operating under the expert, watchful eye of Nico Gonzalez. These native fly fishing shepherds know their local streams, rivers and spring creeks “like rings on their fingers!” They use top quality 4WD vehicles to get to isolated rivers, and state-of-the-art rafts to float water that’s too wide and deep to wade.

Their boating skills, personalities, and dawn-to-dark work ethic have established Nico Gonzalez and his expert team of Chilean guides as the most popular outfit on the west side of the Andes.

The Fly Shop® has been fishing with Nico for nearly three decades, since he was apprenticed to the sophisticated Yankee guides we brought to Chile when there were few experienced native guides to run the first lodges.



Michael Caranci photo



With his well-developed guide skills, Nico helped pioneer many of the famous local streams and rivers that are a now an established part of the Chilean fly fishing lexicon.

Trouters Patagonia is part of a new and highly-qualified generation of native fly fishing guides that approach every day with energy, enthusiasm, and a passion for the sport. These young men add a cultural element to the pleasure of fishing the rivers and streams of Chile that makes it special beyond quality angling. They add an important accent mark to instruction and a true Chilean flavor to the daily angling experience.

It certainly doesn't hurt that they know every short-cut, back road, riffle, pool, and where every trout is swimming within a hundred miles.

WE FIRST VISITED Coyhaique in 1980, after first wetting our line in the Lake District and attempting to walk in the footsteps of Joe Brooks and other Chile fly fishing pioneers. It was an enlightening trip that firmly established the Aisen Region in our minds as the absolute center of Chile's fishing.

trouters patagonia

Guests are met at the Balmaceda airport and accommodated in style and comfort "La Reserva Lodge" on the outskirts of Coyhaique. Nothing is left to chance with this team of professionals. Anglers leave early each morning and enjoy any one of a vast array of fly fishing options ranging from wading small, intimate creeks to floating the top rivers in this part of the world "Montana style". Guides are superb and this is truly a terrific experience.

- ▲ 4 night/3 day package \$3,150
- ▲ 5 night/4 day package 3,880
- ▲ 6 night/5 day package 4,650
- ▲ 7 night/6 day package 5,450

Transfers, transportation, meals, license, beverages, wine, and guided fishing are all included

*Scan this code
for more info about
Trouters Patagonia.*



This part of the world is legend!

Argentina, the birthplace of Patagonia trout fishing, has been one of the most sought after fly fishing experiences for two generations.

THE PATAGONIA experience extends far beyond the riverbank. It simply transcends fishing and is, in many ways, a journey to another era, and a step into the past where hospitality, old world culture, grand service, spectacular scenery, wonderful fishing, and elegance collide.

Here one matches hatches similar to those back home...yet different. A passing shadow causes you to look up from watching your fly, expecting to see a hawk kiting by, but instead an enormous Andean condor circles, its massive wingspan catching the late morning thermals. Guides are quietly respectful. Midday meals are late, and evening dinners even later. The rhythm of everyday life seems slower and more natural here, a pace perhaps lost in the day-to-day stresses back home.

PEOPLE FORGET that what is known as Patagonia stretches beyond the Strait of Magellan and includes the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego.

Ferdinand Magellan coined the term (*which in Spanish means 'Land of Big Feet'*) in 1520 to describe what he and his expedition thought to be a land inhabited by giants.

Some believe that the people he called "Los Patagonios" (Patagonians) may have been the indigenous Tehuelche who tended to be much taller than Europeans of the time.

Some historians suggest it might have been because the native Tehuelches reminded him of Patagon, a dog-headed monster featured in a then popular 16th-century Spanish romance novel, Montalvo's *Amadis of Gaul*.

Others argue that Magellan came up with the name Patagonia because he and his crew had sighted unusually large footprints made in the sand by the nomadic Ona, one indigenous coastal tribe of Tierra del Fuego – who wrapped their feet loosely with skins from guanacos for protection, which would have resulted in huge tracks.

Magellan sure didn't know or care that the land he sighted and named would someday become famous for trout that weren't even introduced until four centuries later – from a place also named by Spaniards after Califa, the woman warrior queen in that same Spanish romance novel, *Amadis of Gaul*. She ruled a mythical Constantinople province that was called, you guessed it, California.

Neither did Magellan know or care that it is only in modern Patagonia that fly fishermen can go and expect to catch both the largest rainbow trout and brown trout of their lives. He was probably more intent on getting back alive to his young wife, Maria, and their infant child.

If you're interested in heading to either (or combining a trip to both) of Southern Patagonia's famous trophy trout destinations the travel team here at The Fly Shop® can help you get there much easier than Ferdinand did!



Matt Harris photo

Lago Strobel (Jurassic Lake)

The single most productive trophy rainbow trout fishery on Earth! The majority of angling access to the massive lake and river tributary are within the confines of Estancia Laguna Verde and are easily accessible from two lodges.

Tierra del Fuego's Rio Grande

Every cast into one of this river's famous pools has the potential to reward an angler with the largest brown trout of his life. Our Rio Grande lodges cover all the bases. They offer world-class angling, food, guides, and an experience you won't soon forget.



Kau Tapen photo

ARGENTINA

A thumbnail guide to some of Argentina's famous fly fishing lodges



Tipiliuke guests have instant access to the best of the Rio Chimehuin and enjoy an exceptional standard of angling and accommodations. This family villa has superb home water and is managed by expert fly fishermen.



Estancia Pilolil borders 10 miles of the Rio Aluminé and has exclusive access to 14 miles on the Nahuel Mapi spring creek. This isn't just another great fishing lodge; this is one of the finest fly fishing retreats in all Patagonia!

Estancia Quemquemtreu borders Rio Collon Cura and some of the best trout fishing Patagonia has to offer for as far as the eye can see. It's the Madison a century ago, on steroids - a century old working ranch where the only problem fishermen have is finding available time at what many consider Argentina's finest fly fishing resort.



Overnight float trips through Mapuche Indigenous lands are a popular alternative to the estancia experience. These action-packed, highly productive raft trips are highlighted by great food, 1st-class equipment, well-trained professional guides, and predictably superb fly fishing.

Estancia San Huberto borders miles and miles of the famous Rio Malleo. It's a classic freestone river that's reminiscent of Montana with familiar, everyday hatches. Two generations of the Olsen family have hosted fly rodders and offered spring-to-fall, dawn-to-dark, dry fly fishing, fine food and lodging. Space here is very limited.

Limay River Lodge offers guests action-packed angling, expert guides, luxury lodging and 5-star cuisine. It's an ideal mid-river site to begin or end a float on a famous, 50-mile long stretch of water noted for both trophy browns and 'bows.

Limay River Lodge is another angling resort managed under the umbrella of outfitter, Jorge Trucco, and his talented team of fly fishing professionals.

Las Pampas Lodge is tucked away in the remote Rio Pico drainage and specializes in guiding fly rodders to a variety of fisheries far beyond the end of any pavement. The luxuries and sophistication found at Las Pampas were imported to create a top shelf Patagonia experience with a focus on big rainbows, browns, and brookies in small spring creeks, streams and stillwaters.



Tres Valles Lodge is one of the most popular fly fishing resorts in Patagonia. The intimate mountain setting is within striking distance of more than two dozen great rivers and streams.

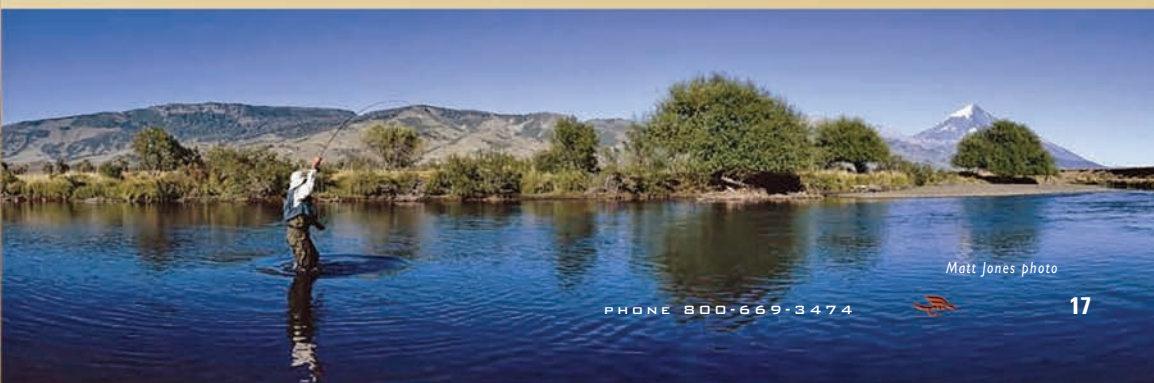
Arroyo Verde

The dozen miles of the Traful on this estancia are among the most beautiful river stretches in all of Argentina and public access is all but non-existent. Forbes magazine said the place is 'The finest fishing lodge in the world. Period.'

Trevelin is a serious fly fisherman's dream come true and the jewel of Patagonia River Guides' necklace of fine Patagonia fly fishing destinations. Testimony to its quality is a return rate of clientele that is unmatched elsewhere.



Eric Schroeder photo



Matt Jones photo

GETTING EXPERT ADVICE

Argentina

ANGLER TRAVELING GUIDE

Advice in the selection, the planning, the preparation, and the execution of a successful Patagonia fly fishing holiday

CHOOSING WHEN you'd like to go fishing in Argentina is the easiest part of the travel planning process. Trout season in Patagonia begins in early November and ends in mid-April. Simple.

As a general rule, the January, February and March months are considered "high season" with predictably reliable weather and summer water conditions. Some Patagonia fishing destinations have pricing tiered to those most popular dates.

Latin American fly fishing in December can be terrific and a great value with fewer anglers, and is less popular only because of home holiday conflicts. Just like home, the spring and fall shoulder weeks of the season can be productive, but are not without risk.



Jorge Trucco entertaining Mike & Bertha Michalak and a recent group of The Fly Shop's traveling anglers in Argentina



THE PORTFOLIO OF LODGES, guides, estancias, and outfitters that The Fly Shop® works with are all quality operations and represent a cross-section of first-class fly fishing experiences.

If you'll contact our travel staff they'll be glad to walk you through all the options and help you select the spot that best suits your schedule, interests, skill level and budget.

The Fly Shop's travel staff works hand-in-hand with our outfitters to create custom itineraries built around the very best available angling and estancia accommodations. The outfitters, in turn, work closely with their own network of estancias and hosterias, scheduling every stay, float trip, transfer and asado. The end result always promises to be a well-organized, well-executed, and memorable Patagonia fishing experience.

OUR ARGENTINA OUTFITTERS are true professionals. They're an integral component of the reservation process and they are ultimately responsible for ensuring each itinerary is smoothly executed. They help us coordinate and reserve space at the estancias with their private access angling, assist in the guide selection and organize the transportation.

Few in our sport are more expert than our long-time friend and outfitter, Jorge Trucco. In fact, no one in Argentina's fly fishing community commands more respect.

Jorge was a fly fisherman in Argentina before the sport became fashionable. A well-educated professional, he abandoned a dignified career to become Patagonia's most successful fish bum and guide before teaming up with Argentina's most famous fly fishing lodges and estancias to assist a select cadre of angling travel agents. The Fly Shop® is fortunate to have his help.



Isaias Micu photos





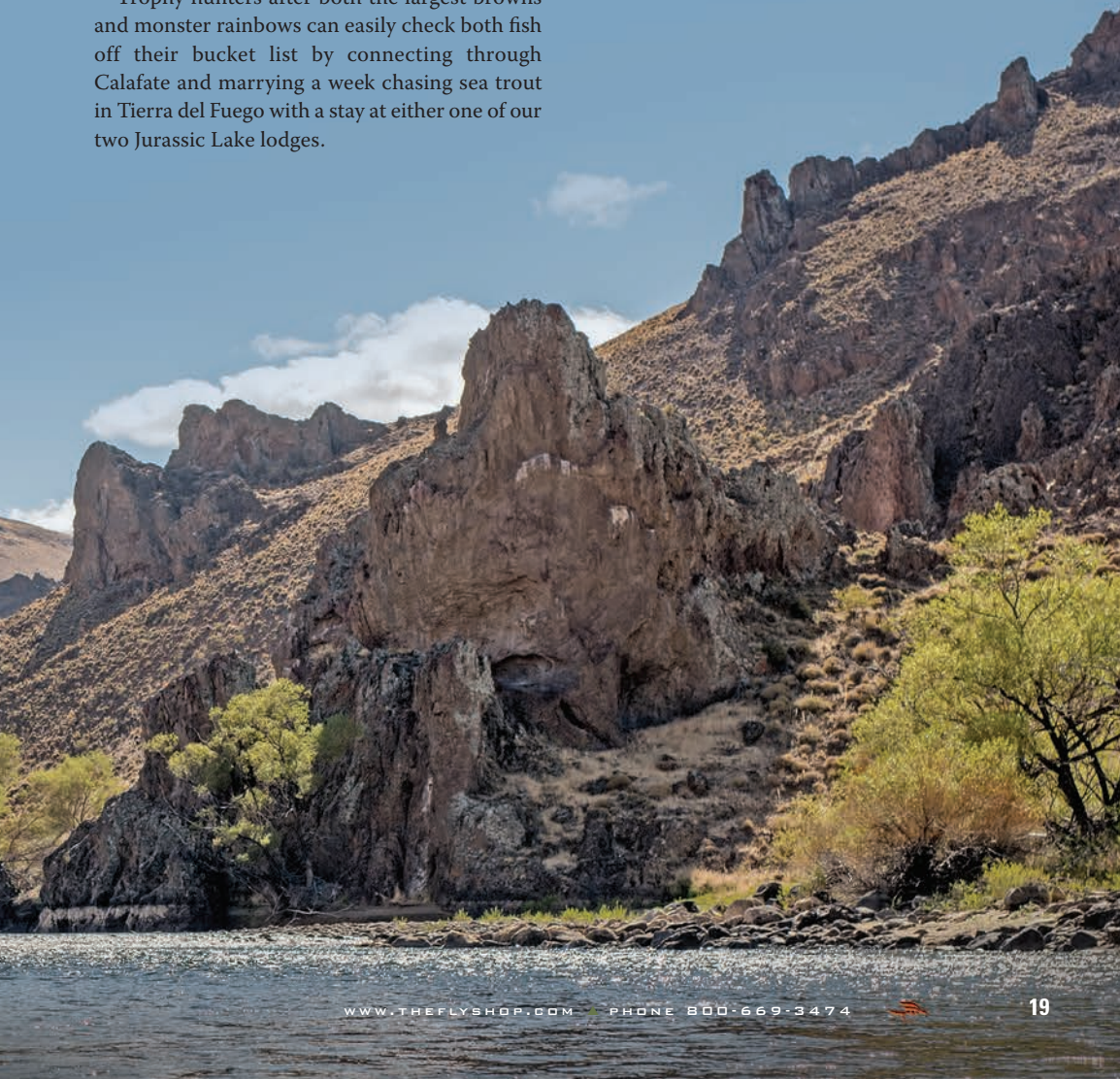
TRAVELERS OFTEN choose to combine a visit of several days at each of a few regional lodges or fly fishing estancias. Adventurous fly rodders looking to really connect with Patagonia might opt to spend a few days at an elegant estancia along with floating and overnight camping on some isolated Argentina trout fishery.

Trophy hunters after both the largest browns and monster rainbows can easily check both fish off their bucket list by connecting through Calafate and marrying a week chasing sea trout in Tierra del Fuego with a stay at either one of our two Jurassic Lake lodges.

COLLECTIVELY OUR staff has spent years learning about Patagonia. We've arranged thousands of fly fishing holidays to both Argentina and Chile. Along the way we've learned some valuable lessons, connected with what is arguably the finest assortment of fly fishing lodges in Latin America, and assembled a team of trustworthy travel professionals that we can count on to keep the promises that we've made to our clientele.

We've got folks on hand in the airports to meet and greet our travellers, make sure their bags have arrived, and get them settled in well-vetted hotels. They can arrange for city tours, wine tours, or dinner. It's all part of what you get from working with us.

There are no fees for our expert advice and travel assistance, and you can't book a trip to any of the destinations we represent for a penny less.



San Huberto Lodge

This world famous fly fishing ranch in the shadow of the Lanin volcano offers superb, season-long dry fly fishing!



Scan this code
for more info about
San Huberto Lodge.

Thomas Erich Tscherne photos

THIS IS A WORLD-CLASS, world-famous fly fishing lodge with 25 miles of private access on the best stretches of the equally famous Malleo River. The fishery is mostly spring-fed, crystal clear, and perfect for sight fishing with reliable hatches and plenty of dry fly fishing opportunity. It's ideal for walk and wade fishing, and a great location for novice, intermediate, or advanced anglers.

Named after "Saint Hubert" (*the patron saint of hunters*), the lodge began as a hunting operation in the mid-20th century, was renovated in 1999, and is now exclusively operated for fly fishing.

San Huberto features 10 guest rooms, and can accommodate up to 16 guests, with a maximum of 12 anglers. The scenery is breathtaking and with plenty of space to relax, the lodge is a great spot for non-anglers.

san huberto lodge

Visits can easily be combined with other regional destinations.

- ▲ \$1,200 per person, per night.
- ▲ Deluxe double occupancy accommodations
- ▲ Single occupancy is available upon request.
- ▲ All food and drinks (*fine wines, beer, and open bar*) at the estancia and on the river are included
- ▲ Most ground transfers from regional airports
- ▲ Fishing license and all gear (*waders, wading boots, quality fly rods, reels, flies and terminal tackle.*)
- ▲ Wi-Fi internet at the lodge

San Huberto has been a favorite of Argentina's angling elite for generations and hosted Dwight Eisenhower to Ernie Schweibert. The upstairs lounge and fireplace is perfect for conversation, cocktails, and has been the site of a lot of fish stories.

Not to be ignored is the lodge's reputation for exceptional garden-to-table cuisine. Its fine meals are perfectly paired with Argentine varietals, and are an epicurean bonus, even in Argentina

Outfitter Jorge Trucco helped initiate catch-and-release legislation on the Malleo in 1985 and, after decades of protection, the river boasts one of the highest trout populations in all Patagonia.



Estancia Quemquemtreu

Thomas Erich Tscherne photos

A sought after angling resort since it first opened its gates to fly fishermen in 1993!

SIZE MATTERS and this century-old cattle ranch is one of the largest angling estancias in Patagonia with nearly 200,000 acres that envelop over 60 miles of private river access.

Guests at Quemquemtreu have near-exclusive access to over 30 miles of the always productive Collon Cura River and their own spring creek.

There are excellent beats reserved just for wade-fishermen, and the scenic float trips on the broad freestone river are a highlight of every visit.

Virtually every fly fishing technique works well on the Collon Cura and anglers score regularly with trophy-sized browns and rainbows.

Scan this code
for more info about
Estancia Quemquemtreu.



The central location combines perfectly with several other top-tier, regional fly fishing resorts.

Quemquemtreu promises a season of terrific dry fly trout fishing, an experienced, expert team of fly fishing guides and is rated a perennial favorite among veteran Patagonia anglers.

The estancia's historic ranch house comfortably accommodates up to ten anglers in its five guest suites and can host another eight anglers in the spacious, adjacent "Hunter's Lodge." And, with more space than guides, they have plenty of room for non-angling companions and are able to offer single accommodations.

estancia quemquemtreu

The angling packages are all-inclusive and provide all the necessary gear (waders, wading boots, rods, reels, flies), great river lunches, fine meals at the estancia paired with the best Argentine varietals, every beer, soft drink and an open cocktail bar at the lodge and the Gaucho clubhouse.

- ▲ \$1,050 per person/night double occupancy and shared guide accommodations
- ▲ Single occupancy and non-angling options available
- ▲ Professional fly fishing guide per every two fishermen
- ▲ Ground transfers from the nearby regional airport



Estancia Arroyo Verde

"The greatest fly fishing lodge in the world. Period."

Charles Gaines, *Forbes Magazine*

ESTANCIA ARROYO VERDE is one of the most unique and deluxe experiences in all of Patagonia. The famous fishery is located near the town of Bariloche, and flows for twelve very private miles from crystal clear Lake Traful through lush forests and a secluded valley distinctively sculpted by ice age wind and water. There are breath-taking views of a rugged horizon above every riffle, pool, and run – and every drop of it is as clear as any river you've ever seen. So clear, in fact, that the large resident browns and rainbows of the Traful have a well-earned reputation for sophistication.

It is a challenging, technical river proving that just because a river is far away or pristine doesn't make it easy, but does make every success that much more rewarding.

The Traful can be a daunting challenge for the novice, and veteran guests suggest it may be a river better left to experienced anglers with more expert casting and mending skills.

Certainly, the trophy trout remain the focal point of the Traful, but part of the Arroyo Verde attraction is the style and old-world hospitality created by the La Riviere family, who have been hosting elite anglers for more than three decades.

Guests staying at Estancia Arroyo Verde enjoy exclusive access to a fishery made famous by Brooks, Schweibert, Trucco, and other Patagonia fly fishing pioneers. The opposite shore of the Traful is owned by the Ted Turner family, and it is rare to encounter another angler on the river.



arroyo verde lodge is defined by graceful, elegant accommodations and sophisticated service punctuated by a 5-star dining experience.

- ▲ Each trip to this historic angling estancia is customized to fit your schedule, and can be combined with any of several other angling resorts or estancias.
 - ▲ Options include private accommodations and guide.
 - ▲ Non-fishing anglers who enjoy riding can arrange for authentic mountain trail rides and superb stock.
- Rates vary depending on length of stay, options selected, and other destinations combined in the itinerary.

The Traful is unique, flowing between two lakes with annual runs of giant brown and rainbows as well as landlocked Atlantic salmon.

Scan this code
for more info about
Estancia Arroyo Verde.





Scan this code
for more info about
Collon Cura Lodge



Eric R. Schroeder photo

Collon Cura Lodge

THE LODGE SITS on the shoulder of a secluded stretch of the lower Collon Cura, a wide, fish-filled freestone river. It is the ranch house of an enormous 70,000-acre estancia owned by the Ted Turner family and is used exclusively for angling guests.

The estancia provides exclusive access to the best entry points for floating the river and the days are spent prospecting the shoreline, riffles, and tailouts searching for the Collon Cura's notoriously aggressive rainbows and browns

The techniques and experience are not unlike those in Montana. Most of the fishing is done floating in drift boats (*or rafts*) and occasionally backtracking on foot and wading for some rising bank-sipper that's too large to pass up. Dry flies, nymphs, streamers – everything seems to work here, and work well most of the time!

The Collon Cura guides are provided by our friend and associate, Jorge Trucco (*Patagonia Outfitters*), an angling legend and one of the most respected outfitters in the Argentine fly fishing industry. Jorge has assembled a talented, seasoned crew of professional guides, and all are committed to providing a world-class fly fishing experience!



Isaias Micu photo

It is a classic, high desert, freestone river with a willow-lined bank and a panoramic landscape reminiscent of the Wyoming West that stretches to the horizon.

the collon cura lodge experience rates right at the top tier of Argentina angling resorts. It's small (*eight guest in 4 double rooms*), well-appointed, and has just the right atmosphere – a casual blending of quality, luxury, and comfort that is somehow perfectly appropriate.

It goes without saying that the dining is memorable and emphasizes traditional Argentine cuisine complemented by fine domestic varietals.

- ▲ \$7,350 Full week, all inclusive, double occupancy.
- ▲ \$900 per night for shorter stays or additional nights.
- ▲ Single occupancy, private guide angling options, and non-angling rates are available upon request



Tipiliuke Lodge

The Chimehuin was the first “famous” river in Patagonia, written about by Joe Brooks in the 1950’s and 60’s

Scan this code
for more info about
Tipiliuke Lodge



Thomas Erich Tscherne photo

TIPILIUKE LODGE is conveniently located a mere 15 minutes from the town of San Martin de los Andes, on the 50,000-acre Estancia Cerro de los Pinos. The Larminat family founded the estancia in 1909, and continue to operate the historic working cattle ranch today. Gauchos – many of them the same families that helped start the estancia over a hundred years ago – still round up the cattle on horseback. The entire experience is a step back in time.

Fishing from Tipiliuke incorporates more than 17 miles of incredible trout streams, including private access to 9 miles of the famous Chimehuin River and 4 miles of the Quilquihue River. The Chimehuin was made famous by the sportswriter, Joe Brooks in the late 1950’s.

Both rainbow and brown trout there average 14-20 inches, with monster browns nearing 30 inches landed each season. The Chimehuin’s clear water and consistent hatches ensure ultra-reliable dry fly fishing all season long.

The five-star Tipiliuke Lodge is well-known for its service, accommodations, and cuisine. The main ranch house accommodates up to sixteen guests, with a maximum of twelve anglers in well-appointed rooms with en-suite baths.

It’s a perfect destination for non-fishing guests, with horseback riding, scenic hiking trails, and is close to town for shopping golf, and local sightseeing.



Guests enjoy a comfortable living room and social areas, a sauna, hot tub, even an outside fire pit for evening fish stories and tall tales.

The estancia also features the “River House”, a secluded private home just steps from the river and a great option for families or groups.

tipiliuke lodge

- ▲ Each trip to Tipiliuke can be customized with other estancias or lodges are incorporated into your itinerary.
- ▲ \$1,150 per person, per day.

Estancia Pilolil

This part of Patagonia has an incredible amount of diversity: large rivers, small creeks, tailwaters, spring creeks, isolated lagunas, large lakes...there is something here for everyone.

Scan this code
for more info about
Estancia Pilolil Lodge



Thomas Erich Tscherne photo

ESTANCIA PILOLIL'S FISHING program is the brainchild of Jorge Trucco, a legend and one of the most respected names in Argentine fly fishing. Jorge has assembled a talented, seasoned crew of professional guides, lodge staff and chefs committed to offering a world-class experience.

Estancia Pilolil is a private 23,230-acre working ranch that borders 10 miles of the west bank of the Aluminé River, one of the most prolific trout rivers in Argentina, Patagonia. Additionally, in early season the ranch features a private fishery, 19 kilometers (14.4 miles) of the Nahuel Mapi Spring Creek.

This isn't just another fishing lodge; it is one of the finest fly fishing retreats in all Patagonia, featuring exceptional lodging, cuisine, service, staff, equipment, guides and of course, fishing!

From the estancia, guests have quick and easy access to a variety of different fisheries. Beyond the angling on the estancia (*the Aluminé River and Nahuel Mapi Spring Creek*), options include the Lower Malleo, Quillen, Malalco, Pulmari, Collon Cura and the Chimehuin.

Pilolil can be easily combined with other nearby angling estancias – Tipiliuke, Arroyo Verde, San Huberto, Tres Rios, and Quemquemtreu.

Fishing can be both floating and/or wading, and all forms of fly fishing will apply, from dries to nymphs, to wets, to streamers. This is a fly fishing experience with something for everyone.

The Aluminé River flows southward out of iconic Lake Aluminé for approximately 100 miles before it turns into the Collon Cura River. It flows from north to south along the foothills of the Andes, paralleling the Chilean border.

It is an amazing river surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, unique vegetation, incredible rock formations and spectacular wildlife. There are regular sightings of condors, eagles, falcons, hawks – all kinds of birds of prey – as well as quail, waterfowl, wild boar, guanacos, fox, and even an occasional herd of red stag.



Isaias Micia photo

estancia pilolil offers sophisticated and world-class lodging with a capacity of 10 guests, in 6 rooms and with 5 private bathrooms.

There's horseback riding, sightseeing and trekking for non-angling companions, and shopping excursions to nearby Junin de los Andes and San Martín de los Andes

- ▲ An all-inclusive experience. There are no extras.
- ▲ \$1,050 per day, double occupancy
- ▲ Single (private room, boat and guide) rates are available



Limay River Lodge Is Back!

This storied lodge on the banks of the equally famous Limay River tailwater has been unavailable for the past four years, but beginning in fall of 2024 it is back, and even better than before!

PERFECTLY SITUATED on the shores of this remote, high-desert tailwater, guests will enjoy not only fantastic dry fly fishing for the river's exceptional browns and rainbows, but also stellar accommodations that are in stark contrast to – yet also seem a part of – the lodge's arid surroundings. New for the lodge is full access to the internet via Starlink, an improved fireplace and upgraded asado (*barbeque*) area, a new indoor bar, and air conditioning not only in the guest rooms but in the main lodge and dining room, as well. The lodge has eight double occupancy guest rooms, each with full bathrooms – in 2025, for groups of eight anglers the lodge will hold the facility for just them, meaning everyone will be given a private room at no extra charge (*and fish two to a boat and guide*).

It goes without saying that after several years of decreased angling pressure on this section of the Limay Medio, the fishing promises to be even better than its historical incredible self. The lodge's experienced guides fish anglers out of state-of-the-art, comfortable drift boats, on several different beats of the river. The fishing from the boats is highly effective, and typically consists of throwing large foam attractors to productive water, or matching the hatch with smaller dries when conditions allow. For those who like to throw streamers, this stretch of the Limay has some huge browns, and baitfish imitations are an effective way to target them.

Isais Miciu photos





Like to mix it up with some wade fishing? No problem, there are stretches of braided water that allow anglers to hop from the boats and wade these side channels, fishing them like smaller streams, covering the water with big dries. The Limay is a remarkable river, one of the finest in all of Argentina, and its remote location ensures it remains lightly fished.

limay river lodge

For the 2024/2025 season the lodge is offering highly competitive rates when compared to similar high-end lodges in the region. This is an all-inclusive experience except for the driving transfers between Bariloche (or San Martin) and Limay River Lodge, and gratuities for the staff and fishing guides. The lodge provides all the gear needed – waders, wading boots, rods/reels/leaders/flyes – which makes packing for this trip a breeze!

- ▲ \$990/night/person – shared room & guide
- ▲ +200/night – private room
- ▲ +200/day – private guide



*Scan this code
for more info about
Limay River Lodge.*



Las Pampas Lodge



LOCATED IN THE Chubut Province of Central Patagonia, Las Pampas Lodge is in the “heart” of the Rio Pico area – one of the most rural regions of Argentina. The isolated lodge is surrounded by countless spring creeks, rivers, streams, and lakes. Much of the angling is located on private estancias that see little or no pressure from other anglers. All of it is beyond any well-traveled road and the nearby, tiny, border village of Aldea Las Pampas isn’t on all maps.

This is amazing country, and little has changed from the days Butch Cassidy found temporary refuge in these mountains and valleys.

Las Pampas has near-exclusive access to a bunch of small, clear, spring creeks and freestone streams. Most of them harbor aggressive brown and rainbow trout – some streams boast big fish, while others feature surprisingly large populations of respectable trout. Stillwater enthusiasts will find the nearby mountain lakes full of trophy-sized, rod-bending, ‘bows, browns, and brookies.

Most of the exciting action at Las Pampas is on the surface. The flies are large (*often foam*), and most of the water is small. Many of the fish are big. And there’s nobody else around!



Scan this code
for more info about
Las Pampas Lodge

Bryan Gregson photos

The Rio Pico watershed is home to nearly a dozen tiny spring creeks, all of which ultimately feed into the Pico. Varying greatly in size, length, depth, and current, each creek presents its own, often technical, set of angling challenges.

These intimate spring creeks hold a surprising number of good-sized rainbows and browns that are all too willing to rise to a well-presented dry fly.

las pampas is a beautiful European-style log and stone lodge featuring a main common area with a guest lounge, dining room, and open bar. The inviting main room sets the informal, casual atmosphere of the place. It features a central fireplace surrounded by plush built-in lounge chairs where guests gather each evening for cocktails and share their daily adventures before retiring to one of the four, spacious, double-occupancy bedrooms.

Each lovely guest room has a private bath, superb view, and cobblestone veranda with a majestic panorama of the surrounding Andes.

▲ 7 night/6 day package \$6,800

▲ 10 night/9 day package \$9,300

Esquel (ESQ) Airport transfers, lodging, all food, wine, liquor, and beverages; English-speaking, fly-savvy guides, all terminal tackle (leaders, tippet, flies), private waters access fees, and fishing licenses are included in the package.



Fly Fishing near Esquel

The sparsely populated Chubut Province is home to some of Patagonia's most exciting fly fishing!

THE SMALL VILLAGE of Esquel (pop. 32,343) nestles up against the eastern slope of the Andes in the shadow of a peak so magnificent it's called "the throne in the clouds". The surrounding countryside is dotted with snow-capped volcanoes, and the nearby grasslands and valleys are criss-crossed with dozens of small rivers and streams, creating a high desert panorama that would easily fit in an old western movie.

In fact, Butch and Sundance lived here briefly, but left the town in a hurry after barely surviving a very amateurish attempt at robbing the well-guarded, local bank.

On the map, Esquel is about as far south as Calgary is north. This is Patagonia's version of our own West Yellowstone (circa 1960). It's a sleepy little town where some folks still don't lock their doors when they leave for the day.

The village was settled by cattle-ranching Welsh immigrants about the end of our Civil War in a huge, natural amphitheater surrounded by foothills in three directions that buffer the community from harsh winter winds and morph into the snowcapped Andes on the western horizon.

Esquel is just several miles from the entrance to Los Alerces National Park, which encompasses over 600,000 acres, surrounds more than a dozen different rivers, streams, and lakes, and whose boundary doesn't stop until it coincides with the Chilean border.

The park was established in the 1930's to protect one of the last stands of South America's magnificent Alerces – a long-living tree not unlike our own redwood – that shelter a spiderweb of large lakes and connecting rivers with the most rigidly policed and strictly enforced catch-and-release angling regulations in South America.

Los Alerces National Park is best known to veteran Argentine fly fishermen as their nexus to Patagonia's finest public trout fishing and is unquestionably the best one-stop destination a do-it-yourself fly fishermen could choose in all of Patagonia.

Beyond startling scenery and a natural beauty created by successive glaciation, the park has something on the menu that will satiate every angling appetite. There are small, intimate spring creeks, broad freestone rivers, and fish-filled stillwaters that range in size from alpine ponds to massive lakes. There are rainbows, browns, brook trout, and landlocked salmon. There's some easily accessible roadside fishing, and a few backcountry streams that require grueling hikes and are so far off the beaten path that they're only appropriate for the most physically fit adventurer and whose fish seldom see an angler.

Inside the park's vague perimeter are well-managed government campgrounds, modestly priced hostelrys, and even a deluxe lakefront hotel.

And while Los Alerces' trout are plentiful, they aren't stupid. Proof to that point is a visit to the fish-rich "Aquarium Pool" on the Rio Rivadavia – a place that has unbelievable numbers of trout swimming in the clearest water you'll ever see. These fish could give selective trout anywhere lessons in selectivity.

In fact, the Aquarium Pool rates as one of the most challenging, match-the-hatch fly fishing situations our travel team has ever witnessed and has retired more than one self-styled expert in a fit of exasperation.



*This is a faraway world full of
gauchos, guanacos,
estancias, and the occasional condor.
It's where Christmas comes in
the middle of the summer and the
midnight sky is alive with unfamiliar
constellations.*

Simply put, whether you're a do-it-yourself, lone wolf fly fisherman living under a blanket like a gaucho in one of the park's campgrounds, or enjoying the luxury of one of the area's high-end lodges, you'll find it impossible to exhaust the myriad angling options that are available near Esquel. So, it is possible for independent anglers to find ample water with public access and never repeat a fishery during a fly fishing holiday. Esquel is surrounded by a plethora of creeks, rivers, and lakes. Most have a healthy population of resident trout and there are a few places with fish in remarkable numbers that occasionally grow to staggering proportions.

One not-to-be-missed Patagonia bucket list fishery is Arroyo Pescado, about 50 miles southeast of Esquel in the prairie beyond the narrow-gauge tracks of La Tronchita, the southernmost railroad in the Americas made famous by Paul Theroux's 1978 novel *The Old Patagonian Express*.

The owners charge an access fee and limit the number of fly fishermen (only) to six on the 3-mile long spring creek, and strictly enforce the catch-and-release ethic.



There is a seasonal fly shop in Esquel and a number of local fly fishing guides (of varying degrees of expertise) in the area, and visiting fly rodders on their own would be well-advised to seek out some local assistance to improve the odds of having a successful angling holiday.

The advantage of having the help of experienced guides, and the benefit of rafts or drift boats is monumental, and well worth the investment.

The Fly Shop's travel team specializes in organizing all-inclusive (lodging, guides, and even tackle) Patagonia angling packages for as few as three days.

Make the most out of any Patagonia fishing trip you might be considering by giving us a call!



Advice on planning a trip to Argentina this winter

MOST PATAGONIA itineraries are going to begin in Buenos Aires with an overnight stay and a chance to decompress after a long journey. It is an exciting place for first-time visitors and there's no shame in being a tourist. The historic city is famous for fine dining, architecture, tango shows, and nightlife. And, for the traveler interested in jump-starting a vacation with something other than fishing, there are convenient morning flights from the capitol to the scintillating wine country of Mendoza, or a stay at Iguazu Falls (*17 times the size of Niagara*).

The Fly Shop® can arrange a visit for as few as 3 days to any of the fishing resorts in our portfolio as an accent to an Antarctica or a Latin American holiday, or a package that focuses on fishing a single destination for any length of time.

But, in our experience, the most outstanding Argentina fishing trips are those that combine a couple of complementary angling estancias (*or lodges*) in a ten or eleven-day window, satiating the need for variety and leaving the traveling angler with a sense of having experienced and seen more of what Patagonia has to offer.

Understanding the distances and connection options between these places is a critical factor in creating a practical, multi-lodge itinerary. For sure, the first (*and maybe only*) stop after Buenos Aires will be the airport nearest the initially scheduled lodge – usually Bariloche, San Martin, or Esquel – and Argentina's airlines seldom offer convenient air connections between any of these small, rural airports. So, to avoid back-tracking to Buenos Aires, the lodge options for these multi-lodge packages are destinations separated by comfortable, 3 or 4-hour vehicle transfers.

Trophy trout trips to Jurassic Lake or Tierra del Fuego involve flights to Calafate or Rio Grande and connecting the two can be inconvenient, but isn't impossible.

If it all sounds a little complicated, it is. But we've been doing this for more than 40 years and will help make the best options clear and simple.

The best advice that we can offer is to involve experienced travel professionals like our staff here at The Fly Shop® in planning your angling holiday. It doesn't cost a cent more, and can make the difference between a swell vacation and the fly fishing trip of a lifetime.

Brian Grossenbacher photo
courtesy of Patagonia River Guides

Our Chubut Outfitter

We teamed up with these two Montana fly fishing snowbirds when they arrived in Patagonia decades ago. They've since built one of the most successful and widely acclaimed outfitting operation in Patagonia!



WE FIRST MET and fished with Rance Rathie and Travis Smith, owners of Patagonia River Guides, 26 years ago at what was the first iteration of the Trevelin Lodge. They were still cutting their teeth on the Argentina trout scene and working as fly fishing guides. Their boss was under water in debt and over his head in a sport he didn't understand. They knew they could do better!

Fast forward to the present. These guys have added the talented Alex Knüll to their team and now operate one of the most successful and widely acclaimed outfitting companies in all Patagonia. They own a sensational lodge and have working relationships with several other lodges and a cadre of Argentina's most famous angling estancias.

These often massive Argentine properties are vivid remnants of the early 20th century, when the world's truly wealthy were said to be 'rich like an Argentine' and great estancias were established with fence borders surrounding rivers that became legendary in the annals of fly fishing.

The Fly Shop® has been working hand-in-hand with Patagonia River Guides (PRG) for more than two decades. Their outfitting umbrella covers a creel full of diverse lodging choices, some exclusive streams, and includes what are, arguably, the most famous trout fisheries in all of Patagonia.

Each package is customized for the client - built around their own schedule, interests, and skill level - then combined with the best available options.

There's no other angling travel agency in the sport with The Fly Shop's experience in Patagonia, and over the last four decades we've established an unparalleled reputation for helping anglers create memorable fly fishing holidays.

If you're interested in talking about a fly fishing vacation to either side of the Andes, give us a call.

Scan this code
for more information
about our Patagonia
fly fishing packages



ARGENTINA

The Lodge at Trevelin

Built for fly fishermen, this stellar lodge is within striking distance of Los Alerces Nat'l Park and all of Esquel's tremendous trout fisheries!

FROM THEIR FLAGSHIP lodge on the outskirts of the tiny Welsh community of Trevelin, the Patagonia River Guides team dishes up a diverse angling menu that includes a variety of spectacular public water as well as exclusive access to several amazing private streams.

These guides give new meaning to the term expert. They're excellent instructors, patient tutors and rate as one of the best-trained fly fishing guide teams ever assembled in Patagonia.

Trevelin guides specialize in steering their clients to small, out-of-the-way and hard-to-get places. They're expert at connecting with trout on the fish-rich Rio Grande below Lago Menendez and have the savvy to score consistently on the fly-shy, trophy trout in Arroyo Pescado (*Argentina's most famous spring creek*).

Trevelin Lodge guests can elect to fish a different river every day of their visit, no matter how long they plan to stay. There are over two dozen rivers in the area immediately surrounding Trevelin and this part of Patagonia is considered to have the most diverse trout fishing in Latin America. Angler options range from float trips on the scenic Rio Rivadavia, wading the streams of the Chubut pampa, or strenuous backcountry hikes to small, seldom-fished streams in Los Alerces Nat'l Park.



Guests can also “pick their own poison” and choose as much or as little match-the-hatch dry fly fishing, sight fishing, terrestrial or streamer fishing, or spot nymph fishing as they want.

The talented guides specialize in solving the riddles and the challenges presented by diverse situations. They carry the necessary flies and tackle required to change tactics quickly.

Each professional guide has an assistant, meaning walk-fishing guests will have a single guide.

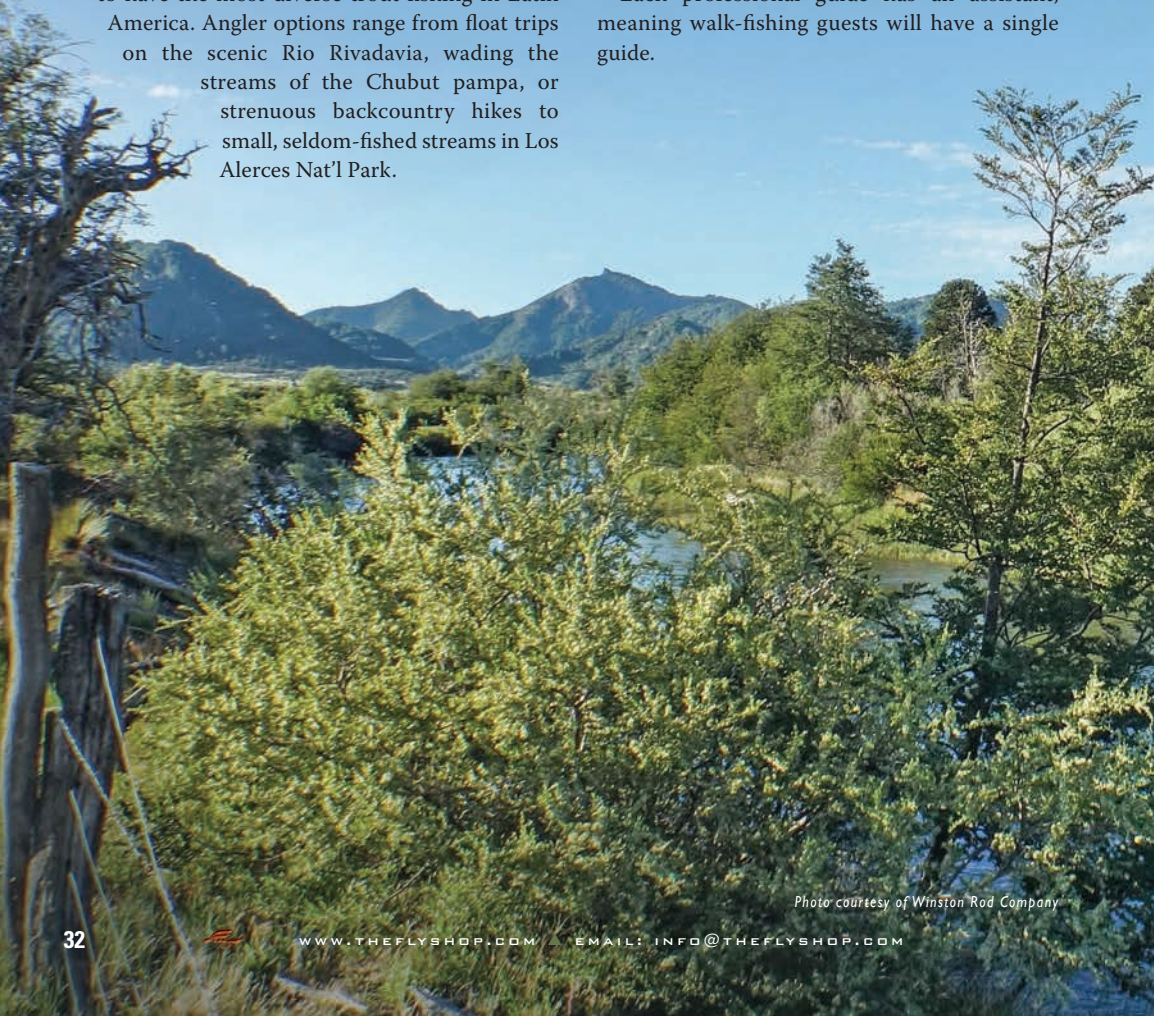


Photo courtesy of Winston Rod Company

Trevelin is located in the heart of one of the most spectacular mountain valleys in all of Patagonia. The panoramic vista shifts from the distant, snow-capped Andes on the western horizon to the windswept pampas that stretch east to the Atlantic. Guests at Trevelin will find productive trout streams in every direction.

Packages with a custom-tailored daily itinerary can be fashioned for as few as six days or several action-packed weeks. Guests generally choose one-week trips.



the lodge at trevelin

The peak season (November through mid-April) packages include the airport transfers, superb guides, fine meals and excellent accommodations. Quality equipment (waders, rods, reels) flies and terminal tackle are provided.

- ▲ Full week stays during peak season \$9,400
- ▲ Longer packages are available.
- ▲ Single occupancy is standard.
- ▲ All food and drinks (fine wines, beer, and open bar) at the lodge and on the river are included
- ▲ Packages combining visits to other estancias, hotels in San Martin de los Andes and Bariloche, and float trips (from one to three days) can be tailored to match your schedule and interests.



Many guests return to Trevelin year after year and space at the lodge is limited. Interested anglers are encouraged to pursue reservations through The Fly Shop® as far in advance as possible.



Scan this code
for more info
about PRG Trevelin.



ARGENTINA

Tres Valles Lodge

This part of Patagonia hasn't changed much in the last century,

THE RAINBOWS AND BROWNS introduced all over Patagonia between 1932 and 1950 were met with a variety of conditions. Very little was hostile. The clear, clean water, lack of native fish competition, and a near-perfect climate sent the newly arrived immigrant trout into a ballistic population explosion.

Their only real predator in Argentina walks erect. With the exception of the well-regulated National Parklands, Patagonia soon became very much like everywhere else on Earth – a place where the best fishing was often found only behind some locked gate, beyond a posted fenceline, after a long hike, or accessible only with a drift boat, a raft, or a four-wheel drive vehicle.

The region of Rio Pico is the exception. It is hours south of rural Esquel and a giant step beyond the middle of nowhere. Rio Pico is still the land of horseback travel and four-wheel drive transportation. It is a place where there's little outside influence from tourism or technology, and a spot on the Patagonia map where the fish have lived unmolested for nearly a century. They are plentiful and some are huge.

The river itself is a willow and beech tree-lined stream that is entirely fed in its upper reaches by the Rio Nielson and by the Rio Las Pampas down stream. Access is challenging but rewarding and usually requires some hiking.

There are both rainbows and browns in the Pico and every cast into the small river has the potential to hook up with a large fish. Walking the bank is the only way to fish the river until it gains volume downstream near the Chilean border and has enough water to use a raft.

The tree-lined spring creeks that feed the main river flowing through this mountain-ringed ranch valley are full of big, broad-shouldered trout

The Tres Valles experience is a small stream, dry fly fanatic's dream come true. A great part of each day is spent sight-fishing for truly large trout, all at the elbow of one of a team of excellent, well-trained, very professional guides.



Val Atkinson photo



TRES VALLES LODGE guests can expect to fish new water every day along with some of the most experienced and professional guides in Patagonia.

It's only a stone's throw to the nearest fishing and a short commute to a variety of small spring creeks and ultra-productive stillwater.

While at the lodge they'll enjoy spectacular views, cuisine, and high-end accommodations in the middle of what's considered one of the wildest and most remote parts of Patagonia.

The 6,000 square foot lodge features 4 spacious double suites each with private baths and private deck with a beautiful view of Desnudo Mountain, a barbeque pit, two large fireplaces, library, full bar, two dining areas, mudroom, and large deck.

The professional kitchen prepares delicious gourmet meals, traditional asados and barbeques showcasing grass-fed estancia beef and lamb.

Resident hosts, Guillermina and Simon Madero take pride in all aspects of the estancia and lodge management ensuring guests enjoy an amazing lodging and fishing experience while at Rio Pico.

tres valles lodge

Packages include the airport transfers, superb guides, fine meals and excellent accommodations. Quality equipment (waders, rods, reels), flies and terminal tackle are provided.

▲ Full week stays during peak season \$8,400

▲ All food and drinks
(fine wines, beer, and open bar)
at the lodge and on the river are included

*Scan this code
for more info
about PRG Tres Valles.*



Tres Valles Estancia is a 22,000-acre cattle ranch about 150 miles south of Esquel. The nearest street light is a plane ride away, and the clear night sky in the southern hemisphere is brightly lit with stars and constellations we can't see from home.



Tuning up for your Trip

Polishing your fly casting skills in preparation for your trip to Patagonia is every bit as important as packing your waders!



"Spending the time and the money to go on what might otherwise be the fly fishing trip of a lifetime, without first taking the time to refine your casting skills is just plain dumb!"

The late Mel Krieger

Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Master Fly Casting Instructor

Whether you need to prepare for the ferocious winds of Tierra del Fuego with a spey rod, or to make precision casts with your five-weight to the sophisticated rainbows of Arroyo Pescado – we can help!

OUR EXPERT TEAM of instructors includes Certified Master Fly Casters with teaching skills that have been fine-tuned over decades to make mastering the fundamentals of fly casting simple and refining the casting skills of an experienced fly fisherman even easier.

The Fly Shop's teaching methods were established by the legendary casting tutor, Mel Krieger. At his elbow, our instructors developed a well-rehearsed balance of practice sessions, coaching, and lessons – and became experts themselves at training new fly fishermen.

Now, decades later, The Fly Shop's fly fishing schools, our instruction seminars (and our *FishCamps™*) are recognized as among the best in the sport.

CHRIS KING is one of only a handful of Fly Fishing Federation Master Certified Flycasting Instructors. He is unique, even among elite casting teachers in that he has been to Alaska, the Caribbean, many of our worldwide fly fishing destinations, and experienced the challenges facing the traveling angler.

Chris is a genius at recognizing, analyzing, and solving casting errors, and can tighten a loop and add precision and distance to even an expert's casting form.

Individual instruction can be tailored to your interests and needs. We can build a curriculum that's customized to match your schedule, and a private clinic or seminar at the location of your choice (either in Redding or close to your home) to ensure that you have the casting skills necessary to knock the spots off the fish when you get to the water.

The Fly Shop's team of fly fishing instructors has fine-tuned the angling skills of two American presidents, a plethora of famous athletes, and hundreds and hundreds of regular folks who just wanted to overcome some bad habits, improve their fly fishing skills, be more successful and have more fun on the river, stream, or flats.

Contact info@theflyshop.com for more information regarding individual instruction or dates for our scheduled fly fishing schools & seminars.



Bryan Quick photo

Arriving at your destination with everything you need in the way of tackle, gear, and proper clothing isn't ever a problem for the traveling anglers who have made their plans through The Fly Shop®. Our clientele will testify on how well each was prepared for the experience, how smooth and easy their detailed travel information made the journey, how accurate the tackle and pre-trip information they received was – and how much better prepared they were than many independent lodge guests.

The level of assistance The Fly Shop® provides to our angling clientele in helping them plan and prepare for their trip has become the industry "gold standard."

We cover every detail and double-check along the way to make sure our clients' travel scheduling is correct, and that our anglers are properly outfitted.

Nobody does a better job of preparing angling travelers for their experience and few do it as well.

It's easy for us to do because our travel staff has been to all the fly fishing destinations we represent. They are intimately familiar with the critical travel details, the schedule, the food and amenities, as well as the tackle and successful techniques you'll be needing.

We not only know what we're talking about with regard to travel schedules and tackle needs, we've fine-tuned the information we shower our clients with so that they'll arrive with only what they need, are successful, and enjoy a level of comfort with every step.

Some travelers learned a few difficult lessons during the pandemic, including how important it is to have a travel professional in your corner when there are problems.

The Fly Shop® has proven that there's no angling travel agent in the sport you can trust more to have your back when you need help selecting, planning, preparing – and dealing with the unexpected!



Jurassic Rainbows

Estancia Laguna Verde is a magnificent, sprawling rancho in the southernmost Argentina pampas. The property fences surround tens of thousands of acres, more than ten miles of river, and nearly all of the immense Lago Strobel shoreline – a fish-perfect environment rich enough to grow the largest rainbows on Earth!

FOR SHEER SIZE and numbers of trophy rainbow trout, there is no argument that Lago Strobel (*Jurassic Lake*) in southern Argentina is in a class by itself. It is a fantastic fishery with jumbo rainbows that average 6 to 8 pounds, and often tip the scales well above fifteen pounds.

These huge trout aren't triploids, sterilized, or genetically altered. They're the progeny of fish first stocked in this lake and tributary stream nearly 35 years ago. Those are the same McCloud River (*located just north of The Fly Shop*) strain of rainbows that were brought to Bariloche from Northern California in the 1930's.

Their smolt were introduced to Lago Strobel in 1989 and met a near-perfect environment; no predators, ideal altitude, a temperate climate, an ultra-rich food source, and highly oxygenated, ice cold water blended with a high alkali content.

The naturally occurring menu items include swarms of Gammaridae, a scud so abundant the mega-rainbows swim like open-mouthed whales gorging on krill. It's a protein diet so rich the fish grow quickly to epic dimensions in sizes and in numbers unequalled elsewhere on Earth.

It all coalesces to form Mother Nature's own natural Trout Growth Hormone – an environment that creates ridiculously huge, incredibly strong trout with no apparent limit to their size.

The nickname, *Jurassic* (*from the movie title*), accurately describes the oversized fish found in this isolated lake and a stream just north of the Strait of Magellan. It's an appropriate moniker, if only because the fish aren't native to this part of the world and, like the creatures in the movie, they reach prehistoric, mammoth proportions.

There's no need to exaggerate the dimensions of these trout or amplify their strength. Everything you've ever read or heard about the place is probably true. Jurassic's fish are bull-strong, aggressive, and acrobatic. They attack streamers, nymphs or surface flies with abandon. Then they'll smoke your drag and show you backing that has never seen the light of day.

The Fly Shop® has sent our travel team there half a dozen times over the course of the past decade and we all agree – this spot consistently delivers the most exciting stillwater and some of the best stream fishing on Earth for huge trout!

Estancia Laguna Verde photo





Lago Strobel Lodge photo



Pat Ford photo



Joshua Hutchins photo

The size & number
of these Argentine
rainbows can't be
exaggerated!



Brian O'Keefe photo

Estancia Laguna Verde

Estancia Laguna Verde is a sprawling rancho in the southern Argentina pampas whose fences surround miles of river and a lake with a fish-perfect environment so rich that it grows the largest rainbow trout on Earth!

THIS INTIMATE, trophy trout Mecca is dead-center in some of the most inhospitable terrain imaginable, surrounded by nothing but flat, windswept, brush-dotted volcanic plains extending as far as the eye can see. With the “meseta de la muerta” (*little table of death*) to the south and the occasional glimpse of Mount San Lorenzo to the northwest there’s not a tree in sight. The land seems too rugged for anything to live. Yet this spot is home to what is, arguably, the finest trophy rainbow trout fishing on earth!

The massive Lago Strobel (*Jurassic Lake*) is a natural phenomenon, with a 15-mile shoreline, ocean-sized swells, and breathtakingly clear blue waters. And until fairly recently it had no trout.

Since the lake’s rainbows were introduced, they’ve prospered, with remarkable numbers of fish that reach massive proportions, due largely to the lake’s staggering population of freshwater scuds. Trout in the 6-12 pound category are considered average, and true monsters – fish in excess of 20 pounds are seen here on a regular basis (*seen, but only rarely landed!*).

Estancia Laguna Verde owns and has exclusive access to the majority of the lake’s shoreline and miles of the lakes only tributary, the Barrancoso.

Harsh country, huge trout...and now, thanks to Estancia Laguna Verde Lodge, a comfortable place to call home during your stay.



Scan this code
for more info about
Laguna Verde Lodge.

estancia laguna verde (*Jurassic Lake*)

Every aspect of the cozy, tastefully-decorated, ten-person lodge is a source of pride with the owners. Guides are terrific, the private rooms are very comfortable, and the trophy trout action is accented by delicious meals at the end of every day. Dinners and cocktail hour are graced with fine Argentine varietals.

Estancia Laguna Verde guides pride themselves on their skills.

- ▲ 7 night/6 day angling package \$7,500
- ▲ Round trip vehicle transfers from Calafate are included



Lago Strobel Lodge

If you're after big, fat, powerful rainbows with broad shoulders – the kind of fish you feel you could saddle and ride – then head for Lago Strobel



Scan this code
for more info about
Lago Strobel Lodge.

THE NEW SISTER lodge to Estancia Laguna Verde is located on the remote northern shore of what's commonly called Jurassic Lake. It shares exclusive access with its sibling to the massive 40,000-acre private ranch surrounding nearly 95% of the lake's shoreline and all but one of its half dozen protected bays.

Estancia guests at both lodges enjoy a very diverse fishery and aren't locked into one spot to fish for the week. They can choose to mix it up and fish either the shoreline of Strobel Lake or miles of the private estancia's freestone tributary.

This small, intimate lodge incorporates all of the high standards the Alba family has delivered to angling guests at their Estancia Laguna Verde property for over a decade. It has a built-in, casual atmosphere. It's intended to appeal to dedicated trout fishermen searching for both a trophy trout experience and a more modest price tag than either of Jurassic Lake's other two alternatives.

The stellar trophy trout action is accented at the end of every day by a cocktail hour filled with big fish stories and delicious dinners paired with fine Argentine varietals.

lago strobel lodge (Jurassic Lake)

Every aspect of the cozy lodge is a source of pride with the owners. Double occupancy guest accommodations are spacious, tastefully decorated, and have private baths.

Everything, (with the exception of tackle) including the vehicle transfers from Calafate is included in the package.

The bi-lingual, experienced, all-Argentine Lago Strobel Lodge guides are justifiably proud of their fly fishing skills and ability to deliver a memorable experience.

▲ 7 night/6 day package \$4,500





Monster *Tierra del Fuego* Sea Trout

TIERRA DEL FUEGO is massive, about the size of Maine or South Carolina and separated from the southern tip of the continent by the Strait of Magellan, discovered in 1520 while circumnavigating both the globe and the island. Then, for the next 350 years this land was left in the undisputed possession of the island's indigenous peoples.

In 1880 Chilean and Argentine nationals discovered gold on the island, and soon well-meaning British missionaries established the first villages. Along with Christianity, they also introduced syphilis and smallpox to the natives of Tierra del Fuego and unintentionally put a swift end to their existence.

One of those missionaries, ex-patriate Englishman John Goodall, created a huge estancia that surrounded tens of thousands of acres of pasturelands for his sheep on the southeastern shore of the island. But, lonely for freshwater fishing of his own native island, he planted brown trout and rainbows on his own estancia in the Ewan River, and then turned to stocking the Rio Grande and other rivers on the island in 1935.

Both the rainbows and the brown trout established strong resident populations in the Rio Grande and by the mid-1900's averaged four or five pounds in the river's main stem and tributaries.

The famous outdoor writer, Joe Brooks, first chronicled the state of the fishery in his best-selling book, *Greatest Fishing, Where to Go to Get the Best* (Stackpole, 1957). Joe described the rainbows as "plentiful," and in two weeks of hard fishing, reported landing what appeared to be five, colorful, resident brown trout over 10 pounds.

Less than a decade after that publication virtually all the rainbows and most of the resident browns in the lower 30 or 40 miles of the river were gone. Biologists speculate the fish exhausted the indigenous (*pancora*) food source and went to sea in search of a supermarket. What was left was a strong population of 2 pound 'bows in the headwaters, some resident browns in tributaries, and an ever-increasing migration of sea run brown trout which soon claimed the river as their own.

These anadromous browns continued to grow in size and numbers each decade and, as the turn of the century approached, averaged about 6 pounds with an occasional double digit fish. Then, for no yet explained reason, the size of the sea trout returning to their natal stream in the 1990's suddenly increased by nearly 50%. An average fish was over nine pounds. One in five is over 15 pounds, and one in forty will weigh more than 20 pounds.



David Oondatje photo, courtesy of Winston Rod Company

Rio Grande brown trout are huge. The average is over ten pounds. One fish in five is over fifteen pounds, and one in forty will be a “puerco del rio” and tip honest scales above twenty pounds. An average brown trout on the Rio Grande would be the fish of a lifetime anywhere else in the world!

STEELHEAD AND ATLANTIC

salmon fishermen will find fishing the Rio Grande a familiar experience – one that employs every tool in their skill set, with one large and rewarding difference: this is a constantly improving fishery!

Biologists estimate there are now 2,432 adult trophy brown trout in every ultra-productive mile of the broad, shallow, and easily-waded Rio Grande. That translates to nearly 700 fish in each of the 102 pools bordering Estancia Maria Behety, Estancia Jose Menendez, and Kau Tapen.

Their closely-monitored numbers appear to have remained constant for the past decade, though the average size continues to increase slightly every year. A typical Rio Grande sea run brown now tips the scales at nearly 11 pounds, with a high percentage of true river monsters.

Sea run brown trout are not aggressive by nature. Like Atlantic salmon, they don't feed actively after returning from the salt and are myopically focused on reproduction. In fact, only about 7% of the fish in the river are caught each year, and why they occasionally take a nymph or streamer on the swing at all is strictly conjecture. But with so many fish, hook-ups are relatively common and anglers usually land three or more adult fish each day. “Small” fish (juveniles weighing 2 or 3 kilos) aren't tallied as part of the daily catch and the odds are high that most fly rodders will land a true trophy during their stay. And, as is always the case, experienced anglers are usually more successful.

Size does matter, and each battle with a monster sea run trout is memorable. The mega-models add more than just weight to the fighting formula and there aren't any “small” fish on the Rio Grande, except by comparison.



photo courtesy of Kau Tapen

Dime-bright sea trout begin to arrive in the Rio Grande by Thanksgiving and continue to pour into the river on every tide for the next four months. At full escapement, it is estimated that there are more than 75,000 sea trout in only 102 pools.

The strike of one of these huge fish is usually subtle. Most often the line just draws up dead taut in the water, stops, and then starts to hum just ever so slightly with the vibration of the current. Then, what for a brief moment felt like a “snag” starts to shake its head, tipping you off that it's time to set the hook and plant your feet, because the bell was just rung in this fight and the battle is on.



Estancia Maria Behety's Lodges

La Villa de Estancia Maria Behety and the Estancia Maria Behety Lodge both offer old world hospitality, comfort, and cuisine that might be equalled, but not surpassed in Latin America. The two lodges are nearly 18 miles apart.

Together they host a maximum of only eighteen guests.

la villa de estancia maria behety

Positioned just above the entrance to the huge estancia, La Villa was once regarded as among the most beautiful ranch mansions in South America. It was here the legend of Rio Grande sea trout began in the 50's and 60's when the historic ranch house filled with fly fishing legends Joe Brooks, Mel Krieger, Jorge Donovan, Ernie Schweibert and Bebe Enchorena.

Gutted by fire in the late 70's, La Villa was painstakingly restored by local craftsmen and fitted with every modern convenience and now qualifies as one of the most deluxe fly fishing lodges in all of South America.

Only six guests share the spacious, single occupancy accommodations and fine dining paired with Argentina's finest varietals selected from La Villa's 7,000-bottle wine cellar. After angling hours entertainment can be found in the billiard and card room, and the lodge's always-open bar is well stocked with fine domestic wine and liquor.

La Villa de Maria Behety has an all-star, all-Argentine team of fly fishing savvy guides and lays a legitimate claim as the top sea trout fishing experience in the world.



▲ 7 night/6 day, fly fishing package \$7,500 - \$10,500
Limited to six guests with single occupancy accommodations
Early and late season discount pricing is available



Scan this code
for more info about
La Villa de Estancia Maria Behety



estancia maria behety lodge

Located nearly 30 kilometers upstream from the estancia entrance, anglers are within quick and easy striking distance of the very best pools of the mid-Rio Grande basin, along with more distant access to every fabulous pool on the river bordering the estancia.

Guests enjoy a spectacular river view, a casual, informal lodge environment and a superb team of experienced, English-speaking, fly fishing fluent, Argentine guides.

The spacious lodge has a club-like, informal atmosphere, excellent cuisine and a well-stocked open bar. Their staff of expert, talented guides has an intimate understanding of the river and a refreshing dawn-to-dark work ethic.

▲ 7 night packages, double occupancy \$7,500 - \$9,500



Scan this code
for more info about
Estancia Maria Behety Lodge.



Maria Behety Lodge guests enjoy a spectacular view and near-immediate access to the superb beats in the mid-Rio Grande basin and all of the pools of the estancia.



Estancia José Menendez Lodges

In 1896, Jose Menendez, a Spanish expatriate, established this estancia as the crown jewel in his necklace of Tierra del Fuego sheep and cattle ranches. His property fences surrounded an estimated 440,000 hectares (968,000 acres) and stretched from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

AFTER HIS death in 1918, all the estancias and his wealth were divided among his children and heirs. Later the Peron government forced the Menendez family to “choose their nationality,” and divest themselves of their historic Chilean properties, their magnificent Punta Arenas family home and to establish estancias that created a buffer between both Estancia José Menendez, Estancia Maria Behety, and the Chile-Argentina border.

The descendants of Menendez mostly became *Porteños* (residents of Buenos Aires), leaving the management of their estancias to professionals. Visits to their historic Tierra del Fuego homes and the massive pasturelands that nurtured their sheep by the tens of thousands became (and remains for many) a seasonal combination of business, vacation, and small family reunions.

José was long past caring, but the river flowing through the magnificent legacy he built was destined to become the most important sea trout fishery on Earth!



By the early 80's the Rio Grande had been recognized by a lucky few as the sport's premier sea trout river. The river's average anadromous brown was considered huge by world standards, the numbers of fish returning each fall was startling, and fly fishermen were traveling all over the map in search of trophy trout – and letting them go.

It was time for the family to build a fishing lodge.



Sea trout are the reason nets are so big in Tierra del Fuego

Jessica DeLorenzo photo
Courtesy of Fly Fisherman Magazine



Nick Thompson photo

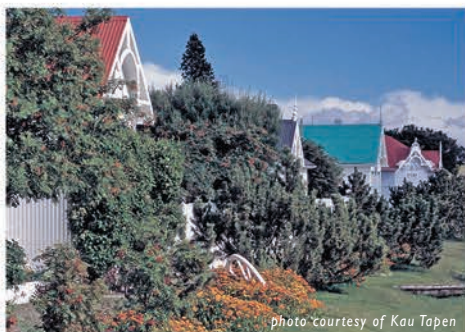


photo courtesy of Kau Tapen



Marcos Furer photo

kau tapen

Kau Tapen was the first fishing lodge on the Río Grande. The family opened the doors in 1984 and, being accustomed to fine food and great service themselves, wouldn't settle for anything less for their guests. Private rooms, superb cuisine, Argentina's finest wines, and an international collection of some of the sport's top guides.

Not forgetting the name of the place is "Fish House" in the native language, Kau Tapen was built in the heart of the Río Grande watershed within easy striking distance of the best pools on the river.

This year Kau Tapen will celebrate its 40th anniversary and a well-deserved reputation for excellence.

▲ 6-day, 7-night packages \$11,950-13,950

Single room, shared guide

villa maria

With more pools than fishermen, Kau Tapen decided to open a sister-lodge in the Estancia Jose Menendez guest house in 1994. In the three decades since the first guests arrived, Villa Maria has established a reputation second-to-none on the Río Grande. Testimony to that is the fact that more than 80% of their anglers are repeat clientele.

The Villa Maria location is a short drive from the river's largest and most famous pools – broad, shallow and ideal spots for intercepting ocean-fresh fish, and the perfect place for distance-friendly Spey rods.

In addition to the Río Grande, guests can explore 22 miles of the private Menendez River, the Río Grande's major tributary. Though much smaller than the Río Grande, the fish are every bit as big!

▲ 6-day, 7-night packages

\$11,950-13,950

Single room, shared guide



Val Atkinson photo



Marcos Furer photo



PLANNING THE NEXT STEP TOWARD PATAGONIA

THE SEASON BEGINS IN NOVEMBER!

Right now is the perfect time to plan your 2025 trip to any of the top fly fishing spots in Chile, Argentina, or Tierra de Fuego.

The key to pulling off a really great fly fishing trip is planning. It's just that simple. And no one is better able to help guide and point you in the right direction than the Patagonia angling travel experts right here at The Fly Shop®.



Bryan Gregson photo

Cover photo: Earl Harper

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