

# Battle Hill Lodge

## Essential packing list for an Icelandic adventure

During your stay at Battle Hill Lodge you will fish in different rivers where each one is unique so a variety of rods, lines and flies will be needed. You will also encounter shifting weather, both cold and warm, windy and calm. Below here you will see information about the river systems, fly fishing gear and clothing gear.

### The Rivers

#### **Tverá/Fossalar**

Tverá and Fossalar are in fact the same river, just with a double name depending on where you are located. The river itself runs just outside the lodge and meanders forward through the volcanic landscape. As the river is smaller we tend to use more single handed rods here but there are a couple areas where a double hand rod works great. A compromise would be a switch rod which some people prefer. In general a single hand rod with floating line is the preferred setup in this river. Some of the pools are deeper but more than often the fish is eager to rise to take a fly. Here we fish streamers and nymphs.

#### **Geirlandsá**

A scenic river where the fishing begins from a waterfall and runs down through a canyon, meanders through the gravel beds and finally ends up in Skaftá. This river has a great variety of fishing, both single handed rods and double handed rods are used frequently. A floating line is the preferred choice but depending on the water level and pool, a sinking line can be great to have. The river itself has many pools and where you are able to spot the fish. The lower parts are very easy accessed and easy to wade/walk. The upper parts as you enter the canyon can be little but more tricky but can be reached by ease. Some parts are more narrow while some are much wider. Here we use both streamers, nymphs and hitch flies.

#### **Skaftá/Vatnamot**

Vatnamot is the junction of the rivers mentioned above and a couple more. Vatnamot and Skaftá itself are excellent for fishing both single-handed and double handed rods. The river is wider and at times a double handed rod . A spey rod allows you to cast in some places with less effort and further distance. Mending and controlling the line is also much easier with a spey rod. Here we recommend you 7- to 9-weights from 12-14 ft. A light switch rod allows you to cast a line with less effort, especially on windy days.

## Seasons

At Battle Hill we have two seasons during the year when we target sea-run brown trout, spring and autumn. They are both different while you are still targeting the same species. Below here you will find short information about each.

### Spring

During spring the fish tend to not stay as far up in the river as they do in the autumn. This period we fish less parts of the rivers as most of the fish are further down in the system. The rivers we mainly target are Lower Geirlandsá and Vatnamot. If you are one of the first people while we open there could still be fish holding in river Fossalar. There will still be a lot of fish, just not as spread out and you tend to find big schools of fish in the same place.

### Autumn

During the autumn we target all three rivers as the fish is running up. Usually if you book early autumn you'll fish Vatnamot and the lower parts of Geirlandsá and Fossalar. As the season progresses the fish move further up in the rivers and you'll fish the whole area in all three rivers. Late autumn Vatnamot can be a little bit slower and more fish will be up in Geirlandsá and Fossalar. During this time most of our guests will also fish Geirlandsá and Fossalar.

## Fly Fishing Gear

### Rods & Reels

**Single-handed** rods from weight class 6 to 8 and up to 10 feet long are very effective, especially on the smaller tributaries. A slightly longer rod has the advantage for technical nymph fishing and also for mending while swinging tube flies or skating dry flies.

**Double handed/Spey** rods from weight class 6 to 9 from 12-14 feet are very effective. Most of the time a 12-13ft rod is recommended as it will be easier to use in the smaller river systems as well. We are using shooting heads from floating to fast sinking (sink 3). Most floating and intermediate shooting heads can also be used with different tips, so you can target different depths. Skagit line can be very useful while fishing heavy sink tips, bigger flies and to brave the wind. Use 350- to 600- grain heads depending on your rod.

- Reels: Be sure to choose a quality reel with a powerful and adjustable drag. Your reels and spare spools should have enough capacity to hold at least 100 yards of 20 pound backing.
- Lines: In order to be well prepared, you should carry at least 3 different lines with you to defy fluctuating water levels and wind. Floating lines are most useful during low-water conditions, technical nymphing and while fishing the smaller tributaries. Integrated sinking tip lines also work great, while intermediate lines are also effective in some conditions.

## Leaders & Tippetts

- Leaders: Sea run brown trout in the Skaftá system are not particularly leader shy. Since there are barely any sharp rocks, where the fish could break off, you don't have to fish very strong leaders. Your spools of monofilament or fluorocarbon should include 10-25 pounds. For floating lines we recommend you to have knotless tapered leaders from 9-12ft with 1X tippet up to 0.33mm. Check the knots on your leader after every caught fish.
- Flies: Make sure to bring a good selection of flies. However, some great fly patterns and back up tackle will be available for purchase at the battle hill lodge. Sea-run browns behave differently than their resident brothers and sisters. The only constant in their taste seems to be the color black and white. One day the trout may be completely obsessed with small salmon flies, and the next day they may be more responsive to rubber legged nymphs. Historically, most fish in the area are caught with the black ghost streamer and rubber leg nymphs, perhaps because these are the flies that are commonly used. In low water conditions and the smaller tributaries most fish are taken smaller tube flies, wet flies, nymphs and dry flies. We recommend having a good selection of different patterns with you. The flies we fish are based on sunlight, water level and your guide's recommendation. Catch-and-release is mandatory. Use strong quality hooks only.

## General Fly List

- Rubber leg nymphs (Copper John, Prince, Hares Ear, red tags, green peeping caddis etc)
- Traditional Atlantic Salmon flies can be useful
- Bead head nymphs (#10-14)
- Hitch flies (collie dog)
- Sunray Shadow in different sizes
- Black Zonker, Bunny leech, Wooly bugger (black/olive/white)
- Black Ghost original and fish skull zonker
- Super tinsel
- Bombers or other waking dry flies • Muddlers • Micro tubes • 2- to 3-inch black single hook or tube flies, both weighted and unweighted

## Clothing gear

During your stay at the battle hill lodge you will encounter different types of weather and it's important to be accordingly to get the most out of your trip. During the day you will be able to keep extra clothes in the guide car to adjust to the weather easier.

Here is a list of some essential clothes that you should bring

- Waders
- Wading jacket
- Wading boots
- Underlay - top and bottom
- Warm socks
- Cap and a beanie
- Polarized sunglasses
- Fleece or primaloft jacket
- Wool gloves or any other good fishing gloves
- Fleece or primaloft pants

The lodge has flies, leader/tippets for sale that will be open for you when you are here in case you need anything. You could also purchase beforehand a prepared fly box from Fishpartner that will be at the lodge at arrival.