

UPPER NAMSEN FISHING

NAMSEN RIVER



FISHING SEASON: 1 June – 15 September

Tackle box: The Namsen is a powerful river and so are its salmon! Fly rods should be 14-16ft with action to suit #10, 11 or 12 lines. Bring a selection of fly lines although intermediate density is most used. Flies and tubes should be towards medium and larger sizes. Chest waders with felt soles, life jacket and wading stick recommended.

Fishing statistics: On request.

Facilities: Freezing and packing of fish, equipment rental, drying room, disinfection of equipment.

For non-anglers: Arts & Crafts workshops, shopping in the small town of Namsos, superb nature trails, Namsskogan wild animal park. Namsen Salmon aquarium and museum near Fiskumfoss Falls (34.5m).

Nearest airport: Namsos (40 minutes by car) or Trondheim (2 hours 30 minutes by car).

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THE RIVER

The Namsen River runs through the county of Nord-Trøndelag in the northern part of Central Norway. This is the country's heartland, where rich agricultural plains contrast with majestic mountains and a rocky coastline.

Although the Namsen is not the longest river in Norway, it's certainly one of the most powerful. Its springs are in the Børgefjell National Park and its estuary near the town of Namsos. The total salmon running stretch of the Namsen river system is around 175km (109 miles), including the main tributaries (Bjøra and Sanddøla). The salmon running stretch in the main stream is 74km (46 miles).

The upper part of the main river and the Sanddøla River runs through narrow valleys with dramatic waterfalls and magnificent canyons. This has made it attractive for hydro-electric power development, which is a bonus to anglers as the five hydro-electric stations ensure reasonably stable water levels throughout the season, even through spells of drought and periods of heavy rain.

British noblemen discovered the virtues of the river in the 1830's. They quickly named Namsen the 'Queen of the Rivers' and reports of record catches and huge salmon spread among distinguished fly fishermen, bringing an increasing number of anglers.

Although the Namsen is particularly famous for its big salmon, it also offers very good runs of medium size salmon and grilse. Throughout the season there is always the chance of catching 'the big one'. Every year there are a number of fish in the 18-20kg (40-45lbs) category. The biggest ever rod-caught fish (1924) measured 55" with a 33" 'waist' and weighed 31.5kg (69lbs). In 2007, the biggest catch was 23kg (50.6lbs)

THE FISHING

Upper Namsen Fishing offers around 9 kilometres of double bank fishing on the upper parts of the river (45 kilometres/28 miles from the sea). A total of 16 rods will enjoy a well structured rota system, providing every angler with the opportunity to fish some of the best salmon waters in Norway. The beats start just below the 34 metres high Fiskum Falls, in a magnificent canyon. This stretch is amongst the most prolific in Norway and is by many seen as a 'dead cert' with regards to catches. The beats continue with the Fosslund and Mediaa stretches, a combination of slow moving fly-water and marvellous holding pools. The beats end up at the Junction pool area, just below the village of Grong. Four competent guides will look after the anglers at the different stretches and the rota system will give 8 hours fishing per day. Two fishing stretches will always be rested.

Although harling is primarily used on the lower Namsen in June, the Upper Namsen Fishing's beats offer excellent fly fishing during the whole season, particularly in July and August when the snow-melt has ended and the water level is normal for the time of year.

Over the last years, 1,500 to 1,800 salmon are caught on the Upper Namsen Fishing's beats with a good combination of large and medium size salmon and grilse. Due to the delayed start of bag-net-fishing on the coast, more large salmon will arrive during the first part of the season to boost the fishing.

THE ACCOMMODATION

Upper Namsen Fishing has over the years offered a choice of accommodations. From the 2009 season anglers on the rota system will stay at the Fosslund Lodge and the Holandsoya Farm's Lodge. Both lodges are very well equipped to suit the seasoned angler.

The breakfast and evening meals will be arranged at each lodge whilst the main meal of the day, a large lunch will be served for all anglers at the Fosslund Lodge's outside dining area. This will allow all anglers to have two long undisrupted fishing sessions during the best time of the day, morning and evening - allowing the midday and afternoon for rest. Anglers with any special needs can still use Hotel Vertshuset Grong.