

# DRIFTER'S LANDING

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Thank you for choosing Drifter's Landing for your fishing vacation! Now that your dates are confirmed, here is some information that we hope will cover most of your questions or concerns.

**Alaska is open for business!** Effective February 15, out-of-state travelers arriving in Alaska no longer need to present a negative COVID test for entry. The state is continuing to encourage travelers to be tested voluntarily.

We recommend checking with your airline before travel, or the Alaska state website.

In this packet, there is a reservation form. Please fill this out and send it back, or scan and email it to us at least 2 weeks prior to your trip date. We only need 1 per group. On arrival, we will have you sign a risk agreement.

### ARRIVALS

Be sure to include your approximate arrival time into Kenai. We would appreciate it if you would plan on **checking in after 2:00 p.m.** This will allow our crew to prepare the lodge and get your rooms cleaned and ready. If you are planning on arriving earlier due to flight schedules, etc. please let us know, and we will do all we can to accommodate you.

On your arrival, we will brief you on what to expect for your first day of fishing. Generally, for salmon fishing, we will wake you at 4:30 a.m. for a 5:00 a.m. breakfast. We will then head for the river at approximately 6:00 a.m. If your day of fishing is a halibut charter, or a fly-out trip, fishing departure times will vary depending on the tides, weather, etc.

### CAR RENTALS

Be prepared for sticker shock! Prices are quite high during the peak of the summer fishing season. There are several car rental companies in Anchorage. Many of our guests have found great rates going through companies such as 'Kayak' or 'Priceline' to find the best deals. There are many off-airport rental companies that may be cheaper than your chain companies like Avis, Budget, etc. There's a new one called 'Turo' that some of our guests have found very affordable! When choosing a car, keep in mind you will more than likely have at least one 50 lb. box of fish per person going back to Anchorage with you. We have had to strap our guests' luggage on the roof of many rental cars to make room for the fish!

### SALMON FISHING

We are fishing both the Kenai and the Kasilof rivers for salmon. As you know, all of our fishing trips are guided from drift boats. Due to the nature of the business, there may be a day where, due to illness, accident, or unforeseen circumstances, one of our drift boat guides may not be able to guide. If we are unable to place you in a drift boat with a reputable guide, we will then arrange for you or your party to fish from a power boat. We only work with the best guides on the river!

If this is your first guided drift boat trip, we are sure you will truly enjoy this relaxing experience. Our fishing trips for salmon are a full 8 hours or longer, unless you, and those in the boat with you, catch your salmon before the 8 hours is up. If you limit early, your guided fishing trip for the day will be over. You are only allowed to keep one King salmon a day, so once you are limited, you will have the rest of the day to sight-see, bank fish for other species, or just relax. You can catch and release until you boat the fish you want to keep.

We provide all top of the line fishing equipment and tackle. If you have a preferred rod and reel to fish with, you are welcome to bring it along, but do check with us, to find out if it is appropriate gear for these big kings.

Normal years, in June and July, the Kenai river is closed to guide boats on Sundays and all boats on

Mondays. On Sundays and Mondays, we fish for halibut or fish the Kasilof river. Sundays and Mondays are also good days to plan for sightseeing or day cruises if you have an open day in your schedule. Tuesdays are always the best day to start your king fishing, as the river and the kings have had two days of no activity.

Every season we face the possibility of changes or new regulations that could be imposed. For example, for the past several years in June, there is a bait restriction. Depending on the strength of the salmon run, the closures or bait restrictions can be lifted at anytime in June, and generally this happens. Also in June there generally is a slot limit, meaning a restriction on the length of the king salmon that you can keep. As with 2020, July can also experience restrictions such as no bait, and single hook. Another restriction that can be imposed is the possibility of "catch and release" fishing, or total closure. We do not anticipate closures, but we want our guests to be aware that they can happen.

**Drifter's Landing has no control over these restrictions or closures.** We will do everything possible to make sure you are informed as soon as we know of any changes that may affect your fishing trip. Keep in mind, that if there are any changes or closures, we will do our best to arrange for other fishing options. We do not offer refunds for these changes. We recommend you purchase **TRIP INSURANCE** if you have any concerns with these unforeseen circumstances.

## **HALIBUT FISHING**

When you reserved your dates, more than likely you reserved a day of drift boat halibut fishing. This is a truly great experience! We will row off shore less than 1 mile, and fish in shallow waters, approximately 30 to 50 ft. depth. We use lighter equipment and tackle than what you would expect for halibut fishing. This makes a big halibut a lot of fun to catch, especially when you aren't reeling in 5 lbs. of lead! There is a slot limit on the halibut, and you can keep 2 day, with no season limit. One has to be under 34 inches, and one can be any size. So typically, on the small size you're looking at about 10 - 15 lbs. and on the large size, average 25 lbs. up to 100 lbs! Also for 2020, halibut fishing is closed on Wednesdays, all season. As with salmon, reg's can change year to year for halibut size and limits.

We begin our day by driving to the town of Ninilchik. You will travel with your guide in his vehicle. From Ninilchik, we then drive down the beach to where we launch our boats. Before we leave the lodge that morning, we will check the weather with the marine weather forecast to be sure we will be fishing in calm waters. Be assured, we will not go out, if the seas are too rough. In the event that the weather is not favorable, and we cannot launch due to rough seas, we will salmon fish instead, and we will do our best to rearrange your schedule to fish for halibut on a calmer day. Depending on the tides, weather, etc. will determine how much time is spent that day fishing. We arrange our halibut dates on the most productive tides to allow you the best opportunity to catch your two fish a day limit. There is an additional fee of \$75.00 for an additional day of drift boat halibut fishing if a second day is not included in your original package.

If you choose to fish with a different charter service separate from Drifter's Landing, there will be an additional fee, based on cost difference.

## **OTHER OPTIONS**

We can also arrange other trip options such as a fly out trip for sockeyes, or a day cruise to view the Glaciers and sea life. These trips must be scheduled at least 30 days in advance of your arrival, as our guides are scheduled months in advance. We generally cannot rearrange your schedule after you arrive, unless it is due to rough seas, weather, or unforeseen circumstances. There is an additional fee of \$275.00 to \$300.00 to exchange a day of salmon fishing for a fly out fishing trip, based on destination. If you decide to cancel any day of fishing after arrival, for any reason, there are no refunds or credit for a trip not taken. Also, if you decide you would like to exchange a day on the Kenai

for the Kasilof river, there will be an additional charge of \$50.00 pp due to the increased cost of launch fees, and shuttle fees, and travel. We can also provide bank fishing excursions for Sockeye salmon based on availability. Prices vary depending on location, etc.

## **FISH PROCESSING**

Drifter's Landing will provide vacuum packaging, freezing and an insulated box for of up to 50 lbs (filet weight) of your catch. The cost of processing over the 50 lbs. is approx. \$1.50 a pound. This is for filleting, vacuum packaging, and freezing. Additional boxes are \$20.00 for an insulated box. Any fish that is not caught on a Drifter's Landing guided trip, (bank fishing for sockeyes, etc.) you are responsible for the filleting and processing fees of your non-guided catch.

The morning you depart, your fish will be frozen and boxed for you to take home on the airline.

Please check with your carrier to find out what their weight restrictions and bag limits are, as some have gone to a 50 lb per bag maximum, with an additional cost per bag.

Keep in mind, **DRIFTER'S LANDING is not responsible for the condition of your catch once it leaves our facilities.**

We will do everything possible to insure that your fish is well frozen before it leaves with you. The best way to get your fish home, is to check your box with the airline. This is the cheapest way! If you decide to have your fish shipped to you once you arrive home, we will make these arrangements for you. There is a \$15.00 per box handling fee for this service. Keep in mind, Fed Ex is extremely expensive.

## **WEATHER**

Temperatures vary throughout the summer. You can expect lows in the 40's and highs in the 70's. Always expect a day or two of rain!

## **WHAT TO BRING**

It's best to dress in layers, as it can be chilly in the morning and t-shirt weather by the afternoon!

Long underwear

Warm socks, gloves

Sweatshirts or fleece sweater

Jeans, jacket, hat

Waterproof boots, such as Gore-Tex. We have several pair of 'loaner' rubber knee-high boots. For bank fishing, we recommend chest waders or hip boots for bank fishing. Hip boots in Soldotna are inexpensive..approximately, \$30.00 a pair!

Second pair of shoes to wear when you are done fishing

Rain gear (please, no ponchos! You'll get soaked & cold!)

Sunglasses

Sunscreen, bug spray, toiletries, alcoholic beverages, etc. can be purchased in town

Camera, binoculars

\*We provide soap, shampoo, towels, bedding

Try not to over pack! Remember, the airlines charge for every bag or box. You will generally wear the same clothes everyday for fishing. There is also laundry facilities in town.

## **Additional costs:**

**Fishing license and king stamps** can be purchased upon arrival, or online at the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game website. Depending on the length of your fishing trip, license and king stamp will run between \$75.00 and \$105.00.

**Additional processing fees**, if you catch over 50 lbs. processed catch, at \$1.50 a pound.

**Gratuities:** most guests ask what is typical, so I googled it! General rule is 7 - 12% of package price for the lodge crew, includes guides. To tip guides separate, \$20 to \$40 a day and lodge help, \$10 to \$15 a day. Keep in mind, it's totally up to you, and what you are comfortable with!

## WHAT WE PROVIDE

Lodging

Breakfast, lunch, evening appetizers and beverages

All fishing equipment and tackle

Processing of your salmon & halibut, up to 50 lbs. per person

6-8 hours a day guided Salmon fishing - actual hours of fishing time for guided halibut fishing varies, depending on the tides and weather conditions.

Knee boots

## PAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS

Deposits and payments are refundable **only** if cancelled **within 30 days or less** from time initial deposit is received. If your trip is cancelled **within this time period** for any reason, 25% of your deposit will be retained as a cancellation fee. After 30 days, all payments are **non-refundable**. If you are concerned that you may have a reason to cancel your trip due to medical, Pandemic's or any other reason, we recommend that you speak to a travel agent, or look online about purchasing **Trip Insurance**.

We realize that many folks like to pay by credit card to get airline miles etc. Due to high costs of processing credit cards, Drifters Landing will be adding a 3.5% handling fee for all payments made by credit cards. We process our credit card payments through Square. We also take payments through Paypal, and Venmo, and except your personal check.

Final payments are due **30 days prior** to trip date, unless other arrangements are made. If you are paying by **credit card**, then final payment is due **60 days prior**, unless other arrangements are made. For your convenience, we have enclosed a credit card authorization form. Please fill out and send back with the date you would like final payment made.

## DEPARTURES

When checking out, we do our best to accommodate everyone's schedule. We realize flight times vary, so we do not stick to a ridged check-out time. If you have a late departure, past 1:00 p.m., we may ask you to move your belongings out of your room, or pack them up so that we may clean your room. If you have a late checkout past 4:00 p.m. there will be an additional charge of \$25.00 per person.

We hope we have covered all your questions and concerns! We will be looking forward to fishing with you this summer, spending time with old friends, and hopefully making some new ones!

Your Hosts,

Ken and Elizabeth Smith  
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[drifterslanding@yahoo.com](mailto:drifterslanding@yahoo.com)

Ken's cell: 208-816-8529 Elizabeth's cell: 208-816-8531  
In Alaska: 907-283-9328 after May 30th

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