

## BRISTOL BAY

### CRYSTAL CREEK LODGE, NAKNEK RIVER

Perhaps the finest combination of fly fishing for trout and salmon, wildlife viewing, and wingshooting in Alaska. If you like wade fishing streams and sightfishing to large trout and salmon, Crystal Creek may be your version of heaven.



Crystal Creek has a robust program for non-anglers and is an excellent choice for mixed parties. It's the ultimate fly out lodge.

- Katmai National Park
- Wade fishing for trophy rainbow trout
- 5 species of salmon on fly or conventional tackle
- Daily fly outs in float and wheel planes
- Boats for river fishing
- 8 fly fishing guides
- Optional stay at Crystal Creek Salmon Camp
- Access to Alaska Peninsula and Togiak

- National Wildlife Refuges, Iliamna River, and Wood-Tikchik Park
- Fly fish or conventional tackle supplied, including waders
- Wingshooting: ptarmigan beginning August 10; waterfowl from September 1.
- All shooting equipment supplied

#### **Non-fishing activities**

- Kayak float trips on the Naknek River
- Scenic flights for wildlife viewing
- Hiking
- Beachcombing
- Bear and walrus viewing

#### **Closest Airport**

- King Salmon via Anchorage. The lodge is 5 miles from King Salmon.

### **The fishing**

Crystal Creek is the ultimate “fly out” lodge where you head off in a classic DeHavilland Beaver or Cessna 185 to wilderness fishing spots in the Katmai/Bristol Bay region. Located on the banks of the Naknek River, Crystal Creek has a reputation for the best rainbow trout fishing in the world, although there are 11 species of salmon and trout in abundance. If you like wade fishing streams and sightfishing to large trout and salmon, Crystal Creek may be your version of heaven.

The variety of trout and salmon is impressive. There are rainbow trout, arctic char, Dolly Varden, grayling, lake trout and northern pike. The rainbow run 20”-30”.

The salmon runs are stunning as the fish travel from Bristol Bay into local spawning streams. The lodge has access to protected streams with some of the best king salmon fly fishing in Alaska. Most of the salmon fishing at Crystal Creek is done near tidewater in the lower reaches of rivers, which the guides can reach in 18-20 ft. riverboats. You may keep up to five salmon per week and the lodge will prepare and pack them for transport home.

<b>Salmon runs:</b> king salmon	mid-June to mid-July
chum	late June to mid-July
sockeye	late June to mid-August
pink	mid-July to late-August
silver	late July to mid-September

**King:** largest Pacific Salmon, up to 30 pounds, with larger fish over 50 pounds. Usually fished with spinning gear, although Crystal Creek has one private leasehold river where fly fishing for kings is the norm in season. (\$500-\$550 surcharge per person, limited to 1 party per week.)

### **Bird Hunting**

Upland bird hunting season begins August 10, and Crystal Creek has one of the best upland bird operations in Alaska. Willow ptarmigan is the prey and hunting is done in a wide variety of covers with trained pointers. The same cover is rarely shot over more than twice per season, and they are well rested between shoots. This is fine shooting and we recommend you bring your own double gun, although the lodge will be glad to supply you with a gun if you prefer.

Waterfowl season begins September 1 and the lodge provides guns, shells and all gear for fly outs to the best locations. Birds include American Widgeon, Northern Pintail, Green Wing Teal, Mallard, Greater Scaup and Gadwall, Canada Geese and Pacific Brant. Shooting is done from blinds over decoys. The lodge supplies 12 gauge pump or over/under shotguns, steel shot, waders

and camouflage clothing. You may bring your own 12 gauge gun if you prefer. Hunters rotate to freshwater ponds and saltwater estuaries which are rested between areas and new birds arrive daily. Alaska waterfowl are not decoy shy and have yet to be hunted when they arrive.

### **Other activities**

Crystal Creek is an excellent choice if you have a companion who doesn't fish or shoot, or does so rarely. There are guided fly outs over the spectacular mountains and rivers, **kayak floats** in Katmai National Park following the Naknek River downstream to the lodge, and flights to the coast for **beach walks** and **birding**.

There's excellent **bear viewing** in Katmai National Park and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, and you can see grizzlies in the wild as they congregate to feed on spawning salmon. Brooks River is a short flight from Crystal Creek and as many as 30 grizzlies may gather there to catch salmon. It's one of Alaska's prime bear viewing locations.

There are excellent **hikes** and Crystal Creek is one of the few fishing lodges that has planned hikes for bear watching or to take in specific vistas. Of course you can also hike in to a fly fishing stream.

Crystal Creek is in a magnificent location, has well-designed activities for non-anglers, and the planes and boats to take them to the most scenic locations.

### **The lodge**

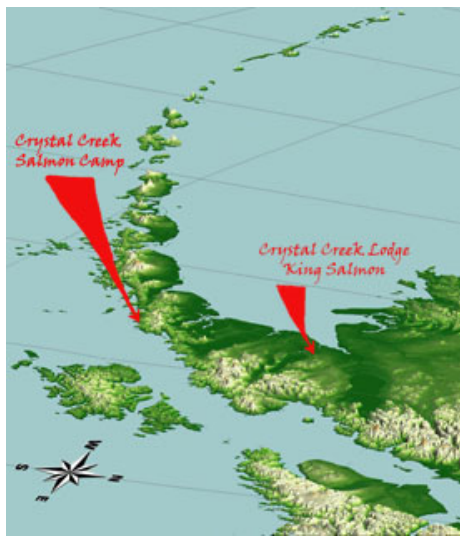
Crystal Creek Lodge is a beautiful timber frame and river rock building constructed only a few years ago on the banks overlooking the Naknek River. It accommodates only 14 guests in the lodge and two cabins. (Private parties may have up to 18 guests for whole-lodge bookings.)

There are 5 rooms in the lodge: 4 with two beds and 1 with 1 king bed.

The 2 cabins are suites with 2 bedrooms with 1 queen bed in each and private baths, plus a loft with 2 twin beds and a separate bathroom.

NEW FOR 2010:

The latest improvement is access to the world's greatest Pink, Chum and Silver Salmon fishing through Crystal Creek Salmon Camp, an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Expedition.



### **Camp Location and How to Get There:**

The Camp is located 125 miles south of King Salmon and Crystal Creek Lodge on the Pacific coast of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge near Yantarni Bay. In a state known for remote areas, this region is one of the most rugged, remote and beautiful.

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The camp site is beside an airstrip. Guest transportation to the Yantarni Camp is provided by chartered aircraft from King Salmon. The route of the 125 mile flight is through a coastal mountain range that is an active volcanic zone, and offers a splendid view of a coastline like no other on Earth. Your aircraft will arrive at the airstrip and taxi to within a few feet of the camp. Guests will be met in King Salmon and will be transported to the camp in the most expeditious manner possible.

### Camp History

What is now Crystal Creek Salmon Camp was opened by pioneering Alaskan guide and lodge builder Bill Martin in 1983. The Camp has long been a legendary salmon fishing destination. Legendary for good reason, as nearby lay a trio of quaint rivers that absolutely choke with salmon.

The Camp is built upon Federal land within the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and the Campsite is permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no other fishing camps on the stream and due to the remoteness of the stream few persons ever visit it. .



### About the Fishing Program

The stream, within walking distance from the camp, is filled with ocean fresh chum, pink and silver salmon, as well as sea-run Dolly Varden. The best salmon holes are those at tide water, about a mile from camp, and the guides transport fishermen from the camp to the tidewater holes using Honda ATVs. The streams are small enough to wade across most places at low tide and at high tide a good fly caster can reach well past the center.

As the salmon enter the stream from the ocean, they can be seen porpoising the surface as they arrive with the tides. The water is so clear it is possible to see and cast to specific fish. The roar of the nearby surf before you and majesty of the mountains behind you only add to the sweetness of the experience.

The incoming fish can be followed as they travel upstream with the tides. These fish are fresh and big! Chum and Silver salmon range from 10 to 20 pounds. Many people know about the jumping and fighting qualities of Silvers, but few are aware of the fighting abilities of the underrated Chum Salmon. These fish, only a few yards out of the saltwater, are exceptional sport fish, rivaling Silvers in their tenacity. There are also plenty of Pink Salmon, which are tough and willing fighters, especially on light gear.

### The Camp: Accommodations and Dining

As one would expect from a camp managed by Crystal Creek Lodge, it is a comfortable place featuring heated wall tents, hot showers and delicious food.

The camp was acquired as a complete and running operation consisting of heavy-duty Weatherport tents with wood floors. There are three 12' by 20' guest tents, two 8' x 12'

guest tents, a 18' by 24' kitchen/dining tent, a 10' by 12' shower tent, and four other tents for staff. In addition, the camp has a semi-permanent metal building which is used for storage and as a shop. Each tent has a wood burning stove and electricity. The kitchen/dining tent provides ample space for comfortable dining and evening activities. The shower tent and lavatory facilities have an inexhaustible supply of hot water, and the water, which is pumped from a well, is as clean and pure as you will ever find.

Guest tents are double-occupancy. They feature full height ceilings, wood floors, carpeting, wood stove, electric lights, and twin beds with firm foam mattresses, fresh linens and down comforters.

Meals are cooked and served "home style" in the dining hall. Breakfasts can be as hearty as sausage and eggs or as light as oatmeal or fruit. Lunches are soups, stews and sandwiches. Dinner entrees include prime rib, roasted chicken and fresh salmon with side dishes.

Rate: \$4,900.00 for 5 days/5 nights.

Guests of Crystal Creek Lodge may visit the Salmon Camp for a two day, one night adventure during their stay for no additional fee. Air charter costs between King Salmon and the Camp will apply.



Included: five nights double occupancy accommodations, meals, guide services, flies, lures and unlimited fishing time between arrival and departure.

Not Included: Air transportation between your home and the camp, fishing licenses, alcoholic beverages, personal fishing gear

Dates:

August 7-12	August 22-27	September 6-11
August 12-17	August 27-September 1	September 11-16
August 17-22	September 1-6	September 16-21

Itinerary:

Most guests will find it necessary to overnight in Anchorage before continuing on to King Salmon and the Camp. Air charters from King Salmon to the Camp are arranged through an air taxi service based in King Salmon. Crystal Creek Lodge will assist with reserving flights between Anchorage and King Salmon and air taxi flights between King Salmon and the Camp. All airfare costs are extra.

Upon arrival to King Salmon on the morning flight from Anchorage, guests will be met by a Crystal Creek Lodge representative and transported from the main airline terminal to

the air taxi. The flight to the Camp is about an hour and fifteen minutes each direction. Charter flights are launched mid-day at the discretion of the air taxi operator after weather and related safety considerations are found to be acceptable.

Upon arrival at the camp you will be offered a hot lunch followed by a trip to the stream with your guide. You may then fish into the evening. After four more days of guided fishing and another morning of fishing, the air charter flight will pick you up and deliver you to King Salmon mid-afternoon.

The Camp can sleep and accommodate up to eight full time guests and four more part time guests who may opt to visit from the Lodge.

GETTING THERE: King Salmon Airport is only 5 miles from the lodge and you are picked up there. First you must fly to Anchorage, and there are local flights to King Salmon daily. You will probably need to stay in Anchorage overnight on the way to Crystal Creek.

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## Rates

7 night, 6 days      \$8,300 June  
\$8,900 July/August/September  
Prices are per person, double occupancy  
Sunday – Sunday. Activities Monday through Saturday.  
Arrive 3:00pm; depart 8:00am on Sundays.

4 nights, 4 days      \$6000 June  
\$6,800 July/August/September  
Prices are per person, double occupancy  
Arrive 9:00am; depart 8:00am.

## Schedule

7 night packages:      June 10-17, 17-24; 24-July 1  
July 1-8, 8-15, 15-22, 22-29; 29-August 5  
August 5-12, 12-19, 19-26, 26-Sept. 2  
September 2-9, 9-16, 16-23, 23-30; 30-Oct. 7  
October 7-14

4 night packages:      June 5-9; 9-13; 13-17; 17-21; 21-25, 25-29, 29- July3  
July 3-7, 7-11, 11-15, 15-19, 19-23, 23-27, 27-31, 31-Aug 4  
August 4-8, 8-12, 12-16, 16-20, 20-24, 24-28, 28-Sept. 1,  
September 1-5, 5-9, 9-13, 13-17, 17-21, 21-25, 25-29; 29-Oct. 3

River fishing day of arrival, Sundays, 7 night trip only: \$400 per person  
2 bedroom, 3 bath private cabin: \$1000, 7 nights: \$600, 4 nights.

**Included:** guided fishing, hunting, non-fishing activities, lodging, meals, transfers from King Salmon Airport, use of fly fishing equipment (including waders) and guns, local taxes.

**Not included:** airfare to King Salmon, tips, liquor, fishing/hunting licenses (available at lodge), air to/from Salmon Camp, and massage services.

### DEPOSITS

After October 1: 50% Balance due 90 days prior to arrival.  
Before October 1: \$500 A second payment is due Oct. 31. Balance due 90 days prior to arrival.

Cancellation fees

After October 1, the year prior to the trip: \$500  
After January 1, the year of the trip: 100% of trip cost

**N.B. The lodge will not make exceptions to these policies. We strongly urge you to get trip cancellation insurance, which is available online from Orvis Travel. [TruTravel Insurance \(www.orvis.trustravelinsurance.com\)](http://www.orvis.trustravelinsurance.com)**

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### ALASKA FISH

**Here's an overview of the fish found at Orvis endorsed lodges in Alaska. The season varies somewhat by destination, particularly for spawning and migratory fish, but the general guidelines apply to the fishing at the Orvis lodges.**

**You will find both resident and migratory fish at all the lodges, but we urge you not to go only for a single species. The lodges can move you around by boat, plane and vehicle, but these are wild fish and if you're only going in hopes of catching, for example, king salmon, you will miss much of the allure of Alaska's Pacific fishery.**

**Alaska's rainbow trout** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), are in a league of their own. They're big, hard fighting and numerous. It's one of Alaska's top attractions for fly fishermen. They spawn early and move through river systems and lakes during the season. The most active fishing is early (May-June) and later (August-September), but big rainbow are caught in every month. Trophy rainbow fishing is late as the well fed fish move to waters where they will overwinter, and fish well over 24" are the norm on the big river and lake systems of Bristol Bay, Lake Iliamna, and the Alaska Peninsula.

**Coho salmon** (*Oncorhynchus kisutch* (Walbaum)) also called **silver salmon**, are found in coastal waters. They are hard fighters and can provide intense action as they take your line on long runs, leaping and tail hopping much of the way. The Coho average 12-15 pounds, but can be found weighing in at over 20 pounds. These salmon are most plentiful from late July through September.

**Chinook salmon** (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Commonly called Kings, Chinook salmon are Alaska's state fish and the largest and scarcest of Pacific salmon. They're especially known for their power and endurance. Your best bet for a king on the fly is at Alaska Sportsman's or Crystal Creek lodge in the Bristol Bay-Alaska Peninsula area during June and July. In southeast Alaska, at Boardwalk Lodge, they are most often caught in salt water by trolling with conventional tackle, but they can be found in freshwater streams and taking a 20 pound king on a fly rod is a thrill.

**Pink salmon** (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)

These are the smallest and most abundant salmon in area waters. Pinks have a two-year life cycle and average 3-5 pounds. Upon entering freshwater streams, pinks develop a dorsal hump, thus their nickname "Humpy." Saltwater Humpy fishing is best during July and August.

**Chum salmon** (*Oncorhynchus keta*) are a widely distributed throughout the Pacific and found from the Sacramento River in California and the island of Kyushu in the Sea of Japan.

Often called Dog salmon, Chums are famous for their strength and large teeth, which develop most prominently in males upon entering freshwater. Chum salmon fishing is readily available mid-July through August. These salmon average 15 pounds with an occasional lunker topping 25 pounds.

**Sockeye salmon** (*Oncorhynchus nerka*),

Also called Red salmon, Sockeyes are difficult to catch and highly regarded for their fighting skill.

**Steelhead trout** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are rainbow trout that spend part of their lives at sea. They're found in coastal Alaska from Southeast north to the Alaska Peninsula, although not in the Bristol Bay drainage. In Southeast, at Boardwalk Lodge, there's a spring run of steelhead in May and the fish are usually 30" or longer. They can spawn multiple times and the larger fish have probably spawned at least once. Boardwalk lodge has an excellent steelhead season May 1-31.

**Dolly Varden** (*Salvelinus malma Walbaum*) are a small but beautiful fish that put up a lot of fight for their size. Anadromous and freshwater resident varieties of both forms exist with lake, river, and dwarf populations being found among the freshwater residents. The fish is unique, as it is the only member of the family Salmonidae, excluding salmon, that has readily adapted to the numerous small- to medium-size nonlake streams that enter Alaska saltwater areas. Since the Dolly Varden migrate to sea from lakes in the spring, a lake outlet stream, stream mouth, or associated beach should be good from April through June. Good Dolly Varden fishing can be found in salt water during May, June, and July. As the mature fish return to their home stream to spawn and feed in August and September, most coastal streams in Southeast Alaska and up through the Aleutian Chain provide good fishing for Dolly Varden. Lake fishing for sea-run Dolly Varden can be



good from late August through November. The fish begin entering lakes in late August and are in prime condition after their spring and summer growing season.

**Coastal Cutthroat Trout** (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) occur as sea-run or resident (non-sea run) forms in streams and lakes along the coastal range from lower Southeast Alaska to Prince William Sound and are the most common trout species in the region. The resident form lives in a wide variety of habitats from small headwater tributaries and bog ponds to large lakes and rivers. Sea-run cutthroat are usually found in river or stream systems with accessible lakes, mostly south of Fredrick Sound. At Boardwalk Lodge you will find both resident and migratory cutthroat trout.

**Arctic grayling** (*Thymallus arcticus* (Pallas)) These beautiful fish are related to trout and are typically about 12” long. They are a sporty fish for their size and rise to dry flies on floating line. They stay in fresh water year round, but move between spawning and feed grounds during the summer. You can fly fish for grayling at Tikchik Narrows, Crystal Creek and Alaska Sportsman’s lodges.

**Northern pike** (*Esox lucius linnaeus*) These aggressive fish are found mostly in lakes in Alaska and are often 20 pounds, which means they may be 15 years old. There isn’t much pressure on them because anglers have so many other choices, but if you enjoy northern pike fishing you’ll find them in the lakes at Tikchik Narrows Lodge in Wood Tikchik Park.

## **SALTWATER FISHING**

This is most often done with conventional tackle from a boat, but many anglers enjoy landing a halibut and taking the delicate meat home.

### **Pacific halibut** (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*)

This iconic Alaska sportfish is caught on heavy conventional gear and many anglers like to take some of the delicate meat home. The typical halibut taken by sportsmen is 15-20 pounds, but they can run much larger. Boardwalk Lodge in Southeast Alaska is one of the better lodges if you want to mix halibut fishing with flyfishing. It’s on saltwater and has a fleet of boats equipped for bottom fishing.

It's easy to book your space. Call Orvis Travel and charge the deposit to your credit card. The balance is due 90 days before departure.

**To book online:** go to [www.orvis.com/resform](http://www.orvis.com/resform)

Fill out the reservation form and follow the instructions. It will automatically be sent to Orvis Travel.

**To check availability or book by phone contact us at**

**phone 800 547-4322 or 802 362-8790, fax 802 362-8795**  
**e-mail [Orvistravel@orvis.com](mailto:Orvistravel@orvis.com)**

On receipt of your deposit, we will send you confirmation of your trip and planning material.

**Book this trip early!** This is a popular destination and space is limited in local lodges. We may not have space left if you wait.

**Airfare questions?**

Call our affiliate Airtreks at **888-287-1014 or 415-977-7100 ext 147** for more information. Or email [Orvistravel@airtreks.com](mailto:Orvistravel@airtreks.com).

**Trip cancellation insurance**

We strongly urge you to purchase travel insurance to protect your deposit, which is non-refundable in many cases. You can easily purchase a good policy online at [www.orvistravelinsurance.com](http://www.orvistravelinsurance.com)

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments**

**N.B. Alaska Lodges each have different deposit and refund policies. Please consult the itinerary for details. Feel free to call Orvis Travel 800 547-4322 with any questions.**

**We strongly urge you to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Orvis Travel offers a good policy and you can purchase it easily online. Go to [www.orvistravelinsurance.com](http://www.orvistravelinsurance.com)**

To reserve space on an Orvis Travel trip, call 1 800 547-4322 or fill out the reservation form online at [www.orvis.com/resform](http://www.orvis.com/resform)

A signed reservation form and release are required prior to confirmation.

All prices must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Deposits are not transferable from one trip to another.

Prices quoted are based on foreign exchange values and tariffs currently in effect and prices are subject to change. Orvis Travel reserves the right to adjust prices accordingly until the time of departure.

**Planning information**

When your reservation is confirmed, you will receive planning information to guide you through trip preparations. Details about arrival and departure, clothing and equipment, trip cancellation insurance, pre- and post- trip extensions, visas and documents and activities are included in the planning information.

**Refunds**

Alaska lodges impose their own refund policies, which Orvis Travel is obliged to abide by. See the itinerary or call Orvis Travel for details. No refunds will be made for unused portions of a trip, including late arrival or early departure. Guide fees and hotel costs are not refundable if unused as outlined in the itinerary. Orvis reserves the right to modify an itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control. In the unlikely event that Orvis must cancel a tour, all payments received to date will be refunded, which constitutes a full settlement.

**Orvis is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation of any canceled trip, including airline tickets and visas fees.**

**Cancellation Insurance**

Your planning information includes an application for travel insurance covering cancellation for medical reasons, trip delay, medical expenses, lost baggage and medical evacuation. We urge you to obtain this coverage. NB. The policy offered by Orvis Travel is valid only for residents of the United States.

**Passports and documents**

International trips require a passport. Check your passport early and make sure it has six months validity at the time of travel. A visa is needed in some countries and we will send you complete details and instructions.

**Arrival and Departure**

Group transfers from a central location such as an airport are described in the itinerary, and are included in the land cost. Transfers are not included in the land cost if you arrive early or leave after the scheduled departure day.

**Equipment & clothing**

You will receive a detailed list of appropriate gear with your trip planning information.

**Airline reservations**

The land cost of your trip does not include airfare to the gateway city.

**Limitation of liability**

This section defines Orvis Travel's responsibility with regard to all travel arrangements made by Orvis Travel, including individual travel and pre- and post- trip extensions. Please read it carefully.

Upon sending your deposit to Orvis Travel, you acknowledge that you have read and understand all the terms and conditions outlined here, and agree to be bound by them.

Travel in remote Alaska involves driving on unpaved roads in rural areas, travel by boat in areas where weather may be hazardous, walking in streams and on trails in wilderness areas, travel by small plane, and other hazards that go with wilderness travel and fishing. Rescue services may be slow to respond, if available. Inclement weather is common in Alaska and may cause delays, including arrival, departure or for daily activities. You acknowledge these hazards as a condition of participating on this trip.

Orvis Travel, its Owners, Employees, Associates and Agents give notice that they act only as the agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers providing means of transportation and/or other services and assume no responsibility howsoever caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service resulting directly from: acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, terrorism, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit or hotel services over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.

Baggage and personal effects, including items purchased, guns, fishing equipment or sporting goods are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times and no employee/agent of Orvis Travel, its subsidiaries, affiliated or associated companies is authorized to accept these for storage, safekeeping, or transportation.