



UPPER NORTH WARK
FISHING

• SALMON FISHING ON THE RIVER TWEED •



Contents

Prime Fishing on the River Tweed	3
Did You Know?	4
What to expect	5
- The Pools	6
- The Hut	6
- The Accommodation	6
The Ghillies	7
Packages	8
- Experienced Angler Package	9
- Guided Salmon Fishing Experience	10
- Deluxe Salmon Fishing Experience	11
How to Book & Availability	12
Gift Vouchers	13



Prime Salmon Fishing On The River Tweed

Embark on a journey into the world of salmon fishing on the famous River Tweed. Salmon fishing offers a unique adventure for those seeking both excitement and tranquillity, set against the backdrop of the Tweed's pristine waters.

The River Tweed, with its rich fishing heritage, stands as a testament to extraordinary salmon runs. Its waters host some of the finest fishing opportunities globally, offering the potential for an exceptional catch with each cast. Explore the heritage of the Tweed, where tradition and the excitement of the chase come together for an exceptional salmon fishing experience.

Nestled within the Lower Tweed, you'll discover Upper North Wark, providing nearly a mile of prime river between Coldstream and Kelso. With four distinct pools, including the well-known Snipe Rock pool, Upper North Wark emerges as an ideal destination for your salmon fishing adventure.

Begin your journey into the heart of salmon fishing at Upper North Wark.

Did you know?

The life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon commences in the autumn when the eggs are laid and buried in the gravel at the riverbed, such as in rivers like the Tweed. Come early spring, these eggs hatch into tiny alevins, still reliant on the attached yolk sac for food. They stay underneath the gravel for 4 to 6 weeks because they cannot swim very well, and it also protects them from predators.

In late spring and early summer, the alevins evolve into fry, emerging from the stones to feed on water organisms. By their first year, fry transition into parr, feeding on insects and residing in freshwater for a period ranging from 1 to 4 years. Subsequently, they become smolts. The smolts undergo migration to the sea in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year, embarking on a journey where they cover substantial distances and feed on sandeels, krill, and herring.

Following 1 to 4 years at sea, the mature salmon embark on a return journey to the river of their birth for breeding. Remarkably, they do not eat upon reentering the river. Salmon that return after only one year at sea are called “grilse.” The breeding process, known as spawning, involves the female using her tail to create a redd or small nest in the gravel. She then lays her eggs, and the male salmon releases milt to fertilize them. Post-spawning, the majority of salmon perish, but certain females, referred to as kelts, return to the sea to spawn again in the subsequent year.



What to expect

Whether you're a novice eager to learn or an experienced angler seeking a new adventure, our beat offers a variety of options to make your day on the River Tweed unforgettable.

Upon arrival, our experienced ghillies will warmly welcome you to the beat, providing a brief overview of the day ahead. Feel free to bring your own equipment or explore our top-end offerings, such as the Loop brand, available for hire. Whether you're a seasoned angler or a novice, our ghillies are here to guide you through the exciting world of salmon fishing.

The day typically starts at 9.00am when you will climb into your boots and waders and be taken to explore the pools of the beat. With a one-hour lunch break at 1pm, you can relax and recharge before resuming your fishing adventure. Rods often rotate pools throughout the day, allowing you to experience the full beauty of the beat.

Our beat boasts five wooden Tweed boats, allowing you the best access to all the pools. These will be rowed by our skilled ghillies, providing a unique perspective on the river. In certain conditions, you may also enjoy wading through parts of the beat, adding another dimension to your fishing experience.

For those seeking a truly deluxe experience, our [Deluxe Salmon Fishing Experience](#) offers personalized tuition, full equipment inclusion, and deluxe amenities. You can even enjoy a gourmet lunch and toast the river with a drop of sloe gin or a "wee dram".





The Pools

The pools are where the salmon rest on their journey up the river. There is a variety of water over the 4 named pools - Snipe, Mill Stream, Back Of The Isle and Wark Dub. In recent years, more of the Mill Stream has been opened up and this has allowed access to parts of the beat not previously fished. There has been a noticeable increase in the catches in these new areas.

When fishing in higher water, sinking lines tend to be used with assorted poly leaders to cover the variations in the pools.

The Hut

The beat has ample off road parking and a well-appointed fishers' hut with heating, cooking and toilet facilities available for your use. The hut is situated at the centre of the beat and all pools are easily accessed. During 2019 a new fishing hut was built which has improved the facilities on the beat to an exceptional level.

Accommodation

We can make recommendations for local hotels but they tend to get booked up at peak fishing times – so early booking is recommended.

We can collect you from your accommodation and drop you back if you are staying within 10 miles of the beat at no extra charge. If you are staying outside this range or want a lift from airports and train stations we can normally arrange this – but there will be an additional charge.



The Ghillies

Upper North Wark is a three rod beat, but we can extend this to four rods on request by a single party booking depending on the river levels.

Our expert Head Ghillie - Martin Ritchie - will be on hand to guide you throughout your day, assisted by full time underghillie Jamie. They are long standing Tweed boatmen and will enhance your enjoyment of the day. They will offer advice on the best flies to use and where the salmon may be lying. This service is included in all of our packages. On certain packages they can offer casting tuition and row the boats to access the pools.

If you require any advice or help in advance of your visit, please do not hesitate to contact Martin, the Head Ghillie in advance of your visit who will be delighted to give you the benefit of his thoughts on the best equipment for the conditions.

noun: *ghillie*

(in Scotland) a man or boy who attends someone on a hunting or fishing expedition.



Martin Ritchie Head Ghillie

Martin began fishing with his Grandad at the age of 4 and progressed to the ultimate dream job as a ghillie. He has fished many main rivers, gaining valuable experience and knowledge in fishing methods to assist clients in their quest to catch a salmon.



Jamie Under Ghillie

Jamie has been a Ghillie on Upper North Wark for 3 years and has been fishing all around Scotland since the age of 4. Salmon fishing has always been his greatest passion growing up and it has always been his pleasure to share his wealth of experience with the guests of Upper North Wark.

Packages



Experienced Angler Package

Our Experienced Angler Package caters for seasoned fishermen seeking a quality experience on the River Tweed. Enjoy year-round access to expert ghillies and five wooden Tweed boats. Bring your own gear or opt for top-branded Loop equipment available for hire. With off-road parking and a well-equipped fishers' hut, this package is designed for those who have fished before.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Guided Salmon Fishing Experience for Beginners

Discover the joy of fishing with our Beginner's Tuition Package on the Lower Tweed. Tailored for novices, this package includes comprehensive tuition by our expert ghillies. Learn the basics of fishing, receive guidance on equipment use, and enjoy a day on the river with all-inclusive gear. Perfect for beginners, this package ensures a guided and educational experience.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Deluxe Salmon Fishing Experience

Treat your loved ones or clients with an unforgettable adventure on the River Tweed. Immerse yourself in the ultimate fishing adventure as we provide everything you need. Receive expert guidance, savour a BBQ lunch, and wrap up your day with a relaxed review session, making memories that will last a lifetime.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Experienced Angler Package

For Expert Anglers and experienced fisherman.

Traditionally labelled a beat requiring higher water levels, Upper North Wark has undergone a transformation under new ownership. Extensive weed clearance and bank management have improved water flows across the beat, making available access to the once inaccessible “islands” section. This waded area, mainly along a shingle river bed, has become a comfortable wade, producing fish all year round, particularly during salmon runs.

A new pool at the bottom of the dub, bordering Lower North Wark, adds another dimension to the fishing experience. While wading is possible, caution is advised in this pool when water levels exceed 2 feet. Despite being a recent development, catches have already been recorded, marking a promising addition to the beat.

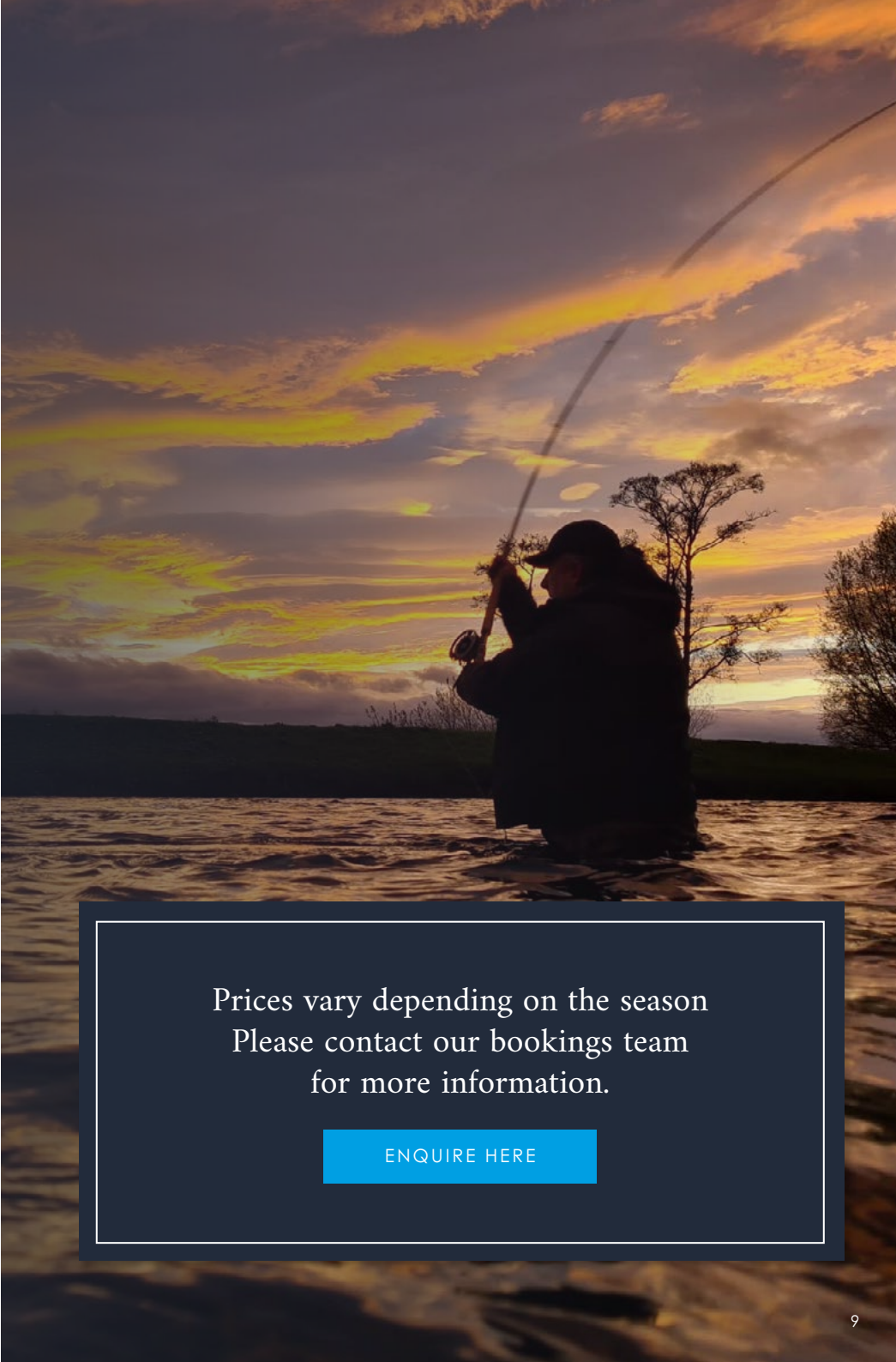
The wet summer of 2023 boosted catches in July and August. Sea trout can also offer good sport at this time of year.

Considering the river’s width at 135 yards at its maximum point, water flow may decrease in very low water conditions. Our two full-time ghillies, using double-handed rods, will row you throughout the beat, adopting a “left hand up” fly fishing approach from the boats.

For optimal fishing at good water levels, we primarily use fully sinking lines with tips and tubes. When the water is at 1ft, an intermediate line with a fast tip proves effective.

Spinning is permitted from February 15th to September 14th, featuring options like the Devon Minnow and Toby in the early season. The “Rap n Burrly” has success as the water warms up.

Our Head Ghillie – ties his own flies and will advise on the best options for the prevailing conditions.



Prices vary depending on the season
Please contact our bookings team
for more information.

[ENQUIRE HERE](#)

Guided Salmon Fishing Experience

Learn the art of fly fishing in beautiful surroundings and enjoy trying to catch your first fish.

Our courses are aimed at people of all ages wanting to try fly fishing for the first time or those who are still at the beginning of their journey to fly fish for salmon.

On our Fly Fishing Experience course, the emphasis is on teaching and good practice but as we are teaching on the river there is always the chance of a fish! As you progress with your learning, our full time Ghillies will take your new found skills out on the river to try and tempt a salmon to grab your fly.

During the course our Ghillies will offer you a valuable insight into various casting techniques, watercraft, tactics to suit the conditions and an all-round understanding of Fly Fishing for Atlantic Salmon.

Course Outline:

- What Tackle To Use & When
- How To Set Up The Tackle You Will Be Using
- What Knots and Flies To Use
- Speycasting Coaching, What Casts To Use In various weather conditions
- Watercraft
- Put Your Learning In To Practise With Our Ghillies
- Safety & Etiquette

What to bring:

Please arrive with some sensible warm clothing, hat or cap and some sunglasses/glasses for protection. Please bring along your own lunch, we have cooking and BBQ facilities available at the Fishing Hut.

Itinerary

8.45am

Meet at the hut for tea/coffee/dram!! and discuss plan for the day ahead

9.30am

Brief Speycasting theory/demo to help you understand the key aspects of Speycasting

10am

Casting tuition and one to one coaching

1pm

Lunch (Bring your own or we can arrange a barbeque lunch served by a local restaurant)

2pm

The opportunity to fish under the guidance of our Ghillies, where further coaching is on hand one to one as you fish.

5pm

End of the day

Starting from £255 per person.

(Maximum 4 people)

[BOOK NOW](#)

Considering this experience as a gift?
Explore our [Gift Voucher](#) options for a truly unforgettable present!

Deluxe Salmon Fishing Experience

An exclusive blend of expert guidance, riverside tranquillity, and the joy of creating unforgettable memories

Tailored for individuals seeking a memorable adventure on the River Tweed, this package is perfect for birthdays, celebrations, corporate hospitality, and those looking to turn a day on the river into a truly special event.

What's in Store:

Immerse yourself in the art of fly fishing with our seasoned Ghillies, ensuring an enjoyable experience for all ages and skill levels. Amidst the scenic riverside, discover the thrill of hooking a salmon while relishing the relaxed and celebratory atmosphere.

As your skills evolve under the guidance of our full-time Ghillies, savour the moments by the river. Capture the essence of Fly Fishing for Atlantic Salmon—its tactics, its watercraft, and the sheer delight of the pursuit.

Deluxe Inclusions:

- Course Instruction Included (see course outline details [here](#))
- Expert guidance from our team of ghillies
- Kick off the day with Coffee and Pastries
- BBQ Lunch or Seafood platter by the Riverside
- Bring along Friends and Family to Watch from the Balcony (there's no limit on guests!)
- All equipment can be provided

What to bring:

Please arrive with some sensible warm clothing, hat or cap and some sunglasses/glasses for protection.

Deluxe Itinerary

8.45am

Meet in the fishing hut at 8.45am for a coffee and pastry. Toast the river with a drop of sloe gin and / or a “wee dram”.

9.30am

The head Ghillie Martin Ritchie will explain the day ahead, fishing prospects and what you can expect from the day.

10am

We then climb into our waders and boots and start the initial casting lessons on the riverbank.

1pm

Once you have gained confidence, a ghillie will row you down the river where we think (hope!) the salmon may be laying.

2pm

Stop for lunch where a barbecue lunch will be served by a local restaurant and will be accompanied by beers, wine etc.

5pm

Fishing resumes at 2.00pm and will be a combination of bank, boat and wading in the river – subject to river heights.

Fish through to 5.00pm and conclude with a beer / cup of tea and review the day.

Starting from £1000 per day.

(Includes space for up to 4 rods)

BOOK NOW

Considering this experience as a gift?
Explore our [Gift Voucher](#) options for a truly unforgettable present!

Availability

The fishing season runs from the start of February to the end of November.

If you are a beginner, we recommend coming down between May and August to get the most from your coaching.

Please click the link below to view or much up to date availability for 2024.

CURRENT AVAILABILITY

How to book

To book please contact bookings@uppernorthwarkfishing.com

or fill out a booking request below and we'll get back to you as soon as we can to confirm prices and availability.

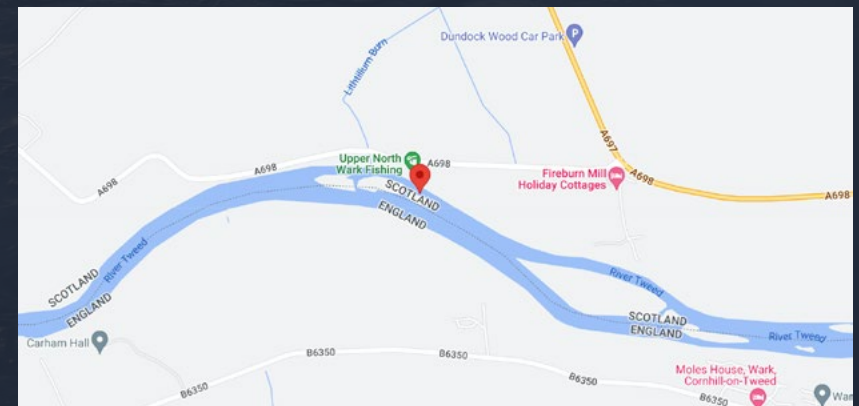
MAKE A BOOKING

NB. There is no guarantee of catching a fish and any salmon caught before 1st July need to be returned to the water by order of the Tweed Commissioners. Weather conditions may mean that fishing cannot occur – invariably for the safety of the rods and the ghillies. The Head Gillie's decision will be final in such matters and no refund can be offered if fishing does not take place.

Location

Situated between Kelso and Coldstream our fishing beat is at the heart of the River Tweed.

For your Sat Nav please use the postcode TD12 4LN which will take you to Fireburnmill. From Fireburnmill it is the first left off the A698 heading towards Birgham.



Upper North Wark Fishing, River Tweed, Coldstream, Berwick TD12 4LN

bookings@uppernorthwarkfishing.com | Tel: 07825334427

GIFT THE THRILL OF FLY FISHING ON THE RIVER TWEED

GIFT VOUCHERS

A Perfect Present for Special Occasions!

Searching for a unique and unforgettable gift for your loved ones? Surprise both avid anglers and those eager to try something new with a Fly Fishing Experience Gift Voucher! Whether they're seasoned anglers or budding fishing enthusiasts, our vouchers open the door to an exciting adventure on the picturesque rivers of Scotland - an experience that creates lasting memories. Perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, or as a Christmas surprise, this gift is sure to reel in joy for everyone.

You'll receive an expertly presented voucher, thoughtfully enclosed in a matching envelope, perfect for presenting to the lucky recipient. This grants them the flexibility to redeem it against any of our packages.

How to Redeem

Upon receiving the voucher, the lucky recipient can contact us to discuss availability and your requirements. The voucher is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. Gift vouchers are Non-Transferable, Non-Refundable and cannot be exchanged for cash.

[ENQUIRE HERE](#)

Why Choose a Fly Fishing Experience Gift Voucher?

Easy to Buy

Simply order online, and you'll receive a professionally printed voucher, ready for gifting to the lucky recipient.

An Unforgettable Day Out

Our Fly Fishing Experience courses cater to all skill levels, making them ideal for beginners or those eager to refine their technique.

Expert Guidance

Our dedicated Ghillies share a wealth of expertise, guiding participants from setting up tackle and selecting the perfect flies to mastering Speycasting in diverse conditions. Experience the world of fly fishing for Atlantic Salmon with invaluable insights.

Scenic Relaxation

Surrounded by the breathtaking Scottish landscape, participants learn the art of fly fishing while enjoying the thrill of trying to catch their first salmon.

Come and stay at
The Lodge at Strete



The Lodge at Strete, Dartmouth Road, Strete, TQ6 0RW.

A Stunning Retreat in the Heart of the South Hams

Discover The Lodge, a stunning retreat in the heart of the South Hams, nestled in the picturesque village of Strete, South Devon. Perfect for all generations seeking a coastal break, this spacious and elegant property offers an idyllic escape. Whether you're planning a family vacation with bucket and spade adventures at the beach, a luxurious golfing getaway, or a scenic walking holiday, The Lodge is the perfect setting. Embrace the stunning coastline at your doorstep, with the South West Coast Path leading to pristine beaches.

Book your South Devon getaway now and create
lasting memories at The Lodge.



A beautiful house and great location. We booked for a surprise for my dad's 70th, we needed space for us all. The house was perfect and I love the interior design

Contact us

thelodgeatstrete@gmail.com

Our Brochure

[Download Here](#)