

# PRE-TRIP INFORMATION



## FISH PARTNER AGENTS



**Kristjan Rafnsson**  
CEO  
+354 898 3986  
kristjan@fishpartner.com



**Gunnar Örn Petersen**  
Director  
+354 665 8865  
gunnar@fishpartner.com

## OVERVIEW

We are delighted that you will be joining us trout fishing next season, and we appreciate the confidence you have placed in Fish Partner and our trout fishing program. Everyone in our company will work hard to make your experience on our waters an unforgettable one. We know your expectations are as high as ours.

The following information has been prepared based on decades of firsthand experience by us and our guides. We have seen Icelandic waters in acute low water conditions, in full spate, and every condition in-between. We pride ourselves in being able to have our guests catch fish even in the harshest conditions. Iceland is certainly one of the most reliable trout fisheries in the world as it always has produced incredible arctic char fishing, as well as both sea-run and resident brown trout. The majority of our trout and char average 2-3 pounds, but catching up to 10-pound fish is common. Some resident lake brown trout can reach 30 pounds. Fishing begins in early summer, from April to late May, and goes on till fall, September.



## EXPECTED WEATHER

The average daytime temperature around the coast from May to September is 10-12°C (50-55°F). A warm summer day will have a temperature around 20°C (68°F). Average daily sunshine in July and August is 5-6 hours and during the summer months the night is bright. On clear days you have 24 hours of daylight and the Midnight Sun near the Arctic Circle. However, the weather is extremely changeable and unpredictable, so you should always be prepared for the unexpected. You can follow the forecast on [www.weather.is](http://www.weather.is).

### Average temperature by month:

| Month     | °C   | °F   |
|-----------|------|------|
| April     | 4.0  | 39.2 |
| May       | 7.2  | 44.9 |
| June      | 13.1 | 55.6 |
| July      | 15.2 | 59.4 |
| August    | 13.3 | 55.9 |
| September | 13.0 | 55.4 |
| October   | 6.1  | 43.0 |

## TRAVEL DETAILS

A valid passport is necessary to visit Iceland, except for citizens of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Citizens of the following countries may enter Iceland using national identity cards instead of passports. National identity cards issued by the proper authorities in the following countries of origin qualify: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland.

ID cards must be valid for three months from the date of departure from Iceland.

**Baggage:** Please check with your carrier regarding the baggage allowances that varies from carrier to carrier, class of service, and the route you are

traveling. The airlines will charge for overweight baggage, especially within Europe.

**Tackle disinfection:** Iceland has always been free of diseases like UDN and Gyrodactylus salaris, and we intend to keep it that way. There is a strict policy that requires visiting anglers to have their tackle sterilized before coming to Iceland. A veterinary surgeon should provide this service by soaking equipment in a 2% formaldehyde solution (tackle sterilized in Virkon S is also acceptable). A signed inventory of what has been sterilized should be provided by the veterinarian for presentation to the customs officers at Keflavik airport. The most important items to be treated are rods, reel/line, waders, and flies.

The process can also be carried out by staff at Keflavik airport. The office is located at the far side of the baggage claim hall, downstairs in the airport. Just notify one of the personnel in the area that you need your tackle disinfected and they will have a member of the staff come and complete the process. The price for one fishing set is around 4.000 ISK

**Currency:** Icelandic Krona. Visa and Mastercard credit cards and Maestro and Visa Electron are accepted widely.

**Language:** Icelandic, but Icelanders speak English as well.

**Electricity:** Most facilities operate on a 220-volt 450-cycle system. A converter will be necessary for any electrical items that require a 110-volt, 60-cycle system.

**Duty-free:** One of the following choices is permitted upon arrival in Iceland:

- 1 liter of alcohol and 1 liter of wine
- 1 liter of alcohol and 6 liters of beer
- 1 liter of wine and 6 liters of beer

One carton of cigarettes per person can be brought into the country.

## THE FISHING

**Daily fishing schedule:** The daily fishing schedule is different between fisheries, with most of the rivers having fishing hours from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and again from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Others have 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM fishing times.

**Fishing Techniques:** There is still much to be learned about tackle and techniques, but it is refreshing to know that many of the trout have never before seen a fly from an angler. In our rivers and streams, fishing with streamers can be effective early season, from April to mid-May. From mid-May onward, the insect hatches begin. During this time, dry flies and bead head nymphs will do the job in most cases. Strike indicators are often necessary when fishing upstream with a nymph. We often use more than one fly at once. When lake fishing, streamers are often effective, and stripping a fly in different speeds often produces strikes. When you get a strike you must quickly lift the rod before the trout spits the fly back.

**Catch and release:** Anglers should be careful in handling a trout that is to be released. Do not drag the trout up onto the bank. Do not hold trout by the tail in an inverted position for photographs or for any other reason. This can damage internal organs and kill the fish. If you would like to photograph your fish, we prefer the guide to hold it briefly before slipping it back into the water. Well-sharpened barbless hooks will often catch more fish than barbed hooks. Additionally, the process of removing a barbless hook is easier and less traumatic to the fish.



## GEAR

**Rods:** The most suitable rod for most waters of Iceland is a 9 ft, 5- or 6-weight rod. In smaller streams, however, it is more enjoyable to use a 3- or 4-weight. Because of our unstable climate and frequent strong winds, bringing along a 7-weight is a good idea, especially when lake fishing.

You can also lease a rod from us. If a rod is broken, however, a \$200 charge will apply for shipping and repair. We also have sets of waders, boots, and wading jackets for rental. Please let us know in advance if you plan to rent gear so it can be ready for your arrival.



**Reels:** A good reel with a reliable drag system is essential for Iceland, especially for trophy lake brown trout. When fishing for trophy trout in a lake, the reel of choice should hold the fly line plus 120-170 yards (110-160 meters) of backing.

**Fly lines:** When you fish in Iceland, you should bring a floating line, an intermediate line, and sink tips. You never know what conditions you will have, so having all assortments is better. Although floating lines are most often used, sometimes a fast sinking tip is necessary. A small container of fly line dressing is also useful.

**Leaders:** Icelandic trout are seldom leader shy, but not in all cases. We suggest a 9-ft (3m) leader of 6-10 lb tippet strength along with a good supply of tippet material in a variety of sizes ranging from 6-10 lb test. If you aim for the trophy trout, the tippet should be at least 12 lb test or even more.

If you are uncertain about what kind of leaders to bring, we will have it all in stock. Please let us know in advance if you plan to purchase a leader from us so it can be ready upon your arrival.



**Flies:** The Icelandic trout flies are different. We use the old traditional ones like Mikey Finn and Black Ghost, as well as many different-colored ones similar to the Alaska flies. The most common sizes are 6-8, in some cases smaller or bigger depending on the water or the season.

Nymphs are the popular for trout fishing here; we sometimes use some traditional patterns like the Hare's Ear or Copper John, but we mainly rely on our national ones. The most common sizes are 10-14.



Dry flies are often very effective, especially black ones like the famous Black Gnat size 14-16. However, we sometimes need to use smaller flies of different colors, such as brown.

We often have clients come to us with full boxes of flies which don't work. We offer ready-made fly boxes for our clients for \$100-200. We recommend your buy them from us or our local fly shops.

**Accessories:** You don't need to overload yourself with gear to fish Iceland, but the following items are regarded as essential:





































- Forceps
- Two pairs of polarized glasses
- Extra tippet
- Clippers

- Sunscreen
- Tape measure for record fish
- Wader repair material
- Dry fly floatant
- Camera, memory cards, and battery charger
- Mosquito hat from late May to mid-August

**Wading:** Some areas have slippery rocks and large boulders, requiring attention and care when wading. Studded wading shoes are advised. We suggest that you take a collapsible wading staff. Chest-high Gore-Tex waders are recommended for the lakes and river. Stocking foot rather than boot foot is preferable because they are more comfortable when walking on rocky shores, and wading boots provide a tighter fit and better ankle support. You can add layers under Gore-Tex waders to stay warm, and they are much more comfortable than neoprene in warm or hot weather.

**Clothing:** The layered approach to clothing is recommended while fishing in Iceland. It is important to not pack too much due to weight restrictions on airliners, so plan your clothing carefully. Laundry service is offered in most of our lodges and hotels. Keep in mind that it will be chillier early and late in the season.

- Polypropylene (or Capilene) long underwear to wear under waders
- Polypropylene or Capilene top
- Polypropylene or cotton shirts

| Apr   | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug   | Sep   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED

- Chamois flannel or fleece shirts
- Fleece, down vest, or down shirt
- Fishing jacket/windbreaker
- Fishing and camp trousers: jeans, cotton chinos, canvas, corduroy, or wool
- Waterproof rain gear (Gore-Tex) as an extra layer. Fishing jackets or rain jackets with tackle pockets, warming pockets, and snap-on hoods are preferred.
- Wool or poly fingerless gloves
- Camp shoes: leather top slip-on shoes with a rubber bottom are excellent
- Cotton and wool socks
- Shorts for sauna, hot tub, or warm weather
- Warm sweater
- Knitted stocking cap for cold weather
- Fishing hat with visor

**Insects:** From mid-June to early August, midges are hatching and can be intrusive. There are two types of midges found in Iceland: rykmy, known in English as chironomids, or non-biting midges, and bitmy, (*simulium vitatum*), which breed in rivers and are known to bite both humans and animals. In some areas there can be a lot of them during the hatch. We recommend that you bring a head net if you are fishing with us this time of year.



- Toilet kit (bath towels and wash cloths are provided, but not in self-catered accommodations)
- A razor for shaving
- European electric converter set with two round pins on the plug. Iceland electrical currents are at 220 volts
- Eye shades for June and July, when there are 24 hours of daylight
- Flashlight for the early and late season only
- Alarm clock

**Alcoholic Beverages:** If you are staying in a hotel during the fishing, there will be a bar in the hotel. If you are staying in a cottage, we recommend you to bring your own alcohol. It is only possible to buy alcohol in special liquor stores (Vinbud) or in the duty free store at Keflavik airport.

**Water:** The water in Iceland is crystal clear and safe to drink from the tap and almost every river and lake. You do not need to buy water; just bring an empty bottle to fill up.

**Health and medication:** Be sure to pack any personal medications that you need in your carry-on bag as well as common medications: anti-diarrhea, anti-nausea, anti-allergy, aspirin, sunscreen, etc. If you are aware of a personal health issue or an allergy, please advise us.

**Special dietary requirements:** If you have any health-related dietary requirements, please let us know. We will do our best to respond accordingly.

**Gratuities to guides:** Gratuities are a personal matter relating to your judgment of the services rendered. Gratuities are gratefully accepted. An industry standard of \$100 per rod per angling day is a good rule of thumb. Please note that the guide will only accept gratuities in cash (U.S. dollars, Euros, Sterling).

**Currency Exchange:** For the latest exchange rates, please refer to [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com). Please note that [xe.com](http://xe.com) is not an affiliate of Fish Partner, and we do not hold responsibility for the content of external websites.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Fish Partner strongly recommends the purchase of travel protection. We require significant deposits and payments before departure. Cancellation and refund policies are clearly stated on your invoice.

UK/European Residents: You can obtain travel insurance through Campbell Irvine: [www.campbellirvine.com](http://www.campbellirvine.com) or contact your personal insurance company.



## FINAL NOTE

We at Fish Partner will be doing everything we can to ensure your enjoyment on this unique expedition to trout fishing destinations that few have ever known. On the other hand, weather or other factors could affect the fishing experience. If that is the case, you will be well received at your lodge, hotel, or cottage. You will know you have made the right decision in choosing Fish Partner. Everyone will do their best to make you comfortable, enhance the fishing, and provide a memorable experience!



**We hope you will enjoy your trip and look forward to serving you again.  
Tight lines!**

## NOTE TO GROUP LEADERS

It is important as a group leader that you share this pre-trip information with all members of your party so everyone is adequately prepared, understands the cancellation/refund policy pertaining to their trip, and has the opportunity to purchase travel protection (especially anyone with a pre-existing health condition). Fish Partner cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this information is not provided by you to all members of your group.

