

Frequently Asked Questions

Good questions to ask when choosing a fly fishing guide service

Help us make your day one to remember

Is the guide or guide service licensed, bonded, and insured in Colorado? Be aware that guides conducting "rogue trips" or persons holding themselves out as guides without the proper licensing are not covered under the outfitters insurance and license. This practice is illegal in Colorado.

What are the hidden costs of the trip? Ask if things like private water fees, wader and equipment rental, terminal tackle, lunch and flies are included in the trip price. Many guide services do not include private water, equipment rental, flies, tippet, leaders, and terminal tackle as part of their guide fee. Because of separate private water, rental equipment and tackle charges clients often discover they have an additional \$100-\$500 in fees due at the time of their trip. At The Flyfisher EVERYTHING, except your fishing license and gratuities, are included in a single advertised price based on the number of angler and the location.

What is the appropriate tip for a fly fishing guide? Gratuities are optional and we suggest you give them only if you were pleased with the service you received. Your guide will greatly appreciate any and all gratuities. Typical gratuities are approximately 20-30% of the total trip price, 20% is the industry standard or about \$50/person guided.

How much does the trip cost and do you have space available? Some outfitters charge different rates than they advertise on their websites, the classic bait and switch. Our rates and the number of spaces available at that rate and on your desired day are always searchable on our website 24/7. When you make a reservation through our online booking system you can be assured that what you have requested is available and that once your reservation request has been approved by us and confirmed by you your space is guaranteed.

What experience do fly fishing guides have? Be aware that often, especially during peak summer months, many outfitters resort to hiring part time guides with little to no guiding experience or ski and snowboard instructors looking for summer work. Many outfitters also share guides so you may not be fishing with a guide from your chosen service. At The Flyfisher we have well over 200 cumulative years of guiding experience and we have been in the outfitter fly fishing guide business for 40 years. All of our guides serve a one year apprenticeship on our staff before getting their wings and all have many years of fly fishing experience. Our guides are exclusive to us and unless we are traveling to a destination outside of our home waters on Colorado's Front Range we never place our clients with guides from a different outfitter. We have fly fishing authors, former guide service owners, long time guides and fly shop employees, as well as world traveled fly fishing experts on our staff. All guides in Colorado are required to hold current CPR and first aid certifications.

Why should I choose Colorado as my fly fishing destination? The rivers we fish are very accessible, within 1 hour of downtown Denver. We have many tail water options (rivers below dams) that are very fertile trout environments and grow lots of big trout. We also have many freestone options where the dry fly fishing can be spectacular. We only guide on private water where access is very limited to ensure that the water is rested, the fish are released, and the catching is superb.

Should I choose public or private water for my fly fishing trip? In Colorado, the land owners own the river bottom. This is a concept that is foreign to anglers in many parts of the country. Private water offers a controlled environment where the angling pressure is limited and the fish are released ensuring there are plenty of fish that are usually very willing to eat flies. We do not guide on public water because over our 40+ years of experience we have decided that guiding our clients on public water is not the best use of their time or their money. Guide trips are special events that make memories that last a lifetime, we prefer your memories not include hoards of other anglers jockeying for the best water. We prefer your guide spend time putting you on feeding fish not looking for an opening in the crowd. If you would like to hone your skill on public water please reserve a private lesson so that we can teach you when and where to go on your own. Since we do not guide on public water we'll should you all our "secret spots," nothing is off limits and you will never find yourself competing with our guide trips for a chance at the good water!

Do I need a fishing license on private water? Yes

I have a non-angling person who would like to come along, watch and take pictures, is this OK and is there an additional charge?

It is OK to have a non-angling guest along for a full or best of day trip. There is no charge from us for them to come along unless they decide they would like to fish when they see how much fun it is! Lunch is not included for any non-angling guest unless arrangements have been made ahead of time.



Frequently Asked Questions Continued

Can I get picked up at my hotel in the Denver area? Unlike many outfitters, *we are happy to offer our clients a hotel and an airport pick-up and drop-off service.* Rates vary based on the service needed and can be arranged through our online booking system or before your trip directly through your guide.

When is the best time to come fishing in Colorado? Our vast array of high quality private fly fishing locations allows us to offer a great year-round program. Winter offers a very good opportunity to land a very large fish in low water because they do not fight very hard, however the weather is highly unpredictable. *Spring and fall offer the most productive big trout fishing of the year, fall weather is cool to cold and spring conditions typically cool and are less unpredictable than winter.* Summer offers great action, steady and predictable hatches, outstanding dry fly fishing and beautiful weather. Whenever you visit Denver or carve out a day to get on the water, we will work hard to make sure you make the most of your time!

What do I need to do before the day of my trip? *Please use the login and password information we provide you via email when your reservation is approved or when you are invited on a trip to login to our website and confirm the details of your trip, invite your guests, complete your liability waiver and your trip profile or as a guest complete your liability waiver and trip profile.*

Why is it important to login to the website and complete the required information? Doing so allows us to prepare for your trip before you arrive and helps us make the most of your fishing time. *It also allows us to collect important information about you including disabilities, allergies, food requests, equipment needs, emergency contacts and your liability waiver without having to take time at the beginning of your day to do paperwork.*

When I invite a guest how do they know the details about the trip and how do I know they have completed the necessary information? Your invited guest(s) will be sent an email from us letting them know you have invited them on a guided fishing trip. They will be given a login and password and instructions about how to login to the website and instructions about how to complete their liability waiver and profile. *You will receive an email when they have completed their information so that you know they are ready for the trip.*

How do I manage my trip and contact my guide before the trip? *You can review the status of your trip 24/7 by referring to the trip checklist on your login homepage.* Any questions that cannot be managed through the website can be directed to Customer Service at 303-733-2672 during business hours. In the event of an emergency you can call our emergency number 303-941-7226.

What if I do not login and complete the required information? Your guide will attempt to help you complete the required information before the day of your trip. *If you or one of your guests are unable to complete the required information before the day of your trip, including securing a fishing license, time will be taken during your fishing day to completed the required information and or get a fishing license.*

What if there is incimate weather? We fish rain, snow, sleet or shine. If there is more than 2 hours of lightning during your trip, and we need to stop fishing, your trip can be rescheduled. *If the river we are going to fish is frozen and un-fishable or the roads to access the location are closed we will reschedule your trip or you can cancel.*

What should I bring on my Colorado fly fishing trip? Optimism and the appropriate clothing and gear will add to the enjoyment of your guided fly fishing. Listed below are the basic items you may need for fishing in the Colorado's High Country. Mountain weather can change suddenly, we recommend dressing in several layers so you can adjust with the changing conditions.

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| ⇒ Fishing Equipment if you like or we can and will provide it for you at no additional charge | ⇒ Polarized sunglasses |
| ⇒ Rod (4-6 weights are best) | ⇒ Sun block and lip balm |
| ⇒ Reel (with a serious drag) | ⇒ Insect repellent |
| ⇒ Waders | ⇒ Camera, your guide will have a camera and will attached hi res photos to your fishing report and email you a link after the trip |
| ⇒ Valid Colorado Fishing License | ⇒ Gratuity for your guide is always appreciated (approximately 20-30%) you can always put this on your credit card before or after the trip |
| ⇒ Wool or fleece socks | ⇒ Signed liability waiver and trip profile include emergency contact information (executed online before the trip) |
| ⇒ Long underwear | |
| ⇒ Gloves (Spring, Fall and Winter) | |
| ⇒ Brimmed hat or cap | |
| ⇒ Quick dry pants | |
| ⇒ Rain gear | |

