

# Rio Gallegos Seatrout

LAS BUITRERAS LODGE

*The Rio Gallegos River is nearly 300kms in length and has its origin in the Southern Andes with two pristine and very beautiful streams, the Penitente and the Ruebens. Winding its way through the wild Patagonian landscape it emerges into the surprisingly mountainous area that encompasses the unique Las Buitreras beats, some 40kms from the river mouth. The flood plain that lies between these outcrops teems with birdlife, alongside large numbers of rheas, silver foxes, horses, hares, flamingos and guanacos.*

A trip to Rio Gallegos River offers the adventurous angler the opportunity to pit his skills against the explosive sea running trouts of Patagonia. These fish can reach sizes of 25lbs and over and will reward the angler with arm wrenching takes and blistering runs, interspersed with regular acrobatic displays.

Loop's Las Buitreras lodge is home to the most prolific beats on the Rio Gallegos, consisting of over 40kms of both sides private water comprising over 50 named pools. The fishing is exciting and varied with pools ranging from deep stony runs to cut banks and streamy shingle flats. Relatively shallow, the river makes for easy wading, obviating the need for fast sinking lines and creating an exciting and challenging fishing environment. It is this variety in combination with the visually inspiring mountainous outcrops that makes this part of the Rio Gallegos quite simply one of the most spectacular stretches of fly fishing water in Patagonia.

Sometimes explosive, always challenging, fishing for sea trout requires a level of skill, watercraft and understanding that can frustrate the average salmon angler. However, armed with the correct knowledge to unlock these secrets, the fishing on the Rio Gallegos can be immensely rewarding. To help you we pride ourselves on having who we consider to be some of the best guides available, now with 5 seasons experience on Buitreras. Very knowledgeable and talented fishermen, that today also belongs to some of the best casters and instructors we have seen. Friendly, able to speak good English and usually with a flybox tucked away with secret and deadly creations they have created.

As with 2007, the season 2008 saw an increase in average weight and we could also see more fish in the river, although not always easy to catch. Our work in the estuary is clearly paying off and we look very optimistic at the future in Rio Gallegos. Biggest fish in 2008 was weighed at 12,4 kg!

## Flies, Tackle and Fishing Techniques

Seatrout can be extremely aggressive and actively pursue any fly in the area and then something changes and we find ourselves searching our fly boxes for the magic. For most of the fishing conditions we have found that traditional seatrout and salmon patterns are good and the locals also fish with a wide variety of trout patterns such as bitch creek nymphs, yuk bugs, egg-sucking leeches, woolly buggers and muddlers. Small nymphs are also used regularly when the trout become very selective. Doubles are fine, but please leave the trebles at home. Most of the fishing requires you to strip the fly.

When the water is stirred up by the wind or colored from rain, tubes and larger flies work very well. In turbid water conditions, we like bulky flies that push the water. Tubes tied in the "Temple Dog" style on plastic and/or brass in all colors and sizes are good to have along.

There are a few pools where seatrout can be taken by simply swinging the fly as one would for Atlantic Salmon, but generally speaking, these fish don't favor the same type of lies as salmon do. They lie in quieter seams and tails and the motion imparted by stripping the fly produces some fantastic "induced" takes. We like shooting heads because the maximum effective fishing distance with each cast is much greater than with that of a normal line. It's nice to have a two-handed rod in heavy wind, but most of the fishing can be accomplished with a one-hander. It's a matter of personal preference. WF-line weights #6-8 Float or Loop Multi Clear Intermediate heads (full length line built like a shooting head) are the most popular depending upon the size of the fly. Bring a smaller trout rod too.

BOOK YOUR TRIP AT [TRAVEL@LOOPACKLE.SE](mailto:TRAVEL@LOOPACKLE.SE)



Rio Gallegos Seatrout Photo: Klaus Frimor



LOOP ADVENTURES LTD  
c/o Loop Tackle Design AB  
P. O. Box 195  
S-184 22 Åkersberga, Sweden  
Phone: +46 (0)8-544 101 90  
Fax: +46 (0)8-544 101 99  
E-mail: [travel@loopackle.se](mailto:travel@loopackle.se)  
[www.loopadventures.com](http://www.loopadventures.com)

ARGENTINA OPERATIONS  
Domestic arrangements, flights,  
hotels, etc. in Argentina:  
Gabriel Tournour  
Phone: +54 2966 420 368  
E-mail: [gabriel@loopackle.se](mailto:gabriel@loopackle.se)

US CONTACT  
Joe Roope  
Phone: +1 800 410 3133  
E-mail:  
[jroope@castawayflyfishingshop.com](mailto:jroope@castawayflyfishingshop.com)

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## The Buitreras Lodge

Loop has renovated a very old house on the estancia and furnished it with traditional "campo" style antiques. The living is comfortable and clean. There are 5 double-bed rooms and 2 single-bed rooms and a new annex with indoor barbeque. In addition to the structural renovation, the entire heating, water, electrical and gas systems have been replaced. There is a wine cellar with a fantastic selection from the Mendoza and San Juan regions. It is also stocked with cerveza Isenbeck, an outstanding local beer.

Outside, there is a huge veranda, a spacious courtyard that is protected from the wind, and a large, fixed stone grill and terrace for barbeques. House wine and beer is included in the lodge rate but we do keep a wide selection of local wines not often available elsewhere and guests are welcome to purchase these at a very reasonable rate. No smoking inside the lodge.



Las Buitreras Lodge Photo: Klaus Frimor

## A Few Logistical Notes

- A diesel generator supplies the electricity in Buitreras and the power is 220 volt. The receptacles will accept common European plugs. The generator normally runs between 06.30 and 23.30. We have auxiliary battery power and there are 12-volt outlets in your rooms with lights that will function in the absence of generator power. Additionally, there are gas lamps here in the living/dining area and also upstairs in the hallway. These lamps can be used to advantage during late-night festivities!
- Water is supplied from a windmill at the top of the hill and though there are no limits for guests, we ask that they use it conscientiously. There are three very large thermo tanks supplying hot water and it is normally always available.
- There is a new telephone with Internet access in the lodge. During our season, continental Europe and Scandinavia are +4 hours and Great Britain is +3 hours. Note: Telephone works when generator is on only. Hours for this and new number will be available before season.



Lodge Interior Photo: Klaus Frimor

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Fax: +46 (0)8-544 101 99  
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## The Buitreras Daily Schedule

Our guides and staff are quite flexible about timing but the normal schedule at Buitreras looks like this: We serve breakfast at about 07.00 and we depart for the river at about 08.30. At 13.30 we return and lunch is served normally NLT 14.00. After a large lunch, we retire for a siesta until we return for tea at 16.30. Between 17.00 and 17.30 we depart for the river with sandwiches, soup and fruit and we return when the fishing is finished! Upon your return to the lodge there will be a cold buffet waiting for you.



Some of the Buitreras Staff. From left: Laura, Mariana, Claudio, Pollo, Fernanda and on top Juan Manuel Photo: Tim Pask / Scanout.com

## Loop Tackle Service

The Loop company maintains a small gear shop within the lodge with a restricted selection of flies, leader materials, rods, reels, clothing and accessories. We have an emergency supply of equipment available to any guest who arrives without gear for whatever reason. We are also a field-testing station for Loop equipment and guests will have every opportunity to try out the latest equipment including prototypes not yet on sale.



Within walking distance from the lodge. Beck's Bank and La Recta pools Photo: Ola Nilsson

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**US CONTACT**  
**Joe Roope**  
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## Loop Tackle Service

Specialist advice on every aspect of the fishing is available from:

Sweden

- Ola Nilsson (ola@looptackle.se)
- Christer Sjöberg (christer@looptackle.se)

Denmark

- Klaus Frimor (klaus@looptackle.se)

Great Britain

- Eoin Fairgrieve eoin@speycast.co.uk

North America

- Joe Roope (jroope@castawayflyfishingshop.com)
- Brian Niska (brianniska@yahoo.com)



Camp host / Famous caster Klaus Frimor

## Programmes 2008 / 2009

Combi 1-2: Oct 30-Nov 7	Combi 3-4: Nov 7-Nov 15	47) Nov 15 - Nov 22	48) Nov 22 - Nov 29	Combi 5: Jan 6-Jan 14
3) Jan 10 - Jan 17	4) Jan 17 - Jan 24	5) Jan 24 - Jan 31	6) Jan 31 - Feb 7	7) Feb 7 - Feb 14
8) Feb 14 - Feb 21	9) Feb 21 - Feb 28	10) Feb 28 - March 7	11) March 7 - March 14	12) March 14 - March 21
13) March 21 - March 28	14) March 28 - April 4	15) April 4 - April 11		

*N.B Weeks 7, 8 and 9 are Combi Weeks with only two all week rods available at Las Buitreras*

## Service

One guide per two rods and all inclusive of travel, guiding, fishing, board and lodging from city Rio Gallegos.

A free laundry service is provided and house wine and beer is available free of charge. A limited choice of spirits and mixers is also available. If guests wish to consume particular spirits or have specialties they are requested to make their own provision for this. The maximum number of rods deployed on the fishery is 10 although groups are generally restricted to 8 rods. Full paying guests are guaranteed to be no more than 2 on the beat per guide. Tip/Camp fee is 450 USD that will be split among the entire staff.

## The itinerary

Arrive Rio Gallegos Saturday afternoon and leave Buitreras the following Saturday morning for flight back to Buenos Aires. You may choose to either arrange a flight from Buenos Aires late Saturday or spend the night and depart the following day (you will arrive Saturday at midday in Buenos Aires, in most cases too late for international flights).

For assistance with booking flight BA – Gallegos, please contact our local Rio Gallegos office: gabriel@looptackle.se

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## Prices

### Nov 2008

Nov 15 - 22: 2700 € per rod

Nov 22 - 29: 2700 € per rod

Possible add-on is the new Jurassic West Camp.

### Jan - April 2009

3490 € per rod

Non-fishing guest: 1200 €

New! 3 rods per one beat and guide: 2950 € per rod

New! Family rod: 2490 € per rod. This means that one rod is shared and fished.

Tip/Camp fee: 450 USD

## Service

One guide per two rods and all inclusive of travel, guiding, fishing, board and lodging from city Rio Gallegos.

A free laundry service is provided and house wine and beer is available free of charge. A limited choice of spirits and mixers is also available. If guests wish to consume particular spirits or have specialties they are requested to make their own provision for this. The maximum number of rods deployed on the fishery is 10 although groups are generally restricted to 8 rods. Full paying guests are guaranteed to be no more than 2 on the beat per guide. Recommended tip is 250-350 USD which will be split among the entire staff.

## The itinerary

Arrive Rio Gallegos Saturday afternoon and leave Buitreras the following Saturday morning for flight back to Buenos Aires. You may chose to either arrange a flight from Buenos Aires late Saturday or spend the night and depart the following day (you will arrive Saturday at midday in Buenos Aires, in most cases too late for international flights).

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## Buitreras - Jurassic Combi Weeks

See dates and prices under Combi Weeks



Justin Maxwell Stuart with Pure Silver Photo: Ola Nilsson

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