



Las Buitreras

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Patagonia, Argentina

The breathtaking Rio Gallegos meanders more than 360 km through desolate pampa before finally merging into the raging Atlantic Ocean near the Strait of Magellan. Though the region's ineffable beauty is worth the journey itself, it's Rio Gallegos' sought-after sea-run brown trout that make this location the cynosure of dedicated fly anglers worldwide. Solid Adventure's Estancia Las Buitreras comprises the most prolific beat along the Rio Gallegos, consisting of over 40 km of private water and more than 50 named pools. The sheer size and raging temper of the spectacular sea-run brown trout that call Rio Gallegos waters home have rendered countless anglers awestruck. As we've just added a whole new stretch of water with over ten new scouted and approved pools to our existing program, there's no better time to join us at Las Buitreras to try your hand at fishing for these exceptional creatures.



THE ACCOMMODATIONS

Estancia Las Buitreras offers a perfect blend of luxury and rustic living. The cozy lodge is just a 10-minute walk from the river's edge and offers our guests a haven from the expansive windy plains. The lodge is equipped with six double rooms and two single rooms, all with private bathrooms with showers. Although we can accommodate up to 14 guests at a time, we welcome a maximum of 12 anglers per week.





The River

El Rio Gallegos

The Gallegos river measures almost 300 km in its entirety and has its origin in the Southern Andes where it's formed at the confluence of two pristine rivers, Rubens and Penitentes. Winding its way through the wild Patagonian landscape it emerges into the surprisingly mountainous area that encompasses the unique Las Buitreras beats, some 40 km 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.





Las Buitreras section of the Rio Gallegos is an authentic southern Patagonian fly fishing paradise. Our first visit to this magical place was back in the summer of 2002 and it's brought us back every year since. It's this location that first made us fall in love with southern Patagonia and inspired us to develop our current portfolio of fly fishing programs in Argentina.

The area features varied terrain ranging from deep pools with steep banks to fast-moving stony runs and flowing streams atop shingle beds. The variety of pools and fishing techniques, in combination with the visually inspiring mountainous landscape, makes this part of the Rio Gallegos one of the most spectacular stretches of fly fishing waters in Patagonia. Being relatively shallow, the river makes for easy wading, eliminating the need for fast sinking lines, while providing both an exciting and challenging fishing environment. This location is mainly fished using light double-hand or single-hand rods rigged with floating or slow intermediate lines. Rio Gallegos does not require anglers to be expert casters; instead, you should focus your efforts on trying to fish every cast properly by controlling your fly and line in the water. At this location, the fish move and bite all over the river and it's not unusual to have a fish take your fly right at your feet. The strikes are often violent and it's typical for a fish to lunge into the air several times, making for an excellent fight.

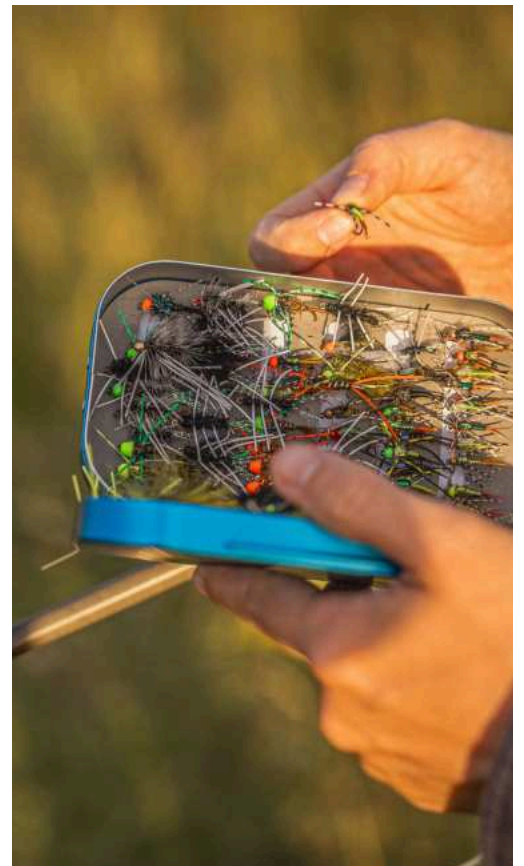
All of our guides speak English and have spent several seasons fishing and guiding on the Rio Gallegos, in fact, some of them have spent their entire lives fishing the river and they'll make sure that you're maximizing your chances of landing a fish during every session. If you're unfamiliar with double-hand rods, we suggest that you dedicate time to practicing your casting prior to departing on your trip. This practice will ensure that you get the most out of every session should the conditions negate single-hand fishing. Our guides are also happy to provide instructions on how to improve your casting skills at your request.





TACKLE & TECHNIQUE

Most fishing at this location requires you to strip your fly to provoke a violent strike. There are also pools where fish will take in response to the fly being swung as one would do for an Atlantic Salmon, however, brown trout generally prefer different flies to salmon. The fish at this location tend to lie in quieter seams and tails and the motion imparted by stripping the fly produces some fantastic takes. We like to use shooting heads as they allow for a greater maximum effective fishing distance with each cast compared with a normal line. Though it's nice to fish with a double-hand rod during periods of heavy wind, most fishing can be accomplished with a single-hand rod; rod selection ultimately comes down to a matter of personal preference. The most popular types of lines when fishing Rio Gallegos are float or clear intermediate shooting heads.





RECOMMENDED GEAR

If we were to recommend one setup for Las Buitreras it would be a 7 wt., 12 ft. double-hand rod rigged with a scandi-style floating body and an intermediate front/tip. Add a line wallet with a variation of interchangeable tips from float to fast sink and you will be able to cover most situations and conditions you are likely to encounter. Additional recommendations are as follows:

Rods: A 7 wt. 9-10 ft. single-hand rod will work exceptionally well during calm days and low water conditions. A 7 or 8-wt. 12-13 ft. double-hand rod is probably the most functional setup one can have at Las Buitreras and will have you covered all day, every day. We don't recommend bringing anything heavier than an 8-weight double-hand rod as we tend to lose a lot of fish on heavier equipment. We do recommend bringing a 5 or 6 wt. single-hand rod for some great brown trout action.

Single-hand Lines: Please bring at least one floating line and one intermediate line. We recommend Rio outbound, Rio single-hand spey float, Rio single-hand spey 3D, SA Titan Float to Intermediate, SA Mastery Volantis Integrated.

Switch Lines: Rio Scandi heads with different tips ranging from float to fast sink.

Double-hand / Spey Lines: Scandi heads are popular as they suit the conditions in Rio Gallegos perfectly and allow you to strip your line in while fishing it (this is a must when fishing for sea trout). Another big advantage with the scandi heads is that they allow for more quiet presentations than full spey or skagit lines. Being able to cast without ripping up or splashing the water, as well as having a light presentation is beneficial when fishing at Las Buitreras as most pools are quite shallow. We recommend you carry a variety of tips in different densities and sinking rates with you each day as conditions amongst the pools vary greatly, even within the same beat. Having a selection of different tips on hand will allow you to adapt quickly to changing conditions. With that in mind, the most common and efficient setup here is a full floating line or a floating body with an intermediate tip.

Recommendations: Solid SHS (Shooting Head System) with interchangeable tips, Rio Scandi Short VersiTip with interchangeable tips.

Leader / Tippet: Bring tapered fluorocarbon or monofilament leaders in the 15-20 lb (0.28-0.33) range. We also recommend bringing spools of tippet material in the 15-20 lb (0.28-0.33) range.

Flies: Ask any Argentinian sea trout guide what fly to use and they'll surely tell you it doesn't matter as long as it's black with white rubber legs. Though it may not be the most beautiful addition to your fly box, rubber legs really work well in this river. If you're more of a purist and prefer to fish patterns without rubber legs, you'll also find those of service. Anything from small nymphs, size 8-12, to streamers and classic salmon flies is frequently utilized by our guides and returning guests with great results. The most important thing to note is that your flies must be tied on hooks that can handle sea-run brown trout up to 12 kg (25 lbs). Do not bring regular trout flies as those hooks are guaranteed to fail. These days most online fly shops carry flies tied specifically for Argentinian seatrout. Current water conditions determine which flies and sizes of flies one should use. We recommend bringing various nymphs with rubber legs size 8-12, streamers size 6-10, plus some bigger sunray shadows and leeches for late evening fishing.

Top Six All-season Patterns:

- Yuk bug
- Rubber leg conehead woolly bugger / yellow yummiie (black,yellow, olive)
- Copper John nymph / rubber leg nymphs (copper and black)
- Miller's electric leech
- Girdle bug
- Sunray shadow (night time favorite)

We offer a selection of our own patterns, designed specifically for Las Buitreras, as well as some of our classic favorite flies for purchase at the lodge. We also offer an exclusive Las Buitreras fly box that contains an assortment of flies in an aluminum box adorned with our Las Buitreras logo. This item is only available to lodge guests and offered on location.

Las Buitreras Fly Shop

Visit our small in-house shop where you will find a good selection of flies specifically designed for Rio Gallegos, as well as destination-branded Patagonia and Ansilta jackets, t-shirts, hoodies, caps, beanies, and a selection of essentials such as leaders, tippets, and more. To maximize your chances on the river, we recommend that you pick up a Las Buitreras Fly Box filled with a selection of the best flies for our particular beats and the current conditions of the river. We also carry the brand new range of Solid Tackle rods, reels, and lines.







Our fishing season runs from late December to April which is the summer months in Southern Patagonia. In January and February temperatures reaching 19 - 20°C degrees with nighttime temperatures dropping to 10°C is to be expected. When we move into late March and April, temperatures normally reach 15°C during the day and can drop to only a couple of degrees Celsius at night.

Due to its open steppe landscape, the wind is a big factor in southern Patagonia. In January and February days with no wind and sun means fishing in a t-shirt and light wading jacket. Heading into late March and April temperatures are lower and you will need some warm clothes for the windy days. It is normal to have several weather changes per day and we recommend dressing in layers making it easy to add or take away a shirt or jacket if needed.





Season: December 30, 2026 to April 24, 2027

Maximum number of anglers per week: 12

6 Fishing Days / 7 Nights

Price per person

December 30 - April 24

2 anglers with 1 guide: 9.690 USD

Non fishing guest: 3.000 USD

Single Room: 500 USD (based on availability)

GENERAL ITINERARY

SATURDAY ON ARRIVAL

Depart from Buenos Aires with the afternoon flight. A Solid Adventures representative will meet you at the airport on arrival in El Calafate. Transfer to Estancia Las Buitreras by minibus (3-4 hours). Dinner will be served in the lodge – There are no scheduled activities after dinner but it is a good time to unpack, explore the lodge, especially the shop and its fly selection, and to set up your tackle.

SUNDAY - FRIDAY

Two fishing sessions per day. Anglers will fish a new zone every session. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner times will change a little with the season. Clients will be updated on the weekly schedule on arrival.

SATURDAY ON DEPARTURE

Coffee and snacks is served in the lodge before departure. Clients will get a small breakfast package for the drive to El Calafate.

Included - Seven nights at Estancia Las Buitreras, six days fishing (6 guided days), return transfer from El Calafate domestic airport, all meals, snacks, soft drinks, wine and beer during your stay, fishing license, guiding.

Not included - Flights, accommodation and meals during your travel, fishing tackle, spirits, gratuities/tips. Transport to El Calafate Airport outside of our recommended schedule can be arranged and will cost appr. 300 USD per car.

Please note - Our program Glencross is available as an extension to your Las Buitreras fishing trip.



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