



Montana Fly Fishing Guides LLC and Yellowstone Valley Lodge (YVL) are excited to be part of your upcoming fly fishing vacation. As many of our repeat guests will attest, your time in our part of Montana is sure to be a memorable experience – from great fishing opportunities to unparalleled scenery and the lasting camaraderie that can only be found while fishing. We should also mention that the Yellowstone Valley Grill located riverside on the property is the finest dining experience in the area and boasts the highest quality farm to table dining.

Yellowstone Valley Lodge is located 14 miles south of Livingston, Montana in Paradise Valley, along the banks of the Yellowstone River. It is also conveniently located about 30 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. This area of Montana is home to literally hundreds of miles of blue ribbon trout streams, private spring creeks, and is considered to be the Mecca of trout fishing in the western United States.

### GETTING TO YELLOWSTONE VALLEY LODGE

**Air Travelers:** Fly into Bozeman/Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) which is located about 50 minutes northwest of the lodge. The airport is small, but modern with direct flights being added yearly. A number of major airlines including Alaska, Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontiers, and United Air fly here and most vehicle rental agencies are present. You may also like to arrange livery service, which Yellowstone Valley Lodge will arrange upon request.

**Driving Travelers:** will take I-90 to exit 333 and proceed south on US HWY 89 toward Yellowstone National Park. At mile marker 38.4 you will see Yellowstone Valley Lodge on the east side of the road.

### FISHING SCHEDULE

Guests should check into YVL typically after 3 p.m. at the main office, there you will receive keys to your cabin and a brief tour of the property. Our guides will most likely be out on the water when you arrive, but feel free to browse the grounds, enjoy the Montana Fly Fishing Guides' Cutthroat Lounge, or just relax on your deck and unwind while watching the Yellowstone River roll by with the Absaroka Mountains in the background.

Eric Adams is the Director of Fishing Operations for the lodge and is often at the lodge after his guide day until 6 p.m. **Any and all fishing questions can be directed to Eric in person, email or phone before or during your stay.** During your check in the YVL office staff will tell you the start time of your first fishing day and your guide(s) will meet you after breakfast in front of your cabin. Fishing days typically last about 8 hours in the Summer months with later starts and shorter fishing days common in the early Spring and Fall.

### GUIDED DAYS INCLUDE

Your fishing days will include professional guide service, shuttles, box lunch, all flies and all incidental materials (tippet, leaders, floatant etc...), as well as free transportation to and from Yellowstone Valley Lodge. We can also provide rods & reels if you prefer. You will need to bring or rent your own wading gear. If you would like to rent gear we work closely with several fly shops that can provide gear for a reasonable cost per day. For a complete list of recommended gear please see our **WHAT TO BRING SECTION** (below).



## GUIDE DAYS EXCLUDE

Our guided fishing days do not include Montana fishing license, Yellowstone Park fishing license (if needed), alcohol, personal gear such as waders, wading boots, river sandals, polarized sunglasses, rain gear, or weather appropriate clothing. We are happy to arrange or recommend how, when and where to get these items upon request. See our **WHAT TO BRING SECTION** (below) for more information or contact us directly.

## FISHING LICENSES

Montana fishing licenses are not covered in your package deal or daily rate for fishing. Waiting in a fly shop the first morning of your trip is the last thing you'll want to do, so we highly recommend you purchase your fishing license **PRIOR** to your arrival. You can stop at one of several fly shops upon your arrival in Livingston or purchased online at <https://app.mt.gov/als/index/index.html>. Once online you will be given options for number of fishing days – licenses are sold in consecutive 2 day increments. ***Make sure the license is valid on your guided fishing dates.***

Yellowstone National Park fishing licenses can only be purchased in person. Most fly shops carry the 3 day, 10 day or season licenses. Again we recommend purchasing these in advance **ONLY IF** you are planning on fishing YNP.

## FOOD & ALCOHOL

Yellowstone Valley Lodge is proud to have one of the **best restaurants in southwest Montana** on the property. Yellowstone Valley Grill has a large local following thanks to our chef, Marcos Mustain, and serves the finest local farm to table faire in its comfortable dining atmosphere. The Grill has a remarkable selection of wine, micro beers and domestics. The restaurant is open to the public so we will have a standing reservation during the course of your stay. On evenings when the Grill is closed we will make reservations for package guests at one of the other fine local restaurants. You are welcome to bring your own liquor, but due to Montana State laws we cannot serve it in the dining room – you are welcome to enjoy it in the Cutthroat Lounge, on the deck or in your room.

Guides are also not allowed to provide alcohol, but you are welcome to bring your favorite beer/cocktail with you on the boat. We enjoy a good time on the river as much as anyone, but please consider your safety and know your limits during the day. Remember we are at higher altitude and alcohol will affect you more strongly.

## GUIDE GRATUITIES

Gratuities are left entirely to the discretion of our fishing guests. However, tipping guides for their service, not necessarily how many fish you caught, is common practice. ***Keep in mind that on a tough day of fishing your guide worked much harder for you than when fishing is easy.*** Guides are generally tipped in cash either daily or on your final day of fishing (if you fish multiple days with the same guide). You may pay this directly to your guide or include it on your final payment for the trip. Typical gratuities are \$90-120/guide per fishing day (not per angler).

YVL staff and servers gratuity is included for all Fishing Package guests. Al-la-carte guests should tip servers as they would in any dining establishment. Housekeeping staff gratuity is suggested at \$10 - \$20 / night. It is not necessary to tip individual staff members as the tip money is pooled and evenly divided.

## CELL SERVICE & WiFi

Cellular service is good throughout Montana with both Verizon and AT&T. However, Sprint, T-Mobile and many other carriers have little to no coverage, so plan accordingly. Keep in mind that some of our fishing locations, such as Yellowstone National Park have no cellular coverage regardless of the carrier.

Yellowstone Valley Lodge has a medium bandwidth of WiFi and all cabins have televisions and Dish Network.



## ❧ CANCELLATION POLICY ❧

Prior to 30 days of arrival: the deposit is refundable less a \$75 processing fee when accompanied by written cancellation.

Within 30 days of arrival: The entirety of your balance will be retained by Montana Fly Fishing Guides, LLC. as a cancellation fee. This fee goes to cover the costs of our guides, as we are unlikely to re book the trip on such short notice. Because of our reliance on advanced bookings and operation in good faith, we make no exceptions to our cancellation policy. If you are at all concerned with a cancellation possibility, we encourage you to purchase trip insurance.

## ❧ TRIP INSURANCE ❧

We strongly recommend that you purchase trip insurance. Unexpected events do arise and travel insurance is very reasonable. Insurance on a \$3000 fishing trip will cost between \$100-\$140 depending provider. There are many good travel insurance providers, but we recommend you investigate reputable companies such as AAA Insurance or Travelguard and find a plan that suites your needs.

## ❧ HEALTH CONCERNS & EMERGENCIES ❧

We ask that all our guests take into consideration the rural nature of the location and activities where they will find themselves. While much of Montana has access to 911 service and modern medical facilities in Livingston, we ask that you ***please inform us of any food allergies, medical conditions or health concerns you or any of your party may have PRIOR to your fishing days.*** These conditions may include but are not limited to food allergies, reactions to bee stings, diabetes, heart conditions, history of seizures, communicable diseases or any other health issues that may limit your activity level.

Our fishing guides are all First Aid certified, carry first aid kits and most have more advanced training in CPR and Wilderness First Aid Responder courses. ***These concerns will be kept strictly confidential*** between Eric Adams and the guide, but as responsible first responders we need to be aware of existing conditions to ensure both parties health and safety.

## ❧ WHAT TO BRING ❧

- ♦ Montana Fishing License or Yellowstone National Park License– see section above for details
- ♦ Rod & Reel (can be provided if you prefer) Line weights from 5 to 7 with floating fly lines  
A 9 foot 6 wt is perfect for almost everything. Many of our guests find a combination of two rods is best. For example: a 5wt for dry flies & a 6wt for streamers, nymphs or windy days
- ♦ Wading Boots – ***PLEASE REMOVE ALL STUDS*** as they can damage the drift boats and rafts
- ♦ Water Shoes or Sandals - for wet wading on warmer days
- ♦ Waders - breathable waders are the only way to go
- ♦ Rain Gear - should be taken ***EVERY DAY*** as our mountain weather can change quickly
- ♦ Layers of clothing – dramatic weather changes are the norm in the mountains even in summer
- ♦ Waterproof Bag - for personal items you bring in the boat
- ♦ Sunscreen – our high altitude and low humidity allow for scorching rays
- ♦ Hat - this not only provides better vision it protects you against hooks and fly lines
- ♦ Sunglasses - quality polarized sunglasses are a must
- ♦ Cash - for guide gratuities and less expensive licenses
- ♦ Camera or Smart phone
- ♦ Waterproof case or carrier for smart phones and other valuables