

The only place that's crowded at Ruby River, Montana, is underwater, where the trout are.



where to land the Big One

For centuries, fly rod in hand, man has pursued trout in every corner of the globe. It is a never-ending quest, a passion reborn with each new stream an angler steps into. ERIC STROUP shares his pick of six of the finest fly-fishing destinations in the world to land 'the Big One'.

NORTHERN PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

In extreme Northern Patagonia, in the province of Neuquén, lies the town of Alumine and the river, for which the town is named. This is one of the longest floatable rivers in Argentina, where vessels can ply, with nearly 90 miles (145 km) of fishable water. The Alumine's remarkable waters produces Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout. The river and its tributaries offer hundreds of miles of fishing, has a limited number of anglers, and the guiding operation is entirely local.

www.northernpatagonia.com

SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

This is widely regarded as one of the finest fishing destinations in the world. It is a land of many streams and rivers well known for producing colossal trout, while many of the smaller, lesser known waters can be just as productive. Anglers are free to access nearly all of them. Motueka River in the Nelson region, for example, is one of New Zealand's best places to haul in brown trout. The water is crystal clear and it even has stunning scenery to boot, making this a beautiful and challenging river to fish.

www.nzfishing.com

CENTRAL MONGOLIA

Anglers looking for the most extreme fishing adventure need to look no further than this country, home to the Taimen, the world's largest Salmonid, the family of fish that includes salmon and trout. This voracious hunter can be caught with a fly rod and can reach a length of almost 5 feet (1.5 m). Mongolia is home to several other sport fish such as Lenok, Grayling, Pike and Sturgeon, with species reaching incredible sizes in the pristine environment of one of the last unexplored places on Earth. The Suman River, which drains the Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake, has plenty of northern pike, Taimen and Arctic Graylings.

www.fishingmongolia.com



SOUTHERN HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND

Southern Hampshire County is home to some of the finest fishing. In fact, the chalk streams of southern England are the birthplace of fly fishing, and the Itchen, Test, Avon and the Kennet Rivers, along with their tributaries, offer some of the most challenging fishing for any angler. It has been said of these waters that "no trout is ever caught by accident". These rivers are almost entirely privately owned and require a guide. The management is exceptional and the opportunity for huge, wary trout is just a cast away.

www.famousfishing.co.uk

LABRADOR, NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR, CANADA

'Wild' is the most accurate description of the pristine, ancient landscape of Labrador. Anglers who have been here describe it as an extraordinarily beautiful place with amazing fishing opportunities. Fish the inland portions of Labrador for large Brook Trout, Landlocked Salmon and Pike. The coastal areas feature Sea-run Trout, Atlantic Salmon and Arctic Char. The peak season is June through August.

www.minipicamps.com

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA, USA

This area is home to some of the finest limestone streams in the world. Penns Creek, The Little Juniata River, Spring Creek and Big Fishing Creek are all accessible from the university town of State College. These streams feature year-round fishing, and the possibility of huge, wild trout always exists. Fantastic hatches, which are insects that draw the fish, are found from April through October.

www.sprucecreekflyco.com

LIBBY, MONTANA, USA

The Kootenai River in Northwestern Montana is one of the finest rivers I have ever fished in. The Kootenai is big water, and the best way to experience it is by drift boat as it flows through remote country. After a week of drifting along it, anglers are likely to see more eagles than people. It boasts a large population of Wild Rainbow and Bull Trout. The Rainbows are eager to take flies, and if you're looking for big fish, the Kootenai will not disappoint. The river is actually an outflow or tailwater out of the Kootenai Dam, but the fishing is consistent from July through September.

www.fishmontana.com

ALDER, MONTANA, USA

The Ruby River Valley is truly one of the most beautiful places in the world. The Ruby River drainage features two distinctly different streams. The Upper Ruby has a great population of Wild Rainbows, Cutthroats and even Grayling in its uppermost regions, while the Lower Ruby is mostly Brown Trout. Large fish are abundant in both stretches of water and the place is never crowded. Visit the Ruby in April or May before the Spring runoff, or at the peak fishing season from July through October.

www.ucomontana.com

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