

Iceland



Aardvark McLeod

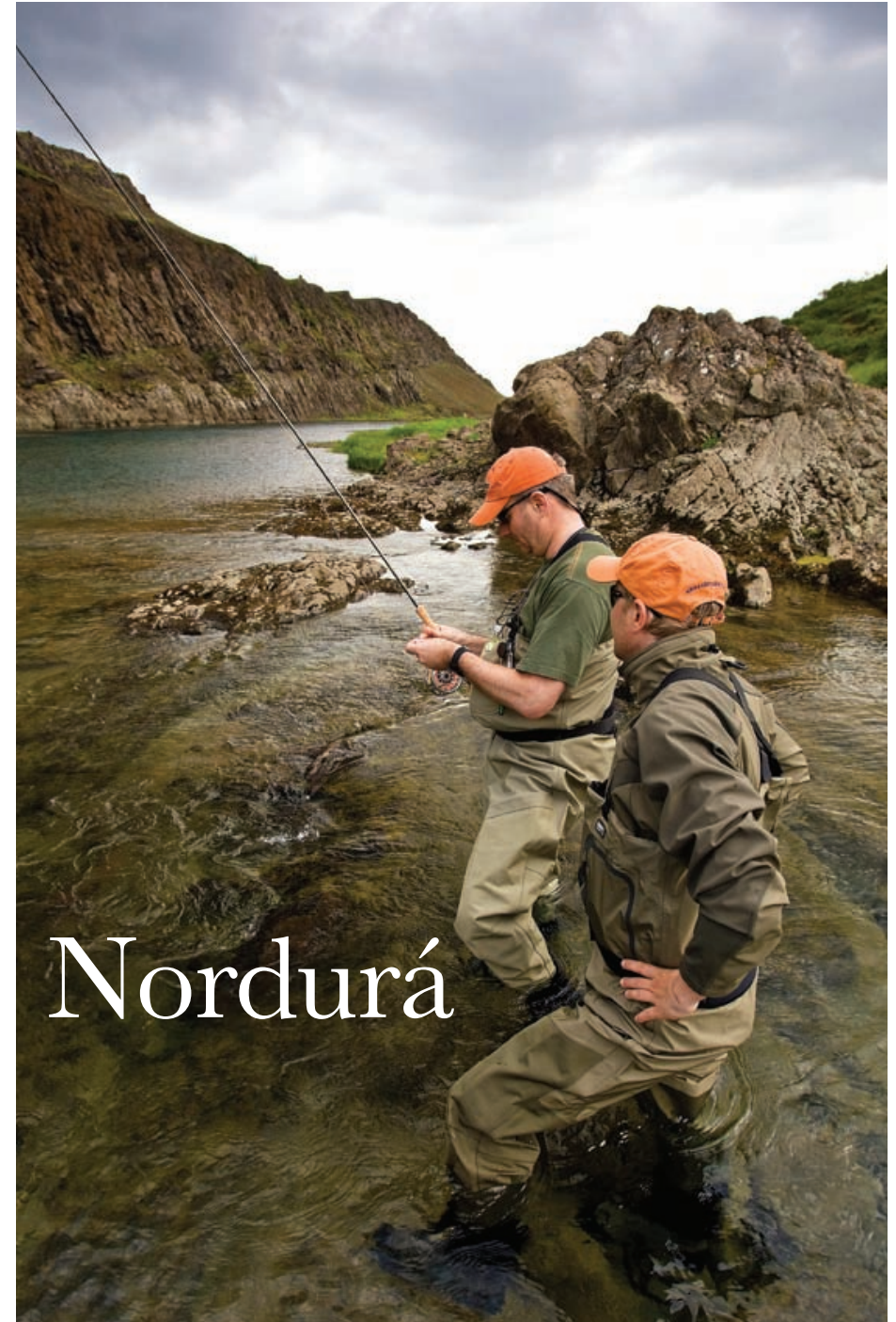
INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING SPECIALISTS



Iceland

With the highest concentration of self sustaining Atlantic salmon in the world, Iceland, ‘the land of fire and ice’, has played host to British fly fishermen since the early 1900s and has become an annual pilgrimage for many anglers. Their passion is fuelled by the crystal clear rivers and prolific runs of fish. I am delighted to present a selection of salmon, sea trout and trout rivers that we consider offer some of the finest fishing in Iceland. These rivers encapsulate why fishing in Iceland is so special; clear water with light tackle and small flies allows the angler to see, as well as feel, the mystery of the take.

A number of years ago Aardvark McLeod formed a partnership with the Reykjavik Angling Club. Formed in May 1939 the club is currently the largest leaseholder of rivers in Iceland with 47 rivers in its portfolio including 26 salmon rivers. As a non-profit making organisation maintained by a local membership of 3,700 fishermen, it has continued to expand over the years. Our unique partnership allows us exclusive access to its rivers and we can offer tailor made packages to single anglers, pairs or groups.



Nordurá

WHEN: *Season runs from 5th June to 5th September with end of June to the beginning of August considered prime time.*

PERFECT FOR: *Small two handed rods, larger parties, high catch returns, fine food, spectacular scenery, one hour from Reykjavik.*

As Iceland's top producing natural river Nordurá averages 2,500 salmon a season to its 12 rods and has over 100 named fishing pools on its 65 km length. The river offers an incredibly diverse fishing experience; from the lower canyon to the wide Rio Grande-like bends of the mid section to the technical rock pools and runs of the upper canyon. Being a wider river than some of its neighbours, it lends itself well to small two handed rods as well as single handers, and remains particularly consistent through poor water conditions. The comfortable lodge and excellent food only add to its reputation as the crème de la crème of Icelandic fishing.

The Langá á Myrjum is 36 km long with 93 named pools. Located in the same area as Nordurá it is a typical Icelandic salmon river offering technical fishing with small flies. The Langá averages 2,150 salmon a season and fishes 12 rods in July and August, and eight rods in June and September. To make all the pools accessible roads have been built so fishermen can drive to within 50 yards of each one. The modern lodge has 12 twin rooms with ensuite bathrooms. The best chefs in Iceland are recruited to ensure that guests are thoroughly pampered, and the food is simply outstanding.

WHEN: Season runs from 22nd June to 24th September with mid-July to early August considered prime time.

PERFECT FOR: Single handed fishing, vehicle access to most pools, easy wading, consistent catch returns.



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Stóra Laxá



WHEN: Season runs from 18th June to 26th September with July to early September considered prime time.

PERFECT FOR: Larger salmon, sea run char, two handed rods, hotel or self catering options, walking access to pools with technical wading.

The Stóra Laxá is one of the few rivers in the south of Iceland that produces large salmon. Much of the river winds its way through steep canyons and extraordinary rock formations providing one of the most spectacular backdrops in Iceland. This is a physically demanding river split into four beats and fished by ten rods. For those willing to explore the canyons on foot it can be very rewarding with a good number of multi sea-winter fish lurking in its clear pools. As the river runs cold larger flies are usually more successful.



Tungufljót

WHEN: Prime time is early September to the end of the season on 20th October.

PERFECT FOR: Large sea trout, sea run char, two handed rods, self catering four bedroom rustic lodge, vehicle access to pools with easy wading.

Tungufljót is Iceland's premier sea trout river and produces fish of a similar size to Argentina. This exclusive four rod river flows south through a pair of canyons so narrow that at points you can almost jump across, before finally widening into pools at Bjarnarfoss. Here the river bed is mostly gravel, punctuated by the odd boulder making perfect lies for sea trout. Lower down it widens into idyllic fly water through gravel bars and can be fished from both sides. The river offers fantastic sea trout fishing producing sea trout up to 20 lbs with an average of 6-8 lbs.





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WHEN: Season runs from 20th June to 20th September with mid-July to mid-August considered prime time.

PERFECT FOR: Small groups, single handed fishing, easy access to most pools, easy wading, multi sea-winter fish, consistent water flow.

Hítará

The Hítará is another of the country's best-known salmon rivers. Though an average-sized river, it has a long and remarkable fishing history, dating back to when British gentry started fishing in Iceland. Hítará is a typical Icelandic river with complex currents, clear pools, small flies and technical fishing over its 29 km. The river accommodates six rods on the main salmon section and is ideal for private parties.





Laxá i Dölum

WHEN: *Season runs from 1st July to 25th September with mid-July to mid-August considered prime time.*

PERFECT FOR: *Small groups, single handed fishing, easy access to most pools, easy wading, consistent catch returns, multi sea-winter fish.*

Laxá i Dölum is a medium sized 26 km river famed for its large stock of fish, with a number of multi sea-winter salmon over 20 lbs caught yearly. Many pools are deep and gin clear, typical of Iceland and all the pools are easily accessible by vehicle. The river averages 1,450 salmon a season to six rods. Prime time is July and August as the season is a little later than its neighbouring rivers. Accommodation is in a fully serviced, comfortable lodge, featuring six double rooms each with a private bathroom, a comfortable dining and sitting area, sauna, and the customary three course gourmet dinners.

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Laxá I Kjos

Laxá I Kjos is one of Iceland's true gems. Fished by only ten rods, and with an average catch of 1,220 a season, it has over 100 named pools on its 17 km length. It is considered to be one of the most technical salmon rivers in Iceland and if you have a passion for fishing small flies and hitching, then the Laxá I Kjos will become your playground. The small Bugda stream flows into the river 2 kms above the mouth adding an extra facet to the fishery for wild brown trout and salmon. A new lodge overlooks Klingenberg pool and is simply one of the finest in Iceland; more akin to a boutique hotel than a fishing lodge.

WHEN: Season runs from 25th June to 20th September with mid-July to mid-August considered prime time.

PERFECT FOR: Single handed fishing, easy access to most pools, excellent sea trout fishing as well as salmon, second river, outstanding lodge.

Fnjóská



Winding its way through rocky canyons before emptying its cool water into the sea, the Fnjóská is a perfect salmon and sea run arctic char river. The 40 kms of fishing are split into two sections; the lower for salmon and the upper for sea run arctic char. This challenging river has runs of 7-8 lbs fish with occasional salmon up to 20 lbs. The river is stunningly beautiful as it powers its way down its course, and the strong current can produce some exceptional battles. This eight rod river is perfect for a small party looking for a challenge and the prospect of a big fish.



WHEN: *Season runs from 20th June to 20th September with July and August considered prime time.*

PERFECT FOR: *Larger salmon, sea run char, two handed rods, hotel or self catering options, vehicle access to pools, technical wading.*

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Laxá I Adaldal

The Laxá I Adaldal or “big” Laxá as it is also known is located in the north of Iceland. It has a reputation as being ‘the big fish river’ of Iceland, most weeks producing salmon of over 20 lbs. Large and wide as the name suggests, it is perfect for those preferring traditional two handed salmon fishing. Pools for the most part are grass banked, easy walking with a relatively even bottom. The intermittent lava shelves that drop away, hidden from someone reading the surface, create some excellent lies. The comfortable Nes Lodge has eight bedrooms and some of the finest food of any lodge in Iceland.

WHEN: Season runs from 1st July to 20th September with mid-July to mid-August considered prime time.

PERFECT FOR: Multi sea-winter fish, two handed rods, floating lines, excellent food, easy access to pools with easy wading.

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Above the famous salmon beats of the Laxá I Adaldal are two trout sections called Laxárdal and Mývatnssveit. These two areas combined have over 20 miles of fishing divided into 15 beats, each accommodating between one and three rods. Every year numerous 5-7 lbs trout are caught, with the occasional 8-9 lbs fish making an appearance. The lower section Laxárdal is wide and shallow, similar to a bonefish flat. The upper section at Mývatnssveit is braided with fast runs, pocket water and crystal clear water. These beats are served by two lodges, Hof and Raudholar, both of which are simple and comfortable. The brown trout in the Laxá I Adaldal feed hard during the short summer. This does not make them stupid, but by matching the hatch you have a good chance of experiencing some of the best trout fishing in Europe.



WHEN: Season runs from 1st June to 31st September with the end of June to the beginning of August considered prime time.

PERFECT FOR: Large wild brown trout, upstream dry fly and nymph fishing, single fisherman as well as groups.



Laxárdal & Mývatnssveit



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