



## TAIMEN FISHING IN CENTRAL SIBERIA

**Go on the hunt for the taimen, the world's largest salmon in spectacularly isolated Evenkiya, one of the last true wildernesses on earth.**

Imagine a place so remote, and so exquisitely untouched that much of its geography and ecology still remains a mystery. A place where elk, bear and wolf are the lords of the forest, and the taimen, one of the world's most legendary game fish, is lord of the rivers. This place is Evenkiysky (Evenkiya), a far-flung district in eastern Krasnoyarsk. This extraordinary region is one of the last strongholds of Eurasia's fabled wildlife, where save for a few rural settlements, roads and civilisation are but a distant memory. Sprawled over a staggering 767,000 square kilometres (an area the size of Turkey), Evenkiya is home to just 17,000 people. The northern part of the district is covered in pristine alpine taiga, and it's here, where the rivers run fast, deep and clear, that intrepid anglers can fulfil their quest to catch the fabled Siberian taimen. Getting to prime taimen country isn't easy, but this tour will take you there, on the adventure fishing trip of a lifetime! From the region's administrative centre, Tura (population 5,500), you'll be taken by helicopter to the Kotuy River. Like true pioneers, we'll journey by motorised raft deep into the undisturbed forests of Evenkiya, scouring the Kotuy and its tributaries for the deep pools where taimen lurk, along with other species such as brown trout, white salmon, sturgeon, grayling and pike. The largest member of the salmon family, the taimen holds a special place in the mythology of the Siberian people. Its cunning and fierce strength make it one of the most challenging fish to land – catching one has long been considered a gift from the heavens.

The taimen is a voracious, swift and powerful predator, preying not only on fish, but birds and small mammals, launching itself from the water to catch them on dry land. The largest caught have measured up to 200cm long and a whopping 100kg. Here in Evenkiya, our expeditions have caught and released taimen up to 150cm in length – but who knows, you may bag an even bigger one!

*The remote rivers of Siberia and Mongolia are some of the few places left on earth that support relatively stable taimen populations. As a travel company with a commitment to sustainable tourism 56<sup>th</sup> guests must adhere to a strict catch and release policy when catching trophy taimen. However, there are plenty of other excellent table fish in the Kotuy river that you are welcome to catch, keep and eat.*

### TOUR DURATION

12 days / 11 nights

### GROUP SIZE

6 people

### REGIONS VISITED

Krasnoyarsk region

### START CITY — END CITY

Krasnoyarsk – Tura - Krasnoyarsk

### SEASON

May - October

### TOUR CATEGORY

Adventure tour

### PRICE

From **US\$ 6850\***

\* price p/person, based on 6 people in the group and will vary less than 6 travelers.

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## DAY 1: WELCOME TO SIBERIA

Arrive in Krasnoyarsk City and transfer to our accommodation. Explore, rest, relax and prepare for the big journey ahead.

Russian author Anton Chekhov judged Krasnoyarsk to be the most beautiful city in Siberia, and most would agree. Surrounded by forest and mountain landscapes, Krasnoyarsk is the cultural and economic centre of Eastern Siberia. The city streets, parks and fountains are arguably even more beautiful winter than summer. We visit the historic city centre, the quay, the Chapel of St Paraskeva and the Krasnoyarsk Railway Bridge. Part of the Trans-Siberian Railway, it crosses the Yenisei River and was awarded a gold medal at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900 (the same award has also been given to the Eiffel Tower).

### MEALS INCLUDED:

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## DAY 2: TRAVEL TO TURA VILLAGE



Today we fly from Krasnoyarsk City to Tura, a small rural settlement that serves as the administrative centre of Evenkiya. From here, we board our helicopter and fly to our starting point on the Kotuy River. Please note, in case of adverse weather conditions, the helicopter flight may be delayed by one or two days. If this is the case, we may have to deduct consequent days from the fishing trip. However, you are welcome to extend your fishing trip for up to 5 days if the schedule of the group permits.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

— — D.

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## DAYS 3-10: FISHING DAYS

Eight days of fishing in paradise! We explore the pristine Kotuy River on motorised rafts, seeking out the haunts of Evenkiya's legendary giant taimen. Your guide on this intrepid expedition is experienced in tracking taimen based on their behavioural patterns, weather conditions and the water level in the river. Camp by the river, tell fishing tales by firelight and sleep beneath the stars.

**MEALS INCLUDED:**  
B, L, D.



## DAYS 11-12: WAY BACK TO KRASNOYARSK

Return helicopter flight to Tura. Depending on our arrival time and weather conditions, we may fly back to Krasnoyarsk in the evening and stay overnight. Alternatively, we will overnight in Tura village, with the possibility of a short excursion to nearby pike fishing spots.

Depending on our schedule, we will either fly from Tura to Krasnoyarsk airport today, or transfer from our hotel accommodation in Krasnoyarsk to the airport.

**MEALS INCLUDED:**  
B, \_ \_

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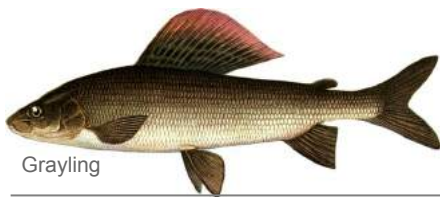
**SIBERIAN TAIMEN (TROUT)**

Siberian taimen can be fished in Mongolia and most of Siberia. Whereas Mongolia has become a popular destination for taimen fishing, most of the sportsmen don't realize, that the best taimen fishing and the largest trophies are found in Russia. There are few reasons for this.

First, taimen prefers rivers with variable depths, which allow it to seek deeper, cooler waters during hot summer months. It also likes rivers with a relatively fast current. Mongolia is a dry country with few such rivers.

Second, taimen is a very territorial fish. Once it finds its own pool, it tends to stay there or close to it for the entire season. It quickly learns tricks employed by fishermen and once it gets caught and released it tends to avoid being caught again. Because all of the fishing camps in Mongolia are stationary camps it means that sportsmen have a limited number of pools to fish within a reasonable distance from the camp. Taimen fishing in Russia on the other hand is usually organized as rafting trips with helicopter drop-offs. This not only allows fishermen to fish from different pools during the trip, but also allows outfitters to choose different segments of taimen rivers, or different rivers, which exist in the hundreds.

And most important: the IGFA record belongs to Russia.



Grayling

**GRAYLING - (*THYMALLUS THYMALLUS*)**

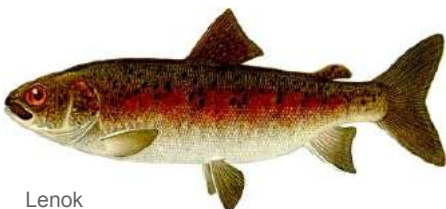
The grayling is essentially a river fish and prefers clear, well-oxygenated water in the upper reaches of rivers with sand or gravel bottom. A strikingly colored fish; the dorsal surface is steel blue shading to silvery-green on the sides and silver ventrally. The sides of the body have stripes of violet and in breeding season, the colors are heightened with the dorsal fin having an orange-red margin.



Whitefish

**WHITEFISH - (*COREGONUS CLUPEIFORMIS*)**

This is a member of the salmon family, as can be noted by the presence of the adipose fin and pelvic axillary process. Overall coloration is silvery to satiny white with olive to pale greenish brown on the back. The back may be dark brown to black in some inland lake specimens. The mouth is subterminal and the snout protrudes beyond it. Because the head is small in relation to the length of the body, older fish may develop a hump behind the head; thus the name "humpback".



Lenok

**LENOK - (*BRACHYMYSTAX LENOK*)**

The lenok, *Brachymystax lenok*, is much easier to find and fish for. Similar in size and coloration to brown trout, it occurs in abundance in all clear flowing rivers of Siberia. It will take a variety of patterns with little hesitation and provides great sport. Both Siberian taimen and lenok are newly recognized sport species by the International Game Fish Association, with record book entries a distinct possibility and bonus for fly anglers visiting Russia.



Pike

**PIKE - (*ESOX LUCIUS*)**

It is considered a delicious food fish. The flesh is sweet, white and flaky, but like other members of its genus, it sometimes has a "weedy" or "muddy" taste during the summer months. This taste is probably due to the skin mucus and can be eliminated by removing the skin prior to cooking. It has considerable commercial value and is an excellent sport fish. Pike are usually taken by trolling with large spoons, plugs or natural baits, but casting and still fishing are also frequently successful

\* price p/person, based on 6 people in the group and will vary less than 6 travelers.

## INCLUSIONS

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Registered fishing license for each day of fishing
- All transfers
- Helicopter flights to and from the Kotuy River
- 8 days of rafting and fishing
- All meals while camping, prepared by your guide
- Solar 450 and 550 motor boats with Tohatsu 30l / s, 18l / s and 2.5 l / s engines (depending on the route)
- Lifejackets and first aid kit
- 1 120L hermetic bag per person for personal items
- All camping equipment (tents, sleeping bag, generator, camp utensils, campfire gear etc.)
- GPS navigator and detailed maps
- Satellite phone for emergency communication
- Experienced, local tour guide
- Russian visa support letter

### NOT INCLUDED

- Fishing tackle
- Optional extension of fishing trip
- International flights
- Domestic flights
- Hotel accommodation
- Insurance
- Visa fees

## WHAT TO KNOW

### VISAS AND PERMITS

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All foreigners require a valid Russian visa to visit Russia for tourist purposes. For most travelers, a tourist visa (single or double entry is valid for a maximum of 30 days from date of entry) is what you will attain.

Getting a Russian visa involves 3 easy steps: Invitation, Application and Registration.

**Please note, if you book a tour with us, we will supply you the Visa support document, FREE OF CHARGE.**

\* In case you just need a support document without a tour itinerary, the simplest, most comprehensive guide to [getting a russian visa is here](#).

### INSURANCE

You must have medical travel insurance to travel with 56<sup>th</sup> Parallel. You'll need to supply details of your travel insurance policy to your tour group leader before embarking on your Siberian adventure. It's extremely important that your chosen policy covers all aspects of the trip you're undertaking. We recommend contacting your insurance provider for advice if you're not sure which policy to take out.

### LOCAL TOUR LEADERS

56<sup>th</sup> Parallel employ local Siberian tour leaders, guides and drivers. This way, we're able to provide much-needed jobs within Siberia's fledgling tourism industry, while our guests benefit from our guides' intimate knowledge of the regions we visit. All our key staff are English speaking, and we absolutely encourage you to engage them with your questions and cultural comparisons. A great rapport with your tour leader goes a long way to making your holiday experience truly memorable.

### TIPPING

Tipping of guides, drivers and hotel/restaurant staff is up to your discretion. While it's not considered compulsory in Siberia, a tip of 5-10% is reasonable if you're happy with the service provided. Tipping is common in restaurants and makes up a significant part of the take-home pay for wait staff.

### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

At 56<sup>th</sup> Parallel we are firm believers in sustainable tourism and responsible travel. Our tours and tour leaders are committed to an environmentally and culturally sensitive approach to visiting wilderness areas and local communities. Please visit our Sustainable Tourism page (<http://www.56thparallel.com/how-we-travel-russia/sustainable-tourism/>) for more information.

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## ABOUT THIS INFORMATION

All information here is provided in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, our itineraries and accommodation sometimes have to be adjusted according to booking availabilities, weather conditions and other factors. We do our best to keep all the information on our website and information kits up-to-date, but please be aware that things can change at the last minute. We encourage you to contact our customer service team if there's anything you need to be sure of – we're always happy to help!

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