

Huntin' For a Fishin' Trip?

Follow these guidelines to create the trip of a lifetime!



By Alaska Premier Charters, Inc. • www.wildstrawberrylodge.com

T able of Contents

Introduction.....	1
When to Book.....	2
Location.....	3
Sportfishing Seasons.....	4
Style of Fishing.....	5
Length of Fishing Trip.....	6
Fishing License.....	7
Travel Considerations.....	8
Lodging.....	9
Meals.....	10
Fish Processing.....	11
Fishing Gear.....	12
Crew Size & Experience.....	13
Boat Comfort.....	14
Non-fishers.....	15
Packing Checklist.....	16
Fishing with Alaska Premier Charters.....	17



“ **BOOK A FISHING TRIP THAT WILL
GIVE YOU AMAZING MEMORIES
WITH THIS HELPFUL GUIDE.** ”

Bonus Information.....	18
Resources.....	19

Introduction

It's the trip of a lifetime—fishing in Alaska! You want to make sure you get all the details planned out before you go, so you can spend your days fishing and your nights telling fishing stories. No worries, no hassle, just your absolute dream fishing vacation!

Booking your trip is not something you want to take lightly. Similar to any other special vacation, finding the absolute perfect fishing charter requires careful research and planning.

The following guide will give you helpful pointers for booking your next Alaska fishing trip. It offers specific information about what to ask your potential guide, and covers every important point, to make sure that you don't forget anything.

At the very end is a packing checklist to assist you in the final preparations of leaving on the best fishing trip of your life.

Happy fishing!



“ START PLANNING TODAY, SO
YOU GET YOUR ABSOLUTE
DREAM FISHING VACATION! ”



When to Book

Many fishing lodges start booking up well before the fishing season starts.

Schedule your trip up to 10 months in advance, as spaces start getting tight when the season approaches—especially for prime season dates.

When you book early, you have a much better chance of reserving your preferred dates. Return clients can request a favorite captain; there is a higher probability of securing that captain for their chosen dates when they arrange it several months in advance.

Quite often, you can squeeze in a last-minute trip, if the lodge has extra openings, but to play it safe and avoid scheduling conflicts, book as early as possible.

Alaska Premier Charters takes reservations up to two years in advance, and continues to book up to and through the season, as availability permits.

Our fishing season runs from early May until mid-September. Every month has something special to offer. Some dates will fill up very quickly. May, early June, and early September usually have the best availability for last-minute trips.



“ ENSURE YOUR PREFERRED DATES AND/OR FAVORITE CAPTAIN BY BOOKING EARLY! ”



L

ocation

One of the first things you have to decide is where you want to go. Even if you know you want to go to Alaska, it's a huge state, so you want to pick your city with care.

In order to decide location, consider what type of fishing you want to do, and the species of fish you would like to catch. From there, it's necessary to do research to figure out where the best places are for the kind of fishing you are looking for.

The place to go for World Class Saltwater Fishing for salmon and halibut is Sitka, Alaska, due to its unique location jutting out into the Pacific Ocean. Of all the king salmon and halibut sport caught in southeast Alaska, 40% of them are landed near the outer coast of Sitka.

The land's geography makes great feeding grounds for fish migrating down the outer coastline. They bump into the Cape and stay there, feeding all summer long. Sitka is also the hot bed for silver salmon, "barn-door" halibut, lingcod and various rockfish.

Alaska Premier Charters is located in Sitka, Alaska.



“ SITKA IS THE PLACE TO GO FOR
WORLD CLASS FISHING FOR
SALMON AND HALIBUT! ”



Sportfishing Seasons

When planning a fishing trip, take into consideration that different fish species are more available at certain times of the season. Plan the timing of your trip to coincide with the fish species you are most interested in catching.

Find out what fish species your charter will target each day; some target all species every day and others only go after one per day.

If you are not as particular about what type of fish you want to catch, you can save money by planning your trip during the discounted times of the season (usually near the season's beginning or end).




































Typically, with Alaska Premier Charters, you will target both salmon and halibut daily. You can expect to catch other fish as well, such as lingcod and a variety of rockfish.

We offer "Buddy Specials" during May, June, and September. With the Buddy Special, you receive a discount of 10% to 20% off per person on your entire trip when you come fishing with a buddy.

The following chart shows the type of species we typically catch and when they are most available in Sitka.

Sitka Sportfishing Seasons

The size of the fish indicates abundance in Sitka waters.

SPECIES	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
King Salmon					
Silver Salmon					
Chum Salmon					
Pink Salmon					
Halibut					
Lingcod	— 		— Closed —		
Rockfishes					
Sharks					

* Note: This chart is based on local experience and is subject to fluctuation. Actual fishing during any given day or week may vary due to fish runs, ADFG regulations, water conditions, weather or other natural causes.

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“ THINK ABOUT WHAT FISH YOU WANT TO TARGET DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR TRIP. ”



S

tyle of Fishing

Do you want to participate in exhilarating hands-on sportfishing? If you want the satisfaction of hooking, setting the line, playing the fish, and pulling it in, you want to make sure your charter uses a suitable style of fishing.

“Mooching for King Salmon” and “Soaking for halibut” are key phrases you want to listen for. If you want to be able to set your own hook, do not go with a guide that trolls with down riggers.

Alaska Premier Charters takes special pride in being both skilled King Salmon “Moochers” and excellent at soaking for, and pulling in, great halibut.

These fishing styles are very hands-on and easy to learn. You will get great personal satisfaction from fishing this way. The captain and deckhand on board will coach you, and help you out as necessary, but you can expect the absolute thrill of fighting your own fish.



**HANDS-ON SALMON FISHING,
CALLED ‘MOOCHING,’ IS VERY
EXHILARATING!**



Length of Fishing Trip

There are multiple reasons why one day of fishing might be better than the next day, so you should plan for at least three full days of fishing. This gives you better odds for things like good weather, catching fish runs and beating motion sickness. An “off” day is okay, because you can make up for it the other days.

You want a package with full days to fish, not half days, because there is generally not enough time to get to and from good fishing grounds and still leave ample time for fishing in a half day trip. When your package says, “3 days / 4 nights,” that should mean you arrive the afternoon before you start fishing, fish three full days, and leave the day after your last day of fishing.

At Alaska Premier Charters, we typically fish a full day, which is 10 hours, dock-to-dock. Our most common package is the 3 day / 4 night option. Longer fishing vacations are also possible.

Contact us for custom packages, including full fishing days plus extra days for sight-seeing around Sitka, if you wish.



“ LEAVE AMPLE TIME
FOR FISHING BY CHOOSING
FULL-DAY CHARTERS. ”



Fishing License

The best fishing lodges will include your non-resident fishing license in the package price and take care of purchasing it for you. This saves you hassle and added stress, and ensures you are a legal fisherman.

If your lodge does not mention the fishing license, make sure you ask about it so you are not surprised by an extra fee or legal trouble by fishing without a license.

Alaska has several different non-resident fishing license options, including one day, three consecutive days, seven consecutive days, fourteen consecutive days, and full year licenses. If you fish for king salmon, you will also need a king salmon stamp, which usually will cost you a little extra.

Our packages at Alaska Premier Charters include your fishing license. When you book a trip, we will ask you for the information required to process your license, and have it ready for you upon your arrival. King salmon stamps are not included in the package price, but are recommended, especially for fishing May thru mid-August.



“ GET A PROPER FISHING LICENSE FOR THE TYPE OF FISH YOU’RE TARGETING AND THE AMOUNT OF DAYS YOU ARE FISHING. ”

T

Travel Considerations

Double-check the location of your charter. Be aware that some are in remote locations and require additional transportation to reach them. You may have to take a smaller private plane or boat from the main airport, which could mean longer travel time, more expense and stricter baggage requirements.

Sitka is a direct flight (approximately three hours) from Seattle, Washington, via Alaska Airlines. Alaska Premier Charters is situated a short 5-10 minute drive from the airport. (We provide transportation to and from the airport.)

For those with more time and inclination to sight-see, Sitka is also accessible by ferry through the Alaska Marine Highway, with boarding points in Prince Rupert, Canada; Bellingham, Washington; and Juneau, Alaska.



**SITKA IS AN ISLAND WITH A
DIRECT FLIGHT FROM
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**



Lodging

When not fishing, you will be spending a lot of your time in your lodging quarters, resting up for the next fishing day. Find out if your fishing package includes lodging, and whether you will be in a private lodge or put up in a hotel.

Ask if you're staying near the harbor your boat leaves from, and if not, how you will get there. Ask if you will be in a dorm-style setting or have a private room and private bathroom. How much interaction will you have with other fishing guests? It's always fun to share fishing tales!

Our fishing packages include lodging at our privately-owned Wild Strawberry Lodge, to which we will provide transportation. The lodge is located right at the harbor where we dock our boats.

The lodge can accommodate 34-40 guests at one time. There are eight private rooms in the main lodge, each with their own bathroom. There are also two separate self-contained lodging facilities for larger groups who want their own space.

You will have Wi/Fi and guest computers with Internet access, massage chairs, Cable TV and free laundry facilities, as well as open access to the lounge area where you can mingle with other guests and our friendly staff.



COMFORTABLE LODGING WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AFTER A FULL DAY OF FISHING!



M

eals

Some charters include meals in their package prices and others don't. Find out before you go whether you'll have to pay extra for (or provide your own) breakfast, lunch and dinner. Also, if dinner is provided, know that it may be served in-house or may take the form of restaurant dinner vouchers in town.

At Alaska Premier Charters, all meals are included in your package price and prepared in-house, except dinner on your arrival night. (We will give you restaurant recommendations and provide transportation for your arrival night dinner.)

A full hot breakfast will be prepared for you each morning to gear you up for a great day. For lunch, we will prepare fresh deli sandwiches for you on the boat with a variety of meats, cheeses and vegetables, home-baked cookies, snacks and hot or cold beverages. Your dinner each night is a banquet of flavorful seafood and non-seafood, prepared by our in-house Chef.

The following is a typical dinner menu:

- **Appetizer:** Reuben turn-overs;
- **Salad:** Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad;
- **Seafood #1:** Beer battered halibut with tartar sauce;
- **Seafood #2:** BBQ Salmon;
- **Non-Seafood:** Roasted Prime Rib;
- **Sides:** Steamed broccoli with cheddar sauce; Honey glazed carrots, Twice baked potatoes, Honey-wheat bread;
- **Dessert:** Cheesecake with Cherries.

You can always have seconds at no additional cost.



“ ENJOY FRESH ALASKAN
SEAFOOD, PREPARED BY OUR
IN-HOUSE CHEF! ”



Fish Processing

The best-tasting fish is that which is bled and gutted as soon as possible after catching it, then flash-frozen to preserve the quality of the meat.

As fishing is the main reason for your vacation, you want to make sure you know how your fish will be taken care of. Some charters don't offer processing services, and others have you pay extra to process your fish. Still others put a limit on free processing and charge you per pound if you go over the limit.

Know before you go what will happen to the fish you catch and how you will get it home.

After catching your fish and taking all the pictures you want, your fish will be put in competent hands to be taken care of.

We have a fish processing room right on site, where we clean, fillet, vacuum-pack in meal-size packages, flash-freeze and box all your fish for you as part of your fishing package. We offer custom processing as well—just ask.

The most economical way to bring your fish home is as checked luggage on your flight home. We will bring it to the airport for you and help you check it in. The frozen boxed fish will last up to 24 hours, which should be enough time for you to get it into your home freezer.



“ GET YOUR FISH PROPERLY
PROCESSED FOR THAT FRESH
ALASKAN TASTE! ”

Fishing Gear

If you don't want to bring extra baggage with you on your trip, book a fishing charter that supplies all relevant fishing gear, foul-weather clothing and rubber boots. Not only can these items be heavy and bulky to pack, but they can be expensive to buy if you don't already own the proper equipment.

We provide all high-end fishing rods, reels, gear and bait you will need to catch a bounty of fish. Our boats are fully equipped with state-of-the-art electronics to aid in getting on the fish.

We will also provide you with raingear: bib bottoms, hooded tops and rubber boots to protect you from ocean spray, rain, and fish slime, blood and guts. Boot sizes range from size 3 to 17, and raingear goes from small to 4XL.



**STAY WARM, DRY, AND
COMFORTABLE ON THE WATER
WITH PROPER RAINGEAR.**



Crew Size & Experience

Successful fishing is not just based on luck and weather. For a really quality fishing trip, consider how many years of experience the company has and how knowledgeable the boat crew is. How long have they been running and guiding charters? How well do they know the local area and fishing grounds?

Also think about the level of personalized service you will receive. Is there just one captain onboard, trying to help everyone out at once? Or is there also a deckhand to assist in baiting hooks and gaffing and filleting fish?

Alaska Premier Charters has been in business for over 21 years. Theresa, the owner, has been on the water for most of her life, starting as a deckhand in her teenage years and working her way up to Captain. She has personally trained numerous captains and deckhands, showing them how to provide top-notch service and get on the fish.

Each of our six vessels has a captain and deckhand and can carry 4-6 clients. This allows for more personalized service from the crew and prevents overcrowding. Our captains are all U.S.C.G. certified and have over 64 years of combined local captaining experience. They will make sure you're safely taken care of, teach you the proper way to fish with our gear, and give you guidance and assistance to get your fish in the boat. They are also full of fun and have great personalities.



“ YOUR KNOWLEDGEABLE
FISHING GUIDE WILL WORK
HARD TO GET YOU ON THE FISH. ”

B

oat Comfort

As you will be spending most of your day on the water, it's important that you are comfortable onboard your fishing vessel. Find out what kind of boat will you be on.

Ask, Will it have an on-board head? Can you walk all the way around the boat to follow your fish? Is it big enough to accommodate everyone in your party? How fast is the boat? Will you get out to the fishing grounds in a timely manner, or will you spend half of your fishing day traveling? Your guide should be happy to answer these questions for you.

Our fleet consists of 6 charter vessels, all fully equipped with state-of-the-art electronics and all quality fishing gear. Four are custom fishing vessels, made right here in Sitka to exact specifications. They are 30 feet long and outfitted with twin Yamaha 225 hp four-stroke motors, have on-board heads and full walk-around decks, and can comfortably accommodate six guests in the heated cabin. The names of these four boats are: "Triple Play," "Checkmate," "High Roller" and "Full House." Please specify you want to fish on one of these boats, to guarantee a spot.

The "It'I Do" is a 35-foot vessel, also with a spacious walk-around deck and plenty of room for six people plus crew. All clients can fit in the cabin at the same time. This boat is set up with Twin Mercury Verado 250 hp four-stroke motors. The It'I Do has a porta potty in the cabin.

Our sixth boat is the "Hunter." It is a 25-foot fiberglass vessel and runs on a single Mercury Verado 275 hp four-stroke motor. It can carry four guests, plus crew, and has a porta potty in the cabin.



“ YOUR COMFORT ON THE BOAT
IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT
OF AN ENJOYABLE TRIP. ”



N on-Fishers

Maybe your spouse or a friend doesn't like to fish, but really wants to take a vacation with you. See if you can bring them along! Some fishing lodges let you come with a non-fishing guest, sometimes at a reduced rate, while others are strictly for their fishing clients.

Or maybe you are interested in a family vacation with your kids where you don't necessarily want to fish every day. Some lodges offer custom fishing + non-fishing options. Look into it.

We welcome "Non-Fishing Guests" lodging with a "Fishing Guest" at a special reduced rate of \$165 per person, per day, for their non-fishing services. This includes all meals and local personalized transportation.

Sitka is a small town of 8,500 people, but has many conveniences of larger areas. There are a number of fun things to do and see, including historical museums, a chocolate factory, shopping, hiking, float plane rides, a raptor center and more, along with spectacular scenery and incredible bear viewing.

If you want to take a day off from fishing and join your non-fishing guest in taking in the sights, that is also an option. We can help arrange a custom package to create the perfect vacation you are looking for.



“ YOUR SITKA VACATION WILL BE AN EXCITING ADVENTURE FROM BEGINNING TO END. ”

Packing Checklist

Pack as lightly, warmly, and comfortably as possible. Try to minimize your checked luggage, because often your processed catch will be coming home with you on the plane as another piece of luggage.

When you fish with Alaska Premier Charters, we recommend traveling to Sitka with a carry-on only. Dress is casual and comfortable. We will provide all necessary fishing gear, raingear and boots so you can leave these bulky items at home.

Some items you may want to consider packing:

- Clothing you can layer for easy adjustment to weather changes and temperature swings
 - Warm jacket with hood
 - Fleece vest
 - Long sleeve T-shirt or sweatshirt
 - Breathable polypropylene undergarment
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots
- Good thick socks, or wool socks
- Stocking cap
- Waterproof gloves
- Camera



PACK WISELY SO YOU STAY
WARM AND COMFORTABLE AND
HAVE ROOM FOR SOUVENIRS.

- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Seasick medication (if needed)
- Personal items, toiletries, etc.



Fishing with Alaska Premier Charters

Let us provide you with a complete Alaskan saltwater fishing and lodging vacation. It will be completely hassle-free and all you have to do is enjoy yourself. You will be glad you came!

For three full days of fishing and four nights of lodging, the cost is \$2,395.00 per person, plus taxes. Also, at certain times of the season, we offer a "Buddy Special" with 10-20% savings off the regular package rates. Call us for more details.

Choose Sitka as the best place to come sportfishing, with its strategic location on the outer coast of Southeast Alaska. And choose Alaska Premier Charters as the best choice to fish with. We are ready to show you our Genuine Alaskan Hospitality and the best fishing trip of your life!

The name Alaska PREMIER Charters is not taken lightly; Theresa has the experience, know-how and staff to ensure your lodging and fishing experience in Sitka will create everlasting memories.

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“ FROM THE PERSONAL ATTENTION YOU PROVIDED PRIOR TO OUR ARRIVAL, TO THE PACKING AND DELIVERY OF OUR FISH, EVERYTHING WAS TRULY EXCELLENT. ”

- R.D.H.

Bonus Information

There are many ways you can keep yourself informed and get in on special deals. The following insider tips will help you save even more money, provide you lots of additional information about your charter, and get you even more excited for your upcoming trip!

Kids Specials

Often kids can fish for a reduced rate if they fish with an adult.

Sign up for eNewsletter

Get emails throughout the year, with special eNewsletter-only deals and offers.

View Catch of the Day

See what Alaska Premier Charters is catching on a daily basis during the summer fishing season.

Read Blog

Stay informed with fishing reports, special events and happenings at the lodge.

Web Deals

Some specials are only offered online. Read the website carefully for special discounts.

PFD Sale

Typically in the fall, Alaska Airlines advertises an incredible airline sale for travel to or from Alaska. Sign up for our mailing list, and we will let you know when this sale runs.



“ STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME BY
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF INSIDER
TIPS AND TRICKS. ”

Tipping

Gratuities are usually not included. A recommended amount is 15% of your package price, depending on quality of service.

Souvenirs

Buy everything you need right at the Wild Strawberry Lodge: sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats, cookbooks, jewelry, and more...



R esources

For further information regarding fish species, regulations, licensing, and general fishing in Alaska, visit the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website.

ADF&G Homepage

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.main>

Sitka, Alaska Fishing Regulations

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs//southeast/sesitka.pdf>

Southeast Alaska Fishing Regulations

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.se_sportfish

Statewide Alaska Fishing Regulations

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.sport>

Alaska License Information

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.general>



“ FIND MORE INFORMATION
FROM THE ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME. ”