

TRIP REPORT - FERNIE: ALAN SPIEGELMAN

Josh and I have a wonderful trip. Here is some feedback for you:

1. Island Lake Lodge was really nice. We had a great room, with a deck overlooking the lake and the Rockies.
2. While the accommodations were great, the food was mediocre. They had a nice menu, but the preparation left a lot to be desired. I guess we're just too spoiled with the great food in SF.
3. The fishing was terrific. We spent our first two days on the Elk, fishing with Curtis on the first day and Joel on the second. Curtis is terrific - really a great guide. He is the same guide that my friend, Tom Parry, has used for the past two years. Joel was fine - we caught a lot of fish, but he is younger, less experienced, etc.
4. We fished the Michel on Wednesday with Andre. Great guide - very funny, personable, and he worked really hard to get us fish on a day that the fishing was slow, changing flies, tippet, spots, etc. We had a great day, and it really is a pretty little stream. Got some good sized fish there, the largest about 18". The biggest one we caught on the Elk was 20".
5. Jeff was very accommodating of our needs. I was a little disappointed that we didn't get to fish with him, but the other guides were great, so it really didn't matter.
6. We had a late flight out of Calgary on Thursday, so Josh and I played golf at the Fernie Golf course on Thursday morning. A really pretty course, not too difficult, and we had a great time.
7. Everyone - the people at the lodge, the guides, the people at the golf course, the shops, etc. were really friendly and accommodating.

All in all, we had a terrific vacation. Thanks for putting it together. I'll be calling you in a few months to plan next summer, when I hope to bring both my boys with me. Josh had a great time and I think he is now hooked on fly fishing. He said he'd go back in a minute, so I now have a partner to fish with. The guides were really helpful in teaching us - Josh learned how to fish and I picked up a lot of good tips on casting, etc.

I hope this information is useful to you. We can talk about next year in the fall. I really liked the idea of mixing some floats with some walk and wade, having golf available, fishing in spots where it isn't too crowded, staying in nice places, etc. Maybe we'll try other spots in Canada or Alaska next year, or maybe a place in Colorado, Wyoming, or Montana that has private waters. I'd be interested in your thoughts, so, when you have some time, send me some web links to places that you think might fit the above and I'll discuss them with Josh and Adam. Probably late June or early July, or mid-August next year.

...Alan

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