

TRIP REPORT - FERNIE: JOSH LUFTGLIDDEN

Hi Don,

My trip to Fernie was like 10 kinds of awesome....

First off, the accommodations were first rate. Jeff upgraded me to a 3 bedroom condo with a private jacuzzi! The jacuzzi proved to be a key asset as I returned home each day tired and sore.

The fishing was also first rate. The first two days I floated the Elk with J.D and Jeff. The first day we floated the Elk through Fernie. I landed about 15-20 fish, all on dry flies (Elk Hair Caddis mostly). The average fish was in the 15", with the largest fish of the day coming in at 18".

The second day we floated the upper Elk where the fish were bigger and the fishing was even better! I caught about 20-25 fish, again all on Elk Hair Caddis. The average fish was in the 17-18" range, with the largest being a 22" bruiser hooked in about 18" of water!

The third day I went on a walk/wade trip with Curt to the Michel and Alexander creeks. The fish were a trifle smaller, but I still managed to catch several fish in the 20" range. The Alexander proved to be the better location. The creek was a bug factory and we didn't see another soul the whole afternoon. We just moved from hole to hole, catching the 1 or 2 dominant fish in each hole and moving on. I probably caught another 20 fish that day.

The fourth and final day, I took a trip with Joel up to the Wigwam in search of Bull Trout. The Bulls did not disappoint and the fishing was red hot all day.... I landed something like 15-20 monster Bull Trout. The average fish being around 28", with the two largest fish coming in at 34"-35". The fishing was so hot at one point that I was hooking a fish every 2-3 casts! The last fish of the day proved to be the biggest and hardest to net. He took off downstream as soon as he was hooked, and at one point he had me 100+ yards into my backing. We finally netted him almost a full mile from where he was hooked!

In fact I have plenty more pictures (w/ higher resolution) I can show you if you are interested.

Josh

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