

Frontiers[®]

The Ponoï River

Ryabaga • Brevyeni • Purnache



The Ponoï River

Ryabaga Camp

Russia's Kola Peninsula

The Ryabaga Camp on the Ponoï River epitomises all that we love about a remote fishing experience: the excitement of a true wilderness location yet an oasis of comfort, hospitality and fine cuisine; a totally wild Atlantic salmon population that is thriving – where the efforts to care for the stocks really do show positive results; and a team of people who are not only interesting and inspiring to be with but whose attitudes to service, work ethic and team spirit have been described as 'uplifting'.

Well into its second decade of operation in one of the most logistically complex parts of the world, under the stewardship of the Ponoï River Co, the Ryabaga Camp on the Ponoï River has achieved extraordinary recognition.





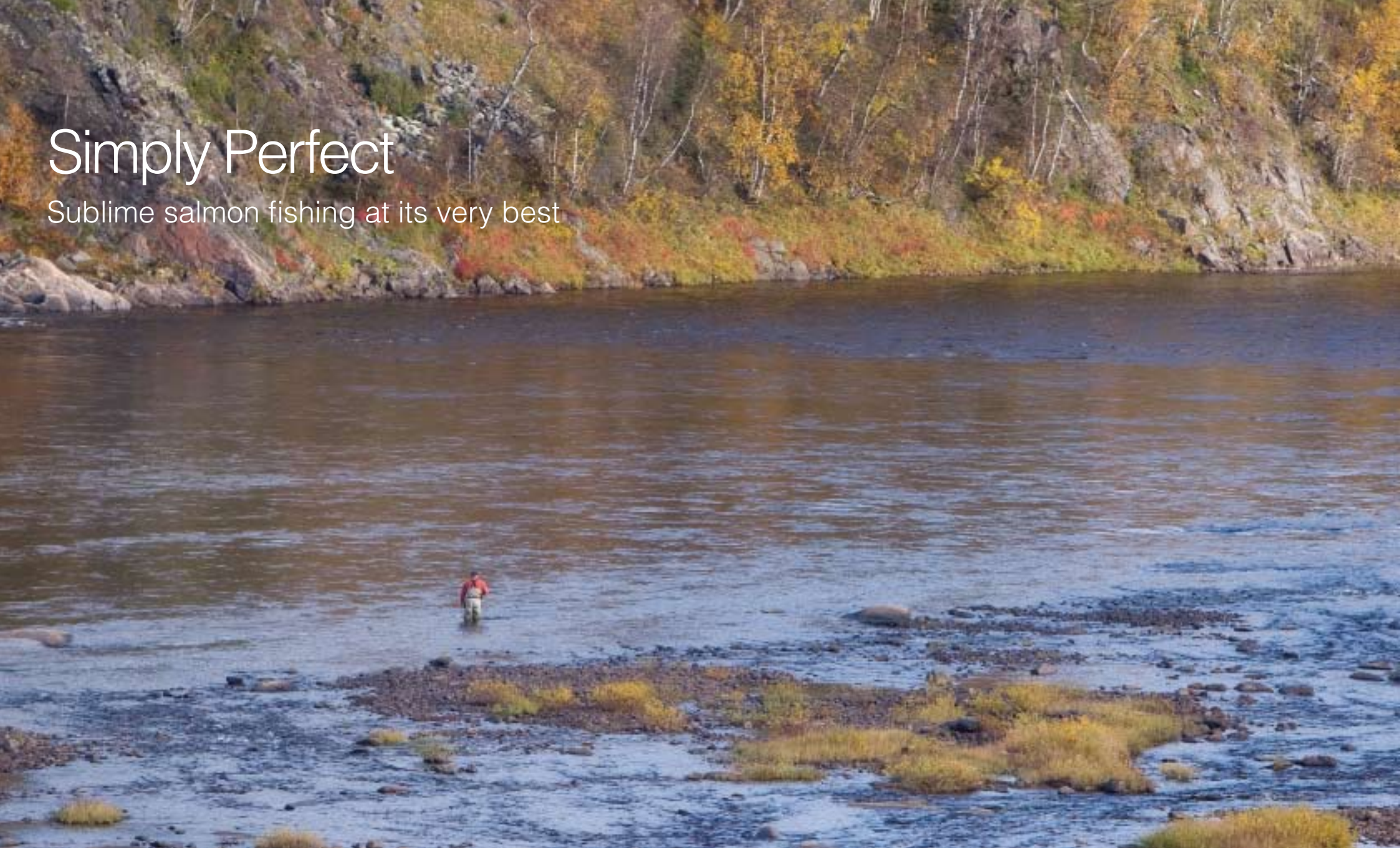
Mechanic & Barman

Sergei Suryadov & Sergei Shemakin not only take care of the wood, welding etc but Shamakin is the barman in the evenings too! They have a combined 24 years in camp.

Most favoured job: Back-up for the guide team.

Simply Perfect

Sublime salmon fishing at its very best



The Fishing

Ryabaga Camp has a well-deserved reputation for phenomenal Atlantic salmon fishing. It offers remarkable numbers of fish, placing it statistically as the most productive river in the world, with balanced catches from grilse all the way to plenty of good-sized fish up to the 30lb mark. It encompasses all the methods of fly fishing, from long casts with double-handed rods to more delicate single-handed rod fishing with skated flies, the occasional upstream dry, endless wading or fishing intimate spots from boats. In this wilderness there is no poaching, no pollution, netting or any other obstacles. Our water is fly fishing only, and we adhere to strict catch-and-release policies.

Over 37 miles (61 km) of double-bank water offers guests unprecedented fishing. Beats are accessed using 17-ft jet boats, by hovercraft or Mi-2 helicopter for the most distant beats.



Head Guide

Max Mamaev has become a famous, internationally recognised, guide from Tierra del Fuego to Ponoï, guiding for over a decade. His wife Lena also works in camp as the masseuse.

Favourite spot on the river: The Cash Dispenser, Gold Beach.







Ryabaga Guide Team

Our friendly and experienced guides



Our Guide Team

For many, a vitally important aspect in their enjoyment of the Ryabaga experience is the calibre of the guide team. Our team of 12 is a combination of excellent English-speaking Russian guides who have been with us for many years, some since the first year of operation, and talent drawn from all over the world. All guides are fully trained and highly experienced. They are able to teach all aspects of Atlantic salmon fishing, from fly tying to the use of single- and double-handed rods and all forms of spey casting.

Guides are intimately involved in the scientific work on the river and are therefore able to discuss the life cycle of the Atlantic salmon and their unique movements on the Ponoï. As well as being teachers, you will find your guide great company on the river, sensitive enough to leave you in peace if you wish or fun to chat with.



Guide

Chris Lindstrom is the ultimate crazy, obsessed salmon fisherman. Born in Sweden with a rod in his hand, Chris has risen to legendary status in his two years on the river.

Pastime when not salmon fishing: salmon fishing.





Experience the Ponoï

For the well-seasoned salmon fisher or for the beginner, there is no better choice than the lower reaches of the Ponoï. Not only do the repeat client profile and quality of service attest to this fact, but the catch statistics do too.

These take into account guests from six to 91 years old, from first-timers to the most experienced. They reflect those with unlimited enthusiasm and those who take their time and enjoy the river.

While there is no doubt that the Ponoï will challenge and reward the experienced and aggressive Atlantic salmon fisherman, we must also emphasize that there is simply no better place to learn to fish for these great game fish, and to build confidence and develop long-term skills from real-life encounters.



Manager's Assistant

Misha Timoshenko joined the Ryabaga team in 1992 as a washer-upper. He now speaks perfect English and is a senior guide and translator with over a decade on the river.

Other favourite occupation:
Time with son Sasha.

Dedicated Conservation

Maintaining the health of the Ponoj



Caring For The River

The Ryabaga Camp is pioneering in its dedication to the conservation of the river. In conjunction with the Polar Research Institute of Murmansk, the Ponoï River Co, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the largest tagging project of its kind for Atlantic salmon has been in operation for many years. An eighth of all Atlantic salmon tagged globally in a given year are done so on the Ryabaga water and the information gathered has not only benefited this river but the international effort to conserve Atlantic salmon.

About 1500 salmon are tagged by the guides each season and all are recorded by the resident scientist who carefully monitors influential ocean temperatures, and assesses the results of the recaptures so that the guests can hear the history of the tagged fish they have caught. A succinct scientific presentation is given each week to the guests.



Scientist and Guide

Sergei Prusov has overseen the huge amount of scientific work done on the Ponoï since 1994. Each week he gives a slide presentation on the river, its salmon and his work.

Favourite time of year: May to October, the rest is too cold!





Ryabaga Camp

The camp itself enjoys almost as much recognition as the fishing. The Pono River Co has created a luxury wilderness operation in what must be one of the most remote locations. Its crew of 30, includes five mechanics, three chefs, four housekeeping staff, a massage therapist and doctor; each is highly trained and dedicated to offering the best possible service to our guests.

Every effort has been made to make sure the camp and its staff have the best possible equipment with which to operate and ensure the finest food and amenities are available. Without the support of this camp team, we recognize that, no matter how good the fishing or the guide crew is, what has been achieved at Ryabaga Camp would not be possible. We are proud of them for their hard work and ingenuity in managing to keep the camp running perfectly with fantastic food that would be the envy of any first-class city restaurant.



Key Admin Contact

Heather Unruh is the key administrator for all travel to Pono. She works from the US Office of Frontiers and speaks excellent Russian.

Most enjoyable part of the job:
Speaking to happy clients on their return.







Relax in style

First-class sporting accommodation

Accommodation

Relax in spacious American-made tents with carpeted wooden floors. Each tent features two extra-wide, handcrafted beds with comfortable mattresses, premium arctic sleeping bags with flannel sheets and over-sized Finnish down pillows. Each tent also has a wood-burning stove that is lit for guests before they rise in the morning and in the evening before they return from fishing.

The camp has a luxurious shower building and a Russian sauna that our guests always enjoy after a long day on the river. There are many facilities including a drying room and a fully-stocked tackle shop that is often the hive of fishing tales in the camp. The Big Tent, as we call it, is the social centre of the camp. It plays host to the dining room, bar and evening activities, such as the fly-tying bench and music if a staff member or guest can be persuaded to play.



Head Chef

Lloyd Martin travels all the way from Brazil to head up the kitchen. In the winter he does specific catering for private clients, when not catering he is a kite boarder and a biker. He learned to fish on the Ponoï in 2006 with his biggest fish to date, an 18lb Fall run.

Favourite dish: Hot smoked salmon - the camp speciality.









Private Camps

Perfect for private parties

Brevyeni

The Brevyeni Camp is located on the most attractive water on the Ponoï, close to the mouth of the river. It enjoys 8 miles (12 km) of private water laced with big rapids, fine riffles and mouth-watering runs ending with a fine tail before the river rumbles towards the sea.

The camp is perfect for eight rods or less with single cabins provided for each fisherman, full shower and flush toilet facilities, as well as a fine Russian banya. There is also a fully-stocked tackle shop in the dining tent. An English-speaking staff is dedicated to each group ensuring full flexibility.

Like the rest of the main river, the beats are almost wadable from start to finish though they can also be fished from the boats used to access the beats. A perfect option for private parties.



Chief Mechanic

Sergei Zhurin began camp life at Ryabaga as one of the two Mi-2 pilots. He also used to fly in Antarctica for tourist ships during their summer. His wife Natasha works in the kitchen.

Most critical job: Clean fuel.





Private River

Complete Independence

Purnache

Imagine having a 15+ mile (25 km) salmon river to yourself and your party of four.

The Purnache is a wonderful classic river of rapids and pools bouncing their way towards the Ponoï main stem. The prime time window is small, from early June through to mid-July but the Purnache is a key Ponoï tributary with excellent numbers of fish of good sizes.

Guests have two options to fish this wonderful river. Either by floating and camping for most of the week, but with a comfortable Ponoï-style camp to use as a break from camping, or staying the whole week in camp floating specific sections of the river each day and being transported back to camp in the evenings.

Either way, time on the Purnache is very special with spectacular bird and wildlife and beautiful water.



Guide

At 6ft 'Little' Dan Podolsky was brought up guiding with his father Nick, the Umba fish carver. He joined the Ryabaga team in 2004 and has become a top guide and caster.

Choice of one fly for the river:
Ally's Shrimp





A final word...

Living in the Russian Arctic, we know that weather can change fishing conditions and we have grown adept at adjusting to ensure that our guests have the best possible fishing – the river is truly generous in that regard. However, we have focused on all that we can control and have strived to provide a memorable experience for our guests. No expense has been spared nor service opportunity missed to make the Ryabaga the finest fishing camp in the world.

Fishing at Ryabaga is wonderful in so many ways but there is no question in our minds that what brings our guests back each year is the complete experience. The standard of service, food and accommodation all contribute, the wonderful dedicated guides, indeed the whole crew all make up the experience, the fun and the buzz. Ryabaga has an extraordinary ability to send people home laughing.

Ponoi - For memories that will last a lifetime.



Camp Team

Lena Oginissian and Masha Ogarkova are key members of the camp crew ensuring the guest experience is always as perfect as possible. Lena is the camp masseuse.

Best day in camp: A sunny day off for sunbathing!

Frontiers

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