

Ouzel Expeditions, Inc. Guiding fly fishers on untouched wilderness rivers in Kamchatka since 1991

2011 Prices and Itinerary

2011 is Ouzel's 21st continuous year in business in Kamchatka sharing her, huge Rainbows with world anglers. Ouzel's commitment to first class service remains our top priority. We run the highest quality expeditions. We provide the best equipment, food, service and guides for your comfort.

Ouzel's trips are the best way to fish Kamchatka's rivers. We have a staff of 7 with a group of 8 fly fishers. Ouzel's camps are excellent and include: kitchen tent, shelter tarp and large sleeping tents all set up for you. Our expert staff prepares the meals, does the dishes and all camp chores. All you have to do is fish and relax!

We've been told our float trips are the best in the world by experienced guests, many who have owned their own guide services. Our SOTAR rafts (State of the Art Rafts) are the best in the business. We serve three hot delicious meals each day. Our meals are Russian food at it's best. Soups, salads and main courses are hearty yet heart healthy. Many a guest has told me that the food on the river is better than anything in the restaurants in Russia.

Our guided rafts take you to places otherwise impossible to access. We go where jet boats cannot. Two guests per raft fish with a seasoned helpful fly fishing guide. Our guides have many years of experience and are expert fly fishers who love their jobs. Some of them have been with us for 21 years now! After breakfast, you wade down river fishing. Shortly camp is packed and your raft and guide is back with you. Near the fishing days end the guides & rafts go ahead to help the kitchen crew set up camp. Either ride along or wade fish the river another hour into camp.



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Travel Ouzel's trips originate in Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka. We meet you there. Red Star Travel will be happy help you schedule your flights. Red Star does an excellent job. The Moscow route has the most options and is the best way to go. You can get to Moscow from major hubs 7 days a week. Aeroflot and Transaero fly 7 days a week from Moscow to Petropavlovsk, weekends there are 3 flights a day. Many airlines fly to Seoul Korea. From Seoul you can fly to Vladivostok then to Petropavlovsk. There are direct flights from Tokyo to Petropavlovsk two days a week. You may experience overnights along the way from any direction.

Where should I fish in Kamchatka, which river? We have found several excellent rivers. Each week we float one of them. Our years of experience, mobility, and licenses on a variety of rivers greatly benefits you. Outside of the Zhupanova River we still have not ever seen any other sports fishermen on any of our float trips! That's quite a feat in this day and age. With Ouzel you aren't locked into any single river like a lodge or a fixed base float trip. Some rivers we float are large and we can float them way upriver, in the middle or down river, wherever the fishing is the best that week. Other rivers we fish are fantastic Spring Creeks that never go muddy and have incredible dry fly fishing. Many rivers we float contain Rainbow reaching over 30 inches! Some beautiful crystal clear rivers are high in the mountains while others are tea colored on the tundra.

When is it best for Rainbows in Kamchatka? The trout fishing is great all summer and fall. Truth is: Any week from late June through early October could be the best of the season. It's the weather and life cycle of the salmon that drive the wheel that feed the Rainbow. Without the salmon there wouldn't be large Rainbows. Angling success is controlled by weather and food supply. When is it the very best? When the water is low and clear and there isn't too much food for the Rainbows to eat. Salmon run timing varies from river to river and year to year. Between salmon runs is often a hot time for Rainbows. We have great rivers all during the summer for Rainbow fishing. Salmon? We can help you decide when to fish for Salmon depending on what you're after, give us a call. One thing for sure, it's not Ouzel's first rodeo. Our past 20 years experience have taught us a thing or two.



The **Kapushka River** is the Kingdom of Giant Rainbow Trout! Over it's 70 miles course we sometimes only float 13 miles in a week it's so good. It has the biggest Rainbow Trout we've ever seen in Kamchatka. Even better, there are lots of them and it's the most wading friendly river I've ever seen! It's shallow and wide with a pumice and gravel bottom strewn with few boulders. It flows wide and is knee deep through most of it's course. Vast rolling mountains and volcanoes flank the shore of this ever clear spring creek. It doesn't ever muddy. We even get to soak in a healthy hot spring in one camp. All in all, it's a real good bet.

Robust Rainbows average 24 to 26 inches here and we've caught them up to 35 inches in length. Char, Kings, Sockeye, slivers and Chum Salmon all spawn in this magnificent river. If you like big Rainbows, this is your dream river!



The **Kartushka River** begins deep in tall mountains flowing in a single channel through a tight valley. Not much braiding. Wading is very favorable. It cruises with class 2 to 3 rapids mixed in. We discovered the tiny Kartuska's splendid scenery and precious habitats. The Kartuska is a "gem" of a river, It has lots and lots of thick Bows that Average 21" and go up to 28". More bows per mile than any other river I've seen in Kamchatka. There are not that many Char in this river. If you enjoy clear moving streams teaming with Rainbows & unexpected elegant landscapes this is your river. The upper river looks a little like the Middle-Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. It's gorgeous!

There are descriptions of other rivers in our color brochures.



Exploratory Trips WE WERE THE FIRST TO EXPLORE many of Kamchatka's rivers: Zhupanova, Medved, Moroshechnaya, Sedanka, Opala, Kolpakova, Kartuska, Oblukovina, Goligna, Kunjavaya, Morkovka, Vakhil, Sheshey, Kol, Sopochnaya, Tigil, Kamchatka, Malkenskaya, Elovka, Kalgauch, Utkholok, Kvachina, Storozh, Avacha, Nalcheva, and Plotnikova to mention a few.

Why not explore Kamchatka's untouched vastness with Ouzel. After all, we've been doing exactly this for the last 20 years in Kamchatka! We've been doing this in Alaska for 34 years. Our completely state of the art camps make our exploratory trips extremely comfortable. Be sure to ask about these trips. The spirit of exploration is our last name:

Ouzel Expeditions



Includes: Helicopter flights, sleeping tents, kitchen tents, meals, private transportation in Kamchatka, full time interpreter, fully guided fishing. We can provide sleeping pads, cots and waterproof bags if you need them. Vodka and beer provided on the river in limited amounts. We carry a satellite phone for emergency communications.

Not Included: Flights to Russia, fishing license, gratuities, personal gear or personal liquor supply. Hotel stays & meals in Petropavlovsk are not included but are arranged for you and cost you about \$200 per day. You pay for these in Kamchatka



Schedule for our 8 day trips: These are Kamchatka dates: July 16-23, July 23-30, July 30- Aug 6, Aug 6-13, Aug 13-20, Aug 20-27, Aug 27-Sept 3, Sept 3-10 Sept 10-17 Arrive in Petropavlovsk on Saturday morning, the first day of your scheduled trip and helicopter right to the river.

Thursday you fly to Moscow and on to Petropavlovsk arriving in the morning.

Saturday, Day 1: We fly to the river landing right at it's edge. The guides get the rafts ready while thecooks prepare a nice hot lunch. We can get fishing right away. Next, we have lunch and camp right there or float on down the river on our adventure.

Sunday, Day 2: - Friday, Day 7: Coffee at 7, breakfast shortly after eating pack your bags. Show your guide where they are and wander off, fishing down river. Shortly, camp in packed up by the guides. Your raft and guide is back with you. Two guest per raft and highly trained guide. Wade and float leisurely down the river fishing your way through islands and back sloughs. 8 days and 7 nights on the river.

Saturday Day 8: On the last day you can fish till the helicopter gets there. As the chopper sets down in our final camp, you will have experienced the trip of a lifetime in Kamchatka! Helicopter back to Petropavlovsk. Checking into the hotel, shower and go out for dinner. Time permitting we have a private guided tour town.

Sunday Day 9: You fly home from Kamchatka today arriving back in the US on **Monday**.

Eight days, seven nights. Friday through Friday in Kamchatka

Please call 1-800-825-8196 for current prices.

Fishing license(approximately) \$160



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A little history of Ouzel Expeditions in Kamchatka

WE WERE THE FIRST WESTERNERS TO GET INTO KAMCHATKA. THAT WAS IN JUNE OF 1991! Kamchatka was off limits because of strategic military installations under a Communist government. That first trip we didn't know what to expect. Would there be big runs of King and Silvers? Were there strange and new species of fish? We really wanted to find a wonderful stream with some great fishing. We have found so many. We could hardly keep the giant Rainbows off our hooks while fishing for Salmon. We caught East Siberian Sea Run Char called Khundza. We were very impressed! **Ouzel Expeditions pioneered the use of Russian MI-8 helicopters to access Kamchatka's vast wilderness. We were the first western company to operate trips of any kind in Kamchatka.** These huge helicopters can carry as much gear as 6 Beaver loads and can cruise at 150 miles an hour! Our entire group could be transported to just about anywhere with a small flat spot to land. We could literally access any river large enough to get a raft down.

Ouzel introduced catch and release angling to Kamchatka as well as the use of Russian helicopters to access it's beautiful rivers for fly fishing. Ouzel's on going studies with Kamchatka Fish & Game have discovered Kamchatka's "special" sea run Rainbow populations.

September 17-30 **1992 Ouzel Expeditions caught the first Steelhead in Kamchatka!** Ed Exum, Yvon Chouinard of Patagonia fame and a whole group of hearty Steelheaders went along! There's an article about it on our website. Look soon, there will be lots of pictures of that trip!

We had very good luck of discovering a river called the Zhupanova. We fished it for years before seeing others there. Sometimes we took 2 weeks to float the whole river, top to tidewater. Later, we floated the upper to the middle river most of the time, when the Cedar Lodge started operating lower down river. That section has large deep holes where sinking tip lines and heavy rods work well. It's great fishing down there but I still prefer the upper river for fly fishing for Rainbows. We worked with Kamchatka Fish and Game for years and still do. We' tagged, weighed and measured Rainbows in the Zhupanova from 1993-2002. We caught many Rainbows over 30 inches over the years. These extremely large fish had amazing girth. These extra large Rainbows go to sea at 3 or 4 years of age to feed and grow very large for 3, 4 or 5 years before returning to fresh water. Once these fish return to the river they remain there for the rest of their lives and we've documented these living up to 12 years of age! I called them coastal rainbows for the lack of a better term. Normal rainbows die of old age at 6 or 7 years. These are not traditional steelhead. The are bigger than most Steelhead in the Deschutes River and heavier by about 2 or 3 pounds. We have found only three rivers in Kamchatka with these same species of extra large old aged Rainbows. I will bet there are more!

Years of exploring Kamchatka has shown us rivers better and worse than our old standard, the Zhupanova. Ouzel was the first and always the leader in Kamchatka. It's been exhilarating being in on the ground floor of sport fishing in Russia. Today Kamchatka is world famous for its excellent fly fishing. Many of our guests have called it the best Rainbow Trout fishing in the world! We invite you to join us and see Kamchatka for yourself.



Guest Testimonials Gordon Cox M.D.

“The fishing was really good if you like big fish. The rainbows were migratory rainbows that were following the large run of Chum Salmon. The rainbows averaged 24 inches in length and ranged up to 30 inches. The fish were real “toads” with girths averaging 16-17 inches. The average fish was 6-7 pounds in weight. The size of the rainbows and the current of the river necessitated using eight weight rods to handle the fish properly. Fortunately all you needed was a floating line.”

Jerry Estruth

“About noon, I decided to fish on top with mice and verminators. With these flies, I was able to eliminate the char and I started to get into rainbows which averaged 26”. Pretty soon we were all ‘mousing.’ What a thrill to see them smash the floating mouse and then jump, jump and jump again. They looked like a rainbow colored side of beef leaping out of the water. Each of us averaged 10 to 15 of these enormous trout a day. Although the trip fish was 32 ½ inches long, we all caught trout over 30 inches, probably once or twice a day.”

Eric Rauch

“My brother no more than wet his line and I hear "FISH ON!" as a 5-pound dolly varden breaks the surface mid river. Little did we know this was just a teaser. We fished the next few hours downstream taking several fish in the ‘grande’ category which persuaded us to give up on our nets as the 24 inch baskets were simply too small and the handles cracked under the weight of the foreign fish. We turned back to camp around 7pm, late for dinner, but full on adrenaline. This awesome scene played out daily for the next 8 days, while we caught more and larger fish as we continued down river. Most days averaged 20 or so trout, 25 - 28 inches and 10 - 14 lbs., with as many dollies in between as you wanted to catch. Again, simply incredible. Of course, the end came all too quickly but my arms and shoulders begged for a break. As the chopper set down at our final camp sight I knew I had experienced a trip of a lifetime in Kamchatka, Russia.”

[These quotes are out of 3 complete stories. Read their whole stories on our website.](#)





Trip of a Lifetime? Looking for that unparalleled angling adventure to Kamchatka? Ouzel's years of experience tip the odds in your favor. After all, we've been there since before the Iron Curtain fell. Many of our guests have told me, **"I dream about my trip with Ouzel every day of my life!"** My guides tell me the same thing. Today the lure of Kamchatka's pristine wilderness fishing is even greater.

"At last I have a happy died-in-the-wool fisherman husband for he has found a place where he can catch a 30 inch plus rainbow on a fly rod in sparkling clear water where there is no one else around for miles and miles. It was a fabulous trip Paul, and what we appreciated most was your experience and ability to make everything run smoothly in a land where traveling could be very difficult." Lorraine Elliott 1992

"The coolest part about Kamchatka is it's like stepping back in time to a bygone era when no one has fished out any of the rivers. It's beautiful too and still just as wild as it ever was! Every trip I just have to sit down on the river bank and shake my head in wonder!" 2009 - Paul Allred

Reservations: Give us a call: **1-800-825-8196 Paul & Sharon Allred**. We like talking about Kamchatka. Call us for references we have thousands. Our past clients can help reassure you that our trips are right for you. Our program is really the best in Kamchatka. Live the dream and join us for your trip to Kamchatka. Space is limited and booking up early this year. Give us a call today.

Ouzel Expeditions, Inc. Or you can email us: paul@ouzel.com

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Girdwood, Alaska 99587 Be sure to check out our website: www.ouzel.com