

Long Beach Casting Club Fish the Missouri River in Montana with Trout Montana September, 2017



BIG SKY, BIG FISH, BIG FUN!

with Mike Bushley @ Trout Montana, LLC

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DATES - September 10th–15th. Sunday through Friday. Arrive Sunday and check out Friday morning—float fish Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

INCLUDES - 5 nights Lodging and 3 days drift boat fishing +1 free day to wade or sightsee. Lunch and drinks are included on drifting days.

EXTRAS - Your Transportation, Meals, Tips, Guide tips, Fishing License, others

COST - 5 nights lodging and 3 days drift boat fishing +1 free day **\$1100.00 MORE? -**

- A fourth day of drifting can be arranged through Trout Montana fly shop
- This trip is limited to 10 anglers.
- **A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit is due ASAP to hold a spot on this trip.** Make check payable to the Long Beach Casting Club
- Contact Art Daily for details at: DAILYA42@YAHOO.COM.

TROUT MONTANA MOTEL

With our new Denver Mattress hospitality beds, fresh Montana air and, when it's a little crispy outside, air conditioning in each room, you will sleep like a baby. Each motel room has its own private bath. No walking down the hall with your robe and having the door lock behind you with no key. New 40" flat screens with cable television are in each room too. Five rooms have two queens. One has a queen and a twin XL. One has two twin XL beds.

We even have an apartment across the street available for multiple night rentals. "The Bungalow", has a private bath, 50" flat screen, a full kitchen with dishwasher, all the cooking gear, a barbecue grill outside, picnic table under a nice shade tree, living room, and two bedrooms with three twin XL beds. A perfect longer term get away for 3 people.

OUR FACILITIES

Trout Montana is located in Cascade, Montana, population 707. SAA-LUTE! Unlike Kornfield Kounty and most areas on the Missouri River, however, Trout Montana has 4G wireless service and super-fast fiber optic internet access.

Down the street in Cascade, the Sportsman's, Angus and Driftwood all serve food and have an excellent selection of your

favorite spirits. Tom's Market is right next door, where you can get your provisions during your stay. Tom's is a full service grocery store, selling beer, ice, and gas for your day on the river. Cascade also boasts a bank, post office, library, mechanic shop, a couple of retail stores, and all the services you expect in a rural Montana town. Trout Montana even has a laundromat and car wash.



The most popular dinner spot in Craig, pop 32, is **Izaak's Restaurant**, which serves incredible BBQ, amazing steaks as well as seafood and pasta specials. Izaak's has an excellent wine selection and full bar that is a popular after fishing hangout for both guides and anglers. The **Oasis** and the **Frenchman & Me** in Wolf Creek are the other two dinner spots in the area.

Great Falls International Airport is only 20 miles from town. Direct flights reach us in short order from Minneapolis, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Denver.

Everything, including some good fishing, is within easy walking distance of our fly shop and motel.

ABOUT US

Coming into Cascade BIG SKY. BIG FISH. BIG FUN. Words to live by. Montana. Really big trout. And a whole lot of fun. We've known it for a long time. A really long time. Montana's newest fly shop may also be the oldest. Between Mike and Kirk, we have over 80-years of fly fishing experience; 65 of them on the Missouri. Tired from working 12 hour days painting the fly shop, Kirk's wife Beth said, "What were we thinking at our age?" Simple. Mike wanted his own gig, and it was time for our favorite Missouri reach to have some services. The locals have known for years.

This part of Montana's Missouri River is awesome fishing. Cascade was the natural choice. Never been a full service fly shop here. And it is the best location for a fly shop and motel on the Missouri. Good water. High speed WiFi; 4G cell service. Three restaurants and bars. No resort tax. A grocery store and gas station next door. Hell, Cascade even has a bank. Wow. It couldn't get much better. So, when our good friends Pam and Terry Curnow were ready to sell the former Badger Motel and Café, we jumped at the opportunity. We closed the deal in late February 2014. Proud owners of a motel, a café, laundromat, car wash, and a big dream. We spent two months working on the café building to turn it into one of Montana's premier fly shops. We think we succeeded. Come see us to find out. The motel is our current project. Between running the fly shop, shuttles, guide trips, boat rentals and a whole lot of fun, we are slowly remodeling. New beds. New flat screens. New carpeting. Air conditioning. We think you will like the rooms. Cascade is now our home. The community has welcomed us with open arms. We love it here. We think you will too. BIG SKY. BIG FISH. BIG FUN. Come experience the Missouri with Trout Montana.

TROUT MONTANA FLY SHOP

Finally. A traditional fly shop that actually sells flies and all the materials and equipment to build them. We carry all the stuff. If we don't use it ourselves, you won't find it in the shop. Over the years we have tested a lot of stuff. Some of it good, some of it not so much. But the great tools for fishing, are here in our shop.

Patagonia, Free Fly, Ouray, Imperial Hats, Buff, Columbia and Darn Tough socks fill our apparel lines. You will find cold, hot, warm and rainy weather clothing and equipment.

We are also the only place on the Missouri where you can get the new fly rods from Douglas Outdoors. The Douglas DXF 5 weight is sweet. Come in and take one for a test drive on the lawn. We would be lying if we didn't admit to owning 30 Winstons apiece. So, of course we sell 'em. TFO and Hardy rods also grace our rack.

Hatch, Abel, Hardy and Lamson reels are in our displays. Drag overkill? Maybe, but who doesn't want the peace of mind of just knowin' its there when you need it?

Dr. Slick, Loon, C&F Design, Fishpond, Frog Fanny, FlyAgra, Renzetti and Griffin tools and baubles are available. Uni, Ultra Wire, Danville and Ultra Thread fill out our thread and wire selections.

Costa and Fisherman Eyewear sunglasses are found here, so you can find them (fish that is). For the less than visually acute in the near distance (we feel your pain), we have Clic readers, Hat Eyes and VisorMags. Spirit River beads and cones, for those "weighty" problems. Fish Skull streamer heads are the new hot thing.

Daiichi, Dai Riki, Tiemco, Mustad and Gamakatsu hooks provide a selection for even the most persnickety fly tier.

Scientific Anglers, Airflo and Teeny lines hang on the wall. Yeah, we have the newest and greatest. Call us to spool you up with a new Sharkwave line. Trout Hunter, Maxima, Scientific Anglers and Airflo leaders and tippet are ready for your day (4.5X? Really? That's what we thought . . . until we tried it. Pretty cool.).

Flies? We got a lot of 'em. 2,400 fly bins grace the center of our store. We hand select flies specifically for the Missouri and surrounding waters. You won't find flies from the hardware store. We have the most comprehensive Missouri River specific flies you will find anywhere.

Yellowstone Fly Goods, Montana Fly Company, Solitude Flies, and Umpqua Feather Merchants tie commercial patterns for us. We also have a variety of local tiers that spin up bugs just for us. The secret and hot flies? Of course we have them.

Bloom's anything? Yeah, we carry them all. We better, Dave Bloom meets his clients in our shop every morning. And, if you find anyone as observant and knowledgeable on the Missouri as Dave, please let us know. We gotta get 'em in here.

Adipose boats, outfitted with Sawyer oars are ready for rent and sale. Like we said, if we use it, we have it. We had one of the first Adipose Flows. They are the Maserati of boats. Sometimes the fish just don't have a chance. Anchor up on a pod, and see how close you can fish (just sit down please).

Fishpond and Blue Ribbon nets are here. Come see the new composite handled Fishpond net. It is nearly indestructible.

Patagonia, Fishpond and Dan Bailey bags and luggage to carry all that precious cargo are available. C&F Design and Wheatley fly boxes. Why not have the best?

Trout Hunter, Whiting Farms, Hareline, Nature's Spirit, Wapsi, Rainy's, Puglisi, Montana Fly Company, and Spirit River materials stuff an entire wall in the shop. If we don't have it, we can get it in a hurry. We hope the fly tying world will come to see us. We tie ourselves. We know what it is like to need that special material, and find the "fly shop" doesn't have any materials to create them.

Tie flies yourself? Do you come up with your own unique patterns? Bring your favorites in. We will look at them, and if we think they will work, we will talk to our commercial suppliers and see if they will tie them. We will even broker a commission for you if they are commercially viable.

LAUNDROMAT

Our laundromat is conveniently located across the street from the fly shop and motel. We have eight coin operated washing machines, four large capacity dryers and one "Big Wally", for washing those big bulky items. There is plenty of counter space to fold your laundry. No need to bring clothes for every day of your multi-day trip. Just stop by the Trout Montana Laundromat.

CAR WASH

Just around the corner from the fly shop and motel is our car wash. It has a coin operated vacuum and single bay wash facility. A perfect place to clean your drift boat and vehicle after a long day on the river. Remember the reference to buggy windshields? Well you can get rid of them here.

FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing on state waters. To fish in Montana, most anglers need two licenses: a **Conservation License** and a **Fishing License**.

- ❖ A Conservation License is needed before you can buy any fishing or hunting license that Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) issues. Conservation license applicants are required to provide their social security number in addition to the information usually requested. A valid driver's license or a valid photo ID is required to purchase a license.
- ❖ A fishing license allows a person to fish for and possess any fish or aquatic invertebrate authorized by the state's fishing regulations. It is nontransferable and nonrefundable. The license enables one to fish from March 1 through the end of February of the following year.
- ❖ Fishing license information is available on the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks website. Your License can also be purchased at the fly shop in Cascade.

THE FISHING

The Missouri has rainbows and browns. It's not uncommon to catch several 16-20" fish in a day and perhaps one or two in the 20-24" range. These are strong fish that often frantically leap out of the water.

The Missouri has arguably the best dry fly trout fishing in North America. Large pods of fish sometimes feed on the surface. But don't forget, the biggest browns and rainbows are often feeding alone along the edges

Midges (Diptera) start coming off in early spring followed by Blue Wing Olives (Baetis). Then, in late spring/early summer the river bursts with life. Spotted Sedges (Hydropsyche), Mother's Day Caddis (Brachycentrus), Pale Morning Duns (Ephemerella), Long Horn Caddis (Oecetis), Hemingway Caddis (Cheumatopsyche), Tricos (Tricorythodes), Brown Drakes (Ephemera simulans), Speckled Duns (Callibaetis), Hexes (Ephemeridae), and Tiny Blue Wings (Pseudocloen) continually keep the river fascinating. Different hatches for different experiences.

The bugs are undeniably prolific. Sometimes the hatches are so thick you have to stop and clean your windshield to see. Its nirvana to the folks who come to try their hand on the Mo. The River fishes year round and every month is different. In winter through early spring; and late fall until the next spring, you have the river pretty much to yourself. Even in the “shoulder” seasons, fishing can be spectacular. But the truly great dry fly fishing is sandwiched between those seasons. You will find lots of folks here during your stay, but the Missouri is a big river. Even the heat of summer splash and giggle crowd will not be a problem for the angler. There’s plenty of room for everyone.



GUIDE SERVICE

Your guide will provide you with all flies, tippet, lunch and drinks on drifting days.

Your Trout Montana guides will also provide expert local knowledge on the river while drifting and which flies to use when wading on your free day.

There is no set tip schedule but normal guide tips in this area are \$ 75.00 to \$ 100.00 per day per boat.

MISSOURI RIVER

WIKIPEDIA SAYS: The Missouri River is the longest river in North America. Rising in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana, the Missouri flows east and south for 2,341 miles (3,767 km) before entering the Mississippi River north of St. Louis, Missouri. The river takes drainage from a sparsely populated, semi-arid watershed of more than half a million square miles (1,300,000 km²), which includes parts of ten U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. When combined with the lower Mississippi River, it forms the world’s fourth longest river system.

HEADWATERS

Lewis and Clark named the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers after President Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of War James Madison and Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin. The three officers converge near Three Forks, Montana to form the Missouri. After flowing through several dams, the river becomes one of the finest tailwaters in the country. After coursing through the canyon below Holter dam, and just upstream of Cascade, the Missouri leaves the Rockies and flows out onto the high plains of northern Montana.

HOLTER DAM TO CRAIG

This is where the tailwater starts. Although crowded at times, you will find a lot of fish. The annual estimates range from 5,000 to 8,000 fish per mile. The guides daily take anglers to the Dam and do “row arounds”, consistently plucking rainbows with nymphs. Once you leave the first half mile, the river has consistently beautiful runs, interspersed with a few riffles. Nymphing and dry fly fishing can be terrific. There are basically two floats, Dam to Wolf Creek Bridge, and the bridge to Craig. In total about 8 miles.

CRAIG TO MOUNTAIN PALACE

From Craig, the river flows through what is often called the Canyon. There are five boat ramps and some nice places to pull off the frontage road to wade fish. The twelve miles are similar to the upper river. Runs, with riffles around the islands, give every angler lots of water to ply with your flies. There is really something for everyone. When its windy (we won't lie, this part of Montana gets a bit breezy at times), the Canyon offers some protection as it winds through the rock walls. We have many trips up there and all of our anglers usually come back with ear to ear grins.

MOUNTAIN PALACE TO CASCADE

This is where the river really comes into its own. Diverse is maybe the best way to describe it. You will find a little more of the canyon, the only rapids on the river (if you can call them that), and some truly great dry fly water. We are a little partial, but we've been fishing the whole river for years, and the lower reaches are consistently our favorites. Although sometimes like graduate school, every angler should try this part of the river. With practice, you will be rewarded. The hatches are more consistent, the trout are less hassled, and the biggest fish consistently come out of this part of the Missouri. We don't think we are dry fly snobs, but our backyard is a really sweet spot to drift your flies over some really spectacular fish. Once you try it, you might just not want to go back upstream. We like it down here so much, we have some area pics to share.

PELICAN POINT

This is dramatic, beautiful, rugged country. People fish from drift boats, but don't forget the wade fishing. The road to Sheep Creek provides a couple miles of excellent foot access.

THE PUMP HOUSE

You might find hundreds of fish rising in this area. The big eddy is plied by guides every day, and the hatches can be nothing short of spectacular.

BARKING DOG

Named after the dog kennels near the water, this area provides unbelievable acreage to anchor your boat and wade fish to sipping trout. Truly a unique experience. The Missouri leaves the Canyon at that low point in the skyline on the right.

CASCADE

If you don't stay at the Barn Pool until dark, don't forget all the great water coasting in to the boat ramp. There are runs, weed beds, islands and channels. All are worth exploring. Stay late. There are no rocks to hit with your boat; you really can float out after dark, like our friend Kelly Canada. Besides, your motel room, restaurants and bars, are all minutes away, since the boat ramp is right below town.

The stretch of water, from Holter Dam to the town of Cascade, thirty miles downstream, is the prime trout fishing waters on the Missouri. The cold waters released by Holter Dam provide excellent trout habitat. Because of many designated fishing access sites along this part of the Missouri, anglers have excellent access to the river. The Missouri River in this section flows through a small agricultural valley and a canyon that has sparsely forested hillsides. Interstate 15 closely follows the river, too.

Below the town of Cascade, the Missouri River broadens, slows, broadens and warms as it enters the plains. While brown trout and some rainbow trout inhabit the waters right below Cascade, the fish populations are not as dense as they are further upstream.

MONTANA FISHING SEASON OVERVIEW

The fishing seasons from year to year follow an annual pattern. The early Montana fishing season is dominated by

aquatic insect hatches and the timing of these hatches varies a few weeks from year to year based on water flows and temperatures. Regardless of the year the sequence of aquatic hatches is always the same.

Montana weather can be highly variable with a wide range of temperatures and climatic conditions. In general the state has a drier climate and enjoys a lot of sunshine. Daily temperatures often fluctuate considerably and can change by 50 degrees from the morning to the late afternoon. Even in the peak of the summer it is wise to bring rain gear and a fleece and winter hat just in case a summer thundershower hits.



SEPTEMBER

September is a transition month. The month is dry and the daily temps are usually very pleasant with highs in the low 70s and 80s. Occasionally an early fall storm moves in to bring chilly weather. Valley snow is very rare in September.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg High (F)	28°	35°	42°	54°	64°	74°	84°	82°	68°	58°	41°	30°
Avg Low (F)	6°	14°	18°	28°	37°	44°	48°	48°	38°	28°	18°	8°
Mean (F)	17°	24°	31°	42°	51°	58°	67°	65°	54°	44°	30°	18°
Avg Precip (in)	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	0.8	0.6

FLY RODS

Fly Rods for the Missouri River are typically 9’ 5-weight, fast action rods. Most of our fishing involves technical dry fly or indicator nymph techniques. Powerful but lightweight rods are needed to make long, accurate presentations in the ever present wind.

FLY REELS

The Missouri is big and wide, and the trout run fast and far. Reels with quality drag systems and 50+ yards of *untangled* backing are required.

FLY LINES

Weight-forward floating lines with the energy to push through the wind are preferred for most Missouri River dry fly and nymph situations. Match it to your rod or “line-up” if you like it that way. We occasionally use sink tips for streamer fishing, and of course Spey lines on two-handed rods.

WADERS

Lightweight breathable waders are preferred during spring and fall months (we use Simms Waders). From mid-June through September, we typically wade “wet”, wearing shorts or quick dry long pants. Wading boots need

not have cleats. The Missouri River is very easy wading with a flat bottom comprised of small gravel in most places. Mo' regulars usually use non-felt soled wading boots, and river sandals during summer months.

WADING ACCESS - Q: "HOW'S THE ACCESS, AND IS THE WADING EASY?"

The access isn't good, it's great! The state of Montana has a dozen Fishing Access Sites (FAS) and combined with Montana's liberal stream access law you can walk to most of the river. The most important wading access, however, is provided by the Sterling Ranch on the upper river, and the Anderson Ranch on the lower river. Both have agreements with the state that allow miles of bank access to some of the most productive stretches of the Missouri River.

And the wading? Well, it doesn't get much easier than the Missouri. A fine gravel covers the bottom of much of the upper and lower river. The gradient is shallow so heavy currents are not an issue, though high water periods in June and early July can make the wading near impossible and dangerous (flows above 6000 cfs). The middle or "Canyon" section of the river does have a cobble bottom that is more difficult to wade, but nothing like the greasy boulders found on other montane rivers.

The Missouri River has some of the best access and easiest wade fishing in Montana. FWP Fishing Access Sites are scattered through the canyon from Holter Dam to the town of Cascade. The Sterling Ranch near Craig allows public access for fishing. On the lower river, the Anderson Ranch Co. allows the same. Wading is super easy. Leave your cleats and staffs at home.

