

## ***Fishing in all of our operations***

### ***Wading Equipment***

- Breathable waders, rubber soled wading shoes (felt soled wading shoes are not allowed at Rio Manso Lodge), and a wading staff are all appropriate. If your wading shoes have cleats or studs, please remove them as they can puncture our rafts.

Please be sensitive to invasive species like whirling disease, didymo, New Zealand mud snails, etc. and be sure your wading gear is clean and dry. Better yet, if you are considering new waders or wading shoes, get them for this trip.

Orvis, Simms, and Patagonia all make excellent shoes and waders. The guides will put you only in water where you are comfortable. The wading is good and the bottom dependable. There generally will not be much walking involved in getting to and from the water. Exceptions to this could involve some optional side trips to water accessible only by hiking in or riding horses if you are looking for a little more of a challenge and an even more remote setting. Of course, the rewards can be worth it!

### ***Our Guides***

- Rio Manso's guides are some of the best in the business. They are all experienced professionals with years of guiding the rivers and lakes of Patagonia. Professional guides in Argentina must pass an exam only given every two years. All our guides speak excellent English. Tell them your preferences during the day, and they will try to give you the best fishing experience possible. Although most guests bring tackle and flies, don't be surprised if the guide pulls something out of his own box for you to use. Are you looking to improve your fishing technique or some casting instruction? Our guides are happy to help you hone your fishing skills.

**For more information: [info@riomansolodge.com](mailto:info@riomansolodge.com)**

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## ***Fishing - Rio Manso Lodge***

### *Watercraft*

- Our NRS self-bailing rafts are comfortably appointed with frames and seats, and plenty of room for two anglers. On two of the lakes, we keep Carolina skiffs which are great fishing platforms with wide stable foredecks for standing and casting. They are equipped with Honda outboards so we can quickly access the remotest parts of the lakes. Once in position, the guides will row you along the shoreline and you'll fish the old-growth forest structure, often sight casting to fish.

The lodge fishes from rafts and boats, and uses both to get to wading locations. Almost all fishing locations are a 5 to 20 drive from the lodge. We will fish a mix of drifting and wading, but early in the year (November and December) the water levels usually prevent much wading, so plan on spending most of your time fishing from a raft or boat.

Although we have found fishing from the rafts and boats to be by far the most productive, we are considerate of our guest's wishes. If you have a preference, please make it clear to us and your guide in the morning and we will do our best to accommodate you.

### *Tackle - Rods and Reels*

- We recommend 5 to 7 weights as your best all-round choices. The river is large in places, and you may be throwing heavy streamers and a few nymphs. On the lakes, we often throw large dry flies which are best handled with 6 wts and specialized floating lines like the Orvis Hydros Bank Shot, Rio Outbound Short or Elite Predator. We've seen enough fish lost over the years to the weeds to realize that the heavier 6 wt will help you land more fish. A 4 wt is perfect for exploring some of the smaller waters we can walk into fish, and the fish rarely exceed 20 inches. Bring both the floating and a 24-30-foot sink tip line in the 250-grain class, or a full sink lake line. An Orvis Depth Charge 250, Rio Intouch 24 ft Sink 250 or Cortland 555 Quick Descent 250 line will address most needs. Full sinking lines are also effective (Rio Premier Fathom series) in the lakes. These will help you fish both the faster deep runs in the river and the drop offs in the lakes. If you have never used these sinking lines, go outside and practice casting. They are handled quite differently from a floating line. Orvis's new Bank Shot floating lines are outstanding for casting large dries, and we strongly recommend them. Your reels should have good, smooth drags and adequate backing.

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## ***Fishing - Rio Manso Lodge***

### *Flies*

- Early in the year (December through January), if Mother Nature cooperates, you'll spend most of your time fishing big dry flies on heavy 2-3x leaders. If spring is late, and/or cold or the fishing gods are busy elsewhere, most of your fishing will take place with streamers. We fish medium-sized (Size 4-10) heavy, ugly stuff like conehead and beadhead wooly buggers or similar streamer flies. Olive and black are great colors followed by brown, yellow and purple. In Lago Fonck and some other lakes, white can work well because of a small baitfish (puyen) the trout love. However, bring your streamer and nymph boxes and any favorite patterns you have. If cold, wet weather is the case, your dry fly fishing will be mostly limited to evenings near the lodge, but there can be some caddis and nymphing on the river. Large attractor patterns will also work in the river. Throw in a box of assorted dries as well that can cover various situations. Don't forget your emergers and cripples. Like fish everywhere, these fish will key into a particular stage of a hatch and ignore everything else. A thorough list of some recommended patterns is attached at the end.

### *Leaders and Tippet*

- Dry fly leaders should be 7 1/2 to 9 feet, in 2x to 4x, with 2x-3x the most common. Bring tippet from 0x to 5x and you'll be prepared for nearly all fishing situations. Many anglers prefer to use fluorocarbon for the tippet in these situations. For streamers and nymphs, we recommend fluorocarbon leaders for their abrasion resistance and low underwater visibility. Be especially careful with knots and inspect your tackle after each fish. Better yet, have the guide examine and retie your fly if necessary. There are very large trout swimming in these waters, and you do not want to lose the fish of a lifetime to a bad knot or a nick in your leader. If you have any doubts, have the guide tie on your flies or add tippet to your leader.

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## ***Fishing - El Atravesado Lodge***

### *Watercraft*

- At El Atravesado Lodge, we primarily fish on foot—wading and wet wading—especially as the season progresses. Early in the season (November and December), the river is floatable, and we may use rafts to access different beats, but most of your fishing will be done while wading.

We also have access to a lake and some lagoons, where we use our NRS self-bailing rafts, comfortably outfitted with frames and seats, perfect for exploring still waters and casting to cruising fish.

All fishing locations are just minutes from the lodge, and your guide will tailor each day's plan based on conditions and your preferences.

### *Tackle - Rods and Reels*

- We recommend 6-weight rods as the best all-around setup for both the lake and the river. For those targeting the river specifically, a 4-5 wt rod is ideal for delicate presentations and smaller trout. Floating lines are standard on both waters, but bring a sinking line if you're planning to fish streamers on the river. Reels should have smooth drags, and we suggest spooling up with plenty of backing.

### *Flies*

- On the lake, large attractor dry flies work well throughout the season. For the river, dry flies like Stimulators, Parachute Adams, and Elk Hair Caddis are productive. Streamers such as wooly buggers and small articulated patterns can produce aggressive takes, especially in deeper runs. Olive, black, and brown are strong color choices. Don't forget to bring a box of mixed dries, nymphs, and streamers to match changing conditions.

### *Leaders and Tippet*

- Leaders should be 7.5 to 9 feet, typically in 3x to 5x depending on fly size and conditions. Tippet from 0x to 5x will cover most situations. For streamer fishing and deeper nymphing, fluorocarbon is recommended due to its abrasion resistance. Always inspect your leader and tippet after each session—these fish are wild and powerful, and you'll want to be ready for them.

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## ***Fishing - Float Trips***

### *Watercraft*

- Our float trips are all about covering big water in search of big fish. We use NRS self-bailing rafts, fully equipped with frames and seats, offering a comfortable and efficient ride for two anglers and a guide.

You'll spend the day floating and casting from the raft, targeting structure, seams, and bank lines as your guide rows you through some of Patagonia's most iconic trout water. While the focus is on drift fishing, there are also opportunities to get out and wade productive runs and gravel bars when conditions allow.

### *Tackle and Reels*

- We recommend 5 to 7-weight rods as the most versatile options. The river can be quite large in certain stretches, where you'll often need to cast heavy streamers and occasional nymphs.

Over the years, we've seen too many fish lost in the weeds to overlook the advantage of a stronger 6-weight rod—it will help you land more fish. A 4-weight rod is ideal for exploring smaller walk-in waters, where the fish rarely exceed 20 inches.

We suggest bringing both a floating line and a 24- to 30-foot sink tip line with a sink rate of 4 to 6 inches per second. Options like the Orvis Depth Charge 250 or the Rio InTouch 27 ft will cover most situations.

If you've never used sinking lines before, take some time to practice casting with them—they behave quite differently from floating lines. Orvis's new Bank Shot floating lines are excellent for casting large dries, and we highly recommend them. Your reels should have smooth, reliable drags and enough backing to handle strong runs.

The river offers a wide range of structures, from very fast and shallow riffles to deep pools. Therefore, a combination of lines is always advisable to be prepared for the varying fishing conditions.

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## ***Fishing - Float Trips***

### *Flies*

- Depending on the time of year, the Collón Cura River requires different fishing techniques.

For dry flies, we recommend using mayfly imitations in sizes #14 to #18, as well as caddis flies in the same range (such as Goddard Caddis, X-Caddis, or Elk Hair Caddis). During December and January, green worms are particularly effective. In the summer, large attractors and terrestrials are useful due to the presence of grasshoppers.

For nymphs, we highly recommend classic patterns like the Pheasant Tail, Prince, and Hare's Ear in sizes #14 to #18.

Regarding streamers, the presence of minnows and crustaceans is significant, which is why we suggest using Woolly Buggers, Matukas, Bugtails, and Rabbits in sizes #4 to #8.

### *Leaders and Tippet*

- For streamers, we recommend leaders ranging from 7.5 to 9 feet (2X and 3X), while for dry flies, we suggest using leaders between 9 and 11 feet (3X to 5X). Tippets in sizes #2 to #5 are highly recommended; however, rest assured that our guides will provide everything you need for an extraordinary fishing experience.

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