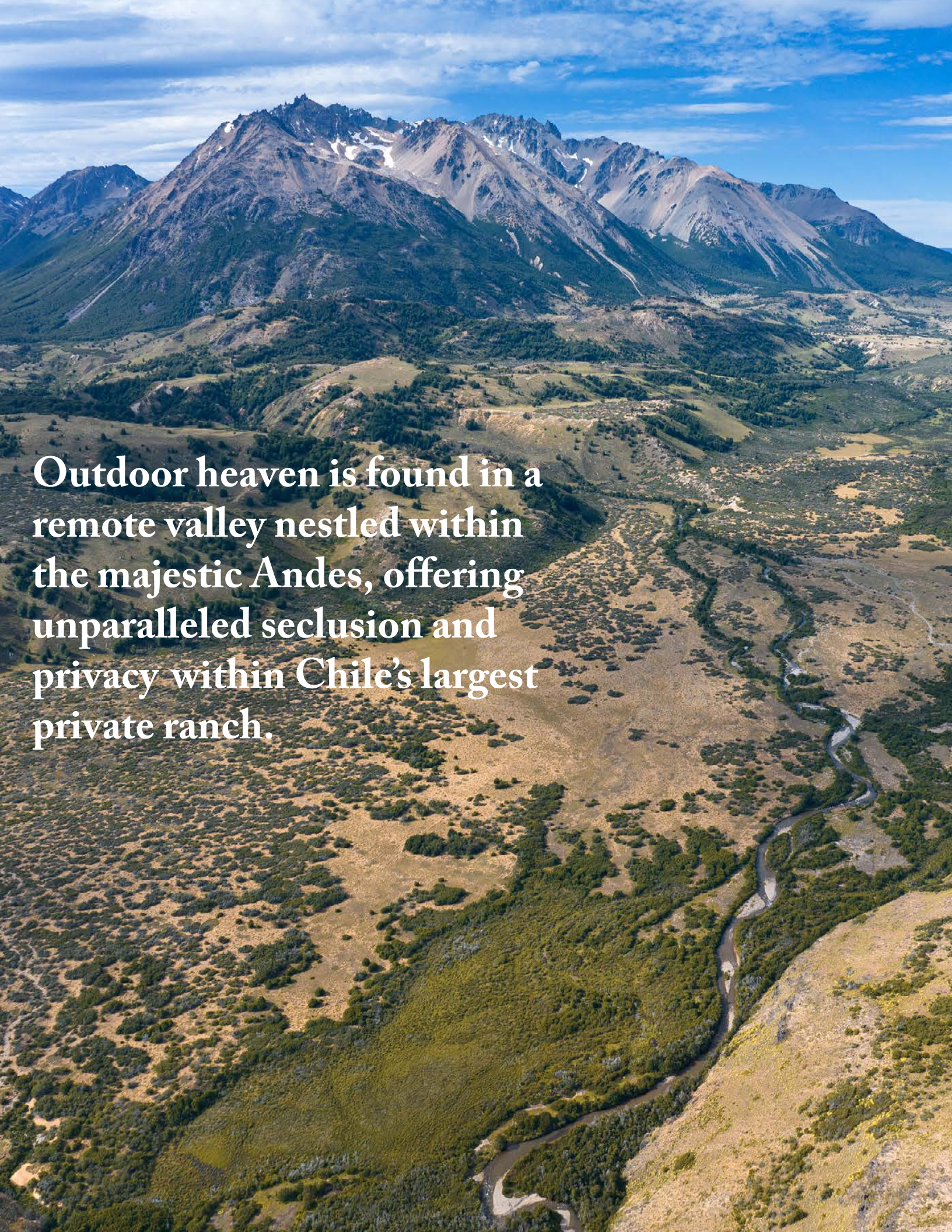




# EXPLORATIONS MENU



An aerial photograph of a vast, rugged landscape. In the background, a range of jagged mountains with patches of snow and glaciers stretches across the horizon under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The middle ground shows a wide valley with a winding river that meanders through the terrain. The valley floor is covered in a mix of green vegetation and brownish, rocky soil. The foreground shows a steep, rocky slope with sparse green plants.

**Outdoor heaven is found in a remote valley nestled within the majestic Andes, offering unparalleled seclusion and privacy within Chile's largest private ranch.**



# Introduction

Visiting Patagonia is like traveling back in time. Most of its inhabitants live from the land raising cattle or sheep. Here the concept of time and distance are unique. Eight hours on horse back is what might take to visit your nearest neighbor.

The lodge is located on a 360,000-acre ranch in the heart of Chilean Patagonia. Vast uninhabited valleys surrounded by the majestic Andes Mountains, a place of spectacular beauty where you can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities such as Hiking, Walking, Horseback riding, Birdwatching, Nature and cultural safaris.



Outdoor heaven is found in a remote valley nestled within the majestic Andes and the lodge in this paradise is Estancia de los Rios. The lodge is located on a 360,000-acre ranch offering incomparable seclusion and privacy in an incredibly beautiful setting. There are numerous possibilities for interesting walks and hikes from the lodge as well as several horseback rides to remote corners of the ranch. Various rivers and streams with wild Brown Trout allow for a world class fly fishing experience. The variety of environments provides great opportunities for bird watching unique and interesting species as nearly a hundred different species have been cataloged on the property. The stream-side lodge can host up to 12 guests in style and comfort. Great care is taken to make this an authentic Chilean experience. The following is a list of outdoor activities that the lodge's experienced and enthusiastic guides have carefully developed for our guest.



## Outdoor Activities

Additionally to fishing, the following activities are available to our guests: horseback riding , hiking, scenic float trips, guided tours -by vehicle or horseback- to the Estancia's headquarters or to visit the Gauchos -Patagonia's cowboy- at work, photography safaris, mountain biking, tour to the Puerto Cisnes Fjord; visiting small villages, tour to the Queulat National Park with magnificent views of the Queulat Glacier and hikes within the temperate rain forest, and finally cooking classes by the lodges chef, focused on typical Chilean dishes.



Visit the Gauchos,  
Patagonia's cowboy  
at work





# Horse Rides

Our daily trips allow you to explore pristine areas of the large estancia and enjoy the comfort of the lodge. The terrain largely dictates the pace and the distance we need to travel on a certain day but where possible there is a lot of trotting and cantering specially during the longer rides. The terrain at the estancia is varied with two mayor mountain ranges to the North and South of the lodge allowing day trips in to remote valleys and lakes, some above timberline. The use of horses is one of the main means of transportation in the area, thus there are trails to most areas of interest within the ranch. We will plan our daily rides the day before and they are tailored to the experience of the rider. Riders are accompanied by an experienced guide. In the event that other guests would like to ride we will pair the riding parties according to experience and interests. Experienced riders will be able to go at a faster pace always escorted by our guide. As to the lengths of the rides, these can be from one or two hours to daily rides of up to 6 hours with additional one or two hours rest and several stops..

**Horses:** Criollos horses are native breed of mainly Iberian origin that has been bred by horsemen that have selected it for excellence since 1544. Later these horses were crossed with breeds brought from Europe. They vary in size but the majority being between of 14 and 16 hands. They are well schooled strong, fit, willing and sure footed. Horses are allocated to suit your level of riding experience. Each day before departure the horses are thoroughly checked for any signs of fatigue or injuries, when necessary the horses will be changed. Saddling up and the horses general welfare during the rides is the responsibility of the guide unless the guest wants to saddle its own. You will not be asked to help or look after your horse unless is something you specifically request.



**Riding Customs:** The tack is Chilean and comprises of metal-framed saddles. Its origin is Spanish and they have been designed specially for long trips. Layered with "chiporro" (sheepskin) and protected with leather. The other clothing beneath the saddle are called: batan, pellow and matra (felt) and are normally laid on ground by gauchos and baqueanos to provide a soft and warm bed. Rope, rawhide and leather form the bridles, girths, straps etc. The stirrups consist of a leather cup through which the foot cannot pass. Most of the horses are ridden in simple snaffles. Halters are worn throughout the ride with rope tied around the horse's neck to tie up at lunch stops, rest stops, etc.

After the morning's fishing, we'll join the group for an "Asado" the traditional Patagonia barbecue with lamb or slabs of beef attached to irons thrust into the burning coals and rotated slowly. The charred meat is washed down with a robust Chilean red wine. Later, after the Asado and some rest, we get ready for more riding.



**Saddles:** Unlike any other saddle in America today. It takes the best of three styles: the rear looks western, the front looks Australian, and the middle looks English!

**What You Need to Bring:** In general we recommend to bring summer and winter clothing: long pants, riding pants, waterproof parka or rain coat, waterproof pants, leather riding boots, leather gaiters, strongly woven long sleeved shirt as protection on bush trails, fleece jacket, wool socks, hat as protection from sun, rain and branches, sunscreen lotion, lip balm, sun glasses, gloves, riding helmet. A complete list with detailed information about what to bring will be sent to you once you book the trip.

**Sample Ride; Cascada Winchester Norte:** After an early breakfast at the lodge, we meet with our guide who will hand us the necessary equipment. After a brief description of the ride, the Chilean horses and its handling we start our ride towards the "Winchester Norte" waterfall. For the first 30 minutes we will ride through large natural prairies. Our guide will explain to us how to better handle and communicate with our horse, this way we will be able to enjoy our ride. We will start a slow ascent towards "Pampa Alta" and gradually will begin gaining altitude until we reach the "Winchester Norte" canyon and the falls. From this point we will be able to observe beautiful views of the snowed capped Andes, the Cisnes river valley and the Carlota Mountain. We will be able to encounter several species of birds, among them the Gay chested buzzard eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) and maybe the Majestic Andean Condor (*vultur gryphus*) We will dismount for 30 minutes to hydrate relax and to enjoy the different vistas. For the more adventuresome, a short hike to take pictures or to swim under the waterfall is a possibility. We will then start our return to the lodge, riding along a slightly different route. Our guide will show us the potential of our horses to ride in a safe and calm way along traditional routes used by local "gauchos" on their daily work. Along the way we will observe the Cisnes river valley to the East as it transforms into a vast steppe or "pampa" with soft rolling hills covered by tussock grass as far as your eyes can see. The ride is coming into an end when, in the distance and we see the trees surrounding the lodge where the chef is waiting for us with refreshments and ours d'oeuvres.

**Difficulty:** Easy **Duration:** 1/2 day **Riding time:** 3 hours

**Equipment supplied:** Saddle, reigns, helmet, and chaps.

**Maximum:** 6 persons plus guide. **Minimum:** 1 person plus guide.



# Walks & Hikes

There are several hikes of different lengths and difficulty levels to beautiful corners of the ranch such as: water falls, forests and mountain lakes with a plethora of bird-life including flamingos and black necked swans, several species of ducks and other interesting water fowl.

**Winchester lookout:** We follow the Winchester creek up stream on its right shore. As you go up the hills you can appreciate great vistas of the main valley behind. Finally we get to the lookout from where you can appreciate the snow capped Andes. The level of this the hike is intermediate and takes from 4 to 5 hours. **Distance:** Approximate distance of this hike is 7 miles round trip.



**Sarta Lake** (the source of the Cisnes river) We start from the lodge by car and drive to a Gaucho post, here we will appreciate the local way of life of a sheep herder in Patagonia. From this point we start our hike ascending towards the North leaving the steppe and entering beautiful Ñirre and later Lengua forests. We continue ascending until we reach the tree line. We reach the beautiful Sarta lake which is the source of the Cisnes river on our way back we will enjoy beautiful views of the Andes and the Cisnes valley below and the tips of the Magdalena mountains further South. The variety of environments will enable us to appreciate several species of local flora and fauna. **Total approximate distance:** 10 miles. **Time:** Approximately 7 hours round trip. **Level:** Intermediate.



**Buitrera falls:** We start our hike following the Cisnes river downstream all the way to the confluence of the Buitrera creek and the Cisnes. We follow the creek upstream walking through a beautiful and small valley as we continue up the valley as it gets narrower and the rivers runs through a small canyon with rock walls which get steeper and narrower as we continue up ending on a great waterfall that flows through interesting rock formations. From this point we can continue wading the river upstream or walking along, we will find beautiful pools here we can swim in its crystal clear waters. After we have followed the creek upstream for almost a quarter of a mile, we turn East and walk through the barren hills appreciating the beautiful Cisnes valley below.



**Total Distance:** 7 miles. **Time:** Approximately 5 hours round trip. **Level:** Intermediate.





# Bird Watching

The extent of the property and the variety of environments provides several different eco systems for birding. The guides have identified and cataloged close to a hundred species of birds at the ranch. If we venture into the rain forest, the exuberant and dense vegetation is home of specialties that any birder wants to find once visiting the region. We will be walking through the trails looking for the four species of the Rhinocryptidae family as the Chucao, Black-throated Huet Huet, Ochre-flanked and Magellanic Tapaculo. This forest is also the place to look for other specialties as the Magellanic Woodpecker, White-throated Treerunner, and Thorn-tailed Rayadito. With some luck we can also have the chance to spot the Chilean Hawk and Buteo raptors that inhabits these latitudes. Further east on drier and open environments there is a very good chance to see several species of birds of prey such as: falcons, owls, eagles and carrion eaters like the Crested Cara Cara, Chimango and the majestic Andean Condor. The river and several lakes offer the opportunity to observe: Flamingoes, Black necked swans, rails, grebes, geese, ducks and stilts.

**Duration:** Half or full day. **Difficulty level:** excursions are matched to guest capacity from expert to novice.

# Photography and Cultural Safaris

Visit the local village to learn about the unique way of life of its inhabitants and go shopping to the local store where you will see a reflection of the local way of life by looking at several interesting items such as: hand tools, saddles, horseshoes, hats, shoes, boots, essential food items such as the "Mate" a herbal infusion, and common items to us but there considered a luxury such as Chocolate, a soda can or a bottle of wine. Dive across the Andes from the dry pampas and hike into the rain forest. On the way you will see an interesting transition of landscape as we get deeper into the mountains populated by several unique species of tall trees and plants such as the wild fuchsia, tall Beech *Notofagus* trees, ferns and elephant ears.

**Duration:** Half or full day. **Difficulty level:** excursions are matched to guest capacity: expert to novice.



# Fly Fishing

With more than 60 miles of rivers, several spring creeks and many lakes on the ranch, Estancia de los Ríos provides world-class dry fly fishing.

Estancia de los Ríos is located on a 360,000-acre ranch. Here you can enjoy dry fly fishing all day without seeing a soul. More than 60 miles of rivers inside the ranch allows you to fly fish different water every day. fly fishing is the preferred and most effective method to land a trout at this location.

The streams are cool due to springs percolating from the high Andean snow. Waters are rich in sub-aquatic life with Nymphs, Crayfish, and Minnows. Wild, strong fighting trout populate these waters in great numbers. They were introduced to the streams of Patagonia in the late 1800's. Brown trout were brought from Scotland across the Atlantic Ocean. Today, more than a hundred years later, we fish for wild trout of this same genetic stock. These beautiful fish seem to have been painted with vivid colors by the hand of an artist.

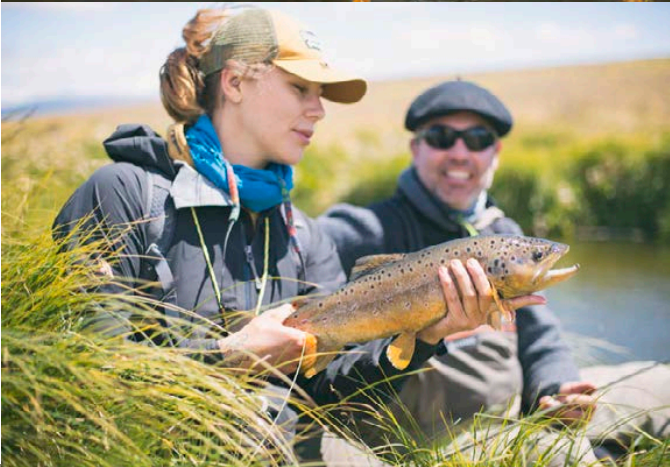
The variety of fishing environments provide spectacular waded and float fly fishing alternatives within the ranch.

Located in the heart of Chilean Patagonia a few hours from the city of Coyhaique. Estancia de los Ríos is a place of spectacular beauty offering an immersion in the enormity of Chilean Patagonia. This lodge is ideal for families or small groups.

Professional bilingual guides and fly fishing instructors, attentive staff, exquisite cuisine and selected fine wines of Chile make this fly fishing trip to Patagonia an unforgettable experience.

Hosting up to 12 guests per week in extraordinary style and comfort. The lodge has 6 double rooms with private bathrooms all with gorgeous vistas to the mountains.

The lodge is located just a few miles from the Argentine Chile border which allows combination with fly fishing excursions in both Argentina and Chile.



# Getting there



Fly to Santiago, Chile. Connect to  
Coyhaique (Balmaceda airport)  
Drive to the lodge.

**Friday:** Depart the US, Canada or Europe. Arrive Saturday am to Santiago and connect a direct flight from Santiago to Coyhaique (Balmaceda airport) upon arrival, one of our guides will be waiting for you outside baggage claim to help you, and drive you to the lodge along the scenic Austral road. This trip takes about 4.5 or 5 hours depending on traffic and photo stops. Arrive to the lodge on time for quick orientation and lunch followed by a short excursion.

**Notes on flights:** On arrival, book flight arriving to Balmaceda after 13:00. On departure, book flight to Santiago, departing Balmaceda after 14:00

**Telephone/Wifi** The lodge has good wifi through Starlink. Cell phone signal is available at the lodge. For cell phone service, check that your cell phone provider has roaming service with a local company in Chile.

**Special dietary needs** Once your reservations is formalized we will send you a our oest information form, where, among other items, you can specify if you have any special dietary needs. This is so we can be prepared before your arrival or let you know in advance if there is any item we cannot find in Chile.

**Tackle and equipment** We will send you a complete list of suggested clothing and equipment prior to your visit. Including a comprehensive list of fishing flies. We have **fly tying** equipment at the lodge. If you like to tie your own flies, you are welcome to use it, we would ask if you could bring a few hooks and other items of fly tying materials to cooperate in maintaining the stock.

Photography: © Matt Harris, Marcelo Dufflocq.