

# RUBY SPRINGS LODGE

ALDER, MONTANA



*The Fly Shop*  


PRE-TRIP TACKLE & TRAVEL PLANNER

GPS Coordinates: 45°20'30.45"N 112° 7'11.93"W

[WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM](http://WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM)

**Trip Questionnaire:** Once you have arranged your travel details, please click on the link below. This will take you an electronic questionnaire form that we ask you to complete and submit to The Fly Shop. Please be sure to click the **“Submit”** button at the end of the form. The information provided will help us -- and the outfitter best coordinate your trip. THANK YOU!

Trip Questionnaire: [Click Here](#)

**Traveling to Ruby Springs Lodge:**

Ruby Springs Lodge is located near Sheridan, Montana, just outside the small ranching town of Alder. It is an approximate 1-hour drive from Butte, and 1.5 hours from Bozeman. Most guests will fly commercially to Butte or Bozeman, Montana, the lodge staff will pick up guests and transfer to Ruby Springs for a fee. You can also rent a car and drive yourself to the lodge. The advantage of having a rental car is mobility, just in case you want to take a morning or afternoon off from fishing to explore the incredibly beautiful and diverse countryside. We will provide you detailed driving instructions to the lodge. If you prefer to fly to Twin Bridges, Montana, transfers to and from by the lodge can be arranged and are complimentary.

**Nearby Commercial Airports:**

Rental cars and shuttle services are available at an additional charge for all of the airports listed on this sheet.

**Butte, Montana:**

BERT MOONEY FIELD - BTM (406) 494-3771 / 60 miles (1 hour) from the Lodge  
Served by SkyWest/Delta (800) 221-1212 and Horizon/Alaska (800) 547-9380

[Directions from Butte Airport to Ruby Springs Lodge](#)

**Bozeman, Montana:**

GALLATIN FIELD - BZN (406) 388-8321 / 75 miles (1.5 hours) from the Lodge  
Served by Northwest (800) 225-2525, United (800) 241-6522, SkyWest/Delta (800) 221-1212, and Horizon/Alaska (800) 547-9380

[Directions from Bozeman Airport to Ruby Springs Lodge](#)

**Private Airstrips:**

**Dillon, Montana:**

DILLON FLYING SERVICES (406) 683-5242 / 45 miles (40 minutes) from the Lodge  
Dillon is our most commonly-used airstrip for private and chartered flights (there is no commercial service). It has a 6500-foot runway, paved and lighted, with fuel service available.

**Twin Bridges, Montana:**

TWIN BRIDGES LANDING STRIP (406) 684-5866 / 20 miles (15 minutes) from the lodge  
This strip only supports private and chartered aircraft. It has a 4300' paved and lighted runway, with fuel service available.

**Ennis, Montana:**

CHOICE AVIATION (406) 682-7502 / 30 miles (25 minutes) from the lodge

This strip only supports private and chartered aircraft. It has a 6600' paved and lighted runway with fuel services.

**The Fishing:**

The daily fishing options at Ruby Springs are extensive and there's something for everyone.

Over 10 miles of the Ruby River and its tributaries run through the lodge property, offering world-class private water trout fishing only minutes from the lodge. The lodge also has access to numerous spring-fed ponds within a few minutes' walk from any of its cabins.

Four more of the west's best wild trout streams are within easy striking distance, including the Big Hole, Beaverhead, Jefferson, and Madison. Additionally, the lodge has access to some private water leases available for guests.

**Trout Tackle & Equipment**

All rods, reels, leaders, tippet and flies are provided during your stay at Ruby Springs Lodge. Below is a guide if you would like to bring your own gear to use during your stay.

**Fly Rods:**

Multi-piece 6, 5 & 4 weight fly rods will cover most of the fishing situations you'll encounter. If you enjoy streamer fishing, we recommend bringing a nice light weight, fast-action 7 weight. We strongly recommend a multi-piece travel rod (3, 4 or 5 piece). Rods you might consider are:

- Scott Fly Rods
- R.L. Winston Fly Rods
- The Fly Shop Signature Fly Rods

**Fly Reels:**

Good quality, lightweight fly reels, with simple disk drags or pawl drags, are the best choice. Reels should be filled with fresh 20 pound backing. Reel brands to consider might include:

- The Fly Shop's Signature Reels
- Galvan Reels
- Ross Reels

**Fly Lines:**

Floating lines are used almost exclusively. If you have a type III sink tip for a 6-7 weight, be sure to bring it along.

- Scientific Anglers & Rio Freshwater Floating Fly Lines

**Leaders & Tippet:**

Keep it simple on leaders; 9' leaders tapered to 5X, 4X and 3X (throw in a couple of 7.5' 0X leaders for throwing big bugs). Two - three of each leader size should be plenty. Bring fresh tippet in sizes, 5X, 4X, 3X and 0X. Scientific Anglers, Rio, and Seaguar make some of the best tippet and leader material available.

**Note:**

Guides will provide **ALL** flies during your stay at Ruby Springs Lodge and this is included in the cost of your trip, but you might bring some of your favorite trout flies as outlined below.

Month	Insect/Bug	Sizes	Patterns
<b>MARCH-</b>	Midges	#16-20	BH Zebra Midge, Skittering Midge, CDC emerging Midge
<b>MAY</b>	Blue Wing Olive (BWO)	#16-20	CDC Dun, Missing Link, Film Critic, Micro Mayfly Nymph
	March Brown	#12-14	Improved Sparkle Dun, Hunchback March Brown, PT nymph
	Salmon Flies(Giant Stone Fly)	#2-6	Pat's Rubberlegs, Flush Floater, Morning Wood Special
	Streamers(Leeches & Sculpin)	#2-8	Slumbuster, Home Invader, Sparkle Minnow
	Caddis(Grannom)	#14-18	Olive Jiggy Caddis, Olive Poopah, Silvey's Beaded Pupa
<b>JUNE</b>	Salmon Flies	#2-6	Pat's Rubberlegs, Flush Floater, Morning Wood Special
	March Brown	#12-14	Improved Sparkle Dun, Hunchback March Brown, PT nymph
	Green Drake	#10-12	Foam Profile Green Drake, Missing Link, Hunchback GD
	Golden Stone	#4-8	Crowd Surfer Stone, Morning Wood Special, PB Golden Stone
	Pale Morning Dun	#14-20	Film Critic, Sparkle Stacker, Missing Link, GB Poxyback PMD
	Brown Drake	#8-10	Missing Link, Quigley's Split Flag Adams
	Streamers	#2-8	Slumbuster, Home Invader, Sparkle Minnow
	Caddis(Spotted Sedge)	#14-18	Amber Jiggy Caddis, Amber Bubbleback, Silvey's Beaded Pupa
<b>JULY</b>	Caddis	#12-20	Missing Link, E/C Caddis, Jiggy Caddis, Poopah
	Salmon Flies(Giant Stone Fly)	#2-6	Pat's Rubberlegs, Flush Floater, Morning Wood Special
	Flavs	#14-16	Missing Link, Film Critic, Parachute Adams
	Yellow Sally	#14-16	Missing Link Yellow Stone, Silvey's Chubby Sallie
	Golden Stone	#4-8	GB Poxyback Golden Stone, Double Dutch Bug
	Brown Drake	#8-10	Missing Link, Quigley's Split Flag Adams
	Callibaetis	#14-18	Film Critic, Missing Link, Poxyback Callibaetis Nymph
	Green Drake	#10-12	Foam Profile Green Drake, Missing Link, Hunchback GD
	PMD	#14-20	Film Critic, Sparkle Stacker, Missing Link, GB Poxyback PMD
	Hoppers	#6-14	Hopper Grande, Morrish Hopper, Head Turner Hopper
	Trico	#20-24	CDC Trico spinner, Parachute Profile Spinner, LC Cripple
	Mahogany Dun	#16-18	Missing Link, Hackle Stacker, D&D Cripple, Flashback PT
	Streamers	#2-8	Slumbuster, Home Invader, Sparkle Minnow
<b>AUGUST</b>	Hoppers	#6-14	Hopper Grande, Morrish Hopper, Head Turner Hopper
	Beetles	#10-18	Hi-Vis Beetle, Carl's Cicada, Chubby Chernobyl
	Ants	#16-20	Hegan Ant, Carl's Foam Ant, Parachute Ant, Schlotter's Ant
	Tricos	#20-24	CDC Trico spinner, Parachute Profile Spinner, LC Cripple
	Yellow Sally	#14-16	Missing Link Yellow Stone, Silvey's Chubby Sallie
	PMD	#14-20	Film Critic, Sparkle Stacker, Missing Link, GB Poxyback PMD
	Callibaetis	#14-18	Film Critic, Missing Link, Poxyback Callibaetis Nymph
	Caddis	#12-20	Missing Link, E/C Caddis, Jiggy Caddis, Poopah
	Mahogany Dun	#16-18	Missing Link, Hackle Stacker, D&D Cripple, Flashback PT
	Streamers	#2-8	Slumbuster, Home Invader, Sparkle Minnow
<b>SEPT</b>	BWO	#16-20	Missing Link, Film Critic, Hackle Stacker, Micro Mayfly nymph
<b>OCT</b>	Hoppers	#6-14	Hopper Grande, Morrish Hopper, Head Turner Hopper
	Ants	#16-20	Hegan Ant, Carl's Foam Ant, Parachute Ant, Schlotter's Ant
	Beetles	#10-18	Hi-Vis Beetle, Carl's Cicada, Chubby Chernobyl
	Midges	#16-20	RS2 Sparkle Wing, Midge Hanger, Harrop's CDC Midge
	Tricos	#20-24	CDC Trico spinner, Parachute Profile Spinner, LC Cripple
	Mahogany Dun	#16-18	Missing Link, Hackle Stacker, D&D Cripple, Flashback PT
	Streamers	#2-8	Slumbuster, Home Invader, Autumn Splendor, Sex Dungeon
	October Caddis	#6-10	Skating October Caddis, Tungsten October Pupa

## Recommended Clothing and Equipment

### **Clothing:**

The weather in South Western Montana is constantly changing. One afternoon it may be 90° (+) and sunny, down right hot; then only a few hours later it may be windy and hailing. July and August are more stable month and typically high pressure, sunny and hot. You are typically dressing light and wearing sun protective clothing and trying to stay cool. Early and late season brings more unpredictable and cooler weather, so you should always plan for any possible weather. Clothing strategies should be based on the "layering system." By using the "layering system," anglers can adapt to whatever Mother Nature dishes out. The whole idea behind layering is to trap heated air (generated by your body and stored between the different layers of insulation), thus keeping you warm.

### **Here is the formula preferred by the staff at The Fly Shop®:**

**1...** Base Layer: Start off with a synthetic fabric next to your skin. This often is a pair of thermal underwear (tops and bottoms) and they usually come in three weights: light, mid and expedition. According to your individual metabolism, pick what is best for you. Synthetic (non-cotton) materials retain little moisture and "wick" moisture away from your skin. This is very important when you are walking in waders or when outside temperatures heat up.

**2...** Thermal Layer: Your second layer of insulation should match the weather and conditions you are going to be fishing in. Lightweight insulation for cool weather, midweight for colder conditions and heavyweight for really frigid days. Fleece is an outstanding choice here in either tops and bottoms or overalls. Merino Wool is also a good choice as it stays warm when damp, though dries very slowly.

**3...** Outer Shell (Rain Jacket & Waders): Your final layer should be a breathable rain jacket and waders.

- 1 set light or mid weight – Patagonia, Simms, and others (tops and bottoms)
- 1 set heavyweight – Patagonia, Simms, and others (tops and bottoms)
- 1 layering jacket – A lighter weight jacket that can fit under your wading jacket or that can be used by itself

### **Rain Jacket:**

High quality Gore-Tex® type products are the best. Your rain jacket should be 100% waterproof and breathable. Rain jackets must be seam sealed, multi-layered, of QUALITY construction and from a recognized outdoor clothing company. Jackets specifically designed for fly fishermen are the best. We have listed a few of our favorite brands below.

- Skwala
- Patagonia
- Simms

### **Wading Equipment:**

Stocking foot, breathable waders are the only way to go. Neoprene waders are antiquated, do not permit moisture to escape, are heavy and cumbersome and only appropriate for sedentary fishing (float tubing) where insulation is the only concern. "Breathable" waders have totally revolutionized wading equipment. You will experience little or no moisture build-up inside the waders, even after a long hike; they wear like iron, and are comfortable to be in all day. Lastly, "Breathable" waders take up a fraction of the space neoprene waders take-up when packed in your duffel bag. All waders should be worn with synthetic fiber under-wader wear for maximum comfort, minimum moisture retention, and warmth. For safety we strongly recommend wearing a wading belt at all times.

- Simms Waders
- Patagonia Waders
- Skwala Waders

On the hot summer days of July and August wet wading can be a great choice. This does not mean leave your waders at home, but a pair of wading socks and quick dry shorts is all the extra things you need and you will have the option to wet wade.

### **Socks:**

Anglers should bring enough socks to alternate on a daily basis. For a week's fishing trip, three pairs should be fine. Do not wear the same socks every day, but alternate, leaving one pair to dry and air while wearing the other set. Wool, polypro or a combination of both are the best choices in sock material. Try on your socks with your waders and wading boots before you leave for your trip to ensure that you have plenty of room to move your toes. Being unable to move your toes and cramping of your feet in your wading boots are the biggest reasons for numb toes and cold feet. We've experienced great success with the disposable air-activated heating pads available at many outdoor stores. Removal from the cellophane wrapper activates them and they then simply stick to the outside of socks for hours of cozy warmth.

- 3 pair of Wading Socks

### **Wading Boots:**

Felt soled wading boots are highly recommended as they offer superior ankle support and are exceptional for hiking to and from waters. Felt is still allowed Montana, but keep in mind it is illegal to use felt boots in Yellowstone National Park. Simms, Patagonia and Korkers make some good models to consider. Korkers are nice because you can change out felt soles for rubber, or studs depending on each situation. For the most part the rivers fished by Shields River Lodge do not pose any real difficult wading situations, however the mostly gravel bottoms do get covered in algae (slime) and can be slippery. In these situations, studded boots can be handy. Gravel guards are a must. Make sure if you are bringing felt wading boots, they are clean and dry to prevent the spread of invasive species.

- Korkers Wading Boots
- Simms Wading Boots
- Patagonia Wading Boots

### **Wool or Polypropylene Gloves:**

For Early and late season, fingerless gloves are great for cold and or rainy days. Neoprene gloves are fine, but retain a lot of water when wet. We have had the best success with synthetic or wool gloves.

- Simms Half-finger Gloves or Flip-mitt Gloves.

### **Fishing Vest or Tackle/Vest Pack:**

For vests, we like high quality products that offer options. Many of the best new vests can be attached to your favorite backpack, sling or pack. Choose one that has room for a rain jacket, or camera in the back. Brands we like are Patagonia, Simms and Fishpond. If you prefer a tackle pack, take a good look at Fishpond, Patagonia, or Simms.

### **Small Day Pack:**

This can be an important article to include while packing. We like a waterproof, top-loader day pack that can hold extra gear, clothes, flies, camera, snacks, etc.

**Boat Bag:**

A waterproof boat "dry bag" can be extremely handy for storing extra clothes, tackle and camera equipment while on a raft. The whitewater type "dry bags" are the best.

**Fishing Hat:**

July and August in Montana can be clear and bright with lots of sun. A good hat to keep the glare off your eyes and the sun off your face is imperative. Look for a hat that is comfortable and that has a good size brim.

**Line clippers, Pliers, Hemostats, & Hook File:**

These are essential to any fisherman and should not be left behind.

**Polarized Sunglasses:**

Fly fishing is often a very visual experience. Spotting the fish is part of the excitement, and part of the challenge. Good quality polarized sunglasses are a must. Polarized sunglasses not only let you spot fish more effectively, but also protect your eyes from the intense sunlight experienced in Montana, as well as hooks. Costa and Smith make some of the best in the industry.

**Camera:**

Waterproof digital or splash-proof digital cameras are handy. If you are going to take your digital SLR camera, make sure you have a waterproof case for it. The best waterproof cases we have found to protect expensive camera equipment are made by Pelican Products, [www.pelican.com](http://www.pelican.com). Don't forget your flash unit.

**Headlamp:**

Our favorite is the Loon Nocturnal Headlamp, preferring models with LED bulbs and that can be recharged.

**Sun Protection:**

The summer weather in Montana is generally pleasant with average temperatures ranging between the low 60's and mid 90's. Wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and frequent use of sun block (SPF 30+ UVA/UVB) are highly recommended. Sun gloves will save the backs of your hands.

**Bug Repellent:**

Although bugs are usually not too big a problem in Montana especially mid-summer. But there are spots with some biting insects and mosquitos and a bottle of bug dope with active ingredient DEET is not a bad idea to include in your tackle bag, especially early in the season.

**Camp Shoes:**

After a long day of fishing, it's nice to get out of your waders and slip into a comfortable pair of shoes to wear around the lodge. Crocs are a great choice and super lightweight.

**Wading Staff:**

If you use a wading staff on your home waters, then bring it, it will come in handy.

**Gratuities:**

Gratuities are a personal decision based on services rendered. Please use the following as a guideline for what you feel is appropriate. We employ a tip pool that's shared by the entire lodge staff because everyone here plays a critical role in ensuring your experience is positive. Most of our guests choose to put 10% of their total bill toward this tip pool, which can be included in the final bill upon checkout.

Additionally, fishing guides receive an average of \$200 per day as a tip for each guided trip (1 or 2 anglers), and the guides prefer cash or personal check. You can tip your guide at the end of the day, or the end of your stay — whatever's most convenient for you. And remember, these are simply guidelines, and you should tip what you feel is appropriate.

If you have any questions concerning gratuities, please feel free to call or ask the lodge owner for guidelines.

As soon as you have your flight schedule finalized to Montana please forward it to us at [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com) , so that we can coordinate your transfer to the lodge.

### **Montana Fishing licenses**

Please purchase your Montana fishing license online at [CLICK HERE](#) , prior to your trip. Non Resident Anglers 0-9 years old do not need a license.

### **Contact numbers**

#### **Ruby Springs Lodge**

RUBY SPRINGS LODGE

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(Open 7 days a week, 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.) E-mail: [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com)

### **Communications:**

With Ruby Springs Lodge located just outside of the town of Sheridan, Montana, you can expect modern communications. There is Wi-Fi in all lodge buildings and cell service at the lodge is very good. On the rivers cell service is pretty good except in canyons. Verizon is better than AT&T.



**Dining:**

The breakfast menu offers classics like Eggs Benedict and steel-cut oatmeal, as well as unique lodge specialty dishes.

Lunch is taken on the fly streamside by your guide each day, with house-made soups, hearty sandwiches, salads, beverages, and the lodge's famous homemade cookies.

After a day on the river, cocktails are served in the River Room, where you can enjoy a full bar stocked with top-shelf spirits and an extensive selection of fine varietals to compliment delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Dinners at Ruby Springs Lodge are served in the beautiful dining room each evening. The chefs at Ruby Spring are trained culinary experts and tempt you with a broad range of inspired dishes including fresh fish and vegetarian dishes, and steaks and chops, many of which feature locally sourced and organic ingredients.

**Liquor:** All beer, wine and liquor is included in your stay at the Lodge. If you drink something specific, you are welcome to bring or purchase this before your stay at the Lodge.

**Non-Angling Guests:**

For those who don't want to fish during their entire stay at Ruby Springs, there are numerous non-fishing activities to consider. Please note: we want to make sure we can make the necessary arrangements for you, so please contact us in advance for all non-angling activities. Also most of these activities are at an additional charge.

- Yoga classes are available with certified yoga instructor, Andrea Frederick (wife of Ruby Spring's manager David Frederick), to help you connect with yourself at the beginning or end of the day.
- Guided hiking with Andrea Frederick to immerse you in the nature and wilderness of Southwest Montana. Full or half days are available.
- Guided horseback rides into the pristine Ruby Mountains.
- Golf at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda, Montana.
- Sightseeing and photography trips to historic Virginia City, the Big Hole Battlefield, or Montana's first territorial capital and now fascinating ghost-town, Bannack.
- Professional massages are available in your cabin.
- If you are interested in guided bird hunts (in season), the folks at Ruby Springs can arrange that.
- Day visits or extended stays in Big Sky, Montana, via access to the private Jack Creek Road (1 hour and 20 minutes from Ruby Springs Lodge).
- Golf through the lodge's membership at Jack Nicklaus-designed Moonlight Basin Golf Course in Big Sky, Montana.
- A newly-constructed five-stand skeet range with 8 traps is available to guests. Shotguns and shells are provided.

## Ruby Springs Lodge Travel Checklist

All the fishing gear is provided by the lodge

### **Must have Items**

- Airline Tickets and this travel planner
- Valid Passport or Real ID
- Wallet (Cash for Tip, Credit Cards)
- Polarized Sunglasses
- Headlamp
- Waders
- Wading Belt
- Wading Boots
- Wading Socks (For Wet wading)
- Toiletry Articles
- Prescription Medications
- Rain Jacket
- Light Socks
- Heavy Socks
- Slacks, Pants
- Quick Dry Shorts/Pants (wet wading)
- Undershirts, under shorts
- Under-wader wear
- Light pile or fleece pants
- Fishing Hat (Sun Hat)
- Stocking cap
- Fleece or layering jacket/pullover
- Long-sleeved Fishing shirts
- Short-sleeved Shirts
- Sun Screen SPF 30+
- Lip Balm
- Fishing License

### **Optional Items**

- Bandana or Buff
- Smart phone/Tablet
- Fly Rods
- Fly Reels (Appropriate Line/Backing)
- Spare Spools, Spare Lines
- Leaders
- Tippet
- Split shot
- Fly boxes (Dries, Streamers, Nymphs)
- Floatant
- Indicators
- Tools (Nippers, Scissors, Hemostats)
- Hook file or Stone
- Knot Tool
- Fishing Vest/Day Pack
- Boat Bag
- Garbage/Zip-Lock bags
- Short-sleeved Shirts
- Shorts
- Belt
- Camp Shoes
- Fishing Gloves
  - Sun Gloves (Summer)
  - Fleece Gloves (Fall/Winter)
- Pen and Pencil
- Reading Book
- Water Bottle (Hydro flask)
- Reading Glasses
- Extra pair of Sunglasses
- Camera, battery charger, storage cards
- Tape measure
- Insect Repellent
- Aspirin
- Wading Staff

Flask