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THE PONOI
RUSSIA

TRAVEL STORIES



THE PONI, RUSSIA



THE LAND



The Ponoï is located on Russia's Kola Peninsula. A 2-hour helicopter ride from Murmansk will have you on the banks of the home pool and settling into the famous Ryabaga camp. With the numbers of salmon in decline in many rivers around the world the Ponoï seems to buck the trend and has gained a reputation for being one of the most reliable salmon rivers in the world regardless of seasons and conditions. The Ponoï is a wide river and can be fished from both boat and bank.

There are two distinct seasons. The Spring offers an abundance of fish aggressively in search of your fly. The fall is famous for its Osenkas. A fish that comes into the river in Autumn and won't spawn till the following Autumn meaning they will spend 18 months in the river. These fish are pure muscle and will have you to your backing regularly.

The real strength of the Ponoï lies in its consistency. Over twenty years, through every kind of weather, with natural cycles through the season, the river has produced reliable fishing. Elsewhere prime time is a narrow window of opportunity. The element of chance, most often weather-induced, is still there, and that's part of the sport. However, Ponoï River Company camps offer 70 kilometres of double-bank fishing where nobody else is permitted.

Fish as you prefer, whether wading, bank casting or by boat. This combination of methods accommodates weather variables, different water levels and your ability to cast or wade. Also unlike many other rivers there are no long hikes or climbs to reach the fishing allowing all your energy to go into the fishing itself. The river has an excellent combination of good numbers of fish to an attractive size.

If you are after fish over 30 pounds, this is not the river for you, even though the average size of Ponoï salmon is quite respectable, currently as good as you'll find in Scotland, Iceland and most rivers in Canada. When you come to the Ponoï, plan to enjoy Atlantic salmon fishing for what it is, a relatively unpredictable sport with skills sometimes overshadowed by luck, knowing that there's no better river anywhere to give you an excellent chance of success.

MAY
2019



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THE KIT-LIST

FLY ROD:

MACKENZIE FX1 ATLAS 13FT 6 9WT.

FLY REEL:

HATCH GENERATION 2 9 PLUS

FLY LINE:

MACKENZIE DTX G3 MULTI
TIP FLY LINE

LEADER:

15LB MAXIMA CHAMELEON

FLY:

PONOI HAMMER



WADERS:

PATAGONIA ZIP FRONT

BOOTS:

SIMMS G4 PRO

JACKET:

SIMMS G3 TACTICAL JACKET

LAYER #1:

SIMMS EXSTREAM CORE TOP

LAYER #2:

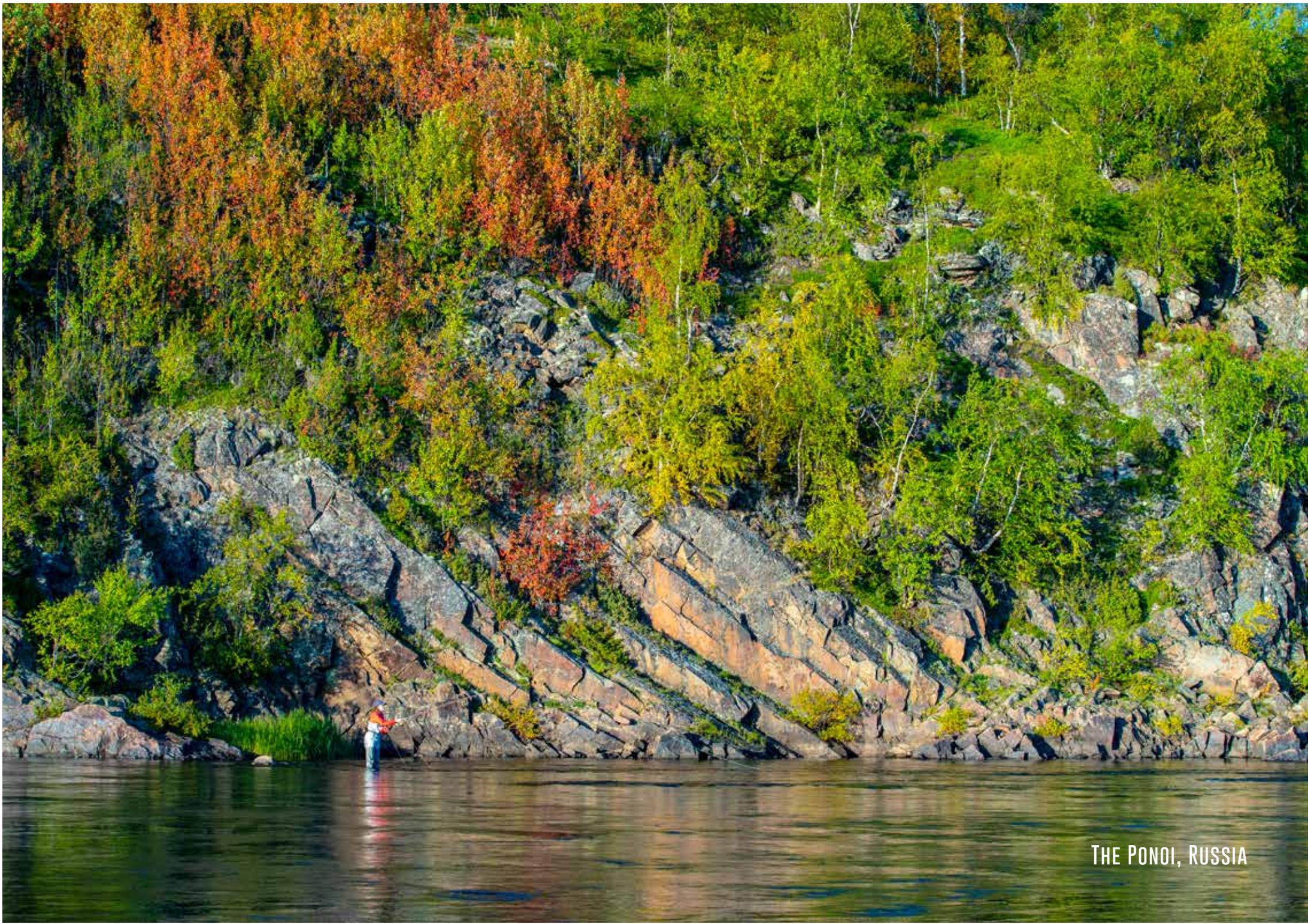
SIMMS KATAFRONT HOODY

LAYER #3:

PATAGONIA M'S DOWN
SWEATER HOODY

FOR MORE INFO
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MAY
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THE PONOI, RUSSIA



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THE FISH



MAY
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Many think the Ponoï is a boat fishing only river. This is not the case. The Ponoï offers miles of endless wading while swinging a fly through some of the best fly water on the planet. Ask your Guide and he will send you on your way.

The Ponoï fish are aggressive and respond well to a fast-moving fly. You can do this either by clever downstream mends or by working the fly. A fast figure of 8 or a Roly polly retrieve will get the best results.

Once the weather has warmed up the fish will come up and take a skated dry fly. This can be some of the most exciting salmon fishing out there. The 'v' wake caused by the fly can prove irresistible.

Spring time on the Ponoï is legendary. Within the first 5 weeks is usually when the highest number of fish are caught mainly due to the famous white nights and twenty-four hours of daylight. The water and air temperatures can slightly colder and water levels higher so the river may not have as much feature as later on in the season. The catch statistics for this period range from 30 to 40 fish per rod per week and sometimes much higher.

However, the middle of the season can provide good value and with the warmer weather this time is more suited for those who enjoy dry-fly fishing. Water levels are lower and wading and bank casting is much easier and can be more interesting. These weeks produce around 20 to 30 fish per rod but these figures can be higher.

During the autumn run the numbers remain about even in the 20 to 30 fish per rod range but these are some of the largest salmon. The run begins in the very first days of August. At the same time mosquitoes begin to disappear. By September, nearly half the catch is 10 to 20 lbs-plus, bright and fit with only a handful of grilse showing. As with salmon fishing anywhere, weekly results are greatly influenced by prevailing weather conditions.

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If the Ponoï is pulling at your heart strings, Frontiers Travel have extensive knowledge on travelling to and fishing the Ponoï. For more information, visit their dedicated website for Ponoï. www.ponoiriver.com

THE PONOI RUSSIA



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