

# FISHING MASTERY!

SELECTED TIPS - 116 PAGES!

Fishing Mastery!



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## Contents

How To Plan And Budget The Fishing Trip Of Your Dreams .....	9
Local Fishing Trips .....	12
Off-Season Fishing Trips .....	13
Day Trips .....	15
Campgrounds Instead Of Hotels .....	17
Group Discounts .....	18
Planning A Fishing Trip Within Another Trip .....	19
Fishing As A Sport For Thousands Of Outdoor Enthusiasts .....	25
Top Sport Fishing Regions Of The World .....	26
Join The Worldwide Community Of Sports Fishing .....	27
Fishing For Sharks .....	30
Shark Fishing For Dummies .....	32
Hawaii Charter Fishing .....	34
Charter Fishing In Hawaii .....	36
Blue Marlin Fishing .....	38
Blue Marlin Fishing - The Fight Of A Lifetime .....	40
Preparing For The Taxidermist .....	42
Taxidermy: The Hunters' Art Form .....	44
Kokanee Salmon Ice Fishing .....	46
Kokanee Salmon Ice Fishing .....	48
Picking The Right Boat .....	50
Buying A Boat - Basics For Beginners .....	52
Deep Sea Fishing Tips .....	55
The Adventure Of Deep Sea Fishing .....	57
Tips On Buying Fishing Boats .....	60
What To Look For When Buying Your First Fishing Boat .....	62
Fishing Game: Nature's Playground .....	64
Game Fishing - It Takes A Reel Man .....	66
Fishing In China .....	68
Itching For Fishing In Hong Kong? .....	70
License To Fish .....	72
Did You Know You Need A Fishing License? .....	74
Purpose Of Fishing Rod Holders .....	76
Why Should I Use A Fishing Rod Holder? .....	78

## Fishing Mastery!

5 Useful Tips On Trout Fishing.....	80
Want Better Trout Fishing? .....	82
Fishing With Children .....	84
Build a Better Family - Take the Kids Fishing!.....	86
Trout Fishing: Being Successful.....	88
Rainbow Trout Fishing .....	90
Trout Fishing Secrets .....	92
Enjoy A Trout Fishing Vacation.....	93
Trout Fishing Techniques .....	94
Trout Fishing Baits .....	95
Trout Fishing From The Shore .....	97
Trout Fishing In Freshwater.....	99
Enhancing Your Trout Fishing .....	101
Trout Fishing During Springtime.....	102
Let's Go Trout Fishing .....	104
Trout Fishing: A Rare Winter Sport.....	106
Fall Trout Fishing .....	108
Trout Fishing In New Zealand.....	110
Salt Water Trout Fishing.....	112

## **How To Plan And Budget The Fishing Trip Of Your Dreams**

### **Planning Your Next Fishing Vacation**

As with any vacation, fishing vacations can cost a considerable amount of money. Planning your next vacation six months or even a year in advance will allow you to save money and give you enough time to purchase equipment, figure out who will be going with you, and find ways to save even more.

During the planning phase, you should spend time gathering brochures, visiting web sites, and narrowing down your choices as to where you want to go and the type of water you want to fish in. Because you will have to buy specialized equipment for both freshwater and saltwater fishing, it is best to decide which type of water to fish.

If you are planning your trip with a group of other fishermen, comparing locations, taking a vote, and coming to a decision as quickly as possible will allow you to save money and make the entire trip less stressful. If planning with a group, you should determine the following:

- Favorite places to fish
- Inexpensive places to fish
- Number of people going on the trip
- When everyone is available to go on the trip
- Equipment everyone already has
- Equipment that will need to be bought
- Accommodations while on vacation
- Group budget for food, gas, and other necessities

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By talking as a group and allowing everyone to give their input, not only will the trip be less stressful, you may also be able to save money. Why buy equipment that people already have? By pooling your resources, most of the equipment costs should be covered.

Creating a fishing vacation budget where everyone contributes money, you will be able to buy bait, gas, food, and other items along the way. While individual members of the group should be allowed to buy any extras they want, the group as a whole should not go over their budget.

Once you have determined where you will be fishing on your vacation, it is time to make reservations, ask about group discounts, and take stock of any additional equipment that will be needed. Creating payment phases will help everyone be able to pay a little at a time so the trip will not end up becoming too much to pay for. If a deposit is required for a cabin or a hotel room, set a date when everyone is to pay their part of the cost.

Keeping detailed notes and updating the group if anything changes or when the date of the trip is drawing near is a good way to stay connected to the group and make sure that everything is ready when the fishing trip date finally arrives.

While you cannot plan for everything, you can plan for most things, especially when going on a group fishing trip.

If you and your group are on a budget, you should look into the following options, which will save you money:

- Local fishing trips
- Off-season fishing trips
- Day trips
- Campgrounds instead of hotels
- Group discounts

- Planning a fishing trip within another trip
- Using brochure coupons
- Benefits of browsing online
- Renting a boat instead of buying one
- Timeshares
- Reusing Equipment

These options may save you a lot of money because they are creative and innovative ways to take a fishing vacation. These ideas will work for large groups, small groups, individuals, and families.

## Local Fishing Trips

If you are on a budget, but you want to get a few days of fishing in while on vacation, you can choose to stay local. With so many lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, and ocean access, you have many choices that you can drive to and not have to spend extra money extravagant hotels or cabins.

Research local lakes in your area to see if there are any that interest you. If you live near the ocean, you can easily plan a fishing trip. For most people, a day's worth of fishing is enough for them. But if you want to stay for a few days, you may be able to find a lower cost hotel. Keep in mind that you will be fishing most of the day, so staying at the best hotels is not necessary.

Local fishing trips can be very exciting. They will give you a chance to:

- Learn more about where you live
- See more of the local landscape
- Save money by not having to stay overnight
- Revisit a favorite local fishing spot

It is a good idea to also research the fish that live in your area as this may determine where you want to go. Since fish are regional, you may be lucky enough to live in an area that is filled with different types of fish. Using equipment you already have, this is one fishing vacation that will not cost you much, but it will be one you will remember for a long time.

## Off-Season Fishing Trips

Another way to save money on fishing vacations is to look into off-season trip options. Off-season fishing vacations means fishing in waters that are not as populated by fishermen. Those who have rental properties, boat rental companies, and hotels will reduce their prices at this time because they want to attract people who are interested in saving some money on their vacation.

Off-season is different for certain regions and breeds of fish, but typically, the off-season starts at the end of the summer and continues until the beginning of winter. It will pick back up again after the New Year and into the early spring. As a rule, many people begin taking their vacations after Memorial day, which is the last weekend in May. This is the start of the busy season.

In order to save money, you can choose to rent a cabin or a boat during the off-season. While this time of year may affect the fish population, overall, you will be able to get in a few good days of fishing.

The best way to take advantage of off-season fishing vacations is to do your research. Find out when prices will begin to drop, where the best fishing is, and how much you can spend.

You may or may not have to make reservations during the off-season, but you should call ahead just to make sure. While you will save money, making reservations is recommended because someone else may have the same idea you have about an off-season vacation.

When planning an off-season fishing vacation, you should:

- Call cabin rentals, boat rentals, and other hotels to find out when prices are the lowest
- Research past weather patterns to determine when the weather will be clear
- Decide how long you want to stay

## **Fishing Mastery!**

- See if you have the appropriate clothing and fishing equipment for fishing in the off-season

If you enjoy being around fewer people, colder weather, and catching different types of fish, then you will want to plan an off-season fishing vacation.

You will be able to watch migration patterns, get a new perspective of the landscape, and adapt to the fishing conditions. Off-season fishing vacations are not for everyone, so be sure about what you want when planning your vacation.

## Day Trips

If you are on a budget, but still want to go fishing, consider taking a day trip instead of paying for a week long vacation. These trips will take you only a few miles from home, but you will be able to get a whole day's worth of fishing in.

When planning a day trip, you can plan in advance or you can plan within a few days. If you have fishing equipment, the ability to take time off from work, and gas and food money for the day, then there is little else to stop you from having a great day of fishing.

Day trips are usually taken by individuals or pairs of fishermen. This is because people cannot always take the same amount of time off from work or from other obligations.

When planning your fishing day trip, you should:

- Have all of your equipment ready to go the night before
- Get directions beforehand so you know where you are going
- Leave early so you can get a full day in
- Use GPS equipment to find fish faster and plot resting points and other places of interest along the way
- Try not to feel rushed even though you only have one day

Day trips are a great way to unwind, forget about stress, and save money. For those who enjoy fishing during a particular time of year, plan your day trip so it falls during this time.

Some of the pitfalls of day trips include:

- Bad weather

- Emergency
- Work related matters
- Equipment issues

But most people who get to enjoy the day trip and take advantage of it whenever they can.

## Campgrounds Instead Of Hotels

One way to save a lot of money on a fishing vacation is to stay in a campground instead of a hotel. Not only are campgrounds less expensive, you may also be able to find one that is close to the water. This will make getting ready to fish the next morning much easier.

While you will have to bring extra equipment for camping, you will still save money on a hotel room and eating at restaurants and diners along the way. Equipment you will have to bring includes:

- Cook stove
- Food
- Tent
- Blankets
- Fishing equipment
- Pots/pans
- Utensils
- Paper supplies

Even though you will have to sacrifice comfort in order to save money, campgrounds can be a lot of fun for you and your family and friends. For those who plan on fishing most of the day, staying in a campground is not that big a deal.

If you are planning a group fishing vacation, you should call the campground in advance and make a reservation. This is especially true during the warmer months. Being able to have a place to stay after traveling is a relief.

## **Group Discounts**

When traveling with larger groups (ten or more), ask for group discounts at campgrounds, hotels, boat rental companies, and cabin rentals. You will be surprised by how much you can save.

Many places offer group discounts, but they don't advertise them. Asking can never hurt, so you should always ask for a discount when traveling with a group.

Types of group discounts include:

- Park admissions
- Fishing licenses
- Hotels
- Hotel restaurants
- Campgrounds
- Public attractions
- Certain fishing equipment

With the money you save, you will be able to spend in other ways. A nice dinner at the end of the trip, upgraded hotel rooms, and other luxuries may become available.

## Planning A Fishing Trip Within Another Trip

Trying to sneak in some fishing during another trip is a way to save money by combining two trips in one. If you want to travel with your family and you will be staying near a lake or a river, you can incorporate fishing into the vacation activities. This is also a good way to expose children and others to fishing.

When trying to combine trips, you will have to speak with others who will be on the trip to see if fishing is an activity they will want to participate in. Many people are excited to try something new or participate in an activity they already enjoy.

When planning two trips, you should:

- Find out as much as you can about the area you will be traveling to. This will give you an idea about the types of fishing you can participate in.
- Book boat rentals in advance so you will be able during a specific time.
- If staying in the area for a few days, see how much time you will have for fishing and schedule it in advance with family and friends
- Bring the equipment necessary to fish. Don't spend time buying new equipment unless you absolutely have to
- Enjoy all facets of your vacation even if you don't get to spend as much of it fishing

It is important to coordinate activities when planning two trips. While you want to have enough time to fish, you don't want to miss out on other activities. Having a plan in advance will help you make the most of your time.

Many people fish while they are on vacation. This is sometimes the only time they have. Whether it is on a boat or just fishing from the shore, being able to enjoy a hobby while on vacation is a way to reduce stress and relax.

Planning a trip within a trip will help you save money. You will not have to spend money on extra hotel nights or take more time off from work. This is a great way to accomplish many things while on vacation.

### Using Brochure Coupons

As you gather brochures and other marketing materials from fishing vacation parks, lakes, and ocean vacation rentals, you may find coupons that are worth taking advantage of. Saving money on lodging, boat rentals, and other items is a great way to afford a fishing vacation.

When considering redeeming coupons, you should:

- Ask any questions you have about the terms
- Find out when you can use them in order to get the full discount
- Find out if there are any other specials available
- Ask about accommodations, rentals, and other items that are discounted to make sure they are what you are looking for

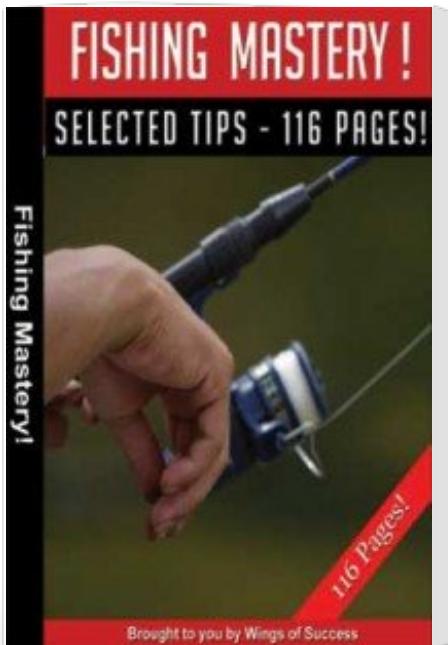
Coupons are usually available for use at any time during an establishment's busy season. While you do not have to arrange your fishing vacation around these times, you should consider them as a way to save money. But if you wait until the off-season, you may save even more money.

Visiting or contacting tourist bureaus is another way to receive coupons to local places in the area. If you will be vacationing for a few days, you will be able to save money on food, activities, tourist attractions, and much more.

### Benefits Of Browsing Online

Another way to find valuable coupons and save money is by researching places to stay, boat rentals, and other activities online. Most businesses have web sites. In order to bring in more

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