

Dining Out Northwest Style

NORTHWEST TRAVEL

20 TOP RESTAURANTS
OF THE NORTHWEST

BIG LITTLE CITIES

- Walla Walla, WA
- Vancouver, USA
- Eugene, OR
- Lewiston, ID

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34

Volume 3, No. 1
February/March 1993

COVER STORIES

Big Little Cities

Some small towns have it all: a good quality of life, culture, plenty of activities for people of all ages, and respect for their own history. We profile four that fit the bill.

Eugene, Oregon

30

When Eugene Skinner discovered this place he thought it would make an ideal place to live. Enough Oregonians agree to make Eugene the state's second-largest city.

Vickie Nelson

Lewiston, Idaho

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Your first visit to Lewiston may be to attend the Lewiston Roundup, ride a jetboat into Hells Canyon, or visit the Four Nation Pow Wow hosted by the Nez Perce.

But you'll find other reasons to return.

Judy Fleagle

Vancouver, USA

22

It's been 36 years since Vancouver, Washington, was named an All-America City. visitors will discover there are plenty of reasons why the title is still deserved.

Marian Behan Hammer

Walla Walla, Washington

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One of the oldest settlements between the Rockies and the Cascades, Walla Walla is home to world-famous onions and one of the largest hot air balloon festivals in the Northwest.

George Herbert

Dining Out In the Pacific Northwest

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We've asked some of the region's top food writers and editors to recommend their favorite spots for a memorable meal. Here's what they told us.

Fraternity on Fire Mountain

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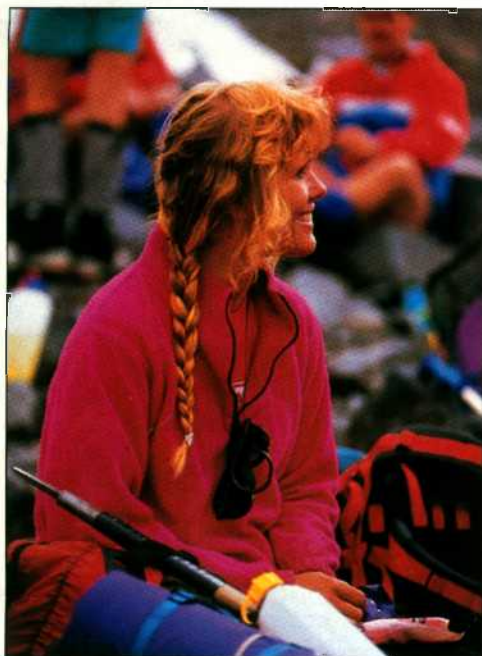
Mt. Rainier offers a mighty challenge for a mountain climber wannabe.

Just one of the obstacles is meeting the expectations of the famous guides who will try to get you to the top.

Eric Mason

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Outdoor activities from houseboating to riding in a trail drive to a world fly-fishing championship are in the works for 1993 throughout this spectacular region of British Columbia.
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How do you tell one fly-in salmon lodge from another? A veteran fishing writer offers a few hints on reading between the lines of the glossy brochures. Jack Berryman
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For thousands of visitors, the La Conner, Washington, Tulip Festival is a rite of spring not to be missed. Andrea Katres
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Mark Hemstreet, owner of Shilo Inns, has chalked up a host of innkeeping and business awards with his rapidly growing chain, but he most enjoys being a good neighbor. Rob Spooner
- Victorian Spring** 56
Victoria, B.C. celebrates the coming of spring earlier than many cities, and the annual flower count is a harbinger of the blooms to come. Dave Peden



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COVER PHOTO

Claude Guigon, maitre 'd, welcomes guests to the Sun Valley Lodge dining room.

Photo Courtesy
Sun Valley Company

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Fly-In Fishing at Rivers Inlet, British Columbia



Story and Photos
by Jack W. Berryman

Rivers Inlet has been one of British Columbia's best-known fishing destinations since the 1950s, with tyee salmon (chinooks over 30 pounds), and silver or coho salmon reaching the mid-20-pound range.

This 30-mile-long ocean fjord along B.C.'s rugged central coastline is about an hour's floatplane ride northeast of Port Hardy on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Every year from June through September all five Pacific salmon species enter the mouth of Rivers Inlet from Fitz Hugh Sound and course their way up the inlet to one of the many rivers flowing into its extreme eastern end.

Rivers Inlet is 80 miles from the closest road and a very difficult destination for private boaters because of numerous navigational obstacles, frequent fog, and the lack of fueling facilities. One

of the most scenic and picturesque areas in the Northwest, Rivers Inlet is home for the bald eagle, grizzly bear, cougar, deer, wolf, and river otter. But it is the trophy salmon that continue to lure tourists who hope to land a world-record tyee or a reel-sizzling coho. Every year salmon in the 60- to 70-pound range are caught in Rivers Inlet and transported to taxidermists throughout the world.

Because of Rivers Inlet's secluded nature, the fishing lodges located strategically up and down the inlet are accessible only by floatplane. Most of the lodges are replacements for the former salmon canneries that once dotted the shoreline, while others have been built entirely on floating barges and anchored in protected bays. For example, Salmon King Lodge occupies the former Good Hope Cannery property, while Big

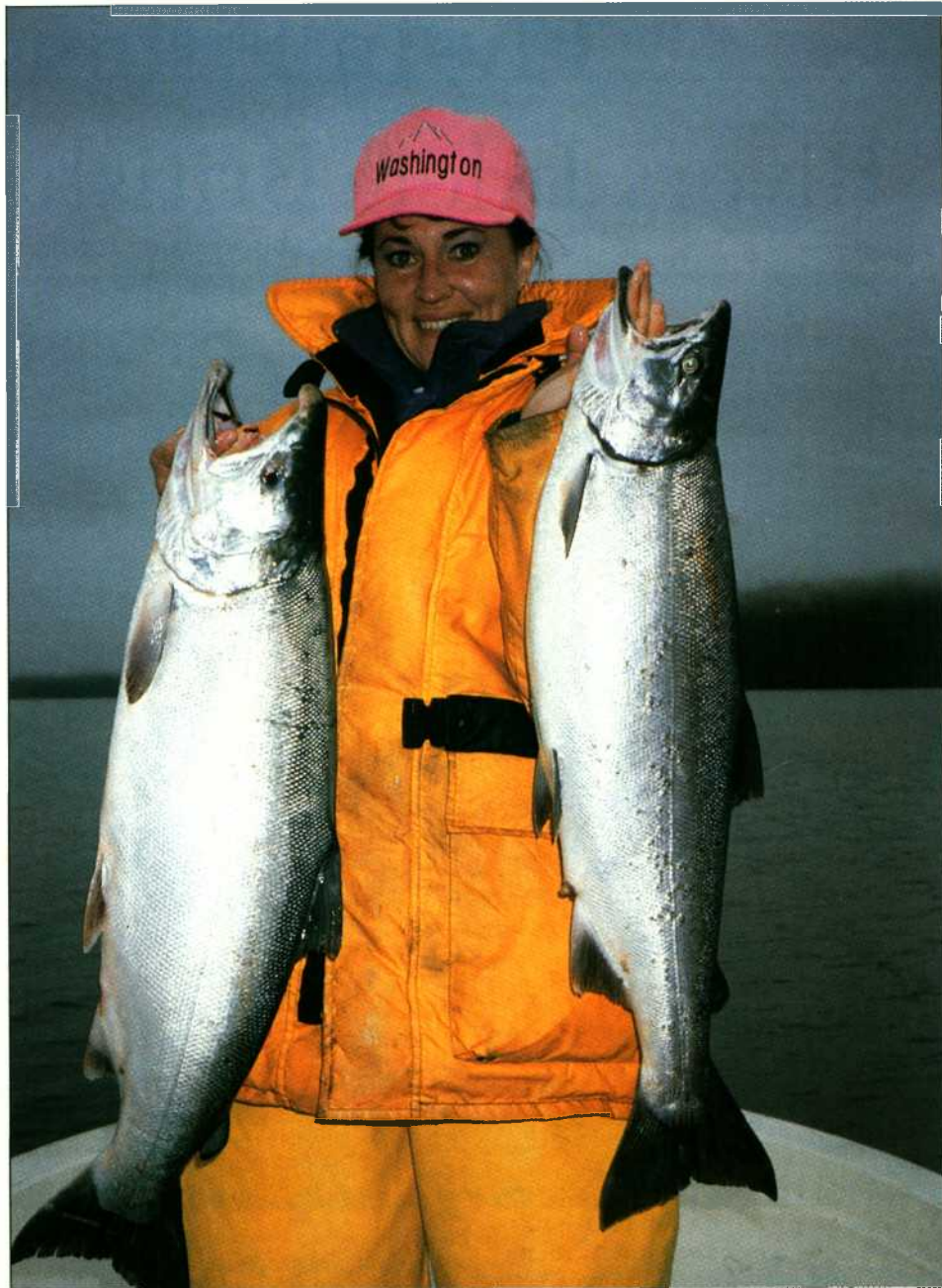
Above: Guests arriving by floatplane at one of the several lodge docks in Rivers Inlet.

Springs is built on movable barges. These lodges operate in the summer months only and pride themselves on luxury accommodations, fine dining, and well-equipped fishing services. Most of the lodges offer complete all-inclusive fishing packages and frequently advertise in outdoor magazines and at sportsman's shows.

Once you have decided to travel to this beautiful area to try your hand at catching some of the famous Rivers Inlet salmon, how do you decide which lodge to visit? The first concern should be your budget. Typical packages are 4 days/3 nights, 5 days/4 nights, and 7 days/6 nights, and usually range from \$1070, to \$1995, to \$2695 for each of the three options. These prices are in U.S. dollars and include airfare from Seattle or Vancouver. However, you must be cautious in surveying prices since some lodges quote their costs in Canadian currency, some do not include airfare, and others do not include food. For example, King Salmon Resort offers the 4-day/3-night package for \$1070, round trip from Vancouver. However, that price is based on a double-occupancy cottage. Black Gold offers a 5-day/4-night package for \$800 Canadian, not including airfare. On the other hand, Salmon King Lodge packages are all-inclusive. You should also check on other possible hidden costs for fish freight charges and determine how much deposit is required, when the full amount is due, and whether cancellation fees are charged.

It is also a good idea to determine what type of sleeping arrangements and bathroom facilities are provided. Some lodges have private rooms and baths while others have one large bathroom. Are showers available, and are fresh linens provided? What about extra amenities such as a sauna or hot tub?

Some lodges serve entrees equivalent to a fine restaurant's, feature hors



Elaine Berryman, author's wife, with two Rivers Inlet coho caught in early September.

d'oeuvres every evening, and provide lunches, coolers, and Thermoses to take in your boat. Some have full-time chefs. Salmon King Lodge is one example. Other lodges give you reduced rates if you bring your own food. Meal hours should also be checked to determine whether they interfere with good fishing times in the early morning and late evening.

One of the most important aspects of your "once in a lifetime" fishing trip to Rivers Inlet is the boat, equipment, and tackle you will use. You should expect quality name-brand gear in top working order that will be yours to use for the duration of your stay. Boats typically range from 14 to 16 feet with outboards from 15 to 40 h.p. Remember that Rivers

Inlet is 30 miles long so a larger, safer, and faster boat will provide you with more maneuverability, which can convert to more and better fishing. Extra equipment such as rod holders, fish finder, compass, and map make the likelihood of fishing success even greater. For example, Salmon King Lodge provides 16-foot V-hull Fiberglass boats with 40 h.p. Mercury outboards and Humminbird fish finders. Some other lodges provide only little "kicker" boats. In addition, determine whether the lodge provides floater coats, rain gear, and boots in case of inclement weather. Finally, inquire about bait and gas, whether there is an extra charge for lost tackle, and if a fishing license is provided or available on site.



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Regulations allow you to keep eight salmon, so the fish handling capabilities of the lodge are crucial. Cleaning and freezing is a minimum, but some lodges provide vacuum packing and waxed shipping boxes. Lodge access to smoking and canning facilities is also valuable.

If you are not an accomplished angler but would like to try to catch a large tye or acrobatic coho, you should inquire whether the lodge provides clinics or instructions for the novice. Do they provide an orientation to the area with maps showing the most productive spots? Can the lodge provide a guide for you, and will he or she cost extra? Some lodges also employ full-time fishmasters who lead lodge guests to the fishing grounds, provide on-the-water assistance, and carry extra bait and supplies.

Even though your primary reason for flying to Rivers Inlet is to go fishing, it is good to inquire about the availability of other recreational activities like hiking, photography, and whale or bird watching. Also, does the lodge have a common social area or lounge where you can socialize with other guests, relax in front of a fire, play cards, watch a movie, or shoot darts? Are alcoholic beverages provided? Is smoking allowed on the premises?

Some of the lodges are small and on floats while others are quite large and are located on beautiful grounds with terraces, decks, skylights, and large windows. Some are modest and others are amazingly plush. Because of this diversity, the number of guests also varies. You should check on the maximum number of guests and ask how many staff will be available

to serve you. Will you be assisted at all times, or will you be another "number" at an overcrowded lodge?

Remember, too, Rivers Inlet is a far distance from all of the services we normally depend on, including hospitals. Inquire about the first aid equipment at the lodge and whether they have staff trained in emergency care and CPR. You should also ask about their communications system via radio phone, VHF, or cellular phone.

Finally, it is much easier to deal with a lodge if it has a year-round office staff and permanent manager who will accept collect calls if there is no toll-free number. This makes booking and planning much easier and is a good mechanism for updated fishing reports or last minute inquiries before your scheduled departure. You should also ask about evaluations from travel agents or previous customers.

If you do some research and plan your fishing trip to Rivers Inlet with these suggestions in mind, you will more than likely choose the correct lodge for you and your budget. It is better to decide what you are looking for, how much it will cost, and whether all of your needs can be met before you go, rather than being disappointed or surprised by a facility, hidden charge, or experience you did not expect. Good fishing! ☐

Jack W. Berryman is a professor of medical history in the University of Washington's school of Medicine and a freelance writer specializing in angling, the environment, and history. His articles have been published in *Trout*, *Salmon Trout Steelheader*, *British Columbia Sport Fishing*, *Pacific Northwest Outdoors*, *Fishing Holes*, and *Journal of the West*. He resides in Kirkland, Washington, with his wife and teenage daughter.

Fly-In Lodges

Big Spring Sports Fishing Ltd.

4680 Cowley Crescent, Richmond, BC V7B 1C1, 1-800-663-4400 or (604) 273-1433

Black Gold Lodge

3826 Azalea Place, Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 4A2, (604) 941-3228

Buck's Trophy Lodge

PO Box 86344, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4K6, (604) 985-3638

King Salmon Oak Bay Marine Resort

1327 Beach Drive, Victoria, BC V0N 2H0, 1-800-663-7090 (US), (604) 598-3366 (Canada)

Rivers Inlet Goose Bay Cannery

PO Box 127, Campbell River, BC V9W 5A7, (604) 287-3171

Rivers Inlet Resort

PO Box 1015, Renton, WA 98057, (206) 226-4600

Rivers Inlet Sportsman Club

PO Box 26, Campbell River, BC V9W 2Z9, (604) 286-3112

Rivers Lodge

Dawsons Landing, Rivers Inlet, BC V0N 1M0, (604) 685-2127

Salmon King Lodge

PO Box 1237, Delta, BC V4M 3T3, 1-800-665-0613 (US), (604) 943-2333 (Canada)


AIRLINES SERVING RIVERS INLET

Harbour Air Float Base

4760 Inglis Drive
Richmond, BC V7B 1B8, (604) 278-3478

Pacific Coastal Airlines

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Richmond, BC V7B 1B8, (604) 273-8666



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