



Windward Fishing Club presents

HOOKED ON LAPLAND

Wild grayling. White water. Midnight sun. The trip of your life.

Windward Fishing Club WE fish in wild places

HOOKED ON LAPLAND

You're 15 to 19, hungry for something real, and ready to get stuck in. Hooked on Lapland is 6 days above the Arctic Circle for just 6-8 Young Rods.

Start in Palojoensuu, in an old Lappish house on the edge of the wilderness, with a fly rod in your hand on the very first evening.

Then load the rafts and push out onto the Könkämäeno, the wild border river between Finland and Sweden. Four days of white water, riverside camps and grayling rising under the midnight sun, with reindeer for neighbours.

What's on the line:

Grayling: the Lapland classic, willing, beautiful and rising to dry flies all night long.

Brown trout and Arctic char from clear, cold fell waters.

Whitefish: shy, hard-fighting and a real test on light tackle.

Baltic salmon: an evening trolling the big river for silver giants that run well into double figures. Land one and you'll never forget it.

Bring the love of wild places and no fear of getting wet. We'll teach you the rest.



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HOOKED ON LAPLAND YOUR EXPEDITION AT A GLANCE



9 July: Fly to Lapland

Fly from the UK via Helsinki to Kittilä and drive north to Palojoensuu. Settle into our old Lappish house, then evening fishing on the river or fly tying.

10 - 13 July: Rafting the Könkämäeno

Four days rafting, camping and fishing down the wild border river between Finland and Sweden. Grayling on the fly, taught by a guide with 35 years' experience. Three nights camping by the river. No WiFi, just fire, fish and the midnight sun.

Salmon Trolling

One afternoon or evening trolling for Atlantic salmon with a second guide.

13 July: Back to Base

Off the river and back to Palojoensuu for hot showers, a big dinner and awards.

14 July: Homeward Bound

Drive back to Kittilä Airport. Last cast or a fly tying session depending on flight times.

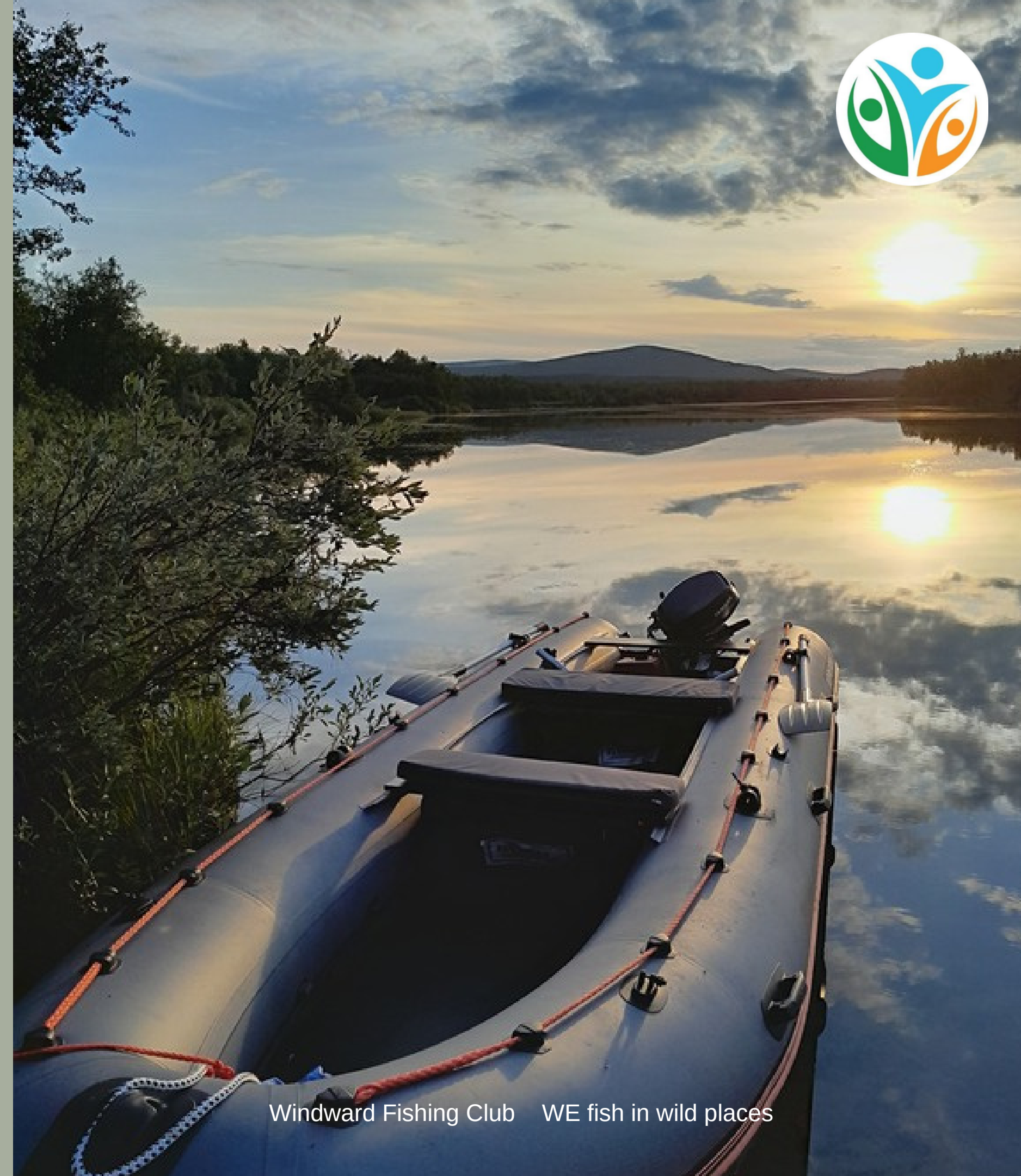


The Lappish House

Base camp is an old-fashioned Lappish house in the village of Palojoensuu, Enontekiö, right on Teemu's home water. The whole house is ours for the first and last nights of the trip.

The first evening is for settling in: kit check, a first cast on the river, or learning to tie the flies you'll fish all week.

We come back here at the end for hot showers, proper beds and a big final dinner before the drive to Kittilä.





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The River

The Kōnkämäeno runs wild along the border between Finland and Sweden, through open fells and birch forest high above the Arctic Circle.

Each day we load the rafts, run the river with our guides and pull in wherever the grayling are rising. You'll learn to read water like a guide and fish it with a fly.

Camp goes up on the riverbank each night, and everyone mucks in: pitching tents, collecting firewood, cooking over the fire. In July the sun barely sets, so the fishing can go on as late as you like.

Watch for reindeer on the banks and, if you're lucky, an eagle overhead. Teemu's dog usually comes along too.





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Group Leader

DAVID RITCHIE

David founded Windward Education and has spent 25+ years getting young people outdoors — fly rod in hand, miles from their comfort zone.

He's fished Iceland, Canada, Finland, the US, West Africa and every corner of Scotland, and helped start the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network.

His rule: push you further than you'd push yourself, and never let you fall. On Hooked on Lapland, David's your expedition leader, fishing coach and the guy making sure everyone goes home with a fish story.



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Your Guide

TEEMU VEHVILÄINEN

Teemu is the Grayling Guide, based in Enontekiö in Finnish Lapland, with more than 35 years of fishing across Finland, Sweden and Norway. Grayling, trout and arctic char on the fly are his speciality.

Before guiding full time he spent nearly 20 years as a primary school teacher, running outdoor camps, fly fishing lessons and wilderness trips for young people.

Teemu's thing: patient teaching, plenty of humour, and the belief that fly fishing is about much more than catching fish. First-timer or old hand, you'll leave reading the river and casting with confidence.



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Cost: Per Young Rod £2,115

✈ **Flights NOT included (approximately £400)**

Includes:

Guiding by Teemu and a rafting guide, rafts and equipment, all camping gear supplied, riverside camping, meals, a salmon trolling session, and two nights in the Lappish house.

Excludes: flights to Kittilä, travel insurance, and UK transport to the airport.

Guided by Grayling Guide, Finnish Lapland. Needs a minimum of 6 Young Rods.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Windward Education Ltd - David Ritchie

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PRE-TRAVEL PACKING & CHECKLIST



- Check your passport has 6 months of validity in it
- Check entry requirements for Finland and Sweden on GOV.UK travel advice
- Take out travel and holiday insurance (as soon as possible)

No need for a new wardrobe. Lapland in July can swing from warm sunshine to cold, wet and windy in a day, and the mosquitoes are serious. Pack like a Scottish summer fishing trip, with extra layers:

- **Good waterproof jacket and trousers for the rafts**
- Hat, sunglasses and suncream (the sun barely sets)
- Waders and wading boots if you have them (let us know if you don't)
- A couple of warm fleeces, a warm hat and gloves for chilly nights by the river
- Spare dry clothes packed in a dry bag, and warm socks for camp
- Long-sleeved shirts and a mosquito head net
- Finland uses European two-pin plugs, so bring an adapter and a powerbank
- No WiFi on the river — don't bring a pile of electronics
- Mosquito repellent
- Notebook and pencil
- Don't forget - A refillable **WATER BOTTLE, BINOCULARS**, and at least one **TORCH**



MEDICAL & EMERGENCY



Insurance

Every Young Rod needs comprehensive travel and medical insurance, plus a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which covers state healthcare in Finland and Sweden.

First Aid Support

Our leaders carry a comprehensive first aid kit on the river and at camp at all times.

Communication

Mobile signal can be patchy on remote stretches of the river, so our guides carry emergency communication. No WiFi on the river.

Hospitals

Local health centre support in Enontekiö, with Lapland Central Hospital in Rovaniemi for anything serious.

Risk Assessment

We've risk-assessed the whole trip, from the airport drive to every night on the river.

Key control measures include:

- Safety briefings and supervision to ensure use of seatbelts when traveling on roads
- Rafting safety briefings, with buoyancy aids worn on the water at all times
- Fishing safety briefings and risk identification particular when wading
- Adult supervision at all times

A copy of the risk assessment can be provided on request.



FISHING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST



4 days of fly fishing for grayling from the rafts and riverbanks. Bring your own fly kit if you have it, and let us know early if you need to borrow gear.

FLY FISHING KIT

- Fishing Rod and reel: A 9' #4 or #5 fly rod with a matched floating line is ideal.
- Landing net
- Fishing waistcoat for: leader, snips, spare flies, strike indicator, lucky charms etc
- Fishing bag for everything else. (sun cream, waterbottle, snack, spare line raincoat, fish)
- Forceps for quick, gentle releases
- Flies: Think small: dries and beaded nymphs.

Some of the following in a couple of small sizes is recommended

- Klinkhamer
- Small CDC dry flies
- Elk Hair Caddis
- Beaded Pheasant Tail
- Beaded Hare's Ear
- Small black beaded nymphs

INTENTIONAL TRAVEL

TOP TIPS



Treading lightly on the environment

Leave no trace: everything we take onto the river comes back off it. Finnish tap water is excellent, so bring a reusable bottle and skip the plastic.

Respecting the land and its people

Lapland is home to the Sámi, and reindeer herding is still a way of life here. Every reindeer belongs to someone: give them space and never chase them.

Tipping

Tipping isn't expected in Finland. A handshake and a good fish story go a long way.

Antlers, feathers and stones

Leave what you find where you found it. Nature needs it more than your shelf does. Snap a photo instead.





THE SMALL PRINT

Includes: guiding, rafting equipment, all camping gear, riverside camping, meals and two nights in the Lappish house.

- You'll need your own comprehensive holiday, travel and medical insurance.
- Dates are pencilled for 9 to 14 July 2027 and will be confirmed once flight timetables are released.
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- Subject to availability.
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- Flights: we'll share flight details so the group travels together from Edinburgh via Helsinki to Kittilä.
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See the river for yourself: Teemu's trip video at youtube.com/watch?v=FMqYd78Zt9U

