

Our stay at Shields River Lodge (SLR) far exceeded our expectations. On a whim, we decided to fly up to MT – and boy, are we glad we booked with them. With not much lead time, about 5 days, everything was finalized and our requests were accommodated. Chris and Lori provided frequent communications, checking on our needs, preferences and requests. They were quick to respond to our questions. Chris was around the entire time we were at the SRL to ensure everything went well and it did!

SRL is about 45 minutes from Bozeman Airport. Unlike most lodges, SRL is fantastic for both anglers and non-anglers. Our family of 4 had 2 anglers and 2 non-anglers. We are well-traveled with seasoned anglers who have stayed in many lodges outside the US.

Cuisine – If you check their website, SRL talks about their well-trained chef, Donald. The meals he provided were spectacular and paired with good wine selection. One night, he served wild sockeye salmon. It was something else! We felt like we had our own private chef.

Anglers – Fishing in MT in July is considered peak time. The guides provided worked out great. We successfully fished the Yellowstone River and the Shields River.

On our first day at SNL, Chris took us to the part of the Shields River that runs through his property. Our anglers were able to do some fishing although it was more for casting and getting the lay of the land. Chris provided us with rods and reels for this short activity.

Non-Anglers – The non-anglers of the group managed to keep busy. We drove to Yellowstone National Park which is about 1.30 hours away. And, we scheduled several massages with sunrise yoga with Jackie. Be sure to avail yourself of her services – Jackie will pamper you. We asked to schedule our massage after a full day at Yellowstone – the massage was heaven and much needed after all the hiking we did!

Accommodations – SRL is beautiful, quite sizeable and the scenery inspiring. You will have views of the Rocky Mountains from all parts of the lodge. Be sure to enjoy the breathtaking MT sunrise & sunset. There is plenty of room to move around given our COVID reality. The large rooms & amenities are resort-like – very comfy king size beds, plush bathrooms with all the necessary toiletries. The work out facility was impressive. SRL's lounging area is straight out of a magazine photo shoot – cozy, rustic and elegant. Good Wi-Fi is also available.

We spent most of our time sitting on SRL's huge patio that faces the mountains. We enjoyed our wine & beer in the afternoons/evenings outside. We also ate al fresco a couple of nights per Chef Donald's recommendation. There is a fire pit to be enjoyed late in the evenings. Chris and Don sat around the fire pit with us as we star and satellite gazed. Clear Montana nights are beautiful.

So, bottom line – this is the place to be. Experience MT fly fishing the right and luxurious way especially if you have non-anglers in your group. The staff is accommodating, very friendly and helpful. Shields River Lodge is 5-star all the way and worth every penny.

John & Alma Wimsatt and Family
Texas (July 2020)