

Flyfishing in Bartek

The fly-fishing in Bartek reaches from Vounatjviken where the river outlets into the lake Rebnesjaur and north to the bridge a few hundred metres downstream of the lake Gåbdok. The stretch is about 7-8 kilometres along the river and a vertical drop of almost 100 metres. The water flow varies over the year. Early in the season the water level is usually very high. Wading is then almost impossible as is any attempt to cross the river. Later in the summer one can wade across the river in a couple of places but be careful in general with wading due to the swift water flow. The river is ideal for fly-fishing and this is the only type of fishing you allowed to do here. The swift flow and the large number of holding places for trout along the entire stretch of water makes this river perfect for a varied fly-fishing experience.

In Bartek river there is only brown trout – naturally produced brown trout, and it is in very good condition. There are usually large numbers of small trout and they will bite almost any fly you present. The larger trout migrate up the river to spawn and are considerably larger, or 35 cm in length and upwards. The most common migrating trout are 40-45 cm weighing 0.8 to 1.2 kg. In the two lakes on the river, Övre och Undre Korsselet, there are resident trout in varying sizes. There are also pike in there, don't be surprised if they will take your streamer!

The water is crystal clear and cold. There are few signs of people, it is basically untouched nature. Have a look around and you may see reindeer, a moose, lemming, grouse or perhaps the footprints of a brown bear. Lift your eyes from the water and you may see an eagle circling the skies above you. The river Bartek is located very near the Arctic Circle. You can basically choose to fish whatever time in the day you prefer – it is always more or less light, at least early in the season. When the sun comes up over the mountain tops in the north early in the morning you had better stop fishing, sit down and enjoy the moment.



The outflow of Bartek into Rebnesjaur at Vounatjviken - a dream position!



Typical Bartek trout caught in the streams in the middle parts of the river.



Sunrise at the Arctic circle.

You are allowed to fish from the bridge crossing the river a few hundred metres downstream from the lake Gåbdok. To fish in Gåbdok and upstream you need a special fishing licence for this quota-based water system. You walk to bridge by following Kungsleden and it will take a little less than one hour. The top part of the river is swiftly flowing, the vegetation is sparse consisting of small birch trees and there is plenty of space for fly casting.



The river Bartek starts at the lake Gåbdok. These waters have special restrictions but offers excellent possibilities to catch large trout with dry-flies, streamers or nymph.

Downstream you get to Övre Korsselet, a favourite spot for many. Here you will find all sorts of fly fishing but mainly a good opportunity for trying your dry-flies. You can wade out to the feeding fish in many places.



Övre Korsselet is a fly-fishermans paradise. Here you will find all sorts of fly-fishing in one place and plenty of fish feeding from the surface.

Passing this small lake and a short stream stretch you get to Nedre Korsselet that offers the same fishing opportunities as in Övre Korsselet. The vegetation is now more dense and there are limited possibilities for wading.

Downstream the Korselen there is a fairly long stretch of a few kilometres of swift flowing river. Some stretches are hard to fish due to the water flow but there many smaller pools near the shore line where the fish usually reside. Large rocks and boulders are abundant in the river giving the fish numerous places to hold.



The river can be powerful when the water is flowing high. Despite that there can be good fishing.

At the lower bridge the river bifurcates into two similar size branches. One branch flows down to Vounjatviken and the other flows into lake Rebnes near Aka. The two stretches are still very much alike in geography. The vegetation is now very dense and it can be hard to walk along the river side. The river also changes character and consist more an array of small lakes or pools separated by short streams. The pools are deep and beautiful. Each pool only offers one or two places from where you can fish due to the vegetation. Good roll-casting technique will increase the possibilities.



In the lower parts of the river there are plenty large and small pools. The vegetation is dense making walking along the river somewhat difficult in places, but once you are there you will find it worth the effort.

The chances of catching fish are the same in all parts of the river. Some have their own special stretch of water they prefer and fish mainly there whereas others enjoy to fish the great variety of the entire river. If you see any surface feeding fish do try your dry flies like Europea12, caddis or similar. Nymphs usually fish well in the entire river. My favourites are Hare and Copper or Goldhead. Classical wet flies patterns like Greenwell's glory and March Brown have proven successful many times. Streamers and muddlers usually work best in the swift flowing stretches. When the fish is active it is probably more important to get the fly to the fish than what type of fly you actually present. Surface feeding fish are usually more particular with their diet.



Is there anything that beats the moment when a large trout takes you dry fly? There is plenty of chances for that at Korssellet or in any of the small lakes along or surrounding river Bartek.

Fly-fishing in Bartek is my favourite past time. I have been there many summers by now. Sometimes the fishing is hard and there can be many hours without any strikes or even seeing any fish. But, I have never left Vounatjviken disappointed. Sooner or later I will get that strike that will give me such a kick of adrenalin that my pulse goes sky high and my knees start shaking. Sometimes the fish wins the battle, sometimes the fish will swim away again after having been measured and weighed, and sometimes I cook it over an open fire, eat it and enjoy the moment.



If you are lucky you may catch a really brown (brown) trout and they are exceptionally beautiful, like this one. These are moments you never forget.

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