

# Fishing Kaluga on the Amur River

## CATCH AND RELEASE FISH



It's truly said that the Far East begins from Amur River, one of the greatest rivers in Russia. It became the “artery” for the Far East and Khabarovsk Region; region’s history and economy is closely connected with it. Here is highly developed fish-farming industry; also cargo- and passenger-transportation are carrying out here. The river begins from the confluence of two rivers Arguni and Shilka. The length of Amur (including the mouth of river) measured 4445 km, width – 19km, and depth sometimes reaches 40 meters! It’s the ninth greatest river in the world. The year average drain of the river is 350 milliards of cubic meters. Dividing into a lot of branches Amur forms a lot of flood-lakes and river channels, its river basin extends from Mongolia until the rivers of the North-West part of Sakhalin Island.

Amur is the richest fish-river in Russia – here you can catch 11 different kinds of fish in a day. The overall number of kinds is about 140, among them there are fishes brought from another region of Russia as well as the endemics – kinds that you can meet only here.

One of these kinds needs to pay special attention. Kaluga can be truly called the King of river fishes. It is a fish of the Sturgeons that can be found only here. It is listed as endangered, but recently, due to the long ban on fishing, the population of this kind began to grow.

Tail of two huge stiff fins, huge sharp snout with little eyes, wide yellow belly and yellow fan-sized pectorals... When it appears on the surface of the water you can see the lump of the rough massive back with the row of the sharp bone pyramids like dinosaurs had. Kaluga is often associated with

caviar – fishermen say that it can be found even 15-20 kg in one fish!

It is a predator – fishes are difficult to hide or escape from it. Its great maw can easily catch such a big victims, like the seal or a half-meter fish! Seeing the aim Kaluga rushes forward and the amazing vibration intensity of its muscles can even ... spoil aluminum stitches of the river boat! When found a fish Kaluga drains the water, as a cachalot, and prolongs her searches of food. Its stomach can contain 10 fishes of keta (but, of course, Kaluga can eat other different kinds of fishes – pike, carp and others).

The length of Kaluga reaches 5-6 meters, the weight – up to 1 ton! The maximum weight that has been ever officially recorded is 1270 kg. It can live to 55 years! And it is the fish we would like you to offer to catch!

### **SAMPLE OF THE TOUR**

*RATING: medium-comfort*

*LOCATION: Nikolaevsk na Amure, Forest base near Amur River*

*GROUP SIZE: max 6*

*COMMENTS: Please, bring with yourself warm clothes (the weather might be rather cool), waterproof jacket or raincoat.*

DAY	ITINERARY	MEALS
Day 1	Arrival to Khabarovsk Departure from Khabarovsk to Nikolaevsk na Amure by flight (40 min) or by ship (18 hours). Departure to forest base by ship (about 2 hours). Arrival to springhead of Amur river. Accommodation at the forest house. Dinner at Forest base.	B L D
Day 2	Bf at Forest base. Full day fishing at Amur River to catch Kaluga fish. Lunch and dinner at Forest base	B L D
Day 3	Bf at Forest base. Full day fishing at Amur River to catch Kaluga fish. Lunch and dinner at Forest base	B L D
Day 4	Bf at Forest base. Full day fishing at Amur river to catch any river fish except of Kaluga fish. Lunch and dinner at Forest Base.	B L D
Day 5	Bf at Forest base. Full day of fishing. Lunch and dinner at Forest Base.	B L D
Day 6	Breakfast at Forest base. Departure from Forest base to Nikolaevsk na Amure by ship (2 hours).	B

**\*\*Please, note!** The dates and duration of the tour may depend on the schedule of flights.

**\*The program route and duration can be changed considering your wishes.**