

Fly Fishing On The Red: An Immersive Guide to Experiencing One of Oklahoma's Best Fly Fishing Destinations

Nestled in the rolling hills of southern Oklahoma, the Red River meanders through a breathtaking landscape, offering an unparalleled fly fishing experience. Whether you're an experienced angler or a novice just starting out, the Red River has something to offer everyone.



Fly Fishing on the Red by Kieron Gillen

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The Best Spots to Fly Fish on the Red River

The Red River boasts numerous prime fishing spots, each with its unique characteristics:

- **Lake Texoma:** This expansive reservoir, formed by the damming of the Red and Washita Rivers, is known for its abundant populations of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and striped bass.

- **Lower Mountain Fork River:** Flowing through the scenic Ouachita Mountains, the Lower Mountain Fork River offers clear waters and a diverse range of fish species, including rainbow trout, brown trout, and smallmouth bass.
- **Blue River:** A tributary of the Red River, the Blue River is known for its crystal-clear waters and healthy populations of rainbow trout and brown trout.
- **Little River:** Located in southeastern Oklahoma, the Little River is a scenic stream with a good population of smallmouth bass, spotted bass, and longear sunfish.
- **Kiamichi River:** Flowing through the southeastern corner of Oklahoma, the Kiamichi River offers a scenic backdrop for fly fishing, with opportunities to catch largemouth bass, spotted bass, and striped bass.

Techniques and Tips for Fly Fishing on the Red River

To maximize your fly fishing experience on the Red River, consider the following techniques and tips:

- **Fly Selection:** Choose flies that imitate the local aquatic insects, such as mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies. Consider the time of year and water conditions when selecting your flies.
- **Presentation:** Properly present your fly to the fish by using the appropriate casting technique and retrieves. Learn to read the water and identify likely holding areas for fish.
- **Stealth:** Be as stealthy as possible to avoid spooking fish. Approach fishing spots quietly and avoid making sudden movements.

- **Patience:** Fly fishing requires patience. Be prepared to spend time on the water, casting your line and waiting for the right moment to strike.
- **Catch and Release:** Consider practicing catch and release to preserve the Red River's fish populations for future generations.

Essential Gear for Fly Fishing on the Red River

To fully enjoy your fly fishing experience on the Red River, you'll need the right gear:

- **Fly Rod:** Choose a rod that suits your casting style and the type of fish you're targeting. A 9-foot, 5-weight rod is a good all-around option.
- **Fly Reel:** Select a reel that is balanced with your rod and provides smooth drag adjustment.
- **Fly Line:** Use a floating fly line for most situations, unless you're fishing in deeper waters or targeting bottom-dwelling fish.
- **Flies:** Bring a variety of flies to match the insects present in the river.
- **Waders or Hip Boots:** Keep your feet dry and protected from the elements.
- **Polarized Sunglasses:** Reduce glare and improve your visibility on the water.
- **Hat:** Protect yourself from the sun and rain.

Fly fishing on the Red River offers an unforgettable experience for anglers of all skill levels. With its stunning scenery, abundant fish populations, and diverse fishing spots, the Red River is a true fly fishing paradise. By following the tips and techniques outlined in this guide, you'll be well-

equipped to cast your line with confidence and enjoy a memorable day on the water.

So grab your gear and head to the Red River for an immersive fly fishing adventure that will leave you hooked.



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