

Angling Adventures

TWO SPOTS LEFT

THE FIRST FLY WEEK IN THE LODGE'S HISTORY

BENSBACH FLY WEEK 2027

10 – 17 August 2027 · Bensbach Wilderness Lodge, Western Province, PNG

Pictured: 135cm — the biggest Bensbach barramundi known to be taken on fly.

8 GUEST PLACES | **7** NIGHTS | **7** DAYS ON THE WATER | HOSTED BY **WATTY** | FLY ONLY

For one week in August 2027, I'm running Bensbach as a **dedicated fly-fishing departure** — eight like-minded fly anglers, one remote lodge, and a river that holds more metre-plus barramundi than anywhere on the planet.

Most barra charters would be thrilled with ten fish over a metre in a season. Bensbach guests routinely beat that in a week. Swap the baitcaster for a fly rod and you've got a genuine shot at the barra of a lifetime — and I'll be on the water and at the tying bench with you the whole trip.

— Glenn "Watty" Watt, NT fly guide since 2011

THE TRIP AT A GLANCE

DATES	10–17 Aug 2027 — 7 nights
PLACES	**Eight guests**, hosted all week — **two spots left**
FISHING	6 full days + 2 half days, boat & bank
GETTING IN	Private charter ex-Cairns
SUITS	Experienced fly anglers



Generational river knowledge with local guides



Beautiful wild barra — even smaller fish eat huge flies



Easy casting, boat and open grassy banks



Big bait, big flies — this skunk beast fly matches the resident snakehead perfectly

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Return private charter, Cairns ↔ Bensbach
- ✓ All accommodation and meals at the lodge
- ✓ Six full days and two half-days guided fishing
- ✓ Evening fly-tying sessions with Watty

THE INVESTMENT

$13,700 AUD per person — confirmed 2027 price

Charter, lodge, meals, guiding and your own private room included — bar bill, tips and visa are the only extras. 30% deposit (non-refundable) secures your seat; balance 90 days before we fly.

SECURE YOUR SEAT

Glenn "Watty" Watt
+61 417 272 871
fishing@anglingadventures.com.au

Two of the eight places are still open — first-in, first-served. Price, dates and charter are confirmed for 2027, and a seat is only held once your deposit is in. Reply for the full Trip Information Book, or just call me.

Angling Adventures Pty Ltd · 30+ years · 10,000+ trips booked · ATAS/ATIA accredited · anglingadventures.com.au · Confirmed pricing, issued November 2026

TRIP INFORMATION BOOK

BENSBACH FLY WEEK 2027

10 – 17 August 2027 · Eight guest places — two spots left · Hosted by Glenn “Watty” Watt

WELCOME

THE FIRST FLY WEEK IN BENSBACH’S HISTORY

For one week in August 2027, I’m running Bensbach as a dedicated fly-fishing departure — eight like-minded fly anglers, one remote lodge, and a river that holds more metre-plus barramundi than anywhere on the planet. Most barra charters would be thrilled with ten fish over a metre in a season; Bensbach guests routinely beat that in a week. Swap the baitcaster for a fly rod and you’ve got a genuine shot at the barra of a lifetime — and I’ll be on the water and at the tying bench with you the whole trip.

YOUR HOST — WATTY

I’m Glenn “Watty” Watt, head fishing nerd at Angling Adventures and a full-time guide in the Northern Territory since 2011 — the Territory’s only specialist fly guide. I’m an IGFA-certified captain, an IGFA fly line-class world record holder, and a registered guide with Fly Fishers International, with a barely healthy addiction to tying barra flies. I’ll be hosting this week start to finish — on the water and at the tying bench.

WHO THIS TRIP SUITS

This week is built for **competent, experienced fly anglers** — casting confidently, comfortable fighting big fish on heavy gear, and self-sufficient with your own kit. It’s not a first-time fly caster’s trip. You’ll want a reasonable base level of fitness too — full days on the water and on your feet fishing the bank, in tropical heat.

CONFIRMED FOR 2027 — TWO SPOTS LEFT

This is the confirmed edition of the book: the **price, dates and charter are locked** with our operators for the 2027 season. Six of the eight places are already claimed. If you want one of the last two, Part 8 has the number and how to secure it — a seat is only held once your deposit is in.

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK

1. Trip Summary & Itinerary
2. Travel, Transfers & Logistics
3. What's Included & Not Included
4. Your Tackle — Rods, Reels, Lines & Flies
5. Packing Checklist
6. Fishing — What to Expect
7. Insurance & Getting Ready
8. Your Investment, How to Book & Contact

THE INVESTMENT

$13,700 AUD per person — confirmed 2027 price, your own private room

- **Eight guest places — two spots left**, first-in, first-served — the first dedicated fly week in Bensbach's history.
- A **30% deposit** (non-refundable) secures your seat. **Balance due 90 days before departure** — 12 May 2027.
- To take a seat or ask a question, **contact Watty directly** — +61 417 272 871 or fishing@anglingadventures.com.au.

PART 1

TRIP SUMMARY & ITINERARY

Seven nights at Bensbach Wilderness Lodge, deep in PNG's Western Province and run by Trans Niugini Tours — remote wilderness, and arguably the greatest barramundi fishing on the planet. This is a fixed-departure group trip, not a private trip: **eight guest anglers plus me**, sharing one exceptional river for the week.

YOUR WEEK, DAY BY DAY

10 AUG — **Depart Cairns for Bensbach**

Private charter with Machjet International out of Cairns — a King Air B200 flying to Daru, PNG, to clear immigration, then on to Bensbach. Arrive at the lodge early afternoon, met by lodge manager Deano — settle in, tackle up, and get a session in before the sun goes down.

11–16 AUG — **Full days on the Bensbach River**

Six days chasing metre-plus barra on fly, with evening fly-tying sessions at the lodge — techniques and patterns tuned to the week's conditions.

17 AUG — **Final morning & depart for Cairns**

A last session on the water, then board the charter back to Cairns via Daru.



The guides. Generational river knowledge — two per boat, and the reason the group fishes the right water on the right day.

HOW THE WEEK RUNS

THE BOATS & GUIDES

- We run three vessels through the week, with two guides per boat — enough to keep guides on the water and on the bank at the same time.
- A genuine mix of boat-based and land-based fishing: generally two anglers per boat, with the rest of the group fishing from the bank in rotations of an hour or two, giving everyone room to cast and a fair shot at the best land-based spots too.
- We rotate through a couple of times a day, so everyone gets a proper mix of boat and bank fishing across the week. Want to weight your week more towards the boat or the bank? Just say so — happy to accommodate within reason, as long as it works for the whole group.

THE FISHING

- Expect fish that would be the highlight catch of a season almost anywhere else — routinely, all week. More on why in Part 6.
- You're out all day — the lodge packs lunch, water, soft drinks and beers every morning; a bush BBQ for lunch is often on offer if you'd like to cook up a barra in the shade. Drinks are tracked as you go and settled at the end of the trip — not included in the trip price — see Money, the Bar Bill & Tipping, later in Part 2.
- Evenings at the tying bench with me — patterns, technique, and whatever the day's conditions are asking for.

A TYPICAL DAY

- Breakfast around 6:30am, or your preferred time, then onto the water for the day.
- Back at the lodge before sunset — for your safety on a remote river system.

KEEPING A FEED, LOOKING AFTER THE FISHERY

- Predominantly catch-and-release. Happy to keep the odd fish for a fresh feed or for the guides.

PART 2

TRAVEL, TRANSFERS & LOGISTICS

GETTING TO BENSBACH

- The trip runs on a private aircraft charter ex-Cairns with Machjet International — a **King Air B200** with two pilots, from the operator who flies every Bensbach group for us. Getting yourself to Cairns is your own arrangement.
- Report to Machjet International, Cairns General Aviation Airport (Hangar 9), at **0630** on departure day — the exact report time is confirmed in writing once you're booked.
- Aircraft departs Cairns around 0800 and flies to Daru, PNG, to clear PNG immigration, then on to Bensbach. If Daru can't confirm fuel for 2027, the charter takes a short refuelling stop at Horn Island on the way — a brief stop, nothing more.
- Arrive at Bensbach Wilderness Lodge early afternoon — met by the lodge manager, Deano.
- **Luggage weight limit applies** — light charter aircraft into Bensbach run a strict allowance. **Plan on 12kg per person** all-up, including carry-on — you and your bag are both weighed at check-in. The confirmed 2027 figure comes with your booking confirmation, in good time to pack to the number. Pack light — see Part 5.

A TIP ON TIMING — AND DINNER THE NIGHT BEFORE

You'll want to be in Cairns the night before: it's an early report time (around 0630), and nobody enjoys that on the back of a dawn flight in. **We'll plan to get the group together for dinner that evening** — a good way to put faces to names before we fly. Hotel recommendations come to you as part of the onboarding once you're booked.

Give yourself a buffer either side if you can; remote-airstrip charter flights run to their own schedule and the weather, not the clock — if PNG weather pushes departure back a day, I'll keep you posted and we work around it together.

ENTERING PNG

- A PNG entry visa is required, and you apply for it online before you travel — for Australian passport holders that's the **30-day Easy Visitor Permit**; travelling on another passport, tell me and I'll send the right process. It's your own responsibility, but once you're booked I'll provide a personalised visa cover letter and full application instructions.
- The online application fee is around **US$50 (roughly A$75)**. Don't apply before February 2027 — the permit is valid for six months from issue — I'll tell you when. PNG entry requirements do shift from time to time, so I'll confirm the current fee and process with your cover letter.
- Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.

BRINGING YOUR GEAR THROUGH CUSTOMS

Standard Australian biosecurity applies on your way home: used fishing gear must be clean and dry — no soil, weed or fish residue — and declared on arrival.

ON THE GROUND AT BENSBACH

ACCOMMODATION

Each angler has their own private room, with shared bathroom and toilet facilities. Rooms have **ceiling fans**, and the river breeze coming through does most of the work — it's more comfortable out here than people expect. Rooms are **mosquito-proofed** as thoroughly as a bush lodge can manage; bring repellent and you'll barely think about it. Drinking water is provided — a jug by your bed and more in the dining room; the bathroom tap is river water, so brush your teeth from the jug.

POWER



240V, Australian plugs — the same flat three-pin sockets you'd use at home in Australia (Type I). Australian guests need nothing extra. Guests travelling from elsewhere should bring a Type I adapter and check their chargers handle 240V (nearly all phone, camera and laptop chargers do).

WEATHER & THE COUNTRY YOU'LL BE FISHING

August sits squarely in the dry season (May–October) — the pick of the year out here. Expect warm, mostly clear days in the low thirties, cooling off nicely overnight, with the south-east trades keeping things pleasant and the humidity well down on the wet. Rain is possible but uncommon, and the floodplains are draining, which concentrates the fish.

The country itself is the other half of the appeal. Downstream you're on the **open Tonda grasslands** — wide, clean banks you can walk and cast from without a tree behind you. Push further upstream and it turns into **snaggy, collapsed-bank jungle**, all timber and undercuts and ambush water. Between the two, it's barra fishing paradise, and it's why the week never gets repetitive.

CONNECTIVITY

The lodge runs **Starlink**, so there's internet at camp when you want it. On the water, **Telstra** does work in patches — grab one of their daily international data packs before you leave and you'll have coverage where there's reception (on another carrier, check your PNG roaming before you go). Neither is fast, and both are easy to ignore, which is rather the point.

A WORD ON CROCODILES

The Bensbach system is croc country, and you'll very likely see a few — part of the wild magic of fishing out here. I'll brief everyone properly at the lodge: stay in the boat, no swimming, a rod's length back from the edge when you're fishing the bank, and follow the guides' lead near the water at all times. Handled sensibly, they're something to marvel at, not to fear.

MONEY, THE BAR BILL & TIPPING

Your trip is all-inclusive once you're at the lodge — with two exceptions: **your bar bill** and tips. Drinks are tracked as you go and settled at the end of the week, and the lodge takes **cash only**. Kina and Australian dollars are both accepted. There is no card facility, no ATM, and no change available for large notes, so bring what you need with you.

WHAT DRINKS COST (AUD)

$10	$6	$3	$85
BEER	SOFT DRINK	BOTTLED WATER	BOTTLE OF WINE

BEWARE OF BILL SHOCK

Plenty of fishermen get a jolt at the end of a trip, with nobody to blame but themselves. Do the maths that suits your drinking before you go: **$10 a beer × 4 a night × 7 nights = $280.** If you think it might creep up on you, keep your ring pulls or bottle caps and count as you go — simple, and it works.

Want to keep the cost down? You're welcome to **bring a bottle of spirits from Cairns** (within PNG's duty-free allowance) and just buy mixers at the bar.

ONE HARD RULE — NO ALCOHOL TO GUIDES OR LOCALS

Do not give alcohol to the guides or to any local people during your time at Bensbach, and please dispose of anything left over before you depart. **There are no exceptions to this rule.**

TIPPING

Tipping is customary and genuinely appreciated, and the simplest approach is for the group to handle it together at the end of the week. The rule of thumb is **$20 per staff member from each of us** — around a dozen people across three boats with rotating guides, plus the house staff who look after you all week.

Bring $250 AUD in $10 notes from home. That will more than cover your share, and small notes matter: there's no change at the lodge. We'll do the tipping on the last day **as a group with everyone present**, so it's divided evenly and nobody gets missed. All up, **$500–600 in small notes** covers your tips and a typical bar tab.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS & ANYTHING ELSE

Dietary requirements, allergies and medical conditions are all captured in our customer information forms once you've paid your deposit, and passed to the lodge kitchen well ahead of time. In all our trips out here we've not yet struck a requirement they couldn't cater for — so tell us, and consider it handled.

PART 3

WHAT'S INCLUDED & NOT INCLUDED

Bensbach Fly Week 2027 runs all-inclusive from the Cairns charter out to the Cairns charter home — your bar bill, tips and the PNG visa fee are the only extras.

INCLUDED

- ✓ Return private aircraft charter, Cairns ↔ Bensbach (Machjet)
- ✓ All accommodation and meals at Bensbach Wilderness Lodge
- ✓ Six full days and two half-days guided fishing, hosted on the water by Watty all week
- ✓ Evening fly-tying sessions with Watty
- ✓ Personalised itinerary, packing list and tackle list
- ✓ Our expert advice throughout

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ PNG eVisa fee (around US$50 — roughly A$75)
- ✗ Alcohol and soft drink at the lodge
- ✗ Tips (see Money & Tipping, Part 2)
- ✗ Airport transfers and accommodation in Cairns
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Your own fly fishing gear (see Part 4)

PART 4

YOUR TACKLE — RODS, REELS, LINES & FLIES

Bensbach barra don't fish like anywhere else — expect to throw genuinely big flies into some wind, and to fight fish that test everything you own. Here's what I recommend.

> **COME SELF-SUFFICIENT**
>
> This is a bring-your-own-gear trip — there's no spare fly tackle at the lodge, so make sure you're covered end to end (see the checklist in Part 5). That said, it's a small, tight group for the week, and anglers are generally happy to lend a hand — or a rod — if someone runs into strife.



32cm. One of the beast flies these fish eat — which is why the rod recommendations over the page are what they are.

RODS

- A 9-weight is your baseline — for smaller flies, and it doubles as the rod to grab for a break chasing snakehead between barra sessions.
- Bring heavier gear too: 10, 11 or 12-weight, whatever you're already used to fishing — for NYAP-style poppers, double-barrel popper heads and beast flies.
- **My recommendation:** two 9-weights plus two heavier rods (10, 11 or 12wt — whatever you already own).

REELS

- Any trusted brand with a decent, reliable drag, carrying good, strong backing.
- Don't under-gun this one. **These aren't your normal Shady Camp 103–107cm barra** — they're bigger, fitter and stronger, and they will find every weakness in your gear. Part 6 has the numbers.

LINES

- **Floating** — for surface flies and poppers.
- **Intermediate** — for fishing subsurface.
- **Heavy sink** — for when fish are holding deep, or you want to get down into structure, to a rock bar or an eddy, before your line gets pulled away by the flow.
- All lines: aggressive-taper, shooting-head-style weight-forward heads — there's often wind blowing across the open floodplains. That said, when we're out on the grasslands we plan the day with the guides to put the wind at your back wherever we can, so you're casting downwind rather than fighting it.

LEADER

- 6–9ft leader, 50–70lb straight through, with a shock or bite tippet up to 100lb.
- Leader material: Schneider — the most popular leader brand here in the Territory, and what I fish myself.

FLIES

- Big, easy-casting GT and pelagic-style poppers, including the NYAP.
- Bigger gurglers, tied on 4/0 and 6/0 hooks.
- A good spread of bright and dark colours: snakehead patterns in black and white; barra respond well to pink, chartreuse, red/white and other bright colours.
- If you tie your own, use the best hooks you can afford — I fish Ahrex, various models depending on the fly.
- Detailed patterns and tying technique get shared with the group once you're booked — and I run evening tying sessions at the lodge too.

PART 5

PACKING CHECKLIST

Beyond your fly tackle (Part 4), pack for a remote tropical wilderness lodge — sun-smart, quick-dry and light. The lodge staff do laundry as required, so three or four days' worth of fishing clothes is plenty. **Keep total luggage (including carry-on) as light as you can** — the charter into Bensbach is a light aircraft with a strict weight allowance — plan on 12kg all-up — and the confirmed 2027 figure comes with your booking confirmation (see Part 2).

CLOTHING — SUN-SMART, TROPICAL

- [ ] 3 Long-sleeve UPF fishing shirts
- [ ] 2 Quick-dry long pants
- [ ] 2 Quick-dry shorts
- [ ] 1 Wide-brim hat
- [ ] 1–2 Buff / neck gaiter
- [ ] 1–2 Polarised sunglasses
- [ ] 1 Pair of sun gloves
- [ ] Stripping finger guards
- [ ] 1 Lightweight rain jacket
- [ ] 1 Light fleece or jumper — cool mornings, boat ride
- [ ] 1 Pair of non-marking deck / wading shoes
- [ ] Casual evening clothes (no dress code)

SUN & HEALTH

- [ ] High-SPF reef-safe sunscreen
- [ ] Lip balm with SPF
- [ ] Insect repellent
- [ ] Personal medications (all you need)
- [ ] GP visit: malaria prevention, travel vaccinations, a broad-spectrum antibiotic
- [ ] Basic first aid: antiseptic, wound dressings, diarrhoea tablets
- [ ] Earplugs
- [ ] Electrolytes / hydration tablets
- [ ] Reusable water bottle
- [ ] Snacks for the boat — muesli bars, jerky

TACKLE (SEE PART 4)

- [ ] Two 9-weight rods
- [ ] Two heavier rods (10–12wt)
- [ ] Reels with strong drag & backing
- [ ] Floating / intermediate / heavy sink lines
- [ ] Schneider leader (50–70lb) + bite tippet
- [ ] Fly selection (see Part 4) + clippers
- [ ] Pliers & lip grips — at least one set per boat / bank group
- [ ] No fishing line in carry-on — security may confiscate it

DOCUMENTS & ELECTRONICS

- [ ] Passport (6+ months validity)
- [ ] PNG visa approval — printed hard copy for PNG Immigration
- [ ] Travel insurance details
- [ ] Phone / camera + chargers
- [ ] Power bank; Type I adapter if you're not Australian
- [ ] Headlamp or torch
- [ ] Waterproof day pack for the boat

PART 6

FISHING — WHAT TO EXPECT



135cm. The biggest Bensbach barramundi known to have been taken on fly — landed on the river we'll be fishing all week. Notice the open grassy banks behind: perfect country for land-based fly casting.

BENSBACH BARRAMUNDI — THE HEADLINE ACT

Snakehead are the main baitfish here, and that rich food source is why the barra reach the size they do. **Bensbach produces the largest wild barramundi in the world** — fish over 130cm are caught every year, and among the metre-plus fish the average is over 110cm.

So it isn't only the numbers — it's the calibre. Big, strong, fit, healthy barra in a tidal river, unmatched anywhere else on earth. On fly, that's about as good as it gets.

SNAKEHEAD

Aggressive, fun, and always up for a fight on the 9-weight. A great change of pace between barra sessions, taking small surface flies and streamers readily.



Snakehead. Willing takers on the 9-weight, and a good way to spend an hour when you've had enough of throwing beast flies at the bank.

ON THE WATER WITH YOU ALL WEEK

One last thing worth saying plainly: I'm not sending you off with the guides and waiting at the lodge. I'm out there for all seven days, in the rotation with everyone else, working out what the fish want and passing it straight down the line to the group. Whatever the week throws at us, I'm in it with you.

> **AN HONEST WORD ON THE FISHING**
>
> Bensbach fishes as well as anywhere on earth for big barra, but it's a wild river and no one controls it. Some weeks are extraordinary, some are merely very good — water level, wind and the fish get a vote. What I can promise is the best shot at great fishing going, and that I'll be working at it alongside you every day.

PART 7

INSURANCE & GETTING READY

Bensbach is genuinely remote wilderness, a long way from medical facilities, so I recommend comprehensive travel insurance for this trip as a matter of course, not just a formality. Arranging your own cover is entirely up to you, but it's worth sorting early — many trip-cancellation policies need to be taken out shortly after your deposit.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **Travel / trip-cancellation cover** — to protect your investment if something stops you travelling.
- **Medical cover** — for treatment while you're away.
- **Medical evacuation cover** — we're fishing remote PNG, so evacuation cover is well worth having.

GETTING READY — A ROUGH RUNWAY

- **Now** — secure your seat with a 30% deposit (non-refundable). A place is only held once the deposit is in.
- **Once you're booked** — visa cover letter and instructions, confirmed charter report time and luggage allowance, tackle and fly patterns for the group.
- **90 days out — 12 May 2027** — balance due, final itinerary confirmed.
- **Closer in** — final departure details, and a group chat so we're all on the same page before we fly.

> **PASSPORTS FIRST**
>
> If your passport expires before **March 2028**, renew it before you apply for a PNG visa — it needs at least 6 months' validity beyond our 17 August return, and it's the one thing that catches people out late.

PART 8

YOUR INVESTMENT, HOW TO BOOK & CONTACT

EIGHT PLACES — TWO SPOTS LEFT. THE FIRST FLY WEEK IN BENSBACH'S HISTORY.

INVESTMENT	**$13,700 AUD per person** · confirmed 2027 price · your own private room
PLACES	**Eight guest places — two spots left**, hosted on the water all week by Glenn "Watty" Watt
DATES	10 – 17 August 2027 — seven nights at Bensbach Wilderness Lodge
DEPOSIT	**30% (non-refundable) secures your seat** — a place is only held once the deposit is in
BALANCE	Due 90 days before departure — **12 May 2027**
INCLUDES	Return Cairns charter, all lodge accommodation and meals, six full days and two half-days of guided fishing, Watty hosting on the water and at the tying bench — Part 3 has the full list
PHONE	**+61 417 272 871**
EMAIL	**fishing@anglingadventures.com.au**
WEB	anglingadventures.com.au

HOW TO TAKE ONE OF THE LAST TWO SEATS

- **Call or email me** — I'll confirm the seat is still open and send the deposit invoice.
- **Pay the 30% deposit** — that's the moment the seat is yours. Until then it stays open to the next angler.
- **Then the onboarding starts** — customer information form, visa cover letter, charter details and luggage allowance, and the group's tackle and fly patterns (Part 7 has the runway).

Two of the **eight places** are still open, and they go first-in, first-served. The week is locked in and runs regardless, so you can put your name down knowing it's happening. If you've got questions first, ask away: I'd far rather you came on this trip knowing exactly what you're in for. Give me a call and let's talk about it.

Angling Adventures Pty Ltd — Australia's Leading Fishing Tour Agency. 30+ years' experience · 10,000+ trips booked · ATAS/ATIA accredited.

Confirmed pricing — issued November 2026. Supersedes any earlier version.