

NIMMO BAY

Heaven is for Helos

By Mark T. Masciarotte · Photos by Neil Rabinowitz



We're diving.

Outside, firs as tall as office buildings and boulders the size of pickup trucks fill the wind-screen. As the airspeed builds, the stereo belts out rock-and-roll over the headsets, adding to the excitement. Jinking around a corner, we join a clear stream and descend below the treetops. Level now, the A-Star skims along the narrow canyon at nearly a hundred knots, twisting and turning with the river's meanders.

"Man," I blurt over the intercom, "this is flying!"

We wheel around yet another

hairpin, and a gravel bar comes into view. With movements as subtle and practiced as a concert musician's, the pilot dials back a touch on the cyclic, bleeding off airspeed. Manipulating the collective, he enters a hover, then begins a slow descent toward the river.

Moments later, with the rotors stopped and the turbine winding down, we disembark, assemble our tackle and make our way into the water to enjoy some of the finest flyfishing on the planet. Our host, Craig Murray, gives us a knowing smile. We've already had the time of our lives, yet we've only been at his renowned Nimmo Bay resort for not much more than an hour.

A while later, we are back at the lodge, sitting on the deck and enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres as the setting sun paints the sky and a lone osprey circles the still water.

The day's fishing had been spectacular, with hundreds of

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bright salmon lined up in the stream's swift current like toy soldiers in a museum diorama. For anglers, this is as good as it gets. Forget about pre-dawn wakeup calls, icy jet-boat rides to far-away rivers or bushwhacking to remote streams. Nimmo Bay's fleet of superb helicopters deliv-

er you to the wilderness quickly, safely and comfortably. The streams are pristine, and the only competition one might encounter is from an eagle or bear. Meeting in the dining room after dark, we sit around a large round table and feast on five-star cuisine that features local seafood,



fine meats, the freshest vegetables and a choice of delicious wines and desserts. The talk is about fishing, flying and exploring magnificent British Columbia. Guests at Nimmo Bay can take advantage of any number of outdoor activities, including sea-

kayaking, caving and white-water rafting. For each of these sports, equipment is provided by the lodge as part of its all-inclusive package. The lodge also offers hops to remote beaches and glaciers, and for guests interested in the history and heritage

of the coastal First Nations people, interpretive trips to the islands that line the picturesque Inside Passage. Accommodations are in beautifully appointed chalets that front the bay. Each offers two bedrooms, a large bathroom and a spacious living room that opens onto a private deck. All told, this is certainly one of the finest getaways in all of North America, one where the food and service is designed to please the most discriminating traveler and where the experience will remain with you for a lifetime.

www.nimmobay.com