

Joe Boulden

I work as an accountant for a renowned hotel in the French Alps and have been living there for the best part of a decade now. I've always been fishing, and tried to keep up with it best I could after moving to France. I was fishing day ticket trout waters until I visited a tackle shop one day where I saw this frame on the wall of a chap holding a stunning fifty pound plus common carp. I enquired about it and was told it was a local fishing guide with many English ties...



I picked up a business card and gave Stefan a call later in the week. I was surprised at first by Stef's English, which was fluent and almost accent free, which is not common in these parts. Stefan assessed my fishing experience and skills, and we agreed on a carp fishing taster week-end at a venue of his choice.

When I got there I was rather impressed by the swim, as everything was neatly set up, from shelters to a cooking area and of course all the carp tackle. Stef ran me through it all, pointing out all the health and safety issues through a comprehensive risk assessment he had previously carried out.

The rest of the week-end was dedicated to catching carp and discovering the fundamentals of it. I was really surprised by the stunning looks of those fish, and how much care was put into their handling. What also surprised me is how quickly I got to grips with carp fishing, since I had never done it before. I think the way Stefan coaches by staying calm and focused and giving plenty of praise helps a lot in getting your confidence and skills up. I now own my own carp kit and still book courses from time to time to progress further!

