



MIDDLE FORK/ MAIN SALMON RIVER COMBO

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	Mountain Village Lodge, Stanley, Idaho
MEETING TIME:	8:00 PM, the evening before your trip
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 5:00 PM, Holiday Inn Express (Hunt Lodge), McCall
RIVER RATING:	Class III-IV
RIVER MILES:	195
PUT-IN:	Indian Creek (Certain water levels may allow us to start our trip from Boundary Creek upstream from the Indian Creek put-in)
TAKE-OUT:	Carey Creek
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 9 (15 at high water)
TRIP LENGTH:	11 Days / 10 Nights
BOAT OPTIONS:	Oar raft, paddle raft, dory, inflatable kayak

Idaho's rivers access some of the most pristine terrain in all the state. They are home to abundant flora and fauna, an impressive network of hiking trails, and some of the country's best whitewater. The Middle Fork is considered the premier alpine river trip in North America and boasts non-stop, Class III-IV whitewater, natural hot springs, and excellent fishing. And then there's the scenery—soft meadows that roll towards the base of soaring mountains, craggy canyons ribboned with waterfalls, deep green forests and grassy hills dotted with wildflowers...the diversity and beauty of the Middle Fork is stunning. Combine this with the Main Salmon, perhaps the most popular rafting trip in Idaho and the longest undammed river in the mainland U.S., the Main Salmon offers a rich river experience. Free-flowing Class III whitewater that's great for any age and experience level, big sandy beaches perfect for camping and playing, beautiful mountain scenery, abundant wildlife, and a natural hot spring are among the hallmarks of the Main. Dubbed the "River of No Return" by early river runners, as whitewater precluded them from traveling upstream, the Salmon is in fact a river you'll want to return to again and again.

AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

BOAT SELECTION

- This combination trip allows us to bring every type of boat in the O.A.R.S. fleet. Riding in an oar boat one day, challenging the whitewater in a paddle raft before graduating to an inflatable kayak, and finally riding the big wave trains in a whitewater dory on the Main Salmon. You'll experience the full range of river running vessels that O.A.R.S. uses on trips throughout the West.

WHITEWATER

- Your whitewater experience on the free-flowing Salmon starts off with a bang on the Middle Fork. Rated Class III-IV, the Middle Fork has more whitewater than any similar-length river in the U.S.—over 100 rapids in 100 miles. Turn by turn, as each tributary surges into the river, the Middle Fork dramatically changes character from a big creek into a thundering river, all the while creating rolling wave trains and thrilling drops. Further on the Main Salmon, you'll notice a significant difference in the nature of the whitewater as the river widens and doubles in volume. With giant waves that grab even the most experienced paddlers' attention, the Class III rapids of the Main are less technical than the Middle Fork, but just as exciting. The pool-and-drop nature of the Main Salmon offers time to relax and enjoy the scenery in between rapids.

Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other trips on the water and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like:

The Day before Your Trip

- We'll meet at 8:00 PM in the conference room of the Mountain Village Lodge for a pre-trip meeting. This is an opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and trip leader and ask any last-minute questions. Your trip leader will give you a thorough trip orientation and pass out your waterproof river bags so that you can pack your belongings that evening.

Days 1-6

- We'll take a scenic flight to our put-in at Indian Creek, where your boats and crew await you. (At certain water levels, we may be lucky enough to put in further upstream at Boundary Creek, which we access by ground shuttle.) After an informative safety talk and some brief paddle raft/inflatable kayak instruction, we take to the pure crisp waters of the breathtaking Middle Fork. Within moments, you'll experience your first rapid, an appropriate introduction to this river whose exciting, consistent whitewater doesn't stop until its confluence with the Main Salmon.
- Our high-elevation put-in point awards us with fantastic alpine scenery, and we spend our first day among deep green forests, dramatic mountains, and crystal clear creeks that pour out of the woods and into the river.
- Our first day generally sets the pace for our time on the river. Typically, we spend a few hours on the water in the morning, sometimes stopping for a great hike, a visit to a waterfall or an Indian pictograph, or a soak in a natural hot spring. Come lunchtime, we pull over to a sandy beach and enjoy a delicious picnic. After feasting and relaxing on the beach (or perhaps swimming, a game of Frisbee, a nature walk...), we get back in our boats for more exciting whitewater. Be sure to try your hand at the paddleboat and inflatable kayak! Mid- to late-afternoon, we stop and make camp; you grab your bags and set up your tent while we take care of the kitchen and "living room"—camp chairs and the site for tonight's campfire (if permitted). Before long you'll be savoring pleasing hors d'oeuvres and the beverage of your choice—delicious as these refreshments are, they always taste better after a day on the river! Read, nap, or just sit back and laugh with friends and family as we prepare dinner. After a satisfying feast, the evening is yours to spend however you wish. Maybe music, stories or jokes will bring

us together tonight; maybe the popping of the fire, the whisper of the river and the clarity of the big, star-filled sky will encourage silent reflection on the amazing wilderness that is, for now, our home.

- Continuing down the river the next few days, we'll see the scenery change from high mountains to gently rolling hills. Thick forests give way to miles of open grassland dotted with cool glades of pine. The views remain stunning and the whitewater action-packed. Huge rapids like Powerhouse and Pistol Creek are interspersed with less intense, yet still thrilling whitewater in the form of wave trains, chutes, and drops. Our journey downstream takes us to more hot springs, alcoves decorated with Sheepeater Indian pictographs, and magnificent Veil Falls, a unique waterfall that plummets freely into a natural amphitheatre from a high rock overhang.
- Towards the end of this stretch, the Middle Fork rushes into Impassable Canyon, a narrow gorge that creates some of the most high-intensity and continuous whitewater of the trip. Paddle hard through Redside, Rubber, and Hancock rapids, and enjoy the sudden spectacular change in scenery from wooded hills to the sheer granite walls and huge boulders of Impassable Canyon.
- On Day 6 we will reach the confluence with the Main Salmon. The guests who are floating only the Middle Fork will say goodbye and leave the river, heading back to Salmon, Idaho. As we turn west at the confluence the flow of the combined rivers more than doubles and we float toward Corn Creek where our Main Salmon journey officially begins. Once we reach Corn Creek the guides will work to expedite the process of bringing on fresh provisions and preparing for the continuation of your journey.

Days 7-11

- After a hearty breakfast, we'll load up the boats and continue our journey. The scenery of the Main—distinct from that of the Middle Fork, yet equally beautiful—immediately transfixes us, and for the duration of our trip, we're mesmerized by the grandeur of the 2.3 million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. This broad canyon is heavily forested with towering pines and conifers and, early in the season, blanketed with vibrant wildflowers. We may be welcomed to the Main by a family of otters swimming near our boats, a herd of bighorn sheep scaling a steep canyon wall, a giant elk or moose wading in the shallows, or if we're lucky, a black bear standing sentinel on shore.
- As we journey into the pristine heart of the Frank Church, each day brings new discoveries: exciting rapids like Salmon Falls, Big Mallard and Growler, historical sites such as Buckskin Bill's homestead and Jim Moore's place (maybe you'll find the fortune he buried in the hillside!), and the much anticipated Barth Hot Springs. Avid hikers may enjoy a challenging climb to Rabbit Point, where the beautiful views are well worth the effort of getting there. The fishing is excellent during these days, and on trips in July and August, warm air and water temperatures encourage frequent refreshing dips in the river.
- On our final day, as the Main Salmon River begins to parallel the forest service road, we conclude our adventure. Bidding farewell to the river and our guides, we'll take a two-hour drive to McCall, where a lovely resort town awaits us. You'll want to spend the night, or even a few days, in McCall to enjoy its beautiful natural setting on the shores of Payette Lake and its authentic small-town Idaho charm. McCall Aviation runs return flights from McCall to Boise beginning approximately 7:00 AM the next morning.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 10 nights catered camping
- Meals from lunch on day 1 through lunch on the last day, with limited beer and wine at dinner
- Expedition equipment including 2-person shared tent, sleeping bag with liner, sleeping pad, pillow with pillow case, ground tarp, and waterproof bags to hold your gear

For more information, call 1-800-346-6277 in the USA and Canada or 1-209-736-4677 outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail info@oars.com

- High quality inflatable rafts and kayaks, colorful handcrafted dories when conditions allow, and related river equipment including paddle, helmet, personal flotation device (PFD)
- Wetsuits and splash jackets for paddlers – weather dependent
- Transfers from Stanley to the river and from the river to McCall

What’s Not Included?

- Transportation to Stanley and back from McCall
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Meals not covered in the itinerary
- Single supplement tent (\$30 plus tax)
- Insurance of any kind, including travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature (an equipment list will be provided)
- Gratuities

SOMETHING VOLUNTARY

- In reviewing your statement, you’ll notice a \$1/person/day donation to Idaho Rivers United, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting Idaho’s clean water, wild rivers and fish, and the communities that depend on them. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to Idaho Rivers United and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. *Please notify our office to delete the donation from your balance.*
- The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit www.oarsfoundation.org to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

Terms & Conditions

Reservations and Deposits

- A \$500/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 60 days prior to departure.

Cancellations and Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. The cancellation fee after you’ve made your deposit can range up to the entire trip cost, based upon the number of days prior to your trip that we receive your cancellation notice. We regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, **we strongly urge you to investigate trip insurance** (see Insurance).

<u>Date of Cancellation</u>	<u>Cancellation Fee</u>
360 days or more prior to your trip	\$50/person
359 - 180 days prior to your trip	\$100/person
179 - 120 days prior to your trip	\$200/person
119 - 90 days prior to your trip	\$300/person
89 - 60 days prior to your trip	\$500/person
59 days or less	Full Fare*

*If we are able to fill the trip and replace the cancelled passengers, the fee will be reduced to 30% of the trip cost.

Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying an O.A.R.S. trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician’s approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

Insurance

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, we strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler’s policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable

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payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on an adventure travel trip, evacuation can be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and O.A.R.S. accepts no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed or stolen property.

Liability Waiver

- Everyone is required to sign a standard release before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with O.A.R.S. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

Responsibility – An Important Notice

- O.A.R.S. Dories, Inc. and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings (this trip requires a minimum of 4 guests), and other factors. There is risk in whitewater rafting, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" and "float-it-out" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices subject to change without notice.

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