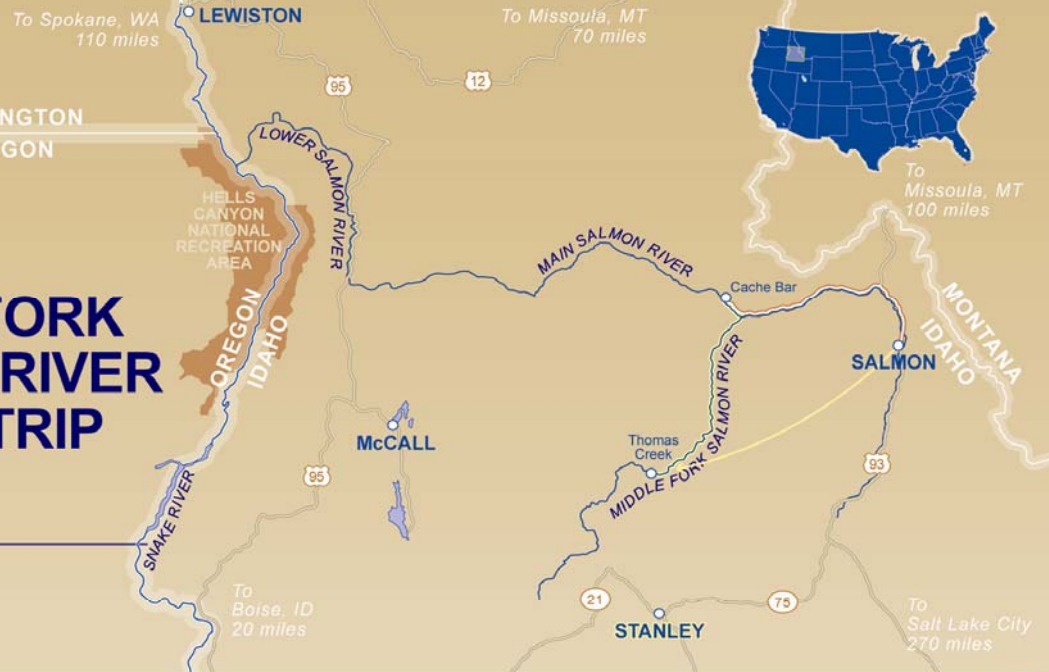




WASHINGTON  
OREGON

## MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER FISHING TRIP

*Itinerary*



|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>MEETING PLACE:</b> | Stagecoach Inn, Salmon, Idaho             |
| <b>MEETING TIME:</b>  | 8:00 PM, the evening before your trip     |
| <b>RETURN TIME:</b>   | Approximately 4:00-6:00 PM                |
| <b>RIVER RATING:</b>  | Class II-III (depending upon water level) |
| <b>RIVER MILES:</b>   | 65  |
| <b>PUT-IN:</b>        | Thomas Creek                              |
| <b>TAKE-OUT:</b>      | Cache Bar on the Main Salmon              |
| <b>AGE LIMIT:</b>     | Minimum age is 9                          |
| <b>TRIP LENGTH:</b>   | 5 Days / 4 Nights                         |
| <b>BOAT TYPE:</b>     | Oar raft                                  |

Often overlooked, the Middle Fork offers some of the best cutthroat fishing in Idaho. The population of this unique strain of west slope cutthroat was almost destroyed by the end of the 1960s. A catch-and-release regulation was then imposed and that, along with the very limited access to the river and little angling pressure, has resulted in a river loaded with fish. Twelve- to fourteen-inchers are common, with an occasional sixteen- to eighteen-inch fish. Native rainbow, mountain whitefish, and bull trout are also caught here.

### **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**

- On our Middle Fork fishing itineraries we bring our rafts. They provide a sturdy and maneuverable fishing platform, are rowed by one of our experienced fishing guides, and carry two guests.

## **FISHING**

- Although the whitewater may be world renowned, simply put, the Middle Fork fishery is superb. The ease of fishing, combined with unsurpassed wilderness and abundant wildlife make for the trip of a lifetime!
- The Middle Fork is renowned for its trout fishery. To protect the resource, all fishing is limited to catch and release, with single barbless hooks. No bait is allowed. Our guides will be happy to explain proper handling techniques for catch and release fishing, if you are not already familiar with them. You can also fish for smallmouth bass and, in the fall, steelhead. You'll need to bring your own gear. We recommend collapsible poles for ease in packing, light spinning tackle with 4- to 6-pound test, and an assortment of spinning lures such as Mepps, Rooster tails, and Super-dupers. Please bring your rod protected in a hard case. Fly fishers do quite well, especially in major tributaries.

## **Sample Itinerary**

We pride ourselves in running relaxed and flexible schedules. Every trip varies a little due to water levels, the interests of the group, and sometimes the weather, but each trip provides exciting whitewater, fantastic scenery, and an unparalleled outdoor experience. Usually you'll spend about 5 to 6 hours a day in the boats. Breakfast is served early in the morning, and you're on the water by mid-morning or earlier. There will be a mid-day lunch stop and maybe some short hikes to fish tributary streams. We arrive at camp by late afternoon with time to explore, do some more fishing, or relax before dinner is served. Often there is a campfire in the evening complete with tall fishing tales.

## **The Day before Your Trip**

- There will be an orientation meeting at 8:00 PM at the Stagecoach Inn. Your trip leader will meet with you to answer last-minute questions and distribute waterproof bags in which to pack your personal gear.

## **Day 1**

- We depart Salmon at 7:00 AM for the airport and our flight to the Thomas Creek airstrip. You'll be greeted at the river by your guides and given a brief safety talk. Fishing opportunities today range from streamside casting in the pristine waters of the side creeks, fishing from the boats as you travel down the main river corridor, and finishing the day with waders at camp. And if that's not enough, we may stop at Hospital Bar hot springs for a soak and run several Class II and the four Class III Tappan Rapids!

## **Day 2**

- The fishing just keeps getting better. We stop to see the ancient pictographs and fish the deep pools above Aparejo Point. We may anchor and fish the glassy smooth water above the Flying B Ranch or stop at Warm Springs Creek for a short hike to another hot soak. Don't forget to hold on—Haystack and Jack Creek are some of the rapids we'll encounter.

## **Day 3**

- *Unbelievable* is how most people will describe this day. We encounter breathtaking scenery, great fishing opportunities, and a flurry of Class III-III+ rapids. We may stop to hike and fish Big Creek, or continue float fishing down Impassable Canyon, with its steep granite walls and deep pools. It's a great day to get acquainted with one of Idaho's protected bull trout.

## Days 4-5

- The wet rides aren't over yet. Rapids like Rubber, Hancock, and Devil's Tooth are sure to put a drop or two of water in the boat. From here on out, the river is characterized by smooth, deep pools providing cover for big fish. We join the Main Salmon for the final 4 miles to Cache Bar, the take-out for most Middle Fork trips.

## What's Included?

- Skilled professional fishing guides
- 4 nights catered camping
- Meals from lunch on day 1 through lunch on day 5, with limited beer, wine, and soda at dinner
- Expedition equipment, including 2-person shared tent, sleeping bag with liner, sleeping pad, pillow with pillowcase, ground tarp, and waterproof bags to hold your gear
- High quality inflatable oar rafts and related river equipment including personal flotation device (PFD). We can use our drift boats when the water gauge located 300 feet above the Middle Fork Lodge bridge reads above 1.5 feet. These smaller low-volume dories are available only when conditions allow.
- Flight from Salmon to the river put-in
- Transfer from the river to Salmon, Idaho, at the end of the trip

## What's Not Included?

- Transportation to and from Salmon
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Fishing license and gear
- 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](http://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).

**Date of Cancellation**

360 days or more prior to your trip  
 359 - 180 days prior to your trip  
 179 - 120 days prior to your trip  
 119 - 90 days prior to your trip  
 89 - 60 days prior to your trip  
 59 days or less

**Cancellation Fee**

\$50/person  
 \$100/person  
 \$200/person  
 \$300/person  
 \$500/person  
 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 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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