



OWYHEE RIVER RIVER

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	Best Western Vista Inn, Boise, Idaho
MEETING TIME:	8:00 PM, the evening before your trip
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 4:00-6:00 PM
RIVER RATING:	Class III
RIVER MILES:	70
PUT-IN:	Rome, Oregon
TAKE-OUT:	Birch Creek or Owyhee Reservoir
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 7 (12 at high water)
TRIP LENGTH:	6 Days / 5 Nights
BOAT OPTIONS:	Oar raft, paddle raft, dory (depending on water levels), inflatable kayak

The Owyhee River springs in Nevada and flows across the southwest corner of Idaho before entering the extremely precipitous canyons of our trip in southeastern Oregon. Historians say that the river and nearby town were named in 1826 by Peter Skene Ogden, an explorer for the Hudson Bay Company, after two men in his party who had been killed by hostile American Indians. These men came from the islands of Hawaii, which in those days was spelled phonetically as Owyhee.

The colorful environs of the Owyhee alternate from the white, yellow, brown, and red John Day Formation to glistening black bluffs of basalt, brimming with occasional springs and waterfalls. The same erosive forces that have left the spires and temples have exposed myriad fascinating fossils and have brought agates and other gemstones down to the beaches, creating a rock hound's paradise. A variety of feathered and furred wildlife, including eagles and egrets, mink and bobcats, pronghorn antelopes, bighorn sheep, and even wild horses inhabit the canyons.

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 trips on the Owyhee we bring a variety of boats, depending on water levels, and we encourage you to consider trying them all. These include oar rafts and paddle rafts (we need at least 4 paddlers at all times for each paddle raft we bring), our traditional hard-hulled dories, and inflatable kayaks. On a full trip (19 guests) with significant paddle interest, we bring one or occasionally two paddle rafts, 3-4 oar rafts or dories, and 2 inflatable kayaks (1 single and 1 double). This mix is always subject to change depending upon a mindboggling number of conditions! For example, flow rates on the Owyhee can range from 500 to 20,000 cubic feet per second. At low water levels, it is not possible for us to run the dories. However, very low water does permit us to run the “duckies” (inflatable kayaks) and small rafts, and we change our program accordingly.

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

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

Day 1

- We meet at 7:00 AM for a 3-hour drive southwest into Oregon. En route we'll stop for fishing licenses and any last-minute items in the town of Jordan Valley. Our launch point is Rome, Oregon (which could have been built in a day). Once through the pastoral Rome Valley, we pass the confluence of Crooked Creek before making camp.

Day 2

- We shove off anticipating real whitewater action. We encounter many rapids of various sizes, including Artillery, which we usually stop to scout. The Badlands area begins here, with its interesting clay and sandstone formations.

Day 3

- Whistling Bird rapid is the highlight for today. With a difficult hairpin turn against a dramatic cliff face, it's a certain scout and great photo opportunity. We enter a narrow section of river bounded by precipitous cliffs.

Day 4

- Lambert Rocks and Jackson Creek entice us on extended walks up into colorful side canyons and scenic ridgelines. Small hot springs near the river add another interesting geologic dimension.

Day 5

- Today there is more excitement with a Class IV chute at the diversion dam. Afterward, we pass Hole in the Ground ranch, a historic remnant of the past.

Day 6

- At low water Birch Creek, a tributary on the right bank, offers road access, which can be used for our take-out. In high water, we travel on to the Owyhee Reservoir, where we have a short motorboat tow to Leslie Gulch. The intensity of the colorful rock formations makes up for the lack of current as we cross the lake. We load up and drive 2.5 hours back to Boise—back to civilization and hot showers.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 5 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 dry bags to hold your gear
- 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

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to Boise and back
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- 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 American Rivers, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to Wild and Scenic Rivers. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to protecting Wild and Scenic Rivers 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 \$250/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).
- Cancellations 60 days or more prior to your trip earn a full refund less a \$100/person fee. Cancellations 59 days or less prior to your trip are not refundable.
- If you transfer from one trip to another, there is a \$50/person charge up until 60 days before the trip. Transfers made after this time will be treated as cancellations.

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 form 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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