



ULTIMATE SALMON RIVER EXPERIENCE

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	Mountain Village Lodge, Stanley, Idaho
MEETING TIME:	8:00 PM, the evening before your trip
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 5:00 PM, Red Lion Hotel, Lewiston, Idaho
RIVER RATING:	Class III-IV
RIVER MILES:	308
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:	Heller Bar
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 9 (15 at high water)
TRIP LENGTH:	16 Days / 15 Nights or 17 Days / 16 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 Salmon River is widely considered to be the crown jewel of Idaho rivers, often compared to the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Indeed, our Ultimate Salmon River Experience is the longest, most varied river adventure in the American West, surging through a canyon in places deeper than the Grand. From the high alpine scenery of the renowned Middle Fork, through the forested depths of the Main Salmon, and finally into the four distinct gorges of the Lower Salmon, this trip showcases the longest stretch of free-flowing river in the Lower 48. Float with us along 300 miles of pristine river canyon and enjoy hot springs, outstanding fishing, big sandy beaches and exciting class III-IV whitewater. It doesn't get any better than this.

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

- The Salmon is one of the only rivers that allow 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 and Lower 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. Dropping down through the Main and Lower Salmon, you'll notice a significant difference in the nature of the whitewater as the river widens and increases in volume. The Class III rapids of the Main and Lower are less technical than the Middle Fork, but just as exciting. The pool-and-drop nature of the Main and the Lower Salmon offers time to relax and enjoy the scenery in between rapids. The increased flows allow you to ride the waves in our whitewater dories.

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 7-12

- 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.
- Our last two days on the Main Salmon parallel the Forest Service road, and we share our river canyon with a gravel road for one day and the highway for a second day—a small concession. There's a great swimming hole near French Creek, and some of the river's best rapids, including Ruby, Lake Creek, Lightning Creek, Chair Creek, and Fiddle Creek.

Days 13-16 or 17

- We've now reached the Lower Salmon River. It's hard to believe that this mighty, deep blue river that rolls through dry, golden canyons is the same high-mountain, clear-water creek that we saw on the Middle Fork. Another significant difference is the water temperature—the river is much warmer here on the Lower, and those of us ready to test it out can swim through Rollercoaster rapid, which marks our entrance to Green Canyon. We'll stop to visit some ancient pictographs, and then continue our whitewater action with rapids like Wright-way, Demon's Drop, and Pine Bar rapids.

- As we float along the river, we'll keep an eye out for the wildlife that inhabits the canyon. Golden eagles, ospreys, and river otters make frequent appearances; if we're lucky, we might also see beavers, cougars, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.
- After Green Canyon come Cougar and Snow Hole canyons, each offering a different perspective on the striking scenery around us. All the while, the river slowly unfolds its long and varied history, providing glimpses of old mining and ranching sites, geological displays of basalt formations, remnants of ancient Indian cultures, and the remains of old Chinese stone houses. Entering Snow Hole Canyon, we face some of the biggest, most exciting whitewater of the Lower Salmon: Half & Half, Snow Hole, and China Bar rapids.
- Early season boaters can experience the challenge of Slide Rapid in Blue Canyon—perhaps the most spectacular of the four gorges through which we've traveled. Hikers in the group might enjoy climbing to a vista point for an impressive bird's-eye view of the river winding through the steep and slender canyon. Further downstream, as we join the Snake River, we may have the fun of swimming a rapid.
- After passing through the confluence with the Grande Ronde, we arrive at our take-out, Heller Bar. Our 16 or 17-day journey has led us through 308 miles of Idaho's glorious, ever-changing wilderness. Now, a 45-minute ride is all it takes to get back to "civilization," though we've been worlds away during our unforgettable experience on the Salmon River.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 15 or 16 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
- 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 Lewiston

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to Stanley and back from Lewiston
- 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 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

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

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 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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