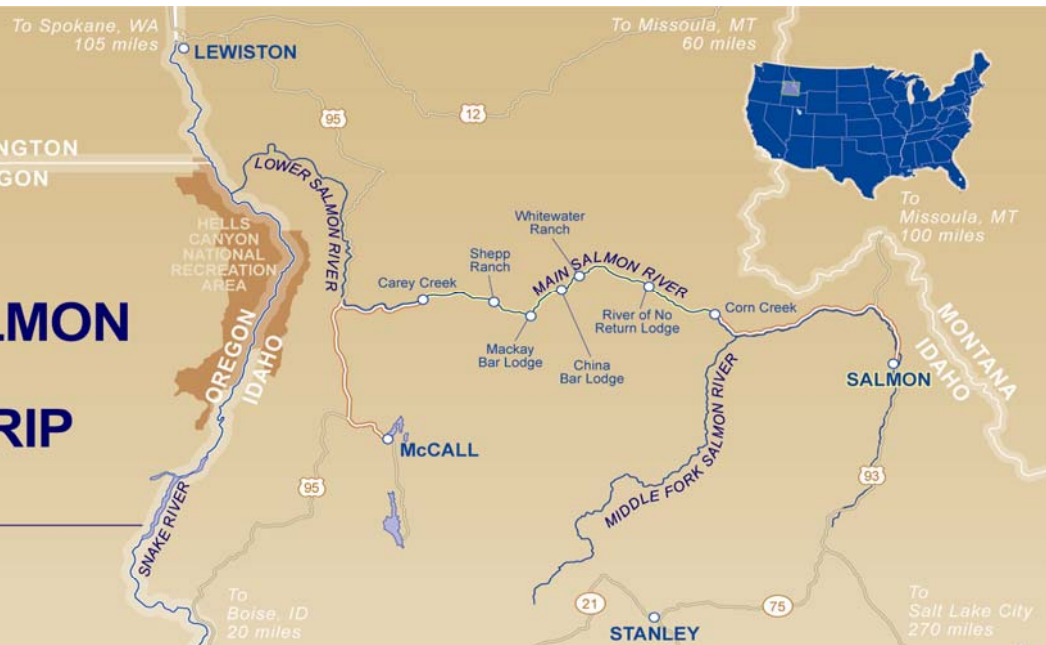




MAIN SALMON RIVER LODGE TRIP

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	Stagecoach Inn, Salmon, Idaho
MEETING TIME:	8:00 PM, the evening before your trip
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 5:00 PM in McCall, Idaho
RIVER RATING:	Class III
RIVER MILES:	81-92
PUT-IN:	Corn Creek
TAKE-OUT:	Carey Creek
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 7 (12 at high water)
TRIP LENGTH:	6 Days / 5 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. No river displays all these characteristics quite like the Main Salmon. Perhaps the most popular rafting trip in Idaho and the main section of 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. Perhaps inappropriately dubbed the "River of No Return" by early river runners, the Salmon is in fact a river you'll want to return to repeatedly.

Best of all, your Main Salmon Lodge adventure lets you experience this extraordinary wilderness river by day with the comforts of rustic riverside lodges—hot showers and cozy beds—by night. You'll get plenty of local flavor in these historic accommodations: a relaxing soak in a hot tub at Mackay Bar Lodge or the beauty of Idaho's untamed backcountry at Shepp Ranch on the mouth of Crooked Creek. These lodges are a long way from your everyday urban hotel chain, and we think you'll be pleased with the difference.

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

- Because of the river's volume, we can bring the full gamut of O.A.R.S.' river vessels on the Main Salmon and you may experience them all! Riding in an oar boat one day and a whitewater dory the next, then challenging the whitewater hands-on in a paddle raft or inflatable kayak, ensures a diverse and exciting river adventure for each member of your party.

WHITewater

- Few rivers offer whitewater excitement suitable for such a wide range of ages and experience levels as the Main Salmon. Its Class III rapids are a great whitewater introduction for the beginning rafter, yet challenging enough to inspire adrenaline in experienced river runners. The Main's water flows freely, without the obstruction of man-made dams, surging through a scenic river canyon in rolling wave trains and exciting drops, separated by lazy stretches during which you can sit back and relax, enjoying the company of your fellow river rats.

LODGE ACCOMMODATIONS

- For those of you who enjoy the out-of-doors but prefer not to camp, the Main Salmon's lodges provide a comfy bed and hot shower each evening. Each lodge has its own character and tends to be rustic. Lodges also provide the perfect riverside venue to review your day's adventure—lounging beside a stone hearth or perhaps relaxing in a steaming hot tub!
- None of the lodges has designated single accommodations. If you're traveling on your own, please call us to discuss current bookings and room configurations. Solo travelers should expect to share accommodations with someone of the same gender.

River of No Return Lodge

Built in the mid-1980s, the River of No Return Lodge is located 18 miles below Corn creek on the Main Salmon River at Smith Gulch. The lodge offers accommodations to guests participating in various activities on the river including steelhead fishing, rafting, and hunting. Each cabin has a shower in the bathroom and the rooms have comfortable beds (no bunks). Propane heaters keep the cabins warm and cozy. The lodge does not have electricity—light is supplied by propane lamps, so be prepared to have a flashlight handy at night when the lights go out. The main lodge is very spacious and comfortable with large sectional couches and books on history to enjoy while relaxing. The dining area is very rustic with a large dining table that seats sixteen guests and a smaller round table that seats eight—great for cards after dinner! Also located at the lodge is the historically registered Blacky Foster Cabin. Built in the mid 1900s this cabin is also known as the Johnny Briggs cabin and was lived in year-round for hunting, trapping, fishing, and mining.

Whitewater Ranch

Located 21 miles downstream from River of No Return Lodge, Whitewater Ranch on Little Mallard Creek was homesteaded in the early 1900s by Eugene Churchill. The ranch has a turn of the century Pelton wheel hydroelectric plant, which generates power for the facility. In some very dry years, Little Mallard Creek may not supply sufficient water to operate the plant, but we normally expect to have electricity when we stay here. There is a dining lodge with several rooms and a bath on the second level. Two modern cabins with two sleeping rooms and a shared bath in each cabin are part of the accommodations. The original two-story homestead cabin is also available for guests. Guests of the same gender can expect to share rooms in separate beds.

China Bar Lodge

This lodge is located on China Bar at the mouth of beautiful Lemhi Creek. It is clean and rustic with a "tree house" feel about it. Delicious family style meals are served in the main lodge or on the deck

overlooking the Salmon River. The lodge does not have inside flush toilets for environmental reasons. Bathroom facilities are outhouses. There is a shower in each cabin and a porta potty for use indoors during the night. There are two cabins, each with two bedrooms, which accommodate four guests on cot-style beds with comfy foam pads, sleeping bags, and liners. The living area in each cabin also accommodates guests, although according to owner Mike McLean, many folks elect to take their cots outside to sleep under the stars.

Mackay Bar Lodge

This ranch is near the mouth of the South Fork River on the Main Salmon. Mackay Bar Ranch has some of the most modern facilities in the canyon. Electricity is provided by hydroelectric with a back-up propane generator. Couples can expect a private room with private bath. Large groups with single participants may expect to share a room with same-gender companions. There is a main lodge for dining and relaxation. Facilities range from motel-type rooms with private baths to cabins with a queen bed and three singles. All have private baths.

Shepp Ranch

Located at the mouth of Crooked Creek, Shepp Ranch is ten miles downstream from Mackay Bar. Couples can expect a private room with private bath. Single participants may expect to share a room with same-gender trip companions. Electricity is provided with a diesel generator. There is a main dining lodge with cabins for guests' accommodations, and a hot tub near the river. This also is a historic site, having been homesteaded at the turn of the century. Shepp Ranch is well known for its ranch grown vegetables, fruits, and homemade breads and desserts in addition to its willingness to accommodate any type of dietary restrictions or preferences.

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 at the Stagecoach Inn in Salmon, Idaho, 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 then pass out your waterproof bags so that you can pack your belongings that evening. The trip leader will also reconfirm the meeting time for the following morning.

Day 1

- We'll depart Salmon at 7 AM for the 2-hour drive to our put-in at Corn Creek. Along the way, we'll stop at the North Fork Store for fishing permits, lures, and any personal odds and ends that you may have forgotten. Reaching the river, we feel our excitement grow as we see the colorful boats waiting for us and meet the rest of our O.A.R.S. Dories crew. After an informative safety talk and brief paddle raft/inflatable kayak instruction, we're off on our river adventure! The first day's whitewater action includes rapids like Killum and Gunbarrel.
- The surrounding scenery immediately transfixes us, and for the duration of our trip, we're mesmerized by the beauty of the Salmon River canyon—the second deepest gorge in North America—and 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 river 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 brown or black bear standing sentinel on shore.

- The first day on the water generally sets the pace for the remainder of the trip. Typically, we spend a few hours on the water in the morning, sometimes stopping for a great hike, a visit to a historic site, 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 floating and whitewater. Be sure to try your hand at the paddleboat and inflatable kayak! Mid- to late-afternoon, we stop at our home for the evening, River of No Return Lodge. 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, swim, fish, or just sit back and laugh with friends and family as dinner is prepared. After a satisfying feast, the evening is yours to spend however you wish. Maybe a campfire on the beach will bring us together tonight, inviting jokes, songs, or conversation; perhaps 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.

Days 2-5

- As we journey into the pristine heart of the Frank Church Wilderness, 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. Accommodations will include River of No Return Lodge, Whitewater Ranch, China Bar Lodge, Mackay Bar Lodge, and Shepp Ranch.

Day 6

- Today, as the Salmon River begins to parallel the forest service road, we conclude our adventure. Bidding farewell to the river and our guides, we travel by van from the take-out to McCall, where a lovely resort town awaits us. You might 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 around 7:00 AM the next morning.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 5 nights riverside lodging
- Meals from lunch on day 1 through lunch on the last day
- High quality inflatable rafts and kayaks, colorful handcrafted dories, and related river equipment including paddle, helmet and personal flotation device (PFD)
- Wetsuits and splash jackets for paddlers – weather dependent
- Transfer from Salmon to the river, and from the river to McCall at the end of the trip

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to Salmon and back from McCall, Idaho
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- 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

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

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 \$450/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 \$350/person fee. Cancellations 59 days or less prior to your trip are not refundable.

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.