



Welcome to O.A.R.S.' MAIN SALMON RIVER

MEETING PLACE:	Stagecoach Inn, Salmon, Idaho
MEETING TIME:	The morning of your trip
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 5:00 PM, McCall, Idaho
RIVER RATING:	Class III
RIVER MILES:	81 river miles
PUT-IN:	Corn Creek
TAKE-OUT:	Carey Creek
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 7 (12 at high water)
TRIP LENGTH:	6 days

Visiting Idaho is like stepping back in time to an America that existed hundreds of years ago—a beautifully wild land untouched by urban development. Idaho is one of America’s final frontiers, featuring miles upon miles of protected wilderness areas that have changed little since appearing on the U.S. map. In the mountains, valleys, canyons and forests of these wild regions lie outstanding opportunities for nearly any outdoor adventure imaginable—climbing, hiking, skiing, mountain biking, and our favorite—river rafting on the roughly 3,100 miles of whitewater that pulse through Idaho’s backcountry.

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.

Why the Main Salmon?

The Main Salmon offers a multi-faceted river adventure. Here are just a few highlights:

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.

NATURAL HOT SPRINGS

- A highlight of any Main Salmon trip is Barth Hot Springs, a natural steaming mineral bath near the shore of the river. This refreshing pool is three feet deep, big enough for 10 people, and always a favorite attraction.

SPECIALTY TRIPS

- **Photography:** Join an acclaimed photographer for a special photography workshop on the river. Our photo expeditions are geared for photography, with special attention to being at the right place at the right time for the “perfect light.” Whether you are an enthusiastic beginner or an advanced professional, you will benefit from our professional photographers’ years of experience photographing rivers.
- **Solo Travelers trips:** What brings unique individuals together on an O.A.R.S. Solo Travelers trip is a shared appreciation for outstanding quality, a spirit of adventure and exploration, and a passion for good times.
- **Wilderness Kayak School:** We offer an instructional course on whitewater kayaking. The unique “moving classroom” atmosphere of this trip, combined with expert guides and spectacular surroundings, makes for a fun and informative adventure. Intermediate kayakers will take their skills to a higher level.

FAMILY TRIPS

- The Main Salmon is an excellent family river trip, offering something for every generation. Inflatable kayaking, spotting wildlife, swimming, fishing, hiking, and beach games are activities the whole family will love—even your teenagers won’t mind spending quality time with Mom and Dad in this setting! Floating down a river, cares, and worries are swept away as fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, come closer together with each passing mile. TV, computers and telephones are replaced with campfires, tents and time on the water—memorable moments that you’ll share with your kids. Since we take care of trip details including meal planning and preparation, your time is free to enjoy yourself and one another. Ask about our Family Friendly departures: trips specifically designed with your children in mind.

NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVER

- The Salmon River received federal protection in 1968 with the passage of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act; this legislation recognized the Salmon as having “unusual scientific, aesthetic, and recreational value” and mandated that it “should be allowed to remain in a free-flowing state and natural setting without manmade alteration.” It was one of the original eight rivers to be granted this designation, and thankfully, its crowning attributes are preserved to this day.

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.

Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and always 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 Of Your Trip

- We'll meet in the morning at the Stagecoach Inn in Salmon, Idaho. Please check at the Stagecoach Inn when you check in the night before for a welcome letter, meeting time instructions and your waterproof river bags so that you can pack your belongings that evening.

Day 1

- We'll depart Salmon 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. If time allows we may also stop for a quick visit to a local historical site. 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. crew. After an informative safety talk and some 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 3.2 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 black bear standing sentinel on shore.
- Our first day generally sets the pace for our trip. 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). 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.

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, and on trips in July and August, warm air and water temperatures encourage frequent refreshing dips in the river.

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'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 operates return flights from McCall to Boise beginning approximately 7:00 am the next morning.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 6 days rafting with 5 nights catered camping
- Meals from lunch on Day 1 through lunch on Day 6, 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 cloth, 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 for paddlers when required (or splash jackets for spring and cold weather trips only)
- Transfer from Salmon to the river and from the river to McCall

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to Salmon and back from McCall
- 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

Why Visit Idaho?

When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first arrived in Idaho in 1805, they found a nearly impenetrable wilderness of mountain, forests, and formidable waters, a beautiful but inhospitable land. With the help of local Native Americans, the explorers found buffalo-hunting trails and navigable rivers that led them through areas rich in wildlife and innumerable plant species. The maps and journals that they created on their journey to the Pacific initially enlightened America, at that time bordered to the west by the Mississippi River, to the beauty and possibilities of the Wild West.

Today's visitors to Idaho find a much more welcoming and negotiable land than that which greeted the Lewis and Clark expedition. However, some things haven't changed a bit in 200 years. Even today, Idaho's wilderness areas are among our nation's most rugged and remote lands. All the more reason to visit this spectacular state; its peaceful, pristine wilderness regions offer a breath of fresh air—literally and figuratively—to the weary city dweller.

Here are just a few more reasons to visit Idaho:

- Mountains are the centerpieces of the state, and awe-inspiring ranges such as the **Sawtooth** and **Seven Devils** offer panoramas unmatched in the entire world. They're also a mecca for skiing, climbing, hiking, mountain biking, and more.
- **National forests**, including the Sawtooth, Clearwater, and Payette, and **protected wilderness areas**, such as the Frank Church River of No Return and the Selway-Bitterroot, also offer a host of outdoor activities.

- **Craters of the Moon National Monument** displays a fascinating natural exhibit of basaltic volcanic formations. The resident lava fields, covered with cinder cones, so resemble the craters of the moon that astronaut Alan Shephard and his crew trained here for their lunar landing.
- Scenic **Coeur d'Alene** is a mountain resort town; its recreational center, Lake Coeur d'Alene, was once named one of the five most beautiful lakes in the world by *National Geographic*. The lake offers ample boating and fishing opportunities and the town's surrounding areas are the only place outside of India where the star garnet can be found.
- Idaho's capital, **Boise**, is a great base for excursions into the state's more rural areas. In addition to offering a wide selection of accommodations and restaurants, Boise is home to museums, botanical gardens, and a notable orchestra and opera. One of the city's particularly interesting museums is the **World Center for Birds of Prey**, where live eagles and falcons are viewable, as well as other exhibits on biology, ecology, and conservation.
- A popular health resort, **Lava Hot Springs** features mineral springs that have likely remained the same temperature—110 degrees Fahrenheit—for 50 million years. A soak in these steaming pools in a great way to invigorate yourself after an active day of hiking or biking, which are also offered at the resort.
- Idaho's rivers, streams, and lakes are renowned for their excellent **trout, salmon, and steelhead fishing**.
- **Hells Canyon**, which straddles the border of Idaho and Oregon, is the deepest gorge in North America. It is home to an abundance of wildlife—elk, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, cougars, bear, and various birds, to name a few. The tremendous **Hells Canyon National Recreation Area** protects 652,977 acres of this region, from the Snake River through Hells Canyon to the alpine lakes of the Seven Devils. Outdoor activities, such as hiking, fishing, and boating on the warm waters of the Snake, abound in this federally protected area.

Why O.A.R.S.?

O.A.R.S. has been in business since 1969 and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers, coastlines, and mountains are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine—if not biased—belief that river trips and wilderness vacations are extremely valuable life experiences. That said, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement. Here are a few things we believe set our trips apart:

EXPERIENCE

- In 1969, O.A.R.S. became the first exclusively oar-powered rafting outfitter to offer river trips through the Grand Canyon. The immediate success of these trips inspired Founder and President George Wendt to expand his business into the largest and most geographically diverse rafting, sea kayaking, and multi-sport company in North America.

Since 1969, the family-owned and operated company has shared the world's waterways with more than 450,000 guests. With more than 75 itineraries on over 35 rivers and coastlines worldwide, four decades of experience in the industry, and some staff members who have been with the company since nearly the beginning, O.A.R.S. is routinely recognized for serving up some of the "best trips on the planet," and for setting the standard for top-notch guides, expertise, and superior customer service.

STAFF

- Our employees are the single most complimented component of our organization and the number one reason over 60% of O.A.R.S. travelers return for additional trips or are referred by past guests each year. Our reliable, responsible, and experienced guides are some of the best anywhere. All are qualified in CPR and First Aid; many have earned credentials in Wilderness First Responder, Swiftwater Rescue, and Leave No Trace. They are friendly, open, and approachable, and they want to share and learn along with you. Their vast experience and knowledge of not just the river, but also the entire region, virtually guarantees an in-depth adventure and that your questions will be answered. So that our guests can take the best advantage of our guides' skills and personalities, we maintain the best guide-to-guest ratio in the business: only four guests for every guide.

The heart and soul of O.A.R.S.—from the president and founder to the more than 300 dedicated guides and employees on our team—is that we are all genuinely invested in every passenger, every trip, and every lifetime memory.

MEALS

- The meals we serve are hearty and sumptuous, complete with fresh fruits and vegetables throughout your entire journey. Our menu features great camp cooking in a wilderness atmosphere. Wake up to pancakes, omelets, or eggs cooked to order, complemented by bacon or sausage, juice, and plenty of fresh-brewed coffee, tea, and cocoa. Sate your appetite at lunch with a delicious spread of cold cuts and cheese on assorted breads, hummus and veggies in soft pitas, or tasty taco salad wraps. At the dinner table, our guides' cooking skills truly shine. You may snack on hors d'oeuvres while waiting for fresh green salads, vegetables, pasta, rice, and the main course: steak, grilled salmon, Baja tacos, sizzling fajitas, or perhaps a delicious Dutch oven lasagna. Vegetarian options are available if you tell us of your preference ahead of time. And, if you can find room, there will almost always be something for dessert. Expect to eat as well—or better—than you do at home, without having to do any of the work.

EQUIPMENT

- O.A.R.S.' boats and equipment are top-of-the-line and rigorously maintained. Rest assured knowing that we use only the best and most reliable. All river-related gear is included and we offer many accessories to ensure your comfort on dry land as well. To give your camp by the river most of the comforts of home, in Idaho we provide sturdy tents, warm sleeping bags, and thick sleeping pads. Please check with your adventure consultant or refer to your trip planner for details regarding what will be included on your trip.

ECOTOURISM

- For four decades, O.A.R.S. has been a leader in ecotourism. Our goal isn't simply to be one of the most environmentally responsible tour operators in the world, but to continually raise the bar and challenge other companies to raise their standards as well. From escorting congressional staffers, eco-celebrities, and politicians on the waterways of the Western U.S. to establishing a model business for ecotourism operators in Fiji, O.A.R.S. is professionally committed to the cultural and environmental well-being of the places we visit. Our main operations office in Angels Camp, California, and our warehouse and office in Flagstaff, Arizona, run on 100% solar energy, and through the support of domestic carbon offset projects that are inspected, verified and/or certified by independent third parties including Green-e, the Gold Standard, CDM, and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance our company is 100% carbon neutral. Through partnerships with environmental organizations such as the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund, Idaho Rivers United, Alaska Wilderness League, American Whitewater, The International

Ecotourism Society, and Leave No Trace, O.A.R.S. is committed to reducing our impact on the natural world. We actively support awareness, deeper appreciation, and the preservation of rivers and wild places.

- For a detailed packing list please call us at **1-800-346-6277** in the USA or Canada or **1-209-736-4677** if outside the USA or Canada, or email us at info@oars.com for our *Middle Fork of the Salmon River Trip Planner*, also included in your confirmation packet when you book. You can also shop online for all your adventure travel needs at www.oars.com in the **OARStore**.

How Do I Get to the Main Salmon?

Salmon, Idaho, is the meeting point you have chosen for your Main Salmon trip. From Boise, Idaho, you can choose to fly or drive to Salmon; both of these options are presented below.

Flying to Salmon and Returning from McCall

- McCall Aviation offers a round-trip air shuttle package from Boise to Salmon to start your trip, and from McCall to Boise at the end of your trip. The round-trip flight cost is approximately \$360 per person. Boise is served by several commercial airlines, including United, Delta, Alaska, Northwest, Southwest, and US Airways. Flights depart from Boise to Salmon throughout the day. We recommend arriving in Boise no later than 3:00 PM as the latest flight out of Boise to Salmon is generally a 5:00 PM departure. To arrange your flights, please contact McCall Aviation at 1-800-992-6559, 1-208-634-7137 or reservations@mcallaviation.com or www.mccallaviation.com

Please mention you are an O.A.R.S. guest when making your reservation.

- The day your trip ends, O.A.R.S. will provide land transportation from the river take-out point to the town of McCall, about 2½ hours away, arriving at approximately 5 PM. We suggest spending the night in McCall (pre- and post-trip lodging is not included). McCall Aviation will begin flights to Boise the next morning. For your connecting flight home, we recommend booking your departure from Boise at 10:00 AM or later.

Driving to Salmon and Returning from McCall

- Driving to the starting point of Salmon: From Boise take Idaho 21 to Stanley, continue on Idaho 75 to Challis, and then turn left on U.S. 93 to Salmon (approximately 5 hours). Or, if you approach from the east, Salmon is 245 miles north of Twin Falls on U.S. 93, approximately a 5-hour drive.
- If you drive, you will need your car transferred from the meeting point in Salmon to the ending point in McCall. To arrange a car shuttle, please contact River Shuttles at 1-800-831-8942 or <http://www.rivershuttles.com/>. They will deliver your car to McCall for your return. The cost of the car shuttle is approximately \$260 plus a \$60 cash fuel deposit per vehicle.
- Driving from McCall at the end of the trip: Take Idaho 55 to Boise, an approximate 2-hour drive (110 miles).

Driving to Salmon

- Bear left onto SR 75 to Challis, and then take US 93 north to Salmon, approximately 2½ hours. Or, if you approach from the east, Salmon is 245 miles north of Twin Falls on US 93, approximately a 5-hour drive. Traveling from Boise, take SR 21, a scenic 3-hour drive over Lowman Pass to Stanley.
- If you drive, you will need your car transferred from the meeting point in Salmon to the end point in McCall. To arrange a car shuttle please contact River Shuttles (800-831-8942, <http://www.rivershuttles.com/>), which will deliver your car to McCall for your return. The cost of the car shuttle is approximately \$260 plus a \$60 cash fuel deposit per vehicle.

A Few Important Details

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.

Contact Information:

- For more information on this or any of our over 75 rafting, sea kayaking, or multi-sport adventures, please call us at **1-800-346-6277** or email us at info@oars.com and one of our knowledgeable Adventure Consultants will be happy to help you.

Did you know that travel related activities account for about 1/3 of the greenhouse gas emissions worldwide? Visit www.oars.com/CarbonNeutral.html to join O.A.R.S. in making your entire travel experience environmentally friendly and 100% carbon neutral.

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