



MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER RAFTING

Itinerary



To Spokane, WA
110 miles

To Missoula, MT
70 miles

To Missoula, MT
100 miles

To Boise, ID
20 miles

To Salt Lake City
270 miles

MEETING PLACE:	Mountain Village Lodge, Stanley, Idaho
MEETING TIME:	8:00 PM, the evening before your trip
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 4:00-6:00 PM, Stagecoach Inn, Salmon, Idaho
RIVER RATING:	Class III-IV
RIVER MILES:	75 from Indian Creek (100 from Boundary Creek)
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:	Confluence of the Middle Fork and Main Salmon
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 9 (15 at high water)
TRIP LENGTH:	6 Days / 5 Nights
BOAT OPTIONS:	Oar raft, paddle raft, dory (during high water only), 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. Of all the rivers that flow through Idaho, perhaps the most spectacular is the Middle Fork of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Considered the state's "Blue Ribbon" river, the Middle Fork Salmon boasts non-stop, Class III-IV whitewater, natural hot springs, and excellent fishing. And then there's the scenery—soft meadows that roll towards the base of soaring mountains, craggy canyons ribboned with waterfalls, deep green forests, and grassy hills dotted with wildflowers—the diversity and beauty of the Middle Fork are stunning. Join O.A.R.S. and see how good a river vacation on this breathtaking waterway can be.

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

- We may be able to bring the full gamut of O.A.R.S.' river vessels on the Middle Fork Salmon River, depending on the water level. Riding in an oar boat one day, 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. During high water, early season trips we may be able to bring along a whitewater dory, too!

WHITEWATER

- Rated Class III-IV, the Middle Fork Salmon has more whitewater rapids 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.

SPECIALTY TRIPS

- **Hiker Special:** Specially created for those more active travelers who want to go that extra mile on the trail, O.A.R.S. offers a series of hiking-focused departures. On our Hiker Special itinerary, intrepid travelers have the unique opportunity to experience a river canyon as most people could only dream, with the expert support of our experienced guide staff. Each day we generally spend a few hours in the boats and set out on a new hike every day to explore seldom seen sites and dramatic views.
- **Wine on the River:** Our wine trips offer an elegant alternative to our regular departures, and combine mouth-watering menus and award-winning wines with the appeal of the wilds. After each day of vigorous river rafting, enjoy gourmet meals and premium wines introduced by regional experts. The wines are carefully chosen to complement the bill of fare each night and each winery brings its own personality to the river, where the tastings can turn into blending seminars or heated discussions of Old World versus New World wine making. Rest assured that whatever direction we take, these trips inevitably result in an outrageously good time.
- **Craft Beer Tasting on the River:** Our Craft Beer Tasting trips combine mouthwatering menus prepared by an executive chef and hand-selected micro brews. After each day of vigorous river rafting, enjoy gourmet meals and premium beer introduced by regional experts (wine is also available). The beer and wine are carefully chosen to complement the bill of fare each night.

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 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. The trip will start there whenever possible.) After an informative safety talk and paddle raft/inflatable kayak instruction, we take to the pure 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.
- The first day generally sets the pace for our week 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). 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.
- Toward the end of our voyage, 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 reach our take-out at the confluence with the Main Salmon and are transported by van to Salmon. Our journey has ended, but we’re sure that although you leave the river, the river will never leave you.

What’s Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 5 nights catered camping
- Meals from lunch on day 1 through lunch on day 6, 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 rafts and kayaks, colorful handcrafted dories when conditions allow, and related river equipment including paddle, helmet and personal flotation device (PFD)
- Wetsuits and splash jackets for paddlers—weather dependent
- Transfer from Stanley to the river and from the river to Salmon, Idaho
- Flight from Stanley to put-in for Indian Creek launches

What’s Not Included?

- Transportation to Stanley and back from Salmon
- 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 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.

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

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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