



CRATER LAKE & ROGUE RIVER TRAIL HIKER

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	Courtyard Marriott Medford Airport, Medford Oregon
MEETING TIME:	9:00 AM
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 7:00 PM
HIKER RATING:	Moderately Strenuous
MILES COVERED:	39.5
SECTION:	Wild & Scenic section: Grave Creek to Big Bend (Near Foster Bar)
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 12
TRIP LENGTH:	7 Days / 6 Nights

Experience the Pacific Northwest at its best along the shores of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River. Your O.A.R.S. hiking vacation covers 39.5 mile section along the Rogue River as it flows from its headwaters near Crater Lake, where we will spend the first day of our journey, to the incomparable Oregon coastline. This uniquely active hiking departure includes all the beauty and comforts of a standard O.A.R.S. trip on the Rogue, but without the rafting. Escorted by expert hiking guides, our guests carry only a small day pack, hiking from one riverside camp to the next. A delicious dinner with an eclectic selection of local wines greets you in the afternoon. Each night make camp on one of the many sandy beaches that line the river. Inside a tent or under the starry night sky, you'll sleep soundly, serenaded by boisterous crickets and the rush of the passing river.

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.

Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other hikers on the trail and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like:

Day 1

- We meet our trip leader in the lobby of the Courtyard Marriott Medford Airport at 9:00 AM. Once everyone has arrived we will board our shuttle for a scenic drive up to Crater Lake National Park, near the headwaters of the Rogue River. We will stop for short hikes to waterfalls and lunch near the Rogue River Gorge on our way to Crater Lake. This volcanically formed lake's cobalt blue depths reach 1,943 feet making it the deepest lake in the United States and one of the ten deepest lakes in the world! Enjoy an interpretive ranger talk and, depending on the weather (there will likely still be snow), explore the rim or just enjoy the lake views from the warmth of the lodge hearth. Tonight we will dine at the Crater Lake Lodge Dining Room. After dinner, you will be provided with two waterproof bags in which to re-pack your things for the rest of our journey along the river.

Day 2

- After a good night's rest at our lodge we will say goodbye to Crater Lake and take the scenic journey out of the park to our starting point at Grave Creek trailhead on the Rogue River. The support rafts will be waiting for us there. We will have lunch, load our gear onto the boats, and talk about trail safety. Today we will cover the first five miles of the trail, which is quite rocky and requires stable footing. We'll pass by Rainey Falls, a narrow zone of extremely durable amphibolite, which has made this area more resistant to erosion resulting in a 15 to 20 foot high falls. We'll stop to check out Whiskey Creek cabin. Not long after, we'll set up camp next to Tyee rapids on a sandy beach. While the guides prepare dinner, you'll have time to explore the wooded terrain, take a swim or just relax with a good book.

Day 3

- For the early risers in the group, hot coffee, tea and cocoa will be ready around 6:30 AM. Wake-up call comes shortly after, and breakfast is served. After you pack up your belongings, you'll have some time to prepare your bagged lunch for today while camp is broken down and the boats are loaded. We'll hike nine miles with long, gradual climbs and steady descents. We'll cross numerous creeks including Russian Creek and Bronco Creek. Our breaks and lunch stops will usually be enjoyed alongside one of these beautiful creeks. We'll camp at Horseshoe Bend / Meadow Creek area tonight.

Day 4

- Today we have 10 miles to cover on the mostly flat trail. We'll pass by historic Battle Bar, named after a fight between Colonel Kelsey's Calvary on the north bank and a band of Takelma Indians on the south bank. We'll also pass Zane Grey's cabin. Tonight we'll overnight at Mule Creek Camp, named in the summer of 1852 when a company of soldiers from Fort Orford tried to open a trail along the Rogue. A member of the party later related that a Lt. R.S. Williamson rode a mule named John. When the mule was turned loose to graze near the stream, it wandered off and was not found despite a thorough search. Because of this incident, the stream was named John Mule Creek, but later shortened to Mule Creek. The tale ended happily several years later when Williamson found his mule.

Day 5

- Today we'll have a well-deserved layover day. We may hike up Mule Creek to visit a slot canyon and mining site. The terraces on both sides of the mouth of Mule Creek were seasonal Indian camps for over 8,000 years. A five-minute walk brings us to Rogue River Ranch. Once a major Rogue River Indian habitation site, the area has enjoyed a rich human history for over 9,000 years. We'll visit the ranch museum to learn more about Native American and early white settlement in this area. Alternatively, you

can get out your book, diary or sketchbook and spend some peaceful "alone-time." This is also a good time to try your luck at fishing, play cards or go for a swim.

Day 6

- Today we'll hike another 10 miles and enjoy some of the most dramatic views yet. The trail is relatively flat as we pass through Mule Creek Canyon. We'll pause at Inspiration Point, overlooking Stair Creek Falls. The trail is on a narrow ledge high on the cliff. Occasionally, hikers with vertigo struggle with this section. If this may be an issue for you, please contact us. Below we can see deep, cool pools where salmon gather in the summer. We'll pass Blossom Bar, named after the wild azaleas that bloom here. We'll enjoy lunch at the picnic tables at Paradise Lodge. There will be a chance to purchase a cold drink or perhaps ice cream from the lodge store if you wish. After lunch, our trail leads us through lovely Huggins Canyon and enchanted Brushy Bar. Another two miles will bring us to Camp Tacoma, named after a mining operation from Tacoma, Washington.

Day 7

- Leaving camp today is bittersweet—we're not quite ready for civilization again, but a hot shower sounds pretty nice. We have only six miles today to reach the trail's end. Keep your eyes peeled for the elusive bald eagles that inhabit this section of the river canyon. We'll pass Flora Dell Creek with its punchbowl waterfall that plunges over a 30-foot sheer wall into a deep trailside pool. We'll then stretch our legs with a few switchbacks up over a huge hill and back down again before reaching the end of the trail. We will meet our driver and be transported less than a mile to Foster Bar, where the rafts will be waiting with our personal gear. After packing everything up into the van, we'll head back to the Courtyard Marriott Medford Airport. Our three-four hour shuttle drive includes spectacular scenery as we reach Bear Camp Summit. You should arrive in Medford by approximately 7:00 PM.

Although the Rogue River Trail is only moderately strenuous overall, it is at times steep, rocky and narrow with exposed sections and therefore is not recommended for people who have a fear of heights or children under the age of 12 years. Please be prepared for full days of hiking and aware that gym workouts or flat land walking are generally easier than wilderness hiking.

What's Included?

- Skilled, professional guide service
- 1 night's accommodation at the Crater Lake Lodge (or similar), based on double occupancy
- All 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, and dry bags
- High-quality inflatable rafts for trip support
- Transfers from the Courtyard Marriott Medford Airport in Medford, OR to our destinations and back

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to and from the Courtyard Marriott Medford Airport in Medford, OR
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Cocktails at Crater Lake Lodge
- Sleeping bag & sleeping pad (these items may be rented from O.A.R.S.)
- Insurance of any kind
- Items of personal nature (an equipment list will be provided)
- Gratuities

SOMETHING VOLUNTARY

- In reviewing your statement, you'll notice \$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 © 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. West, 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 people), 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

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

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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