



## *Welcome to O.A.R.S.' OWYHEE RIVER*

<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	<b>Best Western Vista Inn, Boise Idaho</b>
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	<b>8:00 PM, the evening before your trip</b>
<b>RETURN TIME:</b>	<b>Approximately 5:00 PM</b>
<b>RIVER RATING:</b>	<b>Class III</b>
<b>RIVER MILES:</b>	<b>70 river miles</b>
<b>PUT-IN:</b>	<b>Rome, OR</b>
<b>TAKE-OUT:</b>	<b>Owyhee Reservoir</b>
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	<b>Minimum age is 7 (12 at high water)</b>
<b>TRIP LENGTH:</b>	<b>6 Days</b>

The Owyhee River springs in Nevada and flows across the southwest corner of Idaho before entering the extremely precipitous canyons of our trip in southeastern Oregon. Historians say that the river and nearby town was named in 1826 by Peter Skene Ogden, an explorer for the Hudson Bay Company, after two men in his party who had been killed by hostile American Indians. These men came from the islands of Hawaii, which in those days was spelled phonetically as Owyhee.

The colorful environs of the Owyhee alternate from the white, yellow, brown, and red John Day Formation to glistening black bluffs of basalt, brimming with occasional springs and waterfalls. The same erosive forces that have left the spires and temples have exposed myriad fascinating fossils and have brought agates and other gemstones down to the beaches, creating a rockhound's paradise. A variety of feathered and furred wildlife, including eagles and egrets, mink and bobcats, pronghorn antelopes, bighorn sheep, and even wild horses inhabit the canyons.

### **Why the Owyhee?**

Our trips are scheduled for the time of the year when we can expect the best river flows -- springtime in the semi-desert area bordered by the Owyhee, Trout Creek, Sheepshead and Mahogany mountain ranges.

### **HIKES**

- Each day varies, but on an average you'll spend 4-6 hours a day on the boats. The rest of the time will be spent hiking and exploring, fishing, eating, or just relaxing in camp. While we generally plan at least two guided hikes on each trip, there is ample opportunity for the curious to explore the area at length. Please let your trip leader know if you are an avid hiker and remember to bring extra water bottles and good shoes. Remember, however, that all hikes are optional and you can choose to lay on the beach and take in a few tanning rays or read a book instead.

### **GEOLOGY**

- The headwaters of the Owyhee River are in Nevada. After flowing through Idaho, it crosses the Owyhee uplands of southeastern Oregon, eventually flowing into the Snake River. The river has cut deep canyons into the landscape which reveals a geologic history beginning nearly 14 million years ago. The river exposes strata of miocene, pliocene, and pleistocene eras. The Owyhee offers breathtaking towering cliffs, above the river, picturesque multi-colored geological formations of basalt flows interspersed with sedimentary rock and fossil deposits.

## **BOAT SELECTION**

- On our trips on the Owyhee we bring a variety of boats and we encourage you to consider trying them all. These include oar rafts and paddle rafts (we need at least 5 paddlers at all times for each paddle raft we bring), our traditional hard hulled dories, and inflatable kayaks. On a full trip (24 guests) with significant paddle interest, we bring one or occasionally two paddle rafts, 3-4 oar rafts or dories, and 2 inflatable kayaks (1 single and 1 double). This mix is always subject to change depending upon a *mind boggling* myriad of conditions! Please take a few minutes to indicate your preference on the Guest Info Sheet. The information that you provide is very important to us, as we'll use it to plan what boats we bring along on your trip. We do our best to accommodate the requests of all of our guests, and please be aware that in doing so, you'll be asked to share boat time with other folks on the trip with the same interests. We don't assign boats, nor can we guarantee exactly what we bring, but trust us to provide you with the best possible mix for you and others on your trip.

## **Sample Itinerary**

We pride ourselves in running relaxed and flexible schedules. Every trip varies a little due to the interest of the group, other people on the water and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample itinerary to give you an idea of your Owyhee River trips.

### **The Day Before Your Trip**

- There will be an orientation meeting at 8:00 PM that evening at the Best Western Vista Inn. Your trip leader will meet with you to answer last minute questions and distribute waterproof bags in which to pack your gear.

### **Day 1**

- We meet at 7:00 AM for a 3-hour drive southwest into Oregon. En route we'll stop for fishing licenses and any last minute items in the town of Jordan Valley. Our launch point is Rome, Oregon (which could have been built in a day). Once through the pastoral Rome Valley, we pass the confluence of Crooked Creek before making camp.

### **Day 2**

- We shove off anticipating real whitewater action. We encounter many rapids of various sizes, including "Artillery", which we usually stop to scout. The "Badlands" area begins here, with its interesting clay and sandstone formations.

### **Day 3**

- "Whistling Bird" rapid is the highlight for today. With a difficult hairpin turn against a dramatic cliff face, it's a certain scout and great photo opportunity. We enter a narrow section of river bounded by precipitous cliffs.

### **Day 4**

- Lambert Rocks and Jackson Creek entice us on extended walks up into colorful side canyons and scenic ridge lines. Small hot springs near the river add another interesting geologic dimension.

### **Day 5**

- Today there is more rapid excitement with a class IV chute at the "diversion dam". Afterward, we pass "Hole in the Ground" ranch, a historic remnant of the past. Birch Creek, a tributary on the right bank, signals our camp for the night.

## **Day 6**

- We end our trip at the Owyhee Reservoir, where we have a short motorboat tow to Leslie Gulch. The intensity of the colorful rock formations makes up for the lack of current as we cross the lake. We load up and drive 2.5 hours back to Boise -- back to civilization and hot showers.

### **What's Included?**

- Sleeping bag with sheet, sleeping pad, and groundcloth
- 2-person tents on a shared basis (There is a \$30 charge for a private tent.)
- 2 waterproof bags to hold your personal gear, including sleep kit, each with a volume of 2 cu. ft.
- Wetsuits to be shared among the paddlers in the group on early, high water trips
- Water-tight army surplus ammo case for camera/film
- Life jackets (must be worn on river at all times in compliance with Forest Service regulations)
- Delightful meals
- Skilled professional guides
- High quality inflatable rafts and kayaks, colorful handcrafted dories, river equipment

### **What's Not Included?**

- Transportation to Boise and back
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Items of personal nature (an equipment list will be provided)

### **Why Visit Southeastern Oregon?**

This is a vast and beautiful section of Oregon. You will drive miles without meeting another car, even on the main roads.

- The Malheur Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful place for nature watching, especially birds. Malheur Refuge is located in the southeastern corner of Oregon in a geographic region known as the Northern Great Basin. The refuge is shaped like a lopsided "T" and spans an area 40 miles long and 39 miles wide. Over 187,000 acres of habitat which includes wetlands, riparian areas, meadows, and uplands are managed by the refuge. Refuge Headquarters is located on the south side of Malheur Lake and is about 32 miles southeast of Burns, Oregon. The refuge and museum are open daily from dawn until dusk. The Visitors Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 to 4:00 and on Friday from 8:00 to 3:00. The Visitors Center is closed on weekends and holidays.
- Burns, Oregon offers breathtaking scenery, or for hiking, fishing, camping, boating and backpacking in its backcountry areas, Burns Oregon and Harney County are the place to visit. Burns is a friendly cowboy town located at the heart of Oregon's wide open range lands in Harney County. Burns can rightfully claim the title of the most "away from it all" town in the nation, since Harney County, the 9th largest county in America, is bigger than many eastern states.
- Klamath County Oregon offers outstanding recreational opportunities, particularly for the outdoor enthusiast. There are more than 82 lakes and streams in Klamath County, including Upper Klamath Lake, which covers 133 square miles. Fishing and hunting are popular sports. The Klamath Basin also has hundreds of miles of cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and hiking trails, leading deep into forests, wetlands, wildlife refuges, and desert. Caving opportunities can be found 30 miles to the south of Klamath Falls Oregon, at the Tulelake Lava Beds. And three downhill skiing facilities are within a two hour drive of Klamath Falls, Oregon: Mt. Shasta to the

south, Mt. Ashland in the west, and the Willamette Pass to the northwest. The Klamath Falls area has over 600 acres of developed parks, five golf courses, racquetball and tennis facilities, bowling alleys, a roller skating rink, and a variety of health and exercise clubs.

- Summer Lake Oregon offers Abert Rim, one of the tallest exposed fault faces in the world, over 30 miles long and 2000 ft. above the valley floor. Warner Canyon ski area is about 10 miles north of Lakeview. T bar with 700 ft vertical lift. No crowds, no lift lines many miles of great cross country skiing too! If fishing or skiing are not your cup of tea, then come to Summer Lake Oregon and enjoy one of the federal, state or private improved parks, Lots of "wide open spaces" to rough it. Also you can enjoy Fort Rock Monument the picturesque historic monument with scenes of dramatic Indian battles. This is one of the best places in Oregon to view migrating and breeding waterfowl and other shore and waterbirds. The area consists of a large marsh with associated uplands. An 8.3 mile tour route bisects the area.

### **Why O.A.R.S.?**

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 35 years 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 small-raft, 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 company in the West. With trips on over 35 rivers, coastlines and mountains, over 35 years of experience in the industry, and staff members who have been with us from the very beginning, O.A.R.S. is one of the most accomplished and respected companies in the outdoors.

### **STAFF**

- As anyone who has been on an O.A.R.S. trip can tell you, our guides and support staff are the best in the business. Their knowledge, skills, demeanor and attitude are qualities of which we are very proud. From our professional, well-informed Adventure Consultants, to those behind the scenes, to the guides on your trip, our entire staff strives to always exceed your expectations. Your river guides are fantastic chefs, entertainers and teachers all rolled into one—and so good at their jobs you'd think they were born on the river. Each guide on your trip offers a different perspective on this area and why they've made it their workplace, their home, their passion. Our employees are the number one reason O.A.R.S has repeat customers – take a trip with us and you'll see why.

### **MEALS**

- The meals we serve are hearty and sumptuous, complete with fresh fruits and vegetables. Our menu spares no expense in order to bring you fine foods in a wilderness atmosphere. Wake up to pancakes, omelets or eggs cooked to order, complemented by bacon or sausage, toast, juice and plenty of coffee or tea. Sate your appetite at lunch with a delicious spread of cold cuts and cheese on assorted breads, with hummus and veggies in soft pitas, or tasty taco salad in roll-your-own burritos; don't forget a cookie or six for dessert, or a fruit salad and a cool drink. At the dinner table, our guides' cooking skills truly shine. Snack on hors d'oeuvres while you wait for

fresh green salads, vegetables, and the main course: steak, grilled salmon or perhaps Dutch oven lasagna. Vegetarian options are available if you tell us of your preference ahead of time. If you can find room, there will always be something for dessert - possibly even a freshly baked cake or cobbler.

## **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 we either provide or rent sturdy tents, warm sleeping bags and thick sleeping pads. Please check with your Adventure Consultant or refer to your catalog for details regarding what will be included on your trip.
- For a detailed packing list please call us at **1-800-346-6277** or email us at [info@oars.com](mailto:info@oars.com) for our Owyhee Travel Planner. You can also shop online for all your adventure travel needs at [www.oars.com](http://www.oars.com) in the **OARStore**.

## **How do I get to the Owyhee?**

We will meet you at the Best Western Vista Inn in Boise, Idaho at 8:00 PM the evening before your trip. Boise is serviced by several commercial airlines, including United, Delta, Alaska, Northwest and Southwest and America West.

## **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, notify us as soon as possible. You can telephone, but we also need a written notice. 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 our participants to investigate trip insurance** (see Insurance). Cancellations 60 days or more prior to the trip earn a full refund less a \$100/person handling 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 this trip. People with heart trouble and pregnant women should have their physician's approval before taking a river 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 a river 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. Dories, Inc. 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. Dories, Inc. 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, 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. Please be advised our U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are rated to accommodate persons no heavier than 260 pounds and with a chest size no larger than 53 inches. 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. 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. 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](mailto:info@oars.com) and one of our knowledgeable Adventure Consultants will be happy to help you.