



The Complete Guide to Planning a Multi-day Family Rafting Trip

When you climb into a raft and push off from the shore, you're officially on river time. And river time is the *best* family time, hands down. All the hectic schedules and to-do lists of daily life fade away. It's just you and your kids (or grandkids), enjoying distraction-free time together in a beautiful landscape, having tons of fun, making memories, and living in the moment.

"For parents, it's amazingly relaxing," shared an OARS guest from Rutland, Vermont who took her family on a Green River rafting trip through the Gates of Lodore in Utah. "Why would anyone go to Disney World?"

We couldn't agree more. But we get it. To some parents, heading to a theme park might seem easier and maybe even less scary than planning an outdoor family vacation like a whitewater rafting trip, especially if you've never rafted before. That's where our 55-plus years of experience can help.

Chock full of insider tips and advice from OARS parents who know a thing or two about prepping for family rafting adventures, this guide will help you navigate everything from choosing the right trip and packing to what to expect on the river when the big adventure arrives.

Armed with all of the information you'll need to plan a successful trip, we promise that a multi-day river trip will be one of your best family vacations ever. And trust us, nobody will ever say they're bored.



But Wait, Isn't Whitewater Rafting a Bit Risky For Families?

It's 100 percent normal to feel a little anxious about taking your kids on a family rafting trip. What parent doesn't play through all the "what if" scenarios in their head before they embark on any adventure? So let's talk about it.

Yes, river trips are inherently risky. For this reason, choosing a reputable outfitter with experienced and well-trained guides should be your top priority when it comes to safety considerations.

Trained in CPR and First Aid, swiftwater rescue, Wilderness First Responder, and Leave No Trace principles, OARS guides have earned the reputation of being the most experienced, professional, and customer-focused crews on the water.

Yes, someone could fall out of the boat. If that happens, whoever falls out will likely go for a quick swim before getting back to a boat or to shore. It can be a bit scary for everyone involved, but most of the time it's not a big deal, and it will absolutely be that one story that gets brought up at every family gathering for years to come.

A multi-day whitewater rafting trip is a true adventure and nobody can guarantee that any number of "what ifs" won't happen. But here's the thing we can tell parents for certain. Those initial fears will start to subside the further downstream you head. As you watch your kids light up with laughter when they get splashed by a rowdy rapid, bravely jump off a rock into the river, or paddle an inflatable kayak through whitewater for the first time, you'll feel nothing but pure joy and gratitude for taking the time to be in the now with your family.

If you're ready to take the leap, and craving a disconnected adventure together, you're in the right place.

Planning a Family Rafting Vacation: All of the Big Questions, Answered



How Far in Advance Do You Need to Book a Multi-Day Rafting Trip?

While it's possible to secure space on short notice, the best time to book a family rafting vacation is 3 to 6 months in advance. Keep in mind that prime summer departure dates for more popular destinations like [Oregon's Rogue River](#) will typically fill up faster, so the earlier you can book, the better.

Another advantage to reserving your trip well in advance is that you may be able to secure better pricing, which is especially helpful when budgeting for a family adventure. Rafting outfitters often offer discounts to incentivize people to book early. You can also inquire about group pricing if you plan to travel with extended family and/or friends.

If you're unable to plan months in advance or like to be more spontaneous, watch for last-minute special offers on social media or via email that can help bring the cost of a rafting trip down for your family. Sometimes you can even find ways to save directly on an outfitter's site.

EXPLORE WAYS TO SAVE

How Much Do Family Rafting Vacations Cost?

The average cost of a family rafting trip can vary widely depending on the length of the trip and even logistics. For example, a 3-day [Green River rafting trip in Dinosaur National Monument](#) with OARS costs around \$399/person per day, while a 5-day [Grand Canyon rafting trip](#) with a one night stay at a dude ranch and a helicopter ride into the canyon costs around \$699/person per day.*

“We repeatedly book with OARS because we feel secure with the gear, rafts, and vehicles.”

— Laura Nicholson,
San Juan River Guest

That price tag may seem steep for some family budgets. But one positive aspect to consider is that once you get your family to the meeting location, other than lodging before and after your trip, the rest of your vacation is all-inclusive. The food, gear, entertainment and “lodging” for overnight adventures is all part of the package, so there’s no breaking the budget once you’ve committed.

When shopping for the best price, it’s important to keep in mind that if one rafting company offers a significantly lower trip price compared to another company, they might have different standards when it comes to meals, quality of gear, and even how much they pay their guides out in the field.

*Estimated trip costs based on 2025 OARS regular adult rates (youth rates available for some trips)

How to Choose the Right Rafting Company?

By asking the right questions up front, you’ll be well equipped to assess an outfitter’s experience, reputation, commitment to safety and overall dedication to providing their guests with the trip of a lifetime.

Top 10 Questions to Ask Before You Book:

1. How long has the company been in operation?
2. What certifications, training and experience do the guides have?
3. What equipment is provided, and is it well-maintained?
4. What is the guide-to-guest ratio or typical group size?
5. What does the cost of the trip include?
6. Are there any additional costs/fees?
7. What kind of meals are provided, and does the company accommodate dietary restrictions?
8. How does the company approach and promote environmental conservation and responsible travel?
9. What is the company’s cancellation and refund policy?
10. Can they provide reviews or references from previous clients?

Word of mouth referrals from friends, relatives or even co-workers are also huge. If other people are raving about a trip, or a particular company, then chances are you will be too. Plus, you’ll get a good idea of what to expect when you go.

**“1st multi-day rafting trip & HIGHLY RECOMMEND!
It was a great bonding trip for me & my 2 sons (15 & 16).
Scenery was STUNNING, food AMAZING, FUN guides & no
electronics meant we were talking, hiking, or playing
games when not rafting.”** — Rene from NJ, Main Salmon Guest

How to Choose the Right Adventure for Your Family

When trying to narrow down your trip options, you'll want to consider obvious factors like the price point, trip length and location. But more importantly, you'll want to think about the group's appetite for adventure and comfort level outdoors. This is where minimum age information, river ratings and personal preferences take center stage.

When is the Best Time to Go?

For families, the best time to go on a multi-day rafting trip is usually mid-June through early-September when you'll generally encounter better weather and water conditions and plenty of daylight for fun in camp each afternoon and evening.

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In the spring, water levels on many rivers throughout the West peak with snowmelt runoff creating "[high-water conditions](#)." During this timeframe, typically mid-May through early June, outfitters will often increase their minimum age requirements as an added safety precaution due to colder, faster moving water, cooler weather and a higher potential for involuntary swims.

Also keep in mind that smoke impacts from wildfires are more likely in the latter-half of the summer season, so those with asthma or other respiratory conditions may wish to steer clear of this time frame.

What to Know About Minimum Age Requirements

While there's not a universal system that outfitters use to determine minimum age requirements, rafting companies generally weigh a few things to determine what an appropriate minimum age may be for a specific stretch of river: river ratings, difficulty of rapids, and time spent in the elements/length of the trip.

The expected participation level of guests is also a factor. For example, does everyone need to be able to paddle aggressively for long periods of time, are flips/unintentional swims more likely, or will most of the trip be a leisurely float with mellow whitewater?

Minimum age requirements are usually a good baseline for determining whether or not a trip might be suitable for your kids, but ultimately, you know your children better than anyone. Their comfort level outside and personalities should also factor into your decision.



Understanding River Classifications

The most commonly referenced river rating system is the International Scale of River Difficulty, which categorizes rivers from Class I to Class VI. Family-friendly rafting trips will generally be rated between Class I-IV.

Class I - Swift current with riffles and small waves. Few obstacles, all obvious and easily avoided. Ideal for: Ages 4+

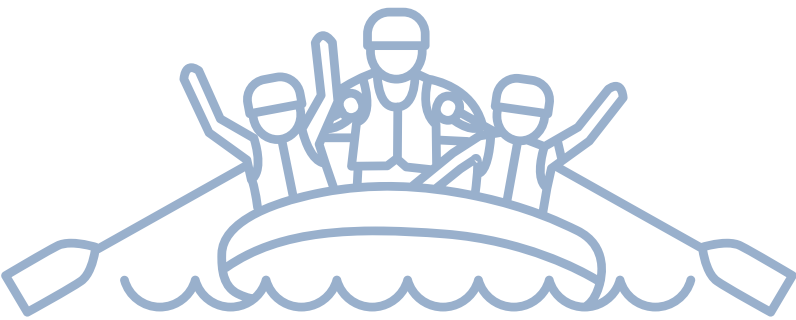
Class II - Easy rapids with wide-open channels and medium-sized waves. Some maneuvering may be necessary to avoid obstacles. Ideal for: Ages 4+

Class III - Moderate rapids with irregular, medium- to large-sized waves. Waves large enough to cause a boat to capsize may be present but normally can be avoided. Quick maneuvering may be required to avoid obstacles. Ideal for: Ages 6 to 8+

Class IV - Powerful rapids featuring boulder gardens, large waves and/or small waterfalls. Quick and precise maneuvering is essential for successful runs. Prior Class III experience is recommended. Ideal for: Ages 12 to 16+ (varies by river)

Class V - Intense and violent rapids with steep drops, waterfalls, massive waves and extremely constricted channels. Rapids may require “critical” maneuvering above dangerous hazards. Ideal for: Ages 16+

Class VI - Only attempted by the most skilled and experienced paddlers. Not commercially run.





Narrowing Down Your Trip Options

Beyond the age of your kids and river ratings, you'll also want to think about your family's interests and expectations. Here are a few more things to think about before honing in on the right trip.

Location and scenery: Does a rocky, forested canyon with crystal clear water sound ideal, or have you always wanted to visit the dramatic red rock canyons of the desert southwest?

Boat options: Does the group want to be active paddlers in a paddle raft or will everyone be more comfortable with the guide doing most of the work in an oar raft? Are there other [types of boats](#) like inflatable kayaks or stand-up paddleboards available on the trip?

Activities: What kinds of side hikes or opportunities to visit cultural sites are there on that stretch of river? Or are there any other activities or unique sights highlighted?

If you've asked all of these questions and are still having trouble deciding which rafting trip is right for your family, hop on the phone. Also, if having other families with similar aged kids on the trip is important to you, don't hesitate to ask for a few trips that have other families booked.

OARS Adventure Consultants are always at the ready to talk you through your options and match you with the perfect trip. Call us at 1-800-346-6277 today!

How to:

Packing for a Family Rafting Trip

What to bring on your rafting trip, and what to wear on the river, is as varied as the itineraries themselves. Outfitters will provide necessary river and safety gear, but it's also likely that they'll provide other camp essentials like tents, sleeping bags and sleeping pads, or have them available for rent.

Your personal gear will depend on the time of year, water temperature and the weather for your trip. The following recommendations are based on an OARS standard packing list and should provide a solid starting point for what to pack for a 3- to 5-day adventure.

What to Wear on the River

Start with a swimsuit and/or swim trunks. Add a lightweight UPF-rated long-sleeve shirt and/or pants that will provide extra sun protection. For early season or cooler weather trips, add an insulating merino wool layer instead, especially if you're getting splashed frequently in the rapids.

Beat the heat!
[Learn how to prepare for extreme heat on a summer rafting trip](#)



When it's especially hot, a cotton shirt can be an ideal choice over a synthetic layer since it provides evaporative cooling. If you know you're in for some high temps, cotton is actually your friend despite the oft-shared "cotton kills" advice you typically need to keep in mind in outdoor environments.

What to Wear in Camp

Anything you'd typically wear to be comfortable while camping also goes on the river. When the weather is warm, lightweight cotton pants/shorts and shirts make great camp wear. Anytime the forecast calls for cool evenings and cold nights, a set of synthetic or merino wool long underwear is the perfect base layer under long pants and a fleece jacket.

Packing List

Be sure to refer to your trip-specific packing list that’s provided and keep an eye on the weather forecast leading up to your trip.

Clothing & Footwear

- ☐ Swimwear: tankinis and board shorts are a great option
- ☐ Long-sleeved shirt: lightweight and light color for sun protection
- ☐ Long pants: lightweight and light color for sun protection
- ☐ Shorts: 1-2 pair
- ☐ T-shirts/tops: 1-2
- ☐ Warm layer (top): Sweatshirt, fleece or puffy jacket, depending on weather
- ☐ Warm layer (bottom): Long pants or long underwear, depending on weather
- ☐ Additional camp clothes: comfortable & appropriate for season (cotton recommended for hot weather trips)
- ☐ River shoes or sandals with a heel strap like Chacos
- ☐ Extra pair of shoes for hikes or in camp (athletic shoes or light hikers are a good option)
- ☐ Wool socks for hiking or to keep feet warm in camp: 1-2 pair
- ☐ Rain jacket & pants: waterproof (not water resistant). A hooded jacket with secure closures is recommended

Personal Gear

- ☐ 1-liter insulated water bottle
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses with securing strap (consider bringing a spare)
- ☐ Shade hat or visor with securing strap–flexible enough to fit under your helmet
- ☐ Headlamp + extra batteries
- ☐ Small, quick-drying towel
- ☐ Toiletries

Family Shared Items

- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Biodegradable soap (such as Campsuds or Dr. Bronner’s)
- ☐ Sunscreen and lip protection: waterproof & SPF 30 or higher (aerosol sprays not recommended)
- ☐ Moisturizing lotion or cream
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Personal first-aid kit (Band-aids, antibiotic ointment, ibuprofen, mole skin, eye drops)
- ☐ Camera and accessories + waterproof case
- ☐ Small day pack, waist pack, or hydration pack for side hikes
- ☐ Bathing wipes: pre-moistened disposable cleansing towels (a great bath alternative)



Pro Tip!
[Learn how to protect your phone on a river trip >](#)

Packing List continued

Other helpful items:

- ☐ Electrolyte powder (Gatorade, Prime, etc.) to keep everyone hydrated
- ☐ Solar string lights/lanterns to light up your tent
- ☐ Small bags: stuff sacks, packing cubes, or similar for organizing items in everyone’s dry bags
- ☐ Large empty bag: laundry bag, pillow case, or similar for dirty clothes
- ☐ Lightweight cord and clothespins for drying clothes

Just for fun:

- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Sketchbook, notebook and pen
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Deck of cards or other travel-friendly game your family loves to play

This list covers the basics, but ultimately, you know your family best. If you have a kid who can’t stay out of the water, consider bringing additional clothes for camp in case one set of clothes accidentally goes for a dip. Or maybe your daughter refuses to put on a damp swimsuit in the morning, so packing an additional swimsuit is a must.

It can also be fun to toss in a waterproof football, fishing rod or a few small surprises like removable tattoos, glow necklaces, or nail polish for river manicures, but don’t stress about how to keep the kids entertained. When it comes to fun and activities, your guides will have an arsenal of camp games at the ready to keep kids and groups entertained. That’s if you can even pull them away from playing in the sand and inventing games with their new river friends.

How to Pack Your Gear

The key to packing for a river trip is that all of your personal gear has to fit into a large dry bag. At a pre-trip meeting, your guides will typically provide families with one large dry bag per person. At the start of each day, these bags will get fastened

down on the boats and be inaccessible while you’re traveling downstream. Consider this your “checked luggage,” the clothes and gear that you will only be able to access in camp.

For families, it can be especially helpful to organize everyone’s clothes in smaller stuff sacks or packing cubes. Otherwise, every time you get to camp, you’ll be dumping everything out of the dry bags and trying to dig through a mountain of gear to find that one cozy shirt to change into.

Your sleep kit essentials will be packed in another large dry bag and stowed away, as well. For your day-time essentials, your family will be given smaller dry bags that will be used for carrying things like sun-screen, chapstick, water bottles, and extra layers with you on the rafts. If you choose to bring a phone to take pictures (you won’t have cell service), you should make sure it has a waterproof case so it’s extra protected in the dry bag. For larger camera equipment and GoPros, consider a heavy-duty waterproof case.

Watch!
[What to Wear
& How to Pack
for a Multi-day
Rafting Trip](#)



What to Expect on a Multi-Day Rafting Adventure

Watch!
What to Expect
on a Multi-day
Rafting Trip



There's a lot more to river trips than whitewater.

The average day on the water is usually about six hours. This includes time for a riverside picnic lunch and other stops along the way that are selected to provide excellent opportunities for hiking, swimming, wildlife viewing and simply immersing yourself in the magic and the majesty of the region.

Once in camp each afternoon, you'll locate an area on the beach to camp for the night. While you put up your tent, the guides will set up the kitchen and central dining/seating area with camp chairs. They will also locate a secluded area away from camp to set up the [portable toilet](#), where privacy is assured.

While you're settling into river life, the guides will do the heavy-lifting of preparing hors d'oeuvres and dinner so you can stay in vacation mode. The rest of the evening is yours to relax, play camp games, swim, and spend quality time with your family outside in a sublime setting before being lulled to sleep by the sound of the rushing river.

In the morning, fill your mugs with coffee, tea or hot cocoa, and watch the sun rise above the canyon walls. As the guides prepare breakfast, you'll have plenty of time to leisurely pack up your personal belongings and sleep gear.

"The food was really good - surpassed our expectations. Our favorite meals were the steak night w/scalloped potatoes. And also there was a quinoa salad that my boys want my wife to copy. Breakfast was always good too, in terms of quality, variety & quantity" — Rene O., Main Salmon River Guest

After breakfast is served, the entire camp is broken down and packed up. Once the guides have all of the gear loaded back onto the boats, it's time to head downstream to see what new adventures await.

Every day is another chance to watch your kids explore their surroundings, step out of their comfort zones, make new friends and maybe even participate in an impromptu talent show or costume contest under the stars.

“If the kids are happy, the parents are happy.”

This bit of guide wisdom can boil down to the basics every parent learned when their kids were toddlers: stay on top of keeping them “fed and watered,” make sure they’re dressed—and sunscreened—appropriately for their surroundings, and help them take a break when you know they need it. Once these essentials are checked off, it’s almost a guarantee that a river trip will be pure delight for a kid!

OARS Parents: Favorite Trip Memory

Time together on the river is simply special. There’s really no other way to describe it. From all of the families at OARS, to your family, we hope you’ll take our word for it...



“Waking up on the beach at 5:30 AM on day two to see my 12-year-old son awake and happily fishing in the river—no phone or video games anywhere to be found.”

— Steve Markle, VP Sales & Marketing



“One evening on the Lower Salmon everyone had started to settle in for the night, but it was clear my boys weren’t going to bed anytime soon. They quietly played in the sand in front of our tent until well after the stars came out, digging holes, building ‘fortresses’, and making up stories together. It was this perfect moment where they were totally in their element, just being kids.” — Cari Morgan, Content Marketing Manager



“This might sound weird but our daughter ‘not needing us’ on a trip is truly a pleasure: between the natural ease in which all the kids on a trip start to hang out with each other, the guides engaging and playing with the kids, and just the reality that the outdoors is a natural playground, it was simply refreshing watching our daughter’s independence in action.”

— Seth Davis, Operations Director



“It was our second day on the Green River and the moment we reached camp for the night my kids were off, running up the beach to check out an exciting natural feature. It was a puddle. They and 11 other kids and teenagers who had been too shy to talk the day before spent the next six hours digging in ‘the hot tub’. For the rest of the trip they didn’t play with anything besides their imaginations.”

— Katy Stevens, Adventure Consultant



“Watching my kids go from nervous about whitewater to listening to them shriek with laughter, excited about the upcoming rapids.”

— Tyler Wendt, President

The OARS Difference



Every year, more than 1,000 families trust OARS with their vacation. Here's why...

1

With more than **five decades of experience** under our belts, we are proud to lead the way and set industry standards for everything from training and safety to environmental stewardship and sustainable travel.

2

We have assembled a more **diverse collection of river-running permits** than any other outfitter in the world, providing our guests unparalleled access to some of the last truly wild landscapes in the West and beyond.

3

Our passionate and knowledgeable guides have earned the reputation of being the most experienced, professional and customer-focused crews on the water and the proof is the overwhelming number of positive reviews we receive after almost every single trip.

4

We've been there: our **dedicated year-round office staff** and team of Adventure Consultants have hundreds of trips among us, so we know we can match you with the perfect trip and answer any and every question you may have leading up to your adventure.

5

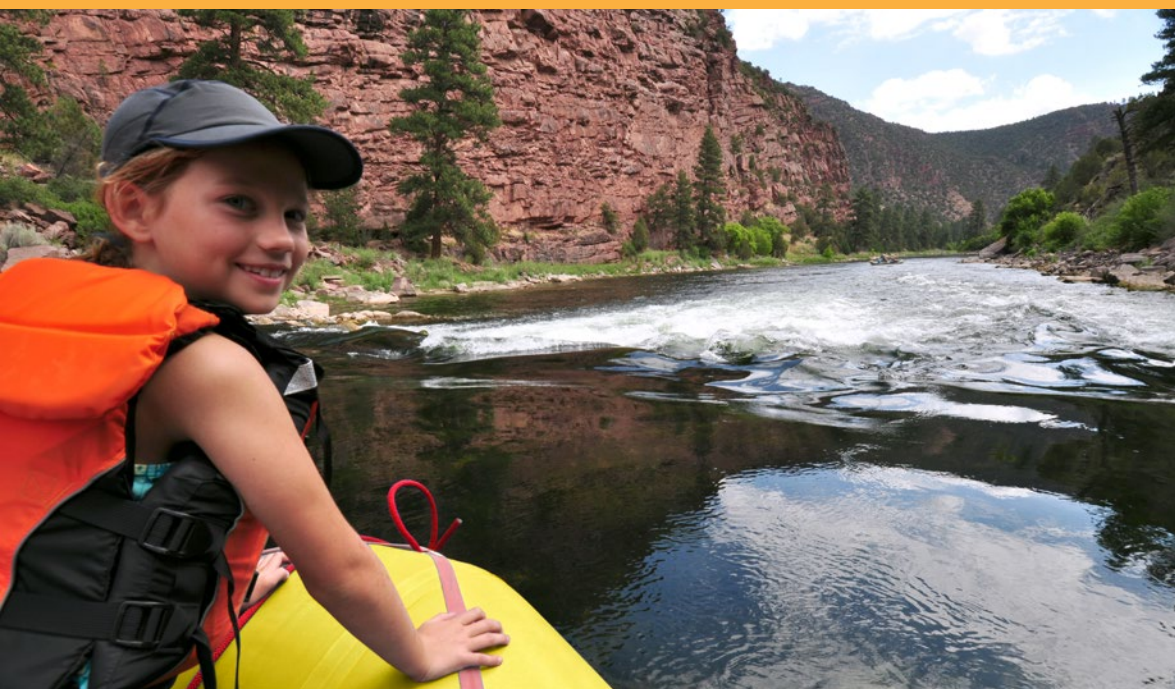
Low guest-to-guide ratio and small group sizes that often foster a family dynamic on trips. Our average guest-to-guide ratio is 3:1 with generally no more than 23 people per trip (average groups are 16 guests) on multi-day trips.

6

Our award-winning adventures are routinely **recognized as "best in class" by major travel publications**, including the "Best River & Sea Outfitter on Earth" by *National Geographic Adventure* and one of the top two outfitters in the world by *Outside*.

OARS Family Adventures

Easy Adventures: for families with kids aged 4 - 6+



Flaming Gorge

3 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: July & August

Trip Starts: Vernal, UT

From: \$899 - \$999

River Rating: Class II

Minimum Age: 4 (7 during high water)

For first-time rafters and young families, a Flaming Gorge rafting trip is the perfect introduction to the magic of multi-day river trips.

“This was our first extended rafting trip and it exceeded expectations. We enjoyed having a small group and never felt rushed. Plenty of time to enjoy wonderful moments outdoors. The water level was low and the river much more tame than expected. It allowed for more fishing time rather than navigating intense rapids. I enjoyed paddling the inflatable kayak most of the time while my boys fished from the back of the main rafts. The campsites were clean and quiet. The food was plentiful and very good. The sleep kits were very comfy. Overall, a great rafting/camping experience. ” —**Edward T.**

EXPLORE FLAMING GORGE

O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. operates on the Green River through Flaming Gorge as a permitted outfitter of the Ashley National Forest.



Lower Klamath River

3 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: June — August, 2025

Trip Starts: Happy Camp, CA

From: \$899 - \$999

River Rating: Class II (with one Class III)

Minimum Age: 4

OARS is excited to resume trips on the newly restored Lower Klamath River in 2025. Minimum ages may be impacted depending on water fluctuations. If you have younger children, please reach out to discuss the best dates for your crew.

“My 5-year-old daughter and I loved our trip on the Lower Klamath River. Our guides, Lauren and Barb were skilled and supportive and laughed with us, too. They encouraged us to be brave and take comfortable risks. I appreciated Lauren telling us what to expect when we approached a daunting rapid and by the time we finished I felt confident I could do it all again in a single kayak! The scenery of the Klamath in mid-June was lovely. Thank you, OARS!” — **Jessie, CA**

EXPLORE THE KLAMATH

O.A.R.S. West, Inc. operates on the Lower Klamath River as a permitted outfitter of the Klamath National Forest.

Easy Adventures:

for families with kids aged 4 - 6+



San Juan River

3 to 6 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: March – July & October
Trip Starts: Bluff, UT
From: \$949 - \$1699
River Rating: Class II
Minimum Age: 6

Paddle along the edge of Bears Ears National Monument through a dramatic red rock labyrinth and discover remnants of ancient civilizations on this laid-back rafting trip.

“This trip was such a change from our normal lives and our normal comfort zone. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our love of the outdoors with our kids, and see a place that relatively few people have a chance to see. We loved the whole thing! The scenery was awesome, the food was fantastic, the guides were spectacular!” — **Sara Scotto, CT**

EXPLORE THE SAN JUAN

O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. operates on the San Juan River as a permitted outfitter of the Bureau of Land Management.

Next Level Adventures:

for families with kids aged 7 - 9+



Yampa River

4 or 5 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: May - July
Trip Starts: Vernal, UT
From: \$1299 - \$1749
River Rating: Class III-IV (Class III late season)
Minimum Age: 7 (10 - 12 during high water)

One of the most sought-after whitewater adventures in the world, the Yampa River trip is an unforgettable adventure for kids, teens, and ever-inquisitive travelers alike.

“The guides are amazing and are some of the coolest people you will ever have a chance to meet. They do all they can to make sure your experience is the best it can be above and beyond just the rafting experience. This was the first trip of it's kind that I have been able to expose my husband and 9-year-old son to and I can't even begin to describe the impression that it made on them! We will be back for sure!” — **Kayjay, FL**

EXPLORE THE YAMPA

O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. is an authorized concessioner of Dinosaur National Monument.

Next Level Adventures: for families with kids aged 7 - 9+



Green River through the Gates of Lodore

3, 4 or 5 Days of Rafting & Exploring

- Departs:** May - September
- Trip Starts:** Vernal, UT
- From:** \$1049 - \$1699
- River Rating:** Class III
- Minimum Age:** 7 (10 - 12 during high water)

This adventure in Dinosaur National Monument offers fun Class III whitewater, scenery that rivals Grand Canyon, gorgeous side hikes, and comfy beach campsites. No wonder it’s one of our most popular rafting trips.

“This was our first rafting trip as a family. Our 3 daughters, 9, 11 & 13 had an incredible time and are ready for their next rafting adventure. Every detail was attended to and the guides were incredible. They were great with the kids and had such an extensive knowledge of the area. It was one of our best trips and we’ll definitely be back.” — E Wilson, AZ

EXPLORE THE GATES OF LODORE

O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. is an authorized concessioner of Dinosaur National Monument.



Green River through Desolation Canyon

5 or 6 Days of Rafting & Hiking

- Departs:** May - September
- Trip Starts:** Moab, UT
- From:** \$1699 - \$1999
- River Rating:** Class III
- Min. Age:** 7 (12 for hiker)

Fly into a wild and remote land of towering cliffs, tackle 50+ rapids, and relive a piece of Wild West history on this Green River rafting trip through Desolation Canyon.

“Amazing trip blew away our expectations - I was most worried the kids would grow bored and tired, but it was exactly the opposite, each day was better and we had more fun. Everything was great.” — Wright Way to Raft, NE

EXPLORE DESOLATION CANYON

O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. operates on the Green River as a permitted outfitter of the Bureau of Land Management.

OARS Adventure Consultants are always at the ready to talk you through your options and match you with the perfect trip. Call us at 1-800-346-6277 today!

Next Level Adventures:

for families with kids aged 7 - 9+



Snake River through Hells Canyon

3, 4 or 5 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: May - September
Trip Starts: Lewiston, ID
From: \$1499 - \$2049
River Rating: Class III-IV
Minimum Age: 7 (12 during high water)

Nothing compares to rafting Hells Canyon in Idaho, home of the mighty Snake River and the deepest gorge in North America.

“This was a FANTASTIC trip! It would be impossible to narrow down what my teenagers and I enjoyed most on the trip. All the guides were AMAZING! It was obvious how much they loved what they were doing and they were all so very outgoing and helpful. We really lucked out—not only was the crew TOP NOTCH but every single guest on our trip was fun, outgoing and a perfect match for everyone else...so much so that we all want to repeat the trip, on another river, with the same guests and crew! The guides are very professional, but not to the point of taking themselves too seriously. They made our vacation a trip that we will never forget.” — **Nicole M.**

EXPLORE HELLS CANYON

O.A.R.S. Dories, Inc. is a licensed & bonded outfitter on the Snake River through Hells Canyon.



Gorges of the Lower Salmon River

4 or 5 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: July - September
Trip Starts: Lewiston, ID
From: \$1399 - \$1649
River Rating: Class III
Minimum Age: 7 (12 during high water)

Camp on big sandy beaches, splash through fun rapids in four distinctly beautiful gorges and swim, stand up paddleboard and inflatable kayak on this ultimate Idaho adventure.

“The guides made the trip so much more fun as if the beautiful surroundings, star gazing, comfy camping wasn’t enough. They were excellent with all of the kids on our trip ranging from 8-18. The food they made was way beyond all of our expectations and the Mango carrot cake was the best dessert I’ve ever had. There were multiple boats to ride on or inflatable kayaks to take out depending on your comfort level. Guides were also extremely knowledgable about the rapids, terrain, geology, and other interesting facts about the region. Take this trip you won’t be disappointed!” — **Mickey, MD**

EXPLORE THE LOWER SALMON

O.A.R.S. Dories, Inc. is a licensed & bonded outfitter on the Lower Salmon River.

Next Level Adventures: for families with kids aged 7 - 9+



Main Salmon “River of No Return”

6 Days of Rafting & Exploring

- Departs: June - September
- Trip Starts: McCall, ID
- From: \$2299 - \$2599
- River Rating: Class III (Class IV possible at peak flows)
- Minimum Age: 7 (12 - 15 during high water)

Idaho’s idyllic Main Salmon River is the quintessential Western river trip featuring fun, low-stress rapids, gorgeous campsites, and great fishing. There’s a reason *Sunset* magazine named it the “Best Guided Outdoor Trip.”

“The river, of course, was the star, but the trip was made excellent due to the company organization and the three guides that knocked it out of the canyons when it came to professionalism, work ethic and great attitude. Would recommend a trip like this to all who were interested in a river adventure. The early August timing meant hot days, moderate flow and perfect water temps. Leave your cell phones in the car and get connected to family, friends and nature. Well done, OARS and our guide team—thank you.” — Chris W., VA

EXPLORE THE MAIN SALMON

O.A.R.S. Dories, Inc. is operated under special use permit with the Salmon-Challis National Forest.



Grand Canyon: Whitmore Wash to Pearce Ferry

5 Days of Rafting & Ranch Activities

- Departs: May - September
- Trip Starts: Las Vegas, NV
- From: \$3499 - \$3699
- River Rating: Class III (Class IV possible at certain water levels)
- Minimum Age: 7

This popular Grand Canyon rafting trip is the best way to explore below the rim if you’re short on time or looking for a family-friendly adventure. Stay at a working ranch, take a scenic helicopter ride to the put-in, and explore the final majestic stretch of the canyon.

“This was a family trip of a lifetime. The guides were professional, knowledgeable, courteous, hard-working, and fun to spend time with. They were congenial to the older participants, as well as patient and kind to all of the children—which is a feat of its own with the group we had (seven children on this specific trip). Though I read a multitude of positive reviews prior to experiencing the trip myself, nothing could have prepared me fully for just how incredible it would be. This isn’t just because of the grandeur of the canyon sights—the guides really made the trip what it was.” — Courtney R.

EXPLORE GRAND CANYON

O.A.R.S. Grand Canyon, Inc. is an authorized concessioner of Grand Canyon National Park.

Next Level Adventures: for families with kids aged 7 - 9+



Rogue River

3, 4 or 5 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: May - September

Trip Starts: Grants Pass, OR

From: \$1049 - \$1799

River Rating: Class III-IV

Minimum Age: 7

The Rogue River might just be the perfect rafting trip. This beloved OARS adventure features exciting whitewater that's fun for all levels, beach camping, magical side hikes, and abundant wildlife viewing.

"This was truly the most amazing vacation my family and I have ever been on! Amazing guides, phenomenal food, exciting adventures, and forever memories. I HIGHLY recommend this trip for families." — **Missing the River, FL**

EXPLORE THE ROGUE RIVER

O.A.R.S. West, Inc. operates on the Rogue River as a permitted outfitter of the Bureau of Land Management and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.



Cataract Canyon Whitewater

4 or 6 Days of Rafting & Hiking

Departs: April - October

Trip Starts: Moab, UT

From: \$1749 - \$2199

River Rating: Class III-IV (Class V possible during peak flows)

Minimum Age: 9 (12 - 16 during high water)

Raft Cataract Canyon and explore Canyonlands National Park on this Colorado River rafting adventure near Moab.

"I am 74 and have been on many river trips and this has to rate at the top. My grandson is 60 years younger than me and the guides saw that each of us was presented activities that suited each abilities. He paddled the sup for 10 miles of the 100 miles trip, I watched. Serendipitous one of the guide team was a Navajo, to see the canyon land through his eyes and to listen to the stories of his people as we watched the sunset on the red rock canyon walls was a once in a life time gift. Did the young boy take to no phone, Snapchat or video for a week? You will have to wait to ask him because he busy planning to go back when the big water is running." — **Cooper & Stewart, TX**

EXPLORE CATARACT CANYON

O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. is an authorized concessioner of Canyonlands National Park.

OARS Adventure Consultants are always at the ready to talk you through your options and match you with the perfect trip. Call us at 1-800-346-6277 today!

Next Level Adventures: for families with kids aged 7 - 9+



2-Day South Fork of the American

2 Days of Rafting & Camping

Departs: April - September
Trip Starts: Lotus, CA
From: \$358 - \$428
River Rating: Class III
Minimum Age: 8 (10-12 during high water)

Rafting on the South Fork of the American River near Sacramento is the perfect week-end getaway or 2-day add-on to a California family vacation.

“My family went on a two-day South Fork of the American River trip with OARS that was fantastic. The guides were fun and knowledgeable, the equipment was top notch and the food was great. My teen daughters didn’t roll their eyes for two days, which is noteworthy. I can’t say enough good things about this company.” —**LeefromVenice, CA**

EXPLORE THE SOUTH FORK

O.A.R.S. West, Inc. is a permitted outfitter of El Dorado County & the California Department of Parks and Recreation Gold Fields District.

Big & Bold Adventures: for families with kids aged 12+



Middle Fork of the Salmon River

6 Days of Rafting & Exploring

Departs: June - September
Trip Starts: Stanley or Salmon, ID
From: \$3699 - \$3999
River Rating: Class III-IV
Minimum Age: 12 (15 during high water)

North America’s premiere alpine river experience, the Middle Fork Salmon guarantees a wild ride with over 100 rapids, natural hot springs, and complete wilderness immersion.

“What a life changing and bonding experience for my family! An exceptional outdoor adventure, learning from awesome guides, surrendering to the rapids, enjoying great food and laughing everyday!” — **Steph from PNW, WA**

EXPLORE THE MIDDLE FORK

O.A.R.S. Dories, Inc. is operated under special use permit with the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Big & Bold Adventures:

for families with kids aged 12+



Tuolumne River

1, 2 or 3 Days of Rafting & Exploring

- Departs:** April - September
- Trip Starts:** Groveland, CA
- From:** \$314 - \$999
- River Rating:** Class IV (Class V possible during peak flows)
- Minimum Age:** 14 (16 during high water)

Tuolumne River rafting, available just outside Yosemite National Park, is a standard-setter among all the California whitewater experiences OARS offers.

“My 16 year old daughter & I absolutely loved this trip. Our boat guide, Jack was great as was the entire crew. The river was a great mix of relaxing scenery and exciting rapids, especially Clavey Falls. We had a few people in our boat go for an unintended swim, which made it memorable. Food was very good - sandwiches & salads for lunch, french toast and sausage for breakfast, and steak & chicken tacos for dinner. Cooler full of soda and craft beer after the day on the water.” — **West MI**

EXPLORE THE TUOLUMNE RIVER

O.A.R.S. West, Inc. operates on the Tuolumne River as a permitted outfitter of the Stanislaus National Forest

“What a hugely positive experience. There is simply no other trip like this.”
—Scottydibe, Tripadvisor

