

Bass & Sturgeon Fishing in Hells Canyon



2011 Dates

June 1, 9, 17

July 3, 11, 19, 22, 27

August 4, 8, 12, 20, 28

September 5

After September 5 - Please call for availability



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 – 5 Days guided fishing on the Snake River in Hells Canyon for smallmouth bass, trout and sturgeon
- 2 – 4 Nights luxury beach camping with delicious river meals
- Wildlife viewing including big horn sheep, black bear, bald and golden eagles and breathtaking scenery
- Optional whitewater kayaking and hiking

Trip Overview

The Snake River in Hells Canyon offers some of the best smallmouth bass and sturgeon fishing in the country. Join us on one of these multi-day fishing adventures and you'll experience the grandeur of Hells Canyon, exciting Class III-IV whitewater, delicious gourmet river meals and some awesome fishing.

You can choose from a 3-day or 5-day trip throughout the summer or one of our 4-day custom fishing trips in late August & September. We fish two anglers per guide in whitewater rafts and drift downstream at your pace. Non-fishermen can join our Hells Canyon Rafting Trip which runs concurrently with these fishing trips, so if you have a spouse, kids or friends who aren't into fishing, you can still enjoy this trip together. Trips launching after September 15 can also include chukar hunting and steelhead fishing.

Difficulty Rating

The Snake River in Hells Canyon Fishing Adventure is rated EASY, and considered appropriate for any physical ability, including children ages 7 and up. Most physical activities are optional. Those with ailments such as a bad back or bad knees frequently enjoy these trips.

Weather

The weather in Idaho in the summer is beautiful! Most summer days are hot and dry, with temperatures ranging from the 80's to occasional 100 or more, with very low humidity. Fortunately we have our rivers to cool off in. The nights are perfect for camping, with clear skies, brilliant stars and pleasant temperatures. We do have the occasional afternoon thunderstorm, but they usually dissipate within an hour or two. Most importantly, our river canyons have no mosquitoes to harass us!

The spring is typically warm as well, but there can be occasional days of chilly weather or rain. The fall is a beautiful time here with mild temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Winter in the immediate area is mild and rarely falls below freezing. Up in the mountains, we receive many feet of snow in the winter that offer great recreation opportunities and help supply our rivers with melt water come springtime.

Evening before Departure: Whether you stay with us at the Little Salmon Lodge or somewhere else, please feel free to join us the evening before your trip at the Lodge for a pre-trip orientation. At this optional get together, you will meet your guides and fellow rafters, learn how to properly pack your dry bags, and you can ask any last minute trip questions you may have. The pre-trip orientation is typically around 7 p.m.

Day 1: Meet at the Little Salmon Lodge at 6:00 a.m. for a 6:30 a.m. departure. After a 3-hour drive we will arrive at Hells Canyon Dam, the starting point of our fishing adventure.

We'll be fishing from the outset for smallmouth bass. If there are non-anglers on the trip, they will travel on ahead and we'll see them either at lunch or in camp in the evening. Throughout the day, we'll run several Class III - IV rapids and we can stop to visit historic cabins and homesteads and Native American pictograph sites. Or we can just fish! We typically arrive at our riverside camp in the late afternoon. The camp is already set up, which means your only job is to enjoy the surroundings and enjoy more fishing. We know the camps in Hells Canyon that have excellent sturgeon fishing and our expert guides will help you hook into one. Hells Canyon's sturgeon can measure up to 9 feet or more (our company record stands at 8'11"). *L, D...NWV Camp*

After falling asleep under an amazing Idaho starlit sky, you will wake up to the wonderful aroma of fresh perked coffee. Enjoy an early breakfast; we are back on the water for more fishing and relaxing.

Typical Day: These days have the same flow as Day 1, stocked with awesome fishing, great whitewater, calm swimming pools, interesting history, great food, and fun. Soon enough, you will start slipping into what we call... river time. No clocks, no cell phones, no computers, just you, your fish, and all the time in the world. *B, L, D...NWV Camp*

Final Day: We typically arrive back to civilization around 2:00, where we quickly load our boats and head back to the Lodge. If you are on our 3 day or 4 day trip, the drive is about 90 minutes. If you are on our 5 day trip, the drive is about 3 hours. To top the experience off, most people choose to spend their last night with us at the Little Salmon Lodge. *B, L*

Note for making departing flights after the trip: Please do not schedule any departing flights for the last day of the river trip. Most people prefer to spend this last night at our lodge and drive to Boise in the morning to catch an early afternoon flight. If you must catch a morning flight, you will most likely prefer to drive to Boise on the last night of the trip and expect to arrive in Boise around 9-10pm. Call us if you have any questions about appropriate flight times.

Trip Cost

5 day... \$1949 per person

3 day... \$1399 per person

Price based on two fishermen per guide

What's Included

- High quality equipment and heated drift boats
- Spinning gear and tackle (fly fishing gear and tackle not provided)
- All river and camping equipment including sleeping bags
- Meals as noted in the itinerary (*B=breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner*)
- Professional, experienced and fun-loving fishing guides
- Private tents for each 2 people (solo travelers have single tents)
- Thick sleeping pads and sleeping bags (if requested)
- Camp chairs and tables
- Hot showers
- Large tarp to escape the rare rain storm or the sun, and for covered dining

What's Not Included

The cost of the trip does not include airfare to Boise, Idaho; transportation from the airport to the Little Salmon Lodge; lodging the nights before or after your trip; optional gratuities, and applicable taxes.

Tippling: We are sure you will find our fishing guides will work very hard to find fish, even if the conditions are not ideal. While tipping is not required, it is customary if you feel your guides have worked hard and provided you with a wonderful experience. While any amount is appreciated, we recommend an amount of \$30-50 per guest per day. If you were on a multi-day trip with a camp crew, an additional \$10 tip per guest per day for the camp crew is appreciated.

Why Northwest Voyageurs

Safety: The most important part of any outdoor adventure is safety. Safety comes first and foremost from having experienced, well trained guides who know how to avoid dangerous situations and minimize risk. All outdoor adventures have inherent risks associated with them. Our job as your outfitter is to minimize that risk as much as possible. In 25 years of guiding whitewater trips, we have never had a serious injury. Our safety record is impeccable and speaks for itself.

Exceptional People: When we consider hiring anyone in our company, we want to ensure first and foremost that the person is extraordinary. Maybe we are selfish - we like to surround ourselves with inspiring people! We know we can teach almost anyone the skills to row a boat, or work at our front desk. But we can't teach people to understand people and how to exceed their expectations. This trait is inborn and we search long and hard to find these people.

Experience: Experienced guides bring more to the table than a safe trip. They bring deep knowledge of our rivers and destinations - and they also know how to maximize the fun-factor while minimizing risk. We boast some of the most experienced guides in the industry, as evidenced by a fair amount of white and grey hair in our guide staff. We also boast a very high level of education in our guides and staff in a variety of fields.

Service: Our owners have extremely high expectations of themselves and our staff. We differentiate ourselves on providing an extraordinarily high level of service on our trips and in our lodge. Our goal is to solve your problems and issues before you have them and to smile the entire time. Ultimately, it's our passion for sharing the outdoors with people who may be out of their element that drives us to provide this level of service. It makes your experience that much more rewarding - and makes you want to come back again and again.

Professionalism: While our guides are fun-loving and relaxed, they are also professionals. They've been trained in customer service and are able to handle difficult situations with grace and poise.

Delicious Gourmet Food: One of the elements of our trips that stay with our guests the longest is our amazing food. People are in awe of what we

can create in the middle of the wilderness. Dutch-oven cooking, fresh baked desserts, lots of variety, and often a bit too much food! We can also accommodate any special dietary requests with advanced notice to ensure your enjoyment of our meals. A sample of what you may enjoy on your journey may include:

Breakfast: Made-to-order omelets, banana walnut pancakes, home-made “Egg McMuffins,” fresh fruit salad, and only the finest gourmet coffee - we are coffee snobs!

Lunch: New York Style Deli spread, smoked salmon and bagels, chicken salad on fresh croissants, taco salad, all with a selection of fresh fruit, veggies and dip, chips and a Katy’s homemade cookies.

Dinner: Lime-dill salmon grilled to perfection with sautéed garlic asparagus, juicy steaks with giant Idaho potatoes and all the trimmings, chicken pesto fettucine with roasted red peppers, freshly baked breads, fresh green salads,.

Dessert: Pineapple upside-down cake, fresh picked blackberry cobbler, fudge brownies, strawberry shortcake or even a birthday cake - all baked fresh on the river.

Getting Here

Flight Information: Most guests choose to fly into Boise, Idaho which is about 3 hours from our lodge and headquarters. All major carriers except American Airlines fly into Boise. Spokane, WA and Missoula, MT have major airports as well and both are 4 hours from us. If your itinerary includes a trip to Coeur d’Alene or Glacier National Park, these cities will likely be more convenient than Boise. Lewiston, Idaho (2 hours) is served by Horizon Air from Seattle. From all airports, most of our guests rent cars and drive to our facility.

Shuttle Service: Shuttle service for parties of 6 or more is sometimes available from Boise or Lewiston. Please call our office at (800) 727-9977 for more information.

Public Transportation: Bus service is available once per day between Boise, Lewiston or Spokane to our lodge via Northwestern Trailways. Please check

with us or the bus company for up-to-date schedules. Round trip tickets run approximately \$45 per person.

Driving Directions: The Little Salmon Lodge and Northwest Voyageurs’ headquarters are located in West Central Idaho, 10 miles south of Riggins, just off Highway 95 on Pollock Road. Turn west on Pollock Rd. between highway mile markers 186 and 187 and you will see our lodge 100 yards down the road on the left. For more specific directions please contact Northwest Voyageurs and we will be happy to assist you.

Approximate driving times from regional towns and cities:

Riggins - 10 minutes
McCall - 45 minutes
Grangeville - 1 hour
Lewiston - 2 hours
Boise - 2 hours, 45 minutes
Coeur d’Alene, ID & Spokane, WA - 4 hours
Tri-Cities, WA - 4 hours
Portland, OR - 7 hours
Seattle, WA - 8 hours
Salt Lake City, UT - 8 hours

Accommodations Before and After Your Trip

We invite you to join us at the lodge the nights before and after your trip. Nestled on the banks of the Little Salmon River, lies the Little Salmon Lodge, home of Northwest Voyageurs. The Lodge runs as a full bed & breakfast, featuring 12 guest rooms with private baths, a beautifully hand carved beer and wine bar, river side hot tub, great room, and the most hospitable staff around. With most adventures starting and returning to the Little Salmon Lodge, it is the perfect place to relax before and after your trip. Call ahead for dinner reservations in the summer.

If you prefer to camp or have an RV, consider our neighbors up the road at the Canyon Pines RV Park. If beach camping without facilities is more your style, check out the many free camping options along the Salmon River just upstream (east) of Riggins.

What to Bring

Summer Fishing (July, August)

In July and August, the weather on our rivers in Idaho is typically warm and beautiful, with only a slight chance of precipitation. Average highs are in the 90s and average lows in the high 50s to 60s. We do have a week or two that can be considerably hotter, with daytime highs exceeding 100F.

In normal summer conditions, we recommend quick dry shorts or bathing suits, cotton t-shirts, a long sleeve cotton shirt and long light weight pants for sun protection, hat and sunglasses for sun protection. **IMPORTANT:** Cotton clothing is recommended for very hot weather and it stays wet and helps cool your body temperature. However, cotton is **NOT** recommended for cooler weather, so you should bring some non-cotton layers even in the summer to be prepared for cooler weather. Our detailed packing list includes gear for rare cool summer weather. Even though we hope to never use it, it is very important to bring it along.

In the boat, you should wear closed toe shoes that will not fall off your feet and that you don't mind getting and staying wet. River sandals with heel straps are ideal, as are water shoes like those made by Keen. Tennis shoes work, but will get wet and tend to stay wet throughout the day.

Lastly, when in camp, you will want to have dry shoes to change into. Some people prefer tennis shoes, some sandals. During camp, we will have opportunity to do some short hikes. Tennis shoes or sandals are typically fine for our short hikes, but some people may prefer to bring light weight hiking shoes or boots for longer hikes.

Spring and Fall Fishing (April, May, June, September, October)

If you have decided to join us in the spring or fall for cooler weather, please pay special attention to the packing list for those seasons. The water and air temperatures are cooler and the chances of rain are higher. As we mentioned above, even though we hope we never have to use the bad weather gear, it is important that you bring it along, just in case.

During cooler weather, it is always appropriate to wear quick dry, non-cotton clothing to keep you warm even when you are wet. The well known saying "COTTON KILLS" applies to all of our spring and fall trips. Synthetic fabrics such as polypropylene, capilene, and polyester fleece dry quickly and keep you

warm when wet. Wool is a good and less expensive option however it tends to dry more slowly and is less comfortable.

When planning your clothing for cool weather rafting, think layers. The first layer is often your long underwear, which provides warmth and wicks away moisture. Again, the newer synthetic fabrics are an excellent choice. The middle layer is often a fleece, heavier or lighter weight depending upon the expected weather conditions. The outer layer is typically a water proof or resistant layer. Since most of our body's heat loss is through the top of our head, we highly recommend wearing a synthetic or wool hat.

If the weather and water temperatures call for wetsuits, Northwest Voyageurs will provide them. We offer a "farmer John" style wet suit (one piece, long pants, sleeveless front zipper).

How to Pack

We supply each person with one large overnight bag. For items you may need during the day, we supply one medium sized bag for two people to share. Your overnight bag has plenty of room for your sleeping bag and one good sized duffle bag for your personal items. (Note, you can not typically fit suitcases in this bag.) This bag should be packed knowing that you will not have access to it until you arrive at that evening's camp.

Your second bag is a day bag which you will have access to during the day. This smaller bag is typically shared with one other person and is large enough to hold things you will need access to during the day such as a camera, sun screen, warm fleece or rain jacket etc.

We use water tight NRS Dry Bags. When packed and sealed correctly, these bags will stay dry under most conditions. Our guides will help you to ensure they are sealed well. To fully protect your gear, particularly items that can't get wet such as cameras, medications etc., you may want to bring along several zip lock bags for double protection. If you plan to bring an expensive camera, we recommend purchasing a dry box such as a pelican case. See Detailed Packing List on last page of this packet.

Recommended Reading List

General:

Indian Creek Chronicles Pete Fromm

River Tales of Idaho Darcy Williams

Water – The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource Marq De Villiers

Roadside Geology of Idaho David Alt

Myths of Idaho Indians Deward Walker Jr.

Salmon River:

River of No Return Johnny Carrey and Cort Conley

Spirits of the Salmon River Kathy Deinhart Hill

Last of the Mountain Men Harold Peterson and Sylvan Hart

The Lower Salmon Sourcebook: A Guide's Guide Caroline Tan

Emergencies

Should your friends or family have an emergency, please ask them to contact us directly at the lodge at (208) 628-3021. We will do our best to get any appropriate message to you. It is often exceedingly difficult for us to reach our trips with a message, as we are often in remote, roadless wilderness areas. You will be responsible for any cost associated with retrieving you early from a trip or getting a message to you. So please be sure to let your friends and family know that they should be very clear with us the urgency of the message.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

Northwest Voyageurs requires a non-refundable \$400 deposit from each person to secure your reservation on this trip. Final payments are due no later than 90 days prior to the departure date. If you find you must cancel your trip, please notify Northwest Voyageurs in writing as soon as possible. If we have not received your final payment by the due date, and if we have not received written notification of your need to cancel your reservation, Northwest Voyageurs may at its sole discretion charge the remaining invoice balance to your credit card on file or consider the reservation cancelled and release your spaces.

All payments are non-refundable. However, if you notify us in writing of your need to cancel your trip at least 60 days prior to your departure, we will hold payments on your account less the initial deposit for a period of one year. If

you notify us less than 60 days prior to your departure, all payments will be forfeited. Please understand that once you sign up, we lose the right to sell your space to another individual. Therefore, we regretfully cannot make exceptions to our cancellation policies. Northwest Voyageurs STRONGLY recommends purchasing travel insurance for all multi-day reservations.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance can cover unforeseen costs or problems such as lost baggage, cancelled flights, and the costs of canceling your trip due to illness or injury. Northwest Voyageurs STRONGLY recommends purchasing travel insurance for this trip. It is very important to consider purchasing your insurance within 15 days of making your reservation, as there are additional benefits included in the policy including a waiver of pre-existing medical conditions. For more information, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit:

<http://www.travelinsure.com/what/selecthigh.htm?32922>

Other Questions

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us by email at info@voyageurs.com or by phone at (800) 727-9977 and we will be more than happy to assist you in any way that we can.

Detailed Packing List – please adjust the clothing quantities to meet your personal trip length requirements.

Gear and Equipment List:

- Sleeping bag (if you bring your own)
- Camp pillow
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Waterproof camera & film (disposable waterproof cameras available in our shop)*
- 2 - 1 liter water bottles*, refillable during the day
- Light-weight duffel bag for clothes – used to put into our dry bags
- Several zip lock type bags for personal items

Clothing and Personal Items:

- 2-3 short-sleeve t-shirts*
- 1 long-sleeve t-shirts or old dress shirts (for sun protection)
- 1-2 pair quick dry shorts or bathing suit
- 2-3 pairs of socks
- Personal undergarments
- 1 warm top (non-cotton such as fleece)
- 1 pair lightweight pants for evening
- Sunglasses with retainer straps *
- Plenty of waterproof sunscreen *
- Lip balm/chapstick*
- Towel, bio-degradable camp soap, lotion and personal toiletry items
Prescription medicines, allergy medications, etc.
- Floppy hat, baseball hat, or visor for sun protection*
- Good quality rain jacket and pants (we can provide splash jackets and pants if needed – more important in spring and fall than in summer)
- Sandals with heel strap or water shoes
- Walking shoes for in camp and short hikes

Cool Weather Clothing:

- Pack for layering: non-cotton warm layers, poly-propylene underwear, fleece, a warm coat, etc.
- Set long underwear (synthetic, quick dry fabrics like polypropylene, capilene, and polyester fleece)
- 2-3 Pairs of warm wool socks
- 2 Warm tops (fleece or wool)
- 2-3 Pair pants (jeans, fleece, carhartts)
- Boots to wear on the boat, preferably warm and leather

- Warm Goretex/waterproof jacket and pants or good quality rain jacket and pants (we can provide splash jackets and pants if needed)
- Winter hat and gloves

Optional Items to Bring:

- Fly fishing rod and tackle
- Camera or camcorder
- Alcoholic beverages - no glass bottles please wine bottles ok.

Northwest Voyageurs Provides:

- Spinning gear, tackle, and bait
- Life jackets
- Tents
- Thick sleeping pads
- Sleeping bag (if requested)
- Wet suits (if necessary)
- Camp chairs and tables
- Dry bags for your personal gear
- Camera boxes
- First aid supplies
- All cooking equipment and meals
- Ice and mixers for alcohol (please request any specific mixers)

Please Do Not Bring:

- Radios (personal headphones OK)
- Valuables
- Pets

Where can I buy these items?

Asterisked items in the above list are available for purchase when you arrive at our headquarters, the Little Salmon Lodge. Many of the other items can be purchased from a variety of general stores or local sporting goods stores. For specialty river or camping items including synthetic clothing, some of the many vendors to consider are:

Northwest River Supply: www.nrsweb.com

REI: www.rei.com

EMS (Eastern Mountain Sports): www.ems.com