

Mountain Biking the rim of Hells Canyon or the Salmon River Mountains



Dates

*Various itineraries available
June through September*



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 to 7 day mountain biking trips along the rim of Hells Canyon and in the Salmon River Mountains
- Bike rides customized to your skill and fitness level.
- Appropriate for most, ages 10 and up.
- Guide, bike rental and helmet included

Trip Overview

For those who prefer a bike as your mode of transport, Northwest Voyageurs offers awesome mountain biking trips. Itineraries can range from one-day to one week and can be customized to your skill level. Adrenaline junkies will want to try the infamous Cannonball run descent from the Seven Devils down to the Little Salmon River. Families can enjoy a peaceful ride through our National Forests to the Burgdorf Hot Springs. Or you can explore the large network of trails along the rim of Hells Canyon. Call us today and we can develop a customized itinerary that is right for you.

Difficulty Rating

Our mountain biking trips are tailored to your specific group adventure and activity level.

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's 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 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.

Detailed Trip Itinerary

We offer a range of trip itineraries, from one-day rides through week long trips. Give us a call and we'll help customize a hiking adventure in Idaho.

Trip Cost

1 to 7 day trips starting at \$185 per person includes mountain bike rental and helmet.

What's Included

You will enjoy a customized mountain bike trip tailored specifically to your desires. All meals during the trip will be included. One of our experienced and inspiring guides will accompany you on your adventure.

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.

Tipping is not required, but is generally customary if you feel your guides have worked hard and provided you with a wonderful experience. While any amount is appreciated, a gratuity of \$20 per guest per day is considered a nice tip. For multi-day trips on which a crew of several guides has worked, your gratuity can be given to any of the guides and they will pool and share all tips equally.

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.

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 Trips

In July and August, the weather 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 raft and kayak, you should wear shoes that will not fall off your feet and that you don't mind getting and staying wet. River sandals with heel straps (for instance Teva or Chaco sandals) 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 Trips (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).

Trip Extensions

If you are looking for action packed multi-day multi-sport adventure, try one of our Pedal & Paddle trips! Ride along the Main Salmon River, the rim of Hells Canyon, or the canyons above the Lower Salmon River, then down to the river to catch a raft for the rest of your adventure. Two to nine day itineraries are available starting at \$399 per person. All trips are customized to meet your activity level.

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.

Snake River:

Standing Up To The Rock T. Louise Freeman-Toole

Home Below Hells Canyon Grace Jordan

The Sterling Years Bonnie Sterling

Snake River of Hells Canyon Johnny Carrey, Cort Conley, Ace Barton

Island and Rapids: The Geologic Story of Hells Canyon Trace Vallier

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 50 % non-refundable deposit for day trips and a \$400 non-refundable deposit for multi-day trips 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 90 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 90 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.

Packing List: This packing list will vary depending on the itinerary you create. Please work with your consultant once you have booked your adventure if you have any packing list questions.

Clothing and personal items

- Short-sleeve t-shirts*
- Long-sleeve t-shirts or old dress shirts (for sun protection)
- Quick dry shorts
- Bathing suit
- Shoes and socks appropriate for mountain biking
- Personal undergarments
- Sunglasses with retainer straps *
- Waterproof/sweatproof sunscreen *
- Lip balm/chapstick*
- 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)
- 2 - 1 litre water bottles*, refillable during the day
- Biking gloves and knee pads (optional)
- Waterproof camera & film (disposable waterproof cameras available in our shop)*

Gear & Equipment List (if on a multi-day camping adventure)

- Sleeping Bag (if you bring your own)
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Light-weight duffel bag for clothes – used to put into our dry bags
- Several zip lock type bags for personal items
- Towel, bio-degradable camp soap, lotion and personal toiletry items

Optional Items to Bring (if on multi-day camping adventure)

- Fishing license
- Fishing rod and tackle
- Lightweight hiking boots
- Camera or camcorder
- Musical instrument
- Camp pillow
- Alcoholic beverages* - no glass bottles please. If you wish to bring wine, we recommend pouring it into a lexan “nalgene” bottle prior to departure. We sell lexan water bottles at our lodge, as well as a nice selection of wine and canned beer for your trip.

Spring and Fall Additional Clothing Items:

- Pack for layering: non-cotton warm layers, poly-propylene underwear, fleece, a warm coat, etc.
- Warm Goretex/waterproof jacket and pants or good quality rain jacket and pants (we can provide splash jackets and pants if needed)
- Warm tops (fleece or wool)
- Pants (jeans, fleece, carhartts, for in camp.)
- Long underwear (synthetic, quick dry fabrics like polypropylene, capilene, and polyester fleece)
- 2-3 pairs wool or synthetic socks
- Non-cotton winter hat and gloves

Northwest Voyageurs Provides (some items apply only if on multi-day Pedal and Paddle Adventure)

- Helmet
- Bike
- 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
- Firearms

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