

# One and Half Day Rafting Adventure on the Salmon River



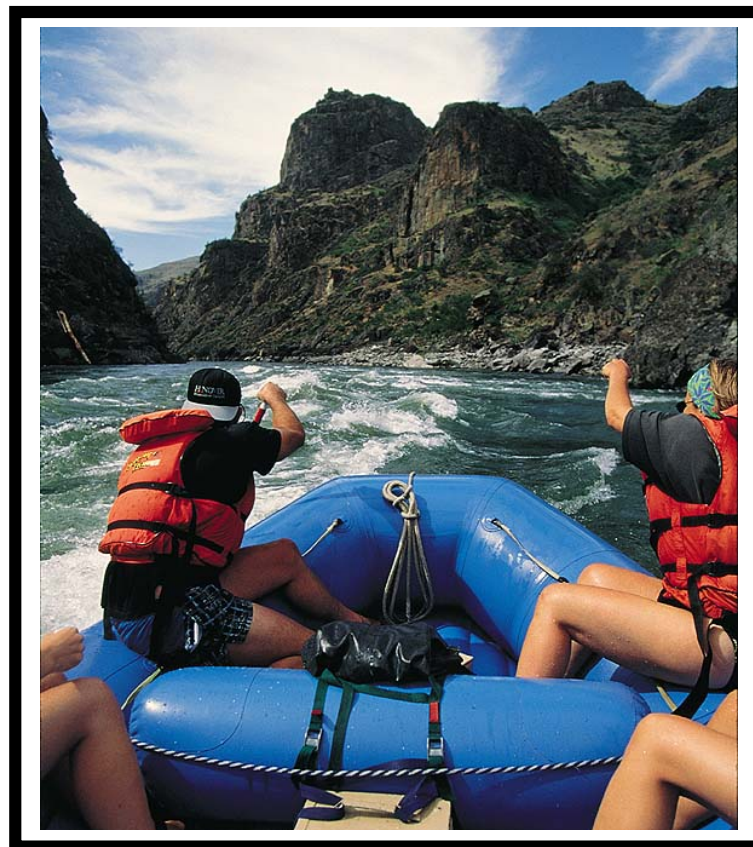
## Dates

One-day trips depart everyday, April to October 15

Half-day trips depart everyday, April through October 15,  
except on Saturdays in July and August.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Class II, III, and IV whitewater rafting
- Optional kayaking
- Awesome lunch (full day) or snack (half day) on the river
- Appropriate for ages 7 and up



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## Trip Overview

For those of you looking to pack an exciting whitewater adventure into a short period of time, the Main Salmon River near Riggins is the perfect stretch of river for you! We float some of the best whitewater on the entire Salmon on our half-day and full-day trips.

In between the rush of crisp whitewater and the immensity of the Salmon River Gorge, Northwest Voyageurs brings our signature commitment to excellence in the form of great meals, refreshing beverages, and experienced and professional guides. Taking pictures, swimming, or even trying out an inflatable kayak, we have developed our trips to share as much of our “neighborhood” as we can.

## Difficulty Rating

The Salmon River Overnight Rafting Adventure is rated EASY, and considered appropriate for any physical ability, including children ages 7 and up. Most physical activities are optional. The trip may require walking on uneven terrain for short distances. Those with ailments such as a bad back or bad knees frequently enjoy these trips.

The Salmon River is a Class III-IV river - mostly Class IIIs with a few Class IVs. It is a big volume, pool and drop river. While most rapids are not technically difficult, they have big waves, big rides and are a lot of fun. Keep in mind that the classification system is not a “fun-meter”. It is rather a measurement of how technically difficult the rapids are, and how bad the consequences of a mistake are. We are fortunate that our rapids are huge and fun, but not particularly technically difficult or dangerous.

In the spring (typically May & June), the Salmon River floods and the whitewater can be considerably bigger and less predictable than the summer. Spring high water is often only appropriate for older children and more adventurous adults, or in extreme conditions, we may require participants be at least 18 years old.

## Types of Water Craft NWV Offers:

**Oar Rafts:** In these boats, the guide sits in the middle of the boat with oars and has complete control of the raft. You can paddle if you wish, but paddling is

optional at all times. In oar boats, you can sit back, enjoy the scenery and let the guide do all the work if you wish. This is our most relaxing and least participative option.

**Paddle-Assist Rafts:** In paddle-assist boats, the guide has oars (typically mounted in the back of the boat) but needs paddling help during rapids and occasionally during some of the flat water. This is the most popular boat for people who wish to paddle during their trip.

**Paddle Rafts:** Our paddle boats have a guide in the back with a paddle (no oars) and the guide steers, but provides no power. Paddling is required the entire day. Due to the nature of our rivers being big volume pool and drop rivers (very different from small volume technical East Coast & California rivers), and the tendency for upstream wind, this option is only appropriate for people who **really** want to paddle **all day** long. We have found that most people who request paddle rafts are actually happier in paddle-assist rafts.

**Inflatable Kayaks:** Thrill-seekers can brave our biggest rapids on their own in one of our single or double “duckies.” In smaller rapids and calmer waters, the kayaks are great for anybody (including younger kids) who wants to get a little closer to the action. They do not require experience or knowledge of how to “Eskimo-roll”. If you flip the kayak, you fall out and swim, we come rescue you and everyone is happy!

Once you book your trip, we will have you complete a trip questionnaire that will help us plan the right mix of boats for the entire group on your launch date.

## 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.

## Detailed Trip Itinerary

*This year Northwest Voyageurs is operating their half and full day trips under the license and permits of Mountain River Outfitters and will begin and end at their headquarters in Riggins. Plan to meet our guides at the Mountain River Outfitters coffee shop at 411 N. Main Street across from City Park in Riggins at least 15 minutes prior to trip departure for lifejacket fitting. All trips run on Mountain Time.*

### Half-day Trips:

Choose a morning or afternoon half-day trip. Morning trips meet at our Riggins headquarters at 8:45am and typically return around noon. Our afternoon trips meet at our Riggins headquarters at 12:45pm and typically return around 4:00pm.

Our half-day trips cover approximately 11 miles of the river, from Shorts Bar to Lucile and include mostly Class III whitewater with the possibility of a Class IV depending on water conditions. The whitewater is great fun throughout the spring and summer season, even in very low water conditions. During the trip, we'll stop on a beautiful sand beach and enjoy a river snack.

### One-day Trip:

Our one-day trip meets in town at 8:45 am and covers approximately 20 miles typically, from Spring Bar to Lucile and include mostly Class III whitewater with some Class IV or IV+ rapids in spring high water. The trip includes a delicious lunch on one of the Salmon's beautiful sand beaches.

Upon finishing either adventure, we pick you up in Lucile and drive you back to our headquarters in Riggins.

Whether you choose to stay with us at the Little Salmon Lodge before or after your trip, ask us about joining us at the lodge for dinner after your one-day or half-day trip!

## Trip Cost

**Half-Day Rafting:** \$69 per person

**One-Day Rafting:** \$109 per person

Groups of 12 or more and children 12 and under receive a 10% discount. Discounts can not be combined.

## What's Included

- Experienced and fun loving river guides
- River equipment including life jackets and wetsuits (if necessary)
- Dry bag for personal items
- Delicious lunch on full day and snack on half day

## 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.

## 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. 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 meeting place for your half-day or full-day rafting adventure is at our partner's headquarters, Mountain River Outfitters coffee shop. They are located in Riggins at 411 N. Main Street. Take Highway 95 to Riggins, and Hwy 95 becomes Main Street. Look for the Riggins City Park (the only paved public parking lot in Riggins) and Mountain River Outfitters is located directly across from City Park.

Approximate driving times from regional towns and cities:

- Pollock – 15 minutes
- McCall – 1 hour
- Grangeville - 1 hour
- Lewiston - 2 hours
- Boise - 3 hours
- 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 Rafting

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 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.

## Spring and Fall Rafting (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).

## 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 \$100 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](mailto: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.

## Summer Detailed Packing List:

### Clothing and Equipment List

- Short-sleeve t-shirt\*
- Long-sleeve t-shirts or old dress shirts (for sun protection)
- Pair quick dry shorts or bathing suit
- Sunglasses with retainer straps \*
- Plenty of waterproof sunscreen \*
- Lip balm/chapstick\*
- Floppy hat, baseball hat, or visor for sun protection\*
- Sandals with heel strap or water shoes for wearing in raft
- Waterproof camera & film (disposable waterproof cameras available in our shop)\*
- 2 - 1 litre water bottles\*, refillable during the day
- Towel, dry clothes, and shoes for after the trip

### Optional Items to Bring

- Alcoholic beverages\* - no glass bottles please. We sell a nice selection of wine and canned beer for your trip.

### Spring and Fall Additional Clothing Items:

- Think layers: 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)
- Warm top (fleece or wool – non-cotton)
- 1 set long underwear (synthetic, quick dry fabrics like polypropylene, capilene, and polyester fleece)
- Non-cotton winter hat and gloves

### Northwest Voyageurs Provides

- Life jackets
- Wet suits (if necessary)
- Dry bags for your personal gear
- First Aid supplies

### 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](http://www.nrsweb.com)

*REI:* [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

*EMS (Eastern Mountain Sports):* [www.ems.com](http://www.ems.com)

### **3 Night/2 Day \$499 Multi-Sport Trip Extension Option**

Once you've made the trek to Idaho to enjoy our awesome whitewater, you might consider staying a little longer to explore our beautiful mountains and rivers. Our Multi-Sport Extension is the best way to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities while enjoying lodge accommodations each night. Your daily itinerary is customized so that each day you can enjoy activities that interest you. This extension includes all lodging and meals, including non-alcoholic beverages, and your choice of guided activities each day.

The Multi-Sport Adventure is rated EASY to CHALLENGING (we tailor the activity level to your ability and desire) and is appropriate for ages 7 and up. Choose from the following daily activities:

#### **Whitewater Rafting**

Rafting on the Salmon River is one of the principle reasons people visit Idaho. Up to three days of rafting different sections of the Salmon are available, including the possibility of an overnight trip with one night of camping on a beautiful white-sand beach. The rapids are Class III and are appropriate for children ages 7 and up, and for both beginners and experienced rafters.

#### **Horseback Riding**

Our one-day horseback ride is on top of the Salmon River canyon, with spectacular views of the Seven Devils Wilderness Area, Gospel Hump Wilderness Area and the Salmon River canyon. The trail ride on experienced dude stock is fun and challenging, but is still appropriate for beginners and children ages 10 and up.

#### **Hiking**

Hiking trips of various lengths and difficulty are available in the Seven Devils Wilderness Area and along Rapid River in the Nez Perce National Forest. You can enjoy short hikes to scenic overlooks, or a challenging all-day hike along steep terrain. All hikes offer beautiful scenery and guides who will lead the hike at your pace.

#### **Kayaking & Canoeing**

If you have an adventurous spirit, you can spend the day on the Salmon River in your own boat. Our inflatable kayaks do not require any experience, and you will follow a guide through each rapid. A safety raft travels with the group in case kayakers get tired or need to be rescued after a swim. Or perhaps try canoeing along a scenic river amidst high alpine meadows with a chance to spot moose, eagles, and osprey!

#### **Mountain Biking**

Mountain bike rides of varying lengths and difficulty are available to accommodate children, beginners and advanced bikers. Inexperienced riders can ride rolling Forest Service roads and enjoy beautiful scenery and a relaxing ride. More aggressive bikers can ride some of our single-track trails or embark on a 5,000-foot descent down "Cannonball Run" from the top of the Salmon River canyon to the rim.

#### **Fishing**

The fishing in Idaho is excellent. We fish with light tackle for smallmouth bass and trout. You can use spinning rods or fly rods, and instruction is available for beginners. A variety of fishing experiences are available, and some require a small surcharge, depending on the number of participants and the method of fishing.

#### **Golf**

Play a round of golf at Meadow Creek Golf Resort and enjoy some of the most spectacular mountain scenery you have ever seen from the putting surface. Meadow Creek offers a challenging golf experience that rewards accuracy and a good short game. Avid golfers may play as many rounds as they like. Golf is also available at the McCall golf course, featuring 27 holes of tree-lined fairways and beautiful mountain views.

#### **Sightseeing**

Enjoy a relaxing day of scenic drives and explore McCall, a small local resort town which features good shopping and several spas offering massage and other treatments. We can also visit Burgdorff Hot Springs, a remote natural hot springs that was formerly a busy hotel and "resort" during the gold mining days.