

Wilderness Steelhead Fishing Adventure



Call for Dates

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 Days guided drift boat steelhead fishing on the Salmon River
- 4 Nights luxury beach camping with delicious river meals
- Optional sturgeon, trout, smallmouth bass, and fly fishing



Trip Overview

The Salmon River is home to one of the longest anadromous fish runs in the world. Idaho's steelhead (an ocean-going trout measuring 21 to 40+ inches) travel some 700 miles from the Pacific Ocean to their spawning grounds high in the Sawtooth Mountains. On this adventure, we float the last 40 miles of the Salmon River through remote roadless wilderness. We spend five days fishing in drift boats with professional fishing guides. You'll pull plugs, throw spoons and drift bait, or you can bring your fly rods and try to hook a steelhead on a fly. Each night you'll stay in our luxurious river camps and enjoy delicious meals, fresh baked breads and desserts, and a warm fire to spin yarns into the evening.

Difficulty Rating

The Wilderness Steelhead 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.

Drift Boats

On this wilderness adventure, you will be traveling down river in drift boats. Drift boats are light weight fishing boats designed for whitewater. Equipped with a heater in the winter, two seats for customers and one seat for our guide, our boats provide a spacious, comfortable and safe fishing experience. Northwest Voyageurs provides all of the spinning gear and tackle for this trip. If you choose to fly fishing, you will need to provide your own fly fishing gear and tackle. Note that fly fishing for steelhead is quite difficult with a lower success rate than spin casting.

Weather

September and October are typically beautiful with mild day temperatures in the 60s and 70s. In November, the day temperatures start to dip into 50s with chilly evenings and mornings.

Detailed Trip Itinerary

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: If you are not staying at the Lodge with us, plan to be to the Lodge by 7:00am Mountain Time, when we'll leave to drive to our launch site on the Salmon River. After a safety orientation and some fishing instruction, we'll launch and start fishing. We fish two anglers per drift boat so we'll move at your pace. As we float, we may stop at places of historical and cultural importance along the way if you are interested, such as ancient Indian pictograph sites and abandoned homesteads from the pioneer days. The guides have colorful stories of local legend (some mostly fact, some mostly river tale) to share at each of these sites and along the river while we fish.

We usually arrive at camp just before dark. When guests arrive, camp has been set up by our camp crew. Personal tents are standing and dinner is already in the making. Camp includes a large dining tent to protect us from any weather and a warm fire to take the chill out of the evening. *L, D NWV Camp*

A Typical Day: Breakfast is served early in the morning and we are usually fishing soon after first light. Each day includes a pre-packed lunch and warm beverages. Our drift boats have heaters to ward off any chills while we are fishing. Throughout the trip, we navigate through four distinct sub-canyons highlighted by tight canyon walls and amazing scenery. The peaceful serenity of our surroundings slowly oozes into our bodies as the trip progresses. *B, L, D...NWV Camp*

Day 5: This morning we reach the confluence of the Snake and Salmon Rivers. Our downstream journey typically ends at noon when a motorized jet boat picks us up and carries us up the Snake River through Hells Canyon for 30 miles before we arrive at Pittsburg Landing. From here we drive out of Hells Canyon and back to the Little Salmon Lodge (1.5 hours). *B, L*

NOTE: The jet back is not included in the price of the trip. The cost of the jet boat will be split amongst the participants.

NOTE: 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 / 4 Night - \$1999 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.

Tipping: 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.

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

For cooler weather, please pay special attention to the packing list. 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, 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.

Trip Extensions

During open chukar season, you can also hunt on these trips. Add \$25 per person per day to include chukar hunting. Please give us a call or check out our website for more information on this extension.

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

Fishing:

Steelhead Water Bob Arnold

Mist on the River: An Angler’s Quest for Steelhead Michael Checcio

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 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.

Detailed Packing List:

Gear & Equipment List:

- Sleeping bag (if you bring your own)
- 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:

- Pack for layering: non-cotton warm layers, poly-propylene underwear, fleece, a warm coat, etc.
- 2 Sets long underwear (synthetic, quick dry fabrics like polypropylene, capilene, and polyester fleece)
- 2-3 Pairs of warm wool socks
- Personal undergarments
- 2-3 Undershirts
- 2 Warm tops (fleece or wool)
- 1-2 Pair quick dry shorts or bathing suit
- 2-3 Pair pants (jeans, fleece, carhartts)
- Sunglasses with retainer straps *
- Floppy hat, baseball hat, or visor for sun protection*
- Sunscreen and lip balm or chapstick*
- Boots to wear on the boat, preferably warm and leather
- Walking shoes for in camp and short hikes
- 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
- Towel, bio-degradable camp soap, lotion and personal toiletry items
- Prescription medicines, allergy medications, etc.

Optional Items to Bring:

- Fly fishing rod and tackle
- Camera or camcorder
- Camp pillow
- 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
- 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