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Oregon & Idaho Fishing & Rafting Trips

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Fishing & Rafting
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Rafting the Middle Fork Salmon River Idaho Whitewater Rafting Logistics

This information is below is intended to help in preparation for your upcoming raft trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Suggestions for travel, equipment, clothing, accommodations, etc. as well understanding of the Middle Fork Salmon river trip itinerary are all important ingredients in making this an unforgettable and enjoyable outdoor experience.



Transportation

Beautiful Stanley Idaho, (elev. 6200') is our trip start point so it is best to arrive here the day before your trip. Boise is the nearest airport served by major airlines for those wishing to arrive by air. From Boise over to Stanley we use

the services of Salmon Air Service. They will also transport you from Salmon back to Boise after the trip. Their round trip fee is \$375.00/person. Their pilot will meet you near gate 1 at the west end of the main terminal. This fee can be paid at their office in the Salmon Airport after your trip. We will assist in making all the arrangements with Salmon Air Service (800-448-3413) and you will need at least 7 days advance reservations for the lowest rate. When low water conditions make it necessary for us to make the 25-minute flight into Indian Cr. Airstrip to start the trip, the fee is \$120.00/person for this short flight from Stanley.

Car Shuttle

A Middle Fork car shuttle from our launch at Boundary Cr. Landing to our final destination of Cache Bar landing involves 215 miles of driving with 45 miles on gravel and dirt. To prevent wear and tear on your vehicle we recommend the following services for your shuttle needs: For those driving into Stanley we use the services of River Shuttles based in Salmon for private car shuttles. They will drive your car from Stanley to Salmon for \$105.00, a distance of 110 miles or all the way to the Cache Bar Landing for \$240.00, a distance of 170 miles. Your car will be parked in a safe place at the Mountain Village Lodge and shuttled to Salmon or Cache Bar on the morning we end our trip. Arrangements and payments for these shuttles can be made when we meet on your arrival in Stanley. On the morning your trip starts Caldwell Transportation will provide bus transport from Stanley to Boundary Creek. On the day your trips ends they will also supply bus transport from our take-out at Cache Bar back to Salmon, all for \$40.00/person. This fee is added to your final payment in June to Tight Lines.

For those driving from the west one can reach Stanley from Boise via hwy. 21 through Idaho City and Lowman. This is a 145-mile very scenic drive and takes about 4 hours. The Payette River route from Ontario is also an option. As your travel plans take shape other shuttle variations may be necessary as we will assist in making these arrangements. River Shuttles 1-800-831-8942 or 208-756-4188, Salmon Air Service 1-800-448-3413 or 208-756-4713.

To the River - (Put-in):

Upon arriving in Stanley check in at the Mountain Village Lodge where we will have reservations for you. We will meet you here in the evening and discuss any last minute details and also distribute waterproof bags for your duffel if needed. Our bus transportation will meet us at the Lodge at 8:00 am the morning of launch. It is best to have all details with shuttles, fishing licenses or last minute items taken care of the night before as most stores are not open this early. You can stop by the liquor store if needed, the Riverware store next to the Motel has clothing items and the Casino Club has refreshments and dinner. Fishing licenses are a must if you wish to fish --- get a 6-day license for \$36.50 at River 1 or the Sawtooth Mercantile. Kids under 14 yr. old do not need a license. Other items you may wish to purchase are fishing related gear, flashlight batteries, film, snacks and drinks. We supply soft drinks, plus beer and water in each individual raft, however if you think you may drink more than the norm it is a good idea to pick up extra. You may also let us know if there is a specific drink the group likes and we will supply it. Remember alcohol beverages and mixes are not supplied except for beer and dinner wine. Everyone is welcome to bring his or her favorite wine or liquor and mix. In regards to liquor, wine, or beverage storage we will provide special storage boxes for the safekeeping of these items.

The Boundary Cr. Launch site is 45 miles from Stanley and will take approx. 1.5 hrs driving time. Because we share our start with other outfitters and private boaters, the landing may seem crowded at times but the river parties soon separate after lunch. Each of our overnight campsites is reserved with the Forest Service before we depart. Your camp equipment and personal gear will be stowed aboard the baggage raft for the trip to the first night's camp. Be sure to keep your small daypack with you.

On the River:

A suggestion for leaving Stanley is to dress for cool weather. Mornings are very chilly here and it can stay cool while on the river in the morning. You may want to have shorts underneath or change at lunch. Have your small day bag or pack ready with items you may need throughout the day such as, rain gear, camera, coat, fishing license, water bottle, lipbalm, or sun lotion. Our baggage raft will carry the bulk of equipment and clothing ahead to camp.

Rafts will handle from 4 to 5 as we drift 15-20 miles each day. The rafts usually depart camp each morning before 10am, stop for lunch and arrive at camp close to 5pm. All rafts are equipped with life jackets, seat cushions and backs, splash tarp, coolers with ice water and beverages.

Our Camp:

Upon arrival at Middle Fork Salmon River camp you will find your gear located close to the tent area. Each couple will be provided a four-person tent, each with two cots and two self-inflating pads for your sleeping comfort. Our kitchen will be set up close by and we provide chairs and tables for your dining and relaxation. Dinners are normally served around 7:30pm while breakfasts about 8:30am. We carry a shower that we will normally set up from two to three nights per trip. Also, we carry top of the line outdoors toilets, his and hers, which are set up at each camp.

Food:

When it comes to culinary delights of the trip we spare no time, effort or expense. The guides and camp crews are experts in the use of the Dutch oven and the techniques of open fire cooking. Fresh supplies, ice and beverages will be air shuttled to us mid-way through the trip. We will cater to your special beverage requests or any dietary

restrictions you may have. Please inform us of any special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc. for which we can plan a special river camp celebration.

First-Aid:

We supply first aid equipment for the whole group but if someone needs specific medication or has allergic reactions to anything such as bees or nuts be sure to let us know. If you bring prescription medication for an ailment it is very wise to bring extra that we can carry in our master first aid kit for emergency use.

Fishing:

Don't worry if you've never fished before. We promote fly fishing and have excellent instructors for those who are unfamiliar with this type of fishing. The river has been catch and release since the early seventies and all fish will be released unharmed by your guide. Each guide carries a rod and tackle for your use while on the river. Be sure to carry your fishing license on you or in your day bag.

Take-out:

We generally reach our final destination on the sixth day 11am- 12am at Cache Bar on the Salmon River. The guides will assist in loading luggage in your private car, shuttle service van or bus for the 2 hour drive back to Salmon. If you plan to fly back to Boise it is best to do so, early the following morning as the afternoon heat creates turbulent skies for smaller aircraft.

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