



## **Salmon River Trip Information Packet 5-Night Oar Trip**

Thank you for choosing Tour West! We are delighted to share the Main Salmon River with you also known as the "River of No Return," located within the Frank Church Wilderness Area in the state of Idaho. As you float through the continent's second deepest gorge, you'll find the river lined with clean sandy beaches and hills covered with majestic pine trees. You'll find plenty of whitewater on the Salmon River as you float 90 miles from the put-in at Corn Creek to the take-out at Carey Creek. During this stretch the river drops 969 feet, an average of 12 feet per mile

This information packet is for all passengers taking our 5-night trip on the Salmon River

Please **carefully read this information packet** as it will answer many of the questions you will have about your trip. Keep this information packet as it will also be a guide to you as you prepare and pack for your trip. We also suggest you re-read this packet after you are finished packing.

In this packet you will find the following sections:

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## **Itinerary** *All times listed are for the Mountain Standard Time Zone*

- **Day One:** Your trip meets in Salmon, Idaho.  
You will meet your guide for an orientation meeting at **8:00 p.m.** at the Stagecoach Inn.  
This meeting is held on the lawn by the river.  
You are on your own for your dinner this night and breakfast the next morning. There are several places to eat that are within walking distance and the Stagecoach provides a continental breakfast in the morning.
- **Day Two-Day Five:** A van will pick you up in front of the motel at 8:00 a.m. and transport you to Corn Creek where you will launch on your river trip. This shuttle takes approximately 3 hours. Along the way you will make 1 stop at North Fork where you can purchase fishing licenses.  
Each day you will run exciting rapids, explore unique side canyons, and enjoy the majestic grandeur of the Frank Church Wilderness Area. You will travel about 90 river miles along the Main Salmon River. Each night you will camp under the stars along the beaches of the river.
- **Day Six:** The river portion of your trip will end at Carey Creek Boat Ramp. From this point you will enjoy a scenic bus ride back to Boise, Idaho. This drive takes approximately 5 hours. You will make occasional stops along the way to Boise. You should arrive in Boise between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The bus will drop you off at the Boise Airport. Please do not schedule any flight arrangements out of Boise before 6:00 p.m. this day!

## **Typical Day**

A typical day on the river will include rafting for a few hours at a time, stopping for scenic side-canyon hikes, bathroom breaks, a stop for lunch, and lots of fun, laughter, learning, and excitement in between.

After a full day enjoying the river, you will arrive in camp. Guests will be given time to find their campsite and then return to the rafts to create a "fire line" which is how we load and unload the rafts. Your help in passing the gear on and off the boat is greatly appreciated and can help you to really feel a part of the whole river experience but if you have physical restrictions or limitations that keep you from participating in this you are not required to.

The first evening in camp your guide will give a demonstration of how to easily assemble your gear and will be available if you need any additional help in setting those up. Tour West provides tents, a paco pad (a thick sleeping pad), sleeping bags, sheets, camp chairs, and water-proof gear bags for all of our guest.

While you relax and take in the beautiful surroundings, your guides will prepare dinner.

At night you will enjoy chatting with the guides and guest until the fresh air and rhythm of the river lull you to sleep. Each morning your guides will prepare a hearty breakfast. You will have a chance to enjoy eating before returning to your campsite to take down your gear and pack up your belongings into a dry bag. After bringing your bag down to the boats, guest participate in the fire line once again and then you are off on another adventure filled day.

## **Pre-Trip Travel Information (Not included in the trip price):**

- **Option 1: Fly from Boise to Salmon** At the beginning of the trip you can arrange a flight from Boise to Salmon through Gem Air. Contact them at [gemairflights.com](http://gemairflights.com) or 208-756-7382 for schedule and pricing. If you use this option, the price of the transportation from Carey Creek back to Boise at the end of the trip is already included in the trip price and we will arrange this for you.
- **Option 2: Drive your own vehicle into Salmon.** If you choose this option, you will not need to arrange any transportation at the beginning of the trip but you will need to arrange to have your car shuttle from Salmon to Carey Creek to meet you at the end of the trip. You can arrange this shuttle through River Shuttles. Contact them at 208-756-4188 or [www.rivershuttles.com](http://www.rivershuttles.com) for schedule and pricing.

## **Post-Trip Travel Information**

The river portion of your trip will end at Carey Creek Boat Ramp. From this point you will enjoy a scenic bus ride back to Boise, Idaho. This drive takes approximately 5 hours. You will make occasional stops along the way to Boise. You should arrive in Boise between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The bus will drop you off at the Boise Airport. Please do not schedule any flight arrangements out of Boise before 6:00 p.m. this day!

Please be aware that at Tour West we do our very best to schedule your transportation needs into and out of a remote area where transportation options can be limited. While the transportation companies we contract with to provide these services are in general reliable and on time, there are occasions when our passengers will experience issues and/or delays. While these things are beyond our control, we will always do our best to help you get where you need to be in the quickest, safest and most comfortable way possible.

## **Rafting & Camping with Tour West**

Whether you have been rafting and camping for years or this is your first experience, Tour West makes it easy. All you need to do is bring your personal items in a soft-sided duffle bag and we will provide the rest. We supply:

- Motel accommodations the first night of your trip at the Stagecoach Inn
- Transportation from the Stagecoach to the river
- Boats – Custom-made, compartmentalized and unsinkable
- Life Jackets – of special whitewater design
- Meals – all meals on the river starting with lunch the first day and ending with breakfast the last morning.
- Cooking facilities – all cooking items including eating utensils
- Camping toilet facilities, toilet paper, and supplies
- Beverages – unlimited water & gatorade all day. Coffee, tea & hot chocolate in the morning.
- First Aid Kit
- Cot
- Sleeping Bag with sheet
- Comfortable sleeping pad
- Tent
- Waterproof bag –16”X 33” 108 liters--to put your personal duffel bag into during the trip
- Small water-resistant day bag --9.5”X 20” 22 liters-- (accessible at all times) for personal articles and camera
- Transportation from Carey Creek to the Boise International Airport
- \$4.00 recreation enhancement act fee

**Toilet Facilities:** Tour West uses a portable toilet and hand wash system that is set up in camp each day in a secluded location that assures privacy. The toilet is available shortly after you pull into camp until you leave the following day. An orientation concerning all of this will be given to you at the beginning of your trip.

## **Physical Recommendations**

A river trip is a participatory experience and requires each guest to be reasonably self-sufficient. Please consider carefully any medical or health conditions that would endanger yourself, or others on the trip, or diminish the enjoyment of a wilderness adventure. Minimum recommendations to participate include:

- Being able to firmly grip ropes or handhold provided while running the rapids
- Enough agility to climb on and off the rafts. If you are unable to do this on your own, please ask for assistance from a guide.
- Fit into our Class V lifejacket (max 58” chest) required by the Forest Service.
- Ability to navigate some uneven terrain on hikes and in camp.

Our principal objective is for you and your fellow guest to have an enjoyable, safe and fulfilling experience. If you are concerned about any of these recommendations, please call our friendly staff and we will be happy to discuss your specific circumstances. If you have any questions about river rafting and the inherent risks, please contact our office.

## **Weather**

We always hope for good weather and usually we get it but you should be prepared for cooler weather and storms. The following chart shows averages for the month of June through September.

<u>Temperature &amp; Precipitation</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>Sept</u>
Mean Max Temperature	80	93	90	82
Mean Min. Temperature	50	65	60	57

The following page is a checklist for personal gear that you should consider bringing on your raft trip. Though we have tried to be as specific as possible, you should give some consideration to your own personal needs. Are you the first one to get cold or the last? Are you light skinned and need more sun protection or do you go all summer in shorts or swimsuit? Do you need to change clothes often or are you comfortable in the same swimsuit or shorts for a couple of days? What type of shoes would work best for you, given the conditions on the trip?

**The Salmon River can go from warm to cold rather quickly so please don't go on your trip without a jacket or fleece sweatshirt, rain gear and a long pair of pants.** During the runoff (typically June) the water is colder and may require you to bring a wetsuit if you are interested in paddling an inflatable kayak.

## **Packing List**

The following list suggests items you should bring for your trip. When packing please keep in mind that:

1. You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (this is required if you are flying from Boise to Salmon).
2. Your bag should be a soft side duffle bag that is approximately 12"x13"x24" in order to fit in our dry bag.

### **CLOTHING ITEMS:**

- Two-piece rain suit (Not just for rainstorms. Quality rain gear offers protection against cold water when running rapids—especially early in the morning.)
- 2-3 swimsuits (2-piece swimsuit and quick-drying shorts or sports bra and shorts recommended for women.)
- 2-3 quick-drying shirts (at least 1 long sleeve)
- 3-4 pair of lightweight shorts
- 2 pair of lightweight pants
- 3-4 pair socks
- 1 lightweight quick-drying hoodie (great for sun protection)
- 1 pair quick-drying pants (great for sun-protection)
- 1 sarong or other wrap-around (great for sun protection)
- Underwear
- Comfortable lounge-wear to put on at camp and for sleeping
- Lightweight fleece top
- Sturdy water sandals or multi-sport shoe that can get wet with good tread and support for hikes (Bedrock, Teva or Chacos). It is wise to consider a back-up pair of sandals or shoes in case of damage.
- Comfortable footwear for camp (optional—some guests prefer flip flops or other light weight shoes in camp)
- Hat for sun protection with string or clip
- Gloves for protection while gripping ropes (optional)

### **COOL WEATHER ITEMS (June, Mid to Late August & September Trips)**

**Children and some adults tend to get colder and may need these items in the warmer summer months.**

- Neoprene socks-also great for sun protection
- Mid-weight fleece jacket
- Lightweight long underwear for sleeping
- Beanie
- Gloves

### **PERSONAL ITEMS**

- Personal hygiene products (toothbrush, deodorant, razor, mirror, feminine hygiene products)
- Face Mask and Buff-required on all trips.
- Small Hand Sanitizer
- Plenty of sunscreen SPF 30+, we strongly discourage spray types.
- Sunscreen lip balm with SPF
- Plenty of moisturizing body/foot lotion and aloe vera
- Soap and shampoo in small bottles. Leave in conditioner for longer hair.
- Insulated Water bottle with tight fitting lid plus a strap or carabineer to hook it to boat during day
- Small towel and wash cloth
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Small pack of tissues or wet wipes
- Ziploc bags for storing wet items or keeping things dry
- Small headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries
- Bandana
- Sunglasses with safety strap and back-up pair of prescription glasses if needed
- Camera—waterproof digital camera with extra batteries and memory card recommended
- Small travel pillow
- Medication if needed (cool storage is available)
- All guest 18 or older must have photo ID available for trip flights
- Major credit card in case of evacuation or for souvenirs
- Cash for gratuities
- 2 large 3"-4" carabineers (for clipping day-use bags and water bottles to ropes) quality matters here \$10-\$15 each

### **OPTIONAL PERSONAL ITEMS:**

- Small back-pack for hikes
- Plastic bag for dirty or wet clothing plus a few clothes pins and small rope for drying wet items at camp.
- Mile-by-mile river guide book & other books
- Playing cards or other free-time games
- Journal, notebook, pen

## **General Information**

**BEVERAGES:** We provide cold gatorade and water all day long on the boat and in camp in the evening. If you wish to have any other drinks (soda, juices, alcohol, etc.) you must supply your own. Hard liquor should be in plastic containers. Soda, beer, and any additional drinks must be in aluminum cans (**NO GLASS**). Your drinks will be stowed away by the guides during the day and available to you in the evenings. You may want to mark your cans on the top with a permanent marker. You can purchase beer, wine, and soda in Salmon or at North Fork. Liquor is only available for purchase Monday through Saturday. If you are coming on a Sunday, please purchase your liquor before coming to Salmon.

**VALUABLES:** You will want to have photo ID, a major credit card, and some cash. All other valuables and jewelry should be left at home or in a safe location.

**GRATUITIES:** It is customary upon receiving a satisfactory trip to tip the river crew. It is an acknowledgement of a job well done and greatly appreciated by members of the crew. If you feel a tip is in order, the average runs between 10%-12%. You may leave it with the trip leader and he/she will distribute it among the crew.

**LUGGAGE STORAGE:** There is no storage at the Boise Airport and you cannot leave any luggage with us in Salmon as we have no facilities to store it in, or to have it brought to meet you at the end of the trip. If you are staying in Boise before or after your trip, we recommend you store additional luggage at your hotel.

**CAMERAS:** We encourage you to bring your cameras with you on your trip of a lifetime! Please keep in mind there is a lot of water and sand and you will need to properly protect your camera. If you bring a phone as your camera, we recommend a waterproof case similar to these at Seawag. [www.seawagusa.com](http://www.seawagusa.com). If you bring a DSLR we recommend you bring them in a pelican case with a few quality carabiners to secure it to the raft. Also plan on bringing a portable power bank and a charger as we do not have a way to recharge your cameras. You are welcome to bring a Go Pro Camera. Please make sure you bring a strap for it! Drones are not allowed.

**FISHING** – You may bring a small collapsible fishing rod. You can fish from the shore but not while the boat is underway. You would be fishing mainly for whitefish, squawfish, & trout. Idaho residents must have an Idaho fishing license. Out of state passenger can purchase a short-term license at North Fork on your way to the river.

**REGISTRATION FORM** – We require that each passenger taking our trip fill out our registration form. This form will give us more information on how to better serve you while you are traveling with us. Please make sure to include on this form if there are any special physical, dietary or medical conditions we should be aware of prior to your trip. You will fill this out online.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM**-We require that each passenger sign an acknowledgement of risk form. Anyone under 18 must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian. You will fill this out online.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** – Deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations received between 31 and 60 days prior to departure forfeit one half the tour cost. Cancellations between 30 days and the day of your trip lose the entire tour cost. No shows lose entire tour cost. We are firm with this policy and suggest you purchase cancellation insurance. This would help reimburse you in the event of illness or other unforeseen reasons for cancellations. Forms are available in our office or from your travel agent. This cancellation policy applies per person.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION** – During the season, you may call us after-hours or on weekends at our regular toll-free number (1-800-453-9107). The message will give you the numbers of those you can contact or you can leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Please be aware that getting an emergency message to a guest on our river trips, even in the event of a death in the family, is extremely difficult and we can't make any promises. Please give our toll-free number to family members and have them call us if there is an emergency while you are on the river.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Who will our guides be?**

Tour West feels that we have the best guides in the business. Our guides are all whitewater qualified with an average of fifteen years and hundreds of miles of river experience. Each guide is an accomplished outdoors person with wilderness first responder training, a background in natural history and the ability to make each river trip special and memorable.

### **2. Where and when will I get my river and camping equipment?**

Your waterproof duffle bag, sleeping bag, sheet, small water-resistant bag and cup will be available when you meet your guide at the river. Your tent and sleeping pad will be available at the first night's camp.

### **3. What items will I have access to during the day?**

Every morning your waterproof duffle bag containing your sleeping gear and clothing will be loaded on the boat and packed away for the day. Your small water-resistant bag is used to store any of the items that you will need to get to during the day, such as sunscreen, hat, camera, water bottle, etc.

### **4. What is the menu like?**

We take pride in offering well-rounded meals that are very appetizing with sufficient quantities for everyone. Breakfast items include many traditional favorites from pancakes to omelets, fresh fruits and juices. Lunches are a favorite for many with a variety of deli meats and cheeses, salads, chips and cookies. At the end of the day, you are ready for a hardy meal expertly prepared under a western sky. You'll have fresh salads, chicken, steak, side dishes, and of course, desserts. All meals include water and Gatorade to drink.

NOTE: If you have a special diet or allergies, please inform us of your specific needs so that we can determine how to best accommodate you. Refer to our website for in-depth dietary information.

### **5. Where will I bathe?**

Soap is strictly prohibited on the Main Salmon River. All soaps must be disposed of above the high-water line. We recommend you bring a solar shower which will make it easier for showering at camp. Please bring one per family.

### **6. What about bugs and snakes?**

The Salmon River is a very friendly place to camp. Mosquitoes and flying insects are not generally a problem. Snakes and scorpions are seldom seen. There are yellow jackets in the area so if you are allergic to this type of sting, we strongly encourage you to bring an epi-pen shot with you. Most trips will have the thrill of seeing Desert Big Horn Sheep and many varieties of birds.

### **7. Can we expect rain?**

We never know for sure when it will rain, so even if you are taking a mid-summer trip be sure to bring a two-piece rain suit! Ponchos are not recommended.

### **8. What are the toilet facilities like on a river trip?**

During the day, all urine must go directly into the river. Which means squatting/standing near the river's edge or wading in. There will be pit stops during the day, but if you have to go tell the guide so they can find a good place to pull over. There is a wonderful new device available for women to use in wilderness settings to urinate. Check it out and if you are comfortable, we highly recommend it along with women who have suggested using them on river trips: It is called the <https://www.thepstyle.com/> Available on amazon for \$12. If you need to poop during the day, the guides have a portable toilet system. Each evening, we set up a camp toilet for solid waste, while urine continues to go into the river. At the hand wash station, we have a "key" so you aren't disturbed while using the toilet. The guides will explain the details of the sanitation and bathroom procedures in greater detail during on-river orientation.

For women who may be on their period while on your river trip, it's helpful to plan ahead and pack for the unexpected. If you will be using tampons, bring a 'Go With Your Flow Pack' or several Ziploc bags and plenty of baby wipes. Make sure you keep these supplies handy during the day, in your provided day dry bag. When you change during the day, you can wrap the trash in a baby wipe, put that in a Ziploc and dispose of it in the boat trash system. As you will get wet a lot on your river trip, using pads is not recommended.

## **MAPS/BOOKS**

Below are a few book recommendations about the wonders and history of the Salmon River.

1. Idaho's Salmon River by Eric J. Newell & Allison J. Newell available on nrs.com
2. River of No Return by Johnny Carrey
3. The National Forrest Service has a map of the river that you could purchase ahead of time through their website directly at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/scnf/maps-pubs> It is called: The Salmon: A wild and scenic river \$14
4. Amazon prime video has a documentary: Idaho the Movie

### **SPECIAL NOTE-IMPORTANT**

Tour West, together with selling agents, acts only in the capacity of agent for customers in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours, and transportation whether by railroad, motor car, steamship, boat, airplane, or any other means, and as such is not responsible for any damage expense or inconvenience caused by late train, plane, or ship arrivals or departures, or by any change of schedule or other condition nor from any loss, injury or damage to any person or property from any cause whatsoever, The right is reserved to alter the sequence of sightseeing in any of these tours. Tour West is proud of its efforts to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our passengers. We feel that our customers are safer with us that they are traveling to and from the river. However, no outdoor activity is without the possibility of unforeseen hazards. It is important that each Tour West passenger recognize that there is an element of risk in any adventure or activity associated with the outdoors. Each passenger must be fully aware of the risks and the elements of cold river water, and or loss or damage to personal property. Knowing of the inherent risks, dangers, and rigors of river running, each passenger must decide if he/she is desirous and capable of participating in the river trip experience. For questions about river rafting and the inherent risks please contact our office. Even though losses rarely occur, we recommend that passengers have their own travel insurance to protect personal items. It is also recommended that you have your own health and accident insurance. Each passenger will be required to sign an acknowledgment of risk form prior to the trip.

