



## **Salmon River Trip Information Packet 5-Night Oar Trip—Boise to Boise**

We are delighted to share the Main Salmon River with you also known as the "River of No Return," located within 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.

Carefully read this information packet as it will answer many questions about your trip.

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#### **Pre-Trip Checklist**

- Pay Deposit (consider purchasing travel insurance within 14 days)
- Complete Registration and Liability Waiver online.
- Make final payment 90 days before trip (we'll send a reminder)
- Read this packet carefully
- Gather your gear
- Contact us with any questions
- Watch for final trip confirmation email about 2 weeks before departure

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

**Day One:** Arrive in Boise, Idaho by no later than 1pm that day.

Your flight with Gem Air leaves from Boise at 4 pm

You will check in 30 minutes prior to your flight at Jackson Jet Center, 3815 Rickenbacker St near the Boise Airport.

It's a very short uber ride away from the main terminal baggage claim

Your flight to Salmon is about 1 hour 15 minutes long.

You will arrive in Salmon and be shuttled to the Stagecoach.

### **IN SALMON:**

- Lodging at Stage Coach Inn included (double occupancy 2 people per room. Single room extra fee)
- Orientation meeting at 8:00 PM by the river
- Dinner on your own. Multiple places within walking distance. Continental breakfast available.

### **Day 2-5 - On the River**

- 8:00 AM Shuttle from Stage Coach to River, 2 hours. 1 stop at North Fork so you can pick up drinks.
- Run legendary rapids, explore, relax.
- Enjoy fresh meals, fascinating history and nights camping under the stars

### **Day 6 – Scenic Exit**

- Early morning breakfast. Enjoy 2 hours on the river.
- 10 AM arrive at takeout and shuttle back to Boise  
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! In 2026 there will be construction on the roads back to Boise. You may consider staying in Boise that night so you don't miss your flights.

### **Typical Day**

- Wake up to coffee call, breakfast, and camp breakdown
- Stop for lunch around 12 -1 each day
- Arrive at camp around 4-5 PM; help with "fire line" to unload gear (optional with physical limitations)
- Evening camp setup demo (cots, tents, bathroom system) on the first night
- Freshly prepared dinner under the canyon sky

## **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:**

- Flight from Boise to Salmon
- Motel accommodations the first night of your trip at the Stagecoach Inn (double occupancy)
- Transportation from the Stagecoach to the river
- Boats, Life Jackets, camping gear (cot, sleeping bag, pad, tent, waterproof bags)
- Meals – from lunch Day 2 to breakfast Day 7
- Beverages – unlimited water & Gatorade all day. Coffee, tea & hot chocolate in the morning.
- Transportation from Carey Creek to the Boise International Airport
- All Forrest Service Fees & \$4.00 recreation enhancement act fee

**Toilet Facilities:** Portable toilet is 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.

## 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.
- Ability to tolerate prolonged exposure to environmental conditions & temperatures

Our primary goals are for you and your fellow guest to have a safe, enjoyable, 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	55

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.

## Preparing your Gear

Every person who travels with us is different and has different needs. We do our best to provide the most comprehensive list for what most people need on the river, but you will have to use your judgement on some things. Please remember this is a wilderness setting and our packing list is as comprehensive as possible. If you have any questions about the packing list, please call us!

## Travel Considerations:

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 delays. While these delays are beyond our control, we will always do our best to help you get where you need to be in the quickest and safest way possible.

## Your Health on the River

Your health and safety are always our top priority. As you travel to and from the river, we ask you to take all precautions to help prevent the spread of any possible virus. Please visit the CDC website for more information on how to prevent spreading viruses. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/resources-for-travelers>. If you do show signs of illness as you travel, we ask that you please let your guides know asap so they can take proper precautions to help you and prevent spreading to others.

## **Packing List**

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

You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (this is required if you are flying from Boise to Salmon).

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)
- 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, mini watercolor kit

## **General Information**

**BEVERAGES:** We provide unlimited cold Gatorade and water. You're welcome to bring your own soda, juices, or alcohol. (no glass). Drinks will be stored by the guides during the day and available to you in the evenings. Please be aware: We are unable to keep drinks on ice on a wilderness adventure. 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:** Bring only essentials; photo ID, credit card, cash. No storage available Boise or Salmon

**GRATUITIES:** Customary tips are 10-12% of trip cost, given to trip leader.

**LUGGAGE STORAGE:** There is no storage at the Boise Airport and you cannot leave any luggage with us in Salmon. 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 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 on the river.

**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. We recommend you purchase all licenses online prior to your arrival.

**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 know about. You will fill this out online.

**LIABILITY WAIVER**-We require that each passenger sign a liability waiver. Anyone under 18 must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian. You will sign this online prior to your trip.

**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. 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 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.

**Dietary Restrictions:** If you have any special dietary requirements, please include them on your passenger information form. Due to limited space and the nature of our buffet style meal service, we are unable to accommodate extreme dietary needs such as Kosher and Vegan. We can accommodate Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Dairy Free Diets. For more information, please see our website.

Severe Allergies are taken very seriously. Thoroughly describe your allergies and symptoms on your information form online. Please be aware this is a wilderness setting and emergency response times are delayed due to the setting. If you have concerns, please contact our office. We do ask those with severe allergies to bring 2 epi-pens on your trip.

## **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 dry bag and coffee mug will be available when you meet your guide in Salmon. 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 sun screen, 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 each 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 2 epi-pen shots 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. This usually means squatting or standing near the rivers edge, or wading in a little. For women, there's a handy device designed for wilderness use you may consider. Check it out and if you are comfortable, the P-Style. <https://www.thepstyle.com/> Available on amazon for \$12. If you need to poop during the day, the guides provide you with a Wag Bag type portable waste kit. 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 an on-river orientation.

For women, if your period overlaps your river trip, planning ahead makes things easier. Bring what you need-and a little extra-in your provided day dry bag so supplies are always handy. If you will be using tampons, we suggest packing a 'Go With Your Flow Pack' or several Ziploc bags and plenty of baby wipes. When you change, simply wrap the used item in a wipe, seal it in a Ziploc, and dispose of it in the boat trash system.

## **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. 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.

