



# WHAT TO EXPECT

## Five-Day Trip

If you're meeting us in McCall, one of the Salmon Raft owners will meet you the night prior to departure to go over last minute questions and show you how to properly pack your provided dry bags. If you are meeting us in Lewiston, we will do the pre-trip meeting in the morning when we pick you up.

## ITINERARY

### DAY ONE

**WELCOME ABOARD!** Settle in for a scenic drive up to the put-in. From the town of Riggins, this can take anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour. At the put-in, our guides will take care of everything. You will have time to use the restroom, pack up your day bag, and fasten your life jacket. The guides will give a safety speech before we get on the water. You'll see your overnight dry bags get packed onto the gear boat, and the gear boatman will head out before you (they will arrive at camp early to get it set up for your arrival).

Choose a spot on the raft (you can always switch!) and begin your trip down the Salmon River. Our guides will point out wildlife, tell a few stories, and take you through some of the country's most picturesque landscape. Snacks and cold drinks are provided along the way.

**SOMETIME MID-DAY** (we're on "river time," remember) we will stop for lunch on a white sandy beach. Lunch on Day One usually consists of a hearty sandwich bar, salad options, fruits, veggies, an assortment of drinks, and Lauren's homemade cookies.

**AFTER LUNCH**, we will resume rafting. Feel free to change rafts or hop in an inflatable kayak to switch things up. We will float through Green Canyon, which holds a few of our favorite rapids – Demon's Drop, Pine Bar rapid, and Right Way (don't worry – we won't take you the wrong way). By late afternoon, we will arrive at camp. The gear boatman will have your tents ready and sleeping pads rolled out. Appetizers will be prepped and served shortly after arrival.

**DINNER** will be served as soon as the sun goes behind the canyon wall. Don't forget to ask your guide for a sneak peek! Your river guides turn into expert chefs at camp. A warm, delectable dessert will fill you up even more, and before you know it, your guides then transform into a cleaning crew – they will take care of the dishes and cleaning up the kitchen just before the stars come out. Sneak off into your tents, or sleep under the stars, and fall asleep to the river's peaceful tune.



### DAY TWO

**AWAKE** to the smell of freshly brewed coffee and sizzling bacon on the griddle. A hearty breakfast will be served after a good night's sleep. You'll notice the guides scurrying around and cleaning up camp. They will take down your tent and roll your sleeping pad for you – don't lift a finger! We aim to get on the water by around 10:00am on Day Two.

**LUNCH** on Day Two will resemble the day before, but with a twist. Our guides always have something up their sleeve to keep our guests on their toes. Homemade cookies, freshly prepared salads... Relax while the buffet is prepared for you.

**SPLASH** through the river corridor after lunch. On Day Two, we will enjoy Cougar Canyon first, which has green rock walls and steep columnar basalt. There are several Class II and III rapids through here. And then Snow Hole Canyon – be prepared to get soaked through some of the trip's splashiest rapids!

**THE SECOND CAMP SPOT** will be another big sandy beach, and again, our gear boatman will have everything already set up for you. Appetizers will be served shortly after arrival. Dinner will be another delicious creation by our riverside chefs – perfectly grilled steak, energizing salads, and delicate breads are a few of our menu choices. Sleep will come easily tonight for sure.

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## DAY THREE

**BREAKFAST** on the third day will start your day fueled and happy. You're now in the full swing of the river's rhythm – and you won't want this feeling to go! Day Three is fairly mellow, and a good chance to try out the inflatable kayak if you haven't already.

**LUNCH** will be served on yet another white sandy beach, with a smorgasbord of buffet options. Take full advantage of Day Three's relaxed pace – bask in the sun or chill in the shade, take a swim, or fish in solitude. There are several Class II rapids to enjoy in the rafts or a kayak.

**DINNER AND CAMP** on the third night will be near the end of the long Snow Hole canyon. Several beautiful creeks of crystal clear water flow into the Salmon River during this stretch.

## DAY FOUR

**BREAKFAST**, as usual (now you're really in the groove!), will be served after a good night's rest after you awake from your new, natural alarm clock called, The Sun.

**LUNCH** will be served sometime around the entrance to Blue Canyon, one of our favorite spots on the Lower Salmon River. Blue Canyon is known for its shiny blue lava rock and its narrow passages that choke up to form Checkerboard and Sluice rapids. This is a great opportunity for wildlife sightings, including big horn sheep, eagles, and ospreys.

**THE MIGHTY CONFLUENCE** of the Snake and Salmon Rivers is an impressive sight. Take a moment to fathom that you are floating at the point where North America's two deepest river gorges meet and ultimately flow to the Columbia and on to the Pacific.

**DINNER AND CAMP** on the fourth night will hold views of the confluence and the deep roll of rapids in the distance will let you sleep soundly.



## DAY FIVE

**BREAKFAST** on the last day will send you on your way full and ready to conquer the lower part of Hells Canyon on the Snake River. The rapids are fairly mellow, but the volume of the Snake is nothing to mess with. You'll feel the push and pull of strong eddies and crazy whirlpools.

**LUNCH** will be served mid-day before we arrive at the goodbye point. Feel free to load up, since this is the last included meal of the trip.

**THE TAKE-OUT** location will be just after where the Grande Ronde River flows into the Snake. There are restrooms here and a place to change. We will shuttle you back to the hotel in Lewiston, or to McCall if you rode with us.

*Thank you for an amazing trip!*



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# WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE?

## SAFETY

Salmon Raft uses top-of-the-line gear on all trips. Each trip is treated with the utmost importance, as are each of our guests. Our rafts, life jackets, paddles, helmets, and every other piece of equipment is inspected before each trip to ensure that it's in best working order. Each guide has passed numerous tests that make him/her more than qualified to safely navigate whitewater and guide you through some of this country's most beautiful landscape.

## THE ROUTINE

Each day of the trip, you can expect to be on board the raft for six to seven hours. We aim to get on the water by around 10:00am and arrive at camp between 4:00 and 4:30pm each day. There will be opportunities for breaks, including a long one for lunch, and safe places to swim or stretch your legs on the numerous sandy beaches. Our coolers are accessible all day and are stocked with hearty snacks like granola bars and fruit snacks to keep you fueled. Water bottles can be filled at any time with ice cold water that we bring along. At camp, our guides take care of everything, even doing the cooking and clean-up. Feel free to relax and enjoy your vacation – read a book, swim in the river, toss a Frisbee, or pull out the binoculars to spot wildlife. Keep in mind that every trip is different! We keep a loose schedule, as many factors can influence pacing – weather, water flow, campsite choice, and group dynamics.

## SANITATION & “THE BATHROOM”

We are among the privileged to experience this country's longest free-flowing river. The Salmon River is beautiful, clean, and healthy. In accordance with the *Leave No Trace* Code of Ethics, everything we bring on a trip, must also leave with us! We use biodegradable cleaning agents and are super conscious of cleaning up bits of micro-trash. We also must carry out human waste. At camp, we set up a portable toilet system with a privacy shelter for our guests to use.

Our guides take care of setting this up before you arrive at camp, and taking it down the next morning when we leave. For more details, feel free to give us a call and read about our commitment to sustainability on our website.

## CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Spacious four-person tents hold one or two guests on our trips. This way, there is room for your dry bags as well as plenty of space to stretch out. We provide thick sleeping cushions for each guest, and our guides take care of setting these up inside your tent, and then rolling them before heading out the next morning.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Pretty much everything! We like to say that all you really need is a toothbrush, swimsuit, and change of clothes. Realistically, you'll want to make sure that you bring everything on our packing list, but it's not much. We provide all camping gear (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad), as well as all meals beginning with lunch on Day One and ending with lunch on the last day, plus snacks and lots of cold drinks and plenty of water.

## ALCOHOL

We appreciate having a good time on the river, as long as safety, moderation, and consideration for other group members are considered first. We provide some beer and wine on overnight trips, but feel free to supplement your own in non-glass containers. Call for more details.

## WHO ARE THE GUIDES?

Salmon Raft guides are knowledgeable and skilled outdoorsman. They are trained in safely navigating whitewater, first aid, CPR, and many are certified EMTs and paramedics. We hire a diverse set of guides, each with background in handling emergency scenarios as well as knowing funny river stories, spotting wildlife, and telling interesting river folklore. They work on the river because they love it! And it is a treat to share it with you.

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