



River Time Guide Service 712 Powers Street Eugene, OR 1-(866) 872-5666 Info@mainsalmonrafting.com

Thanks for your interest in our Main Salmon River Journey! We look forward to helping you plan and enjoy a first-rate rafting trip!

The Main Salmon River is a classic river with grand roller coaster rapids, extraordinary campsites, an abundance of wildlife, and superb alpine scenery. Simply put it is a fantastic river for an extend rafting trip. Our trips include all river gear (including self bailing rafts and inflatable kayaks); gourmet meals beginning with lunch on day one (plus daily happy hour snacks and beverages); experienced, professional, licensed and talented guides; personal camping gear (sleeping bags, tents, pads, camp chairs and tables) or overnight lodges; and tons of fun.

We invite you to join River Time Guide Service on a trip this summer. Consider why we suggest this trip:

>>> *River Time Guide Service is an owner-operated company:* We are small in terms of size, which allows for exceptional attention to detail and control of our trips. In fact when you call our office you will more than likely reach a company owner. This means that someone who has a direct hand and stake in your trip will be helping with all of your questions, concerns, wants and needs.

>>> *Our guides are exceptionally talented, interesting, and experienced:* They come from varied backgrounds, most have worked together for a number of years and enjoy sharing their knowledge of the canyon with our guests. Our guides are dedicated individuals that are committed to providing you and your family with a memorable experience. You will enjoy spending your vacation with them.

>>> *Excitement and Relaxation:* Self-bailing paddle rafts and inflatable kayaks allow more adventurous guests to experience exciting class III rapids up close, while our self-bailing oar rafts provide comfortable, relaxing passage for all ages.

>>> *Family Activities:* Our trips include a wide range of experiences. Inflatable kayak instruction & paddling, horseshoes, wildlife viewing, hiking, fishing, visiting hot springs & historical sites, campfires, relaxing...

>>> *The wilderness areas through which you travel are among the most incredible on earth:* Simply put, we have elected to run only in Idaho because of the dramatic natural beauty and solitude. It's no coincidence as we paddle along or walk the hills that the Main Salmon River is federally designated as Wild and Scenic.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you plan a trip on the Mighty Main Salmon! Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to reserve space on a trip. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Terry Hughes



We Welcome you into our world of water, wonder and happiness!



WELCOME

Imagine spending time on one of the most beautiful rivers in the world with some of the most professional guides in the business. We consider it “our pleasure” to be able to guide you, your family and your friends down this incredible stretch of river. While safety is our number one concern, your comfort and creating an environment in which you can relax, have fun and enjoy soon follows. River Time Guide Service employs only guides who are experienced and knowledgeable regarding the river, safety, nature, environment and best of all, having fun! Our guides are not just excellent boatmen, they are gourmet chefs, musicians, story tellers, naturalists, comedians and by the end of your trip, your friend!

WHY CHOOSE RIVER TIME



River Time Guide Service takes you on the Salmon in style. We are an owner-operated adventure travel leader. We pride ourselves on being the most professional, thorough, and caring outfitter available.

We are small in terms of staff size, which allows for exceptional attention to detail and control of our trips. This approach has served us and our customers well. In fact, when you call or write, you will reach either a company owner or a guide. This means that someone who has a direct hand and stake in your trip will be helping with all of your questions, concerns, wants, and needs.

This aspect of River Time carries over into your trip. A River Time Guide Service guide leads each of our adventures, not a subcontracted outfitter. As a result, our goal of making sure that each trip has the smoothest logistics possible is consistently adhered to.

On the river, it is River Time’s guides that make the biggest difference in our trips. We employ the best guides in the business. Guides with years and years of experience leading and pioneering adventures around the world.

Guides who are fully qualified and licensed in first aid and CPR. Guides who are friendly, knowledgeable, fun, humble, caring, and just plain good to be around. Guides who know that this is your trip. Guides who do all they can to make sure you are having the best possible time doing what you want. River Time guides long for you to remember the trip you share with us as the best trip on which you have ever been on.

A DAY OF RIVER TIME

Our guides at River Time Guide Service give you an opportunity to let go of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. River time is very important to them. A normal day might start with the smell of cowboy coffee lingering through camp followed by a multi-course breakfast as the sun creeps over the ridgeline ready to dry the morning dew off of your tent. After breaking camp, loading the gearboats and donning your days river gear, we set out for the next adventure around the corner. The ever abundant wildlife peeks around the corner, curious to the onlookers who drift by in peace. Running the river involves more than just water and boats. It is spending time with people who share the common interest of viewing wildlife, exploring pictographs on hikes, telling stories while drifting through calm pools, swimming in the green water to cool off from the noon day sun. Of course being able to work as a team while in the middle of a class III rapid such as Elkhorn or learning how to balance while throwing a bucket of water on your loved one is all part of learning the rhythm of river time. Early afternoon river side lunches provide all of us with the energy to finish off the day and head to our next camp for an early evening arrival. This time gives you opportunity to fish, hike, read a book, take a nap, reflect with friends and family during happy hour or just relax under the shade. Ending the day with a mouth watering gourmet dinner whipped up by your guide / chef puts the finishing touches on your perfect vacation with just enough energy to listen to a tall tale spun by your guide / storyteller and adjourn to your comfy tent under the stars.



SALMON RIVER

The Main Salmon combines all the elements that bring people to wilderness river travel. Legendary whitewater, pristine scenery, abundant wildlife, sandy beaches and hot springs are samples of what this magnificent place has to offer.

Grandeur is the word that best describes the River of No Return. At over 8,000 feet from rim to river, the Salmon has carved the second deepest canyon in North America. It is deeper than the Grand Canyon. It is the longest un-dammed river in the lower 48 states, running a zigzag course over 425 miles long. The river begins in the 9,000-foot peaks of Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains before winding north and east to the Main Salmon starting point. Here, the river turns sharply to the west and flows through America's largest designated wilderness area outside Alaska. Given the huge drainage of the Salmon it is not uncommon for the river to reach flow levels over 50,000 cubic feet per second. All of this adds up to a wilderness river of legendary proportions.

The Main Salmon truly is a river of special character. Its forested canyon and pristine quality separate the Main from the Lower branch. Only a couple of rough dirt roads reach the river and the Main Salmon is little changed from the time of its earliest visitors. The sheer size, depth, and remoteness of the Salmon canyon, as well as its classic rapids, establish this river trip as one of North America's premier wilderness whitewater adventures.



HISTORY

Human history in the Main Salmon area dates back over 8,000 years. Native American pictographs can still be seen along the river. The earliest inhabitants may have been ancestors of the Northern Shoshone and Nez Perce tribes encountered by the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 1805 despite warnings from the Shoshone, Clark spent several days looking for a route through the canyon on horseback, but was thwarted by the canyon and powerful river. His attempt to head west via this waterway stopped about 25 miles short of our Corn Creek launch site. Clark was apparently so taken by the river that he chose for it a name that honored his partner: the Lewis River. He also gave a tributary the name Salmon Creek due to its bounty of fish. However, subsequent mapmakers incorrectly labeled the main river, calling it the Salmon. Obviously, the name stuck and Clark ended up finding another route to the Pacific Ocean.

Over the last century the Salmon has seen many visitors with a variety of interests. Homesteaders and miners, mountain men and loners all passed through the canyon. Rafters still eat fruit off the trees near Jim Moore's abandoned homestead. On our trips we take time to visit the old buildings left by Buckskin Bill which stand as a monument to "the last of the Mountain Men."

WILDLIFE AND RAPIDS

The Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine forest of the Main Salmon is home to spectacular wildlife. Bighorn sheep wander near camp, a lone moose is sometimes seen drinking from a side creek. Bear are common along the river, though they avoid camps. Bald eagles are also common. The natives called this river "Tom-Agit-Pah," which means Big Fish Water, because of its large Salmon and Steelhead trout. Although significantly reduced in number over the last few decades, with a little patience you may still sight salmon spawning in one of the Main's many side creeks.

Most rapids on the Main are "big water" or "hydraulic" rapids. In fact, the Main Salmon is one of only a handful of big flow alpine rivers in the world. The river hosts numerous big curling wave rapids that offer thrilling roller coaster rides for all skill levels. Bailey Falls, Devil's Toe and Dried Meat are examples of these rapids where the trick is to enter correctly and paddle forward! The Main also has several legendary "technical" rapids, like Salmon Falls and Big Mallard. These drops feature narrow chutes with exposed rocks on either side requiring more precision paddling and offer a different kind of thrill.





REMOTENESS

The Salmon river is nestled in the heart of Idaho. Traveling through the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area, be prepared for pristine vistas and awe inspiring grandeur.



GRAND ESCAPE

The sheer size, depth, and remoteness of the Salmon canyon, as well as its classic rapids, establish this river trip as one of North America's premier wilderness whitewater adventures.



WHITEWATER

Thrilling rapids, such as Salmon Falls, Big Mallard, and Bailey Falls get the adrenaline flowing. Long, calm pools allow you to unwind. Most rapids on the Main are "big water" rapids. In fact, the Main Salmon is one of only a handful of big flow alpine rivers in the world. The river hosts numerous big curling wave rapids that offer thrilling roller coaster rides for all skill levels.



TRIPS OVERALL

Our trips begin in Salmon and finish near McCall, Idaho or you will fly off river from MacKay Bar depending on the length of trip you choose. These journeys are perfect for everyone. Thrilling rapids, such as Salmon Falls, Big Mallard, and Bailey Falls get adrenaline flowing. Long, calm pools allow you to unwind. The campsites provide perfect settings to sit back and relax in the peace of a wild place. Our variety of boat types allow for complete whitewater experiences: paddle boats for those wanting to be part of a team driving a raft through boiling waters, oar boats for all who prefer to sit back and watch the world drift by, and self-bailing kayaks for kids as well as adults of all ages seeking more control of their whitewater destiny. And, we feature the finest river menu available. Breakfasts are multi-course presentations that fuel your system for a day of pleasure. Delicatessen style lunches are laid out before you on river's edge, complete with fresh meats, vegetables, fruits, and other snacks. Tasty happy-hour hors d'oeuvres and beverages are presented daily as a salute to a great day of rafting. And the dinners, ahhh the dinners. Marinated and grilled steak, chicken, fish, shish kabobs. Delicious and wholesome pasta and potato side dishes. Fresh green salads and warm Dutch oven cakes and other delicious pastries. The meals also include a variety of beverages, including aromatic cowboy coffee. In addition, any special dietary needs you have are gladly honored. Vegetarian meals are a pleasure for us to create.



*For more information regarding our trips you can email us at Info@mainsalmonrafting.com or give us a call **1-866-872-5666***



CAMPS

We camp along the river in pristine wilderness, usually on expansive sandy beaches or isolated forest glades. In the case of rain or hot sun, shelter is set up over communal eating and sitting areas. We proudly practice Leave no trace camping and carry out all trash.

EQUIPMENT

While on the water, River Time Guide Service provides lifejackets, waterproof bags, and when necessary, splash jackets and wetsuits. In camp, we provide you with sleeping bags, sleeping pads, tents, camp chairs, eating utensils, cup and plate. In addition, we also provide inflatable kayaks for the adventurous paddlers. A complete list of what you should bring on your trip will be sent to you after we receive your reservation and deposit.

WEATHER

The Salmon River Journey begins at an elevation of approximately 3,000 feet. May and early June can be cool with temperatures in the 50's to 80's during the day and colder at night. Temperatures in July, August and early September are typically in the 80's and 90's during the day with warm evenings in the 60's. Of course, mountain storms can occur any time and weather in any river canyon can be unpredictable. Therefore, it is important to closely follow the gear-packing list that we provide in the trip confirmation packet.

FITNESS AND ACTIVITY

River Time Guide Service trips are created with fun, curious, and nature-loving adventurers in mind. Our Salmon River rafting trip is ideal for those with a zest for the outdoors, moderate adventures, and self-determined activity levels. While you should be fit and in good health for this trip, you need not be a honed athlete.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

First timers, families, friends, experienced rafters, and independent and mature travelers are welcome and thrive on our Salmon River rafting trips. No previous experience is necessary. In fact, this trip has again and again proven to be just right for those on their first wilderness rafting adventure. Our minimum age is 6, except for high water trips, in which case the minimum age is 16. The maximum age is up to you! Your guides will gladly help with any aspect of our trip that is new for you, whether that means setting up a new tent or learning to paddle.