

Main Salmon River

5 or 6 Day Trip » “River of No Return” Wilderness

Escape on an epic adventure vacation rich in scenic wonder, exciting whitewater, fishing, and history. This 89-mile journey down the Main Salmon River has world renowned whitewater with very comfortable water temperatures that might invite you to enjoy swimming, water fighting, and other fun activities. Many prefer to just relax in the serenity and beauty of the forested canyons and steep granite walls. The Main Salmon will amaze you with pristine water, white sand beaches and camp sites surrounded by towering Ponderosa Pines.

Fishing and hiking opportunities abound! Rainbow and cutthroat trout are the fish of choice, whether you prefer casting a spinner in the ripples or fly fishing in the side streams. You will enjoy many short walks to pictographs and old homesteads where your guides will share tales of adventure of the first river men, pioneers, miners, and Native Americans. Breathtaking scenery and wildlife await you on this adventure of a lifetime. The Main Salmon is one of the most prestigious river trips and delivers with its beauty, whitewater, history, and endless opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast.

Itinerary & Travel Information

Days 1 and 2» Deep in the splendor of a forested alpine canyon, your adventure begins. The fun first few miles of rapids –Killum, Rainier and Devil’s Teeth—will get you ready for the more challenging rapids that lie downstream. While you proceed deeper in the wilderness canyon, you’ll run Aldere, Salmon Falls, and Black Canyon. Make a stop at Barth Hot Springs, the best hot spring pool of any river in Idaho. Watch as Big Horn Sheep frolic on the granite walls. Fish for cutthroat or rainbow trout, relax on the beach at camp, and absorb the magnificence of the surrounding mountain wilderness.

Day 3 » More exciting rapids await including Big Mallard, Elk Horn, Split Rock and more. Explore Campbell’s Ferry and the historic Jim Moore cabins. Deep in the Idaho Wilderness sits China Bar Lodge, a destination exclusive to MRO guests. Freshen up with a shower and enjoy lunch on our deck overlooking the Salmon River at the mouth of Lemhi Creek. You will spend a night here enjoying the accommodations of indoor plumbing, a comfortable bed in one of our three guest cabins, and a fabulous meal in our dining hall provided by your guides and lodge staff. What better way to experience the Idaho Wilderness!

Days 4, 5 and 6 » Enjoy an ice cream and museum at Buckskin Bill’s, known as the last of the mountain men, at Five Mile Bar. Lower in the canyon, thick forest gives way to steep granite cliffs. Large sandy beaches and glass-like pools provide favorite play spots for swimming and beach volleyball. Top off your final day with two of the largest rapids on the trip, Chittam and Vinegar Creek. After a full day on the river and another gourmet lunch, you’ll enjoy a scenic 28-mile shuttle back to Riggins, Idaho.

*Note: This itinerary is provided as a sample. Daily activities and sights will vary based on guide/guest preferences and weather.



Mountain River Outfitters

1323 S Main St
Riggins, Idaho 83549

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Main Salmon Launch Dates:

June 23
July 1, 9, 17, 25
Aug. 2, 10, 18, 26
Sept. 3

Launch Site: Corn Creek
Take Out: Carey Creek
Distance: 89 miles

Rates:

Rates vary based on trip duration, age, and need for airline transportation. Please call for most current pricing.

Pre-Trip Travel Information

How to get to Riggins, Idaho

Riggins is three hours North of Boise. Most of our guests find it economical to fly into the Boise airport, rent a car, and drive to Riggins via Highway 95.

Pre-trip Orientation

Plan on attending a pre-trip orientation at MRO Headquarters at our S & S Outfitters Store, 1323 S Main St in Riggins, at 8:00pm the night before your launch date. Here you will be greeted by your Trip Leader, who will be happy to answer any of your questions and provide relevant information regarding your trip. You will also receive your complimentary duffel bag and camp mug, as well as your waterproof dry bags. Here you will also have the opportunity to purchase last-minute essentials before your trip, such as your Idaho fishing licenses, river sandals, Chums, etc.

Where to Stay

Riggins has some great places to stay and eat before or after your adventure on the river. Check out the [Salmon River Chamber of Commerce](#) page for local suggestions.

Transportation

Transportation is provided to Vinegar Creek Boat Launch from Riggins to board the Jet Boat, or, if the water levels are too low, to the McCall airport where you will fly over the "River of No Return" wilderness to Salmon, ID. From there, you will be shuttled to launch site at Corn Creek. An additional fee may be charged to cover flight costs.



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MRO Wilderness River Trips

vs Ordinary Vacations

On a rafting trip with MRO, you will find absolute escape from the hectic life around you, FREE of all distractions. Eliminated from your vacation are the constant decisions about what to do next, where to go, and what or where to eat. You will experience the pinnacle of relaxation as you float on tranquil pools of water under the shadows of diverse canyon walls and stately pine trees. Experience the exhilaration of rolling waves and crashing whitewater, explore seldom seen natural wonders, and learn Old West history. Enjoy the peaceful moments of reflection, the star studded night sky, and the feeling of renewal when waking to the sounds of the river and the fresh air of the mountains. A river trip in the wilderness gives you a sense of oneness with yourself, nature, and those around you. With Mountain River Outfitters, you will quickly discover why so many of our guests say, "This was the best vacation of our lives."

A Typical Day on the River

Before your adventure, you will meet your guides and be given an orientation that will include details of your river trip, water craft, and safety precautions while on the river.

A typical day will include rafting for a few hours at a time, stopping here and there for side canyon hikes, bathroom breaks, lunch and other adventure opportunities. You will enjoy visiting with newfound friends and learning river-lore and geology from our professional guides.

After a full day on the water, you will arrive in camp where you will find your tent waiting and sleeping pad inflated. At camp you will have plenty of time to relax, play games, swim and explore.

The first evening in camp, the guides will demonstrate the amenities of camping with Mountain River Outfitters. MRO provides all necessary camp gear and waterproof bags for guests. You will have no need to worry about bringing any of your own camping equipment.

While you relax at the rivers edge, you will enjoy tasty appetizers while your guides prepare dinner. Every trip has an exceptional menu with many award winning Dutch Oven dishes, including fresh baked breads and desserts. Enjoy many different grilled entrées including our surf and turf (fillet-mignon and griller shrimp).

At night, you will sleep under the vast canopy of stars while the fresh night air and the sounds of the river lull you to sleep. Each morning your guides will prepare a delicious breakfast. You will have plenty of time to enjoy a cup of coffee or go fishing before returning to your tent to pack up and prepare for the day.



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Camping with MRO

The truth is you don't have to rough it to be able to enjoy the beauty and excitement of Idaho's wild and scenic rivers. Let our professional guides pamper you and your family while enjoying the serenity of the canyon and the thrill of the whitewater. All you need to worry about is packing your personal items in a soft sided duffel bag and we will do the rest.

» **Camp Equipment** - Our tents are top-of-the-line, roomy 3-person models (one for each couple). Each tent includes an additional rain fly and vestibule for the occasional mountain shower. Each guest receives a complete sleeping package, including a freshly laundered liner and sleeping bag, a camp pillow, and a thick 3" (Paco) sleeping pad.

» **Delicious Food** - Careful planning and attention allows us a wide variety of menu selections, all of which are unanimous favorites. You'll find our camp cuisine contains a healthy balance of fresh meats, fish and poultry, as well as fresh fruits, vegetables and bread. In addition, each evening meal is preceded by scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, capped off with a Dutch oven dessert. If you have any dietary restrictions, please be sure to include them on your intake form or to our reservation staff on a pre-trip call. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.

» **Riverside dining** - Our river kitchen has been custom-designed for the preparation of gourmet meals that rival their city counterparts. Dining tables and chairs will be ready to make your meals an unforgettable and comfortable dining experience.

» **Wilderness restroom and shower facilities** - Many years of guiding on these rivers has led us to our own system. The MRO custom wilderness restroom and shower system prioritizes privacy and a view. Our mission is providing our guests with the maximum degree of comfort and privacy, while still preserving some of the most pristine wilderness found in the lower 48 states.

» **Fun and Games** - Don't forget there is much more to do than just swimming and relaxing when we get to camp. Beach games like frisbee, bocce, washers, cards and other river games are provided. We also provide a library of books on river folklore and history.



Testimonial:

Thanks so much for a great trip. We enjoyed the scenery, the water, the guides, the gear and swamper guy's and our fellow vacationers. We appreciate all the time you put into the details of the food, comforts and service. We really appreciate all your hard work. Thanks Again,

-The Noels Family



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MRO River Craft

» **Supply Raft** - The use of our gear boats allows us to bring an overall higher trip quality to our clients. Because of our system, you will have more river time that includes extra stops for hiking, history, fun and games. We have chosen the best rafts available where safety, durability and fun are our top priority.

Our custom-designed gear boats carry the river kitchen, all the guest camp bags, ice chests, and other camp gear. This allows our guest boats to stay open and free of clutter for a much better ride and a more spacious feel. Each morning the supply boat is loaded with camp gear, and one of the guides takes the boat to our next camp. The supply boat arrives well ahead of the guests. Upon your arrival at camp each day, you'll find the site completely set up— even your tent will be ready, sleeping pad inflated, and hot or cold drinks will be waiting! What a life!



Testimonial:

We were very impressed with the overall experience. Your guides were tireless in their desire to please their clients. The food and riverside accommodations were excellent. Very nice operation. Thanks again,

-Greg Bahny



» **Oar Raft** - Our most popular and versatile client boat is the oar raft for several reasons. These 16 foot "self bailing" rafts offer great comfort and plenty of excitement. Your guide can navigate this boat without the help of a paddle crew; however, 2 to 4 paddlers are usually appreciated when smashing through the larger rapids. This raft is usually a 4 to 6 person craft. The oar raft offers more options when on the water for fishing, relaxing, and moving from one craft to another.



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 **Testimonial:**

We had a blast!! Never laughed so hard. Ryan, our guide was so much fun and just a delight! He was skillful in getting into the biggest white water but safely as well. Fun Fun!

-Annette Pumphery

Stern Mount Paddle Raft - A stern mount is great way to get the most out of every wave on the river. Be part of the crew and grab a paddle to help maneuver our sporty 15-foot rafts. Your guide will instruct you on how and when to paddle as they sit on the rear of the raft with oars that give them plenty of control as you propel the boat through the crashing waves.

Inflatable Kayak - Also referred to as a "duckie", these 1 or 2 person inflatable kayaks let you challenge the river on your own. Enjoy the solitude of floating alone. Many guests enjoy reclining between rapids and gazing at the spectacular scenery. Don't worry if you have not had kayaking experience; our guides will assist you on what to do and give you the basic paddle skills needed to adventure behind one of the guided boats through the whitewater. Inflatable kayaks are available on all of our trips so you can take turns enjoying the ride.

SUP Board - Stand Up Paddle Boards are becoming everyone's favorite. MRO has been providing our guests this great new option for several years. Our guides will help you learn how to paddle in the calm water around camp or show you how to navigate small to medium sized rapids with ease. These are also great for fishing around camp or just relaxing on as you admire the setting sun.



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General Information

Cancellation Policy Mountain River Outfitters, LLC. is under federal management plans that limit trip size of 18 guests on the Snake River in Hells Canyon and 24 guests on the Salmon River. Because of limited number of seats available and the logistical planning involved, we adhere strictly to the following reservation, cancellation policy.

Reservations To reserve your seat, a 50% deposit is required. All deposits are NON-Refundable.

Final Payment Your final payment is due 60 days prior to trip launch date for all overnight trips. Guests will have their final payments automatically charged to their credit card on file.

Trip Insurance We recommend Travel Protection Insurance that includes Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance, and Accident and Health Insurance. A policy will protect guests financially if your trip is cancelled, interrupted or delayed due to sickness, injury or health, financial default of airlines, weather conditions or acts of terrorism. (Restrictions Apply)

When is the best time to go rafting?

On all Mountain River Outfitters trips, regardless of the time of year, you will have the opportunity to kick back and relax while your guide takes care of the rest. The wilderness is always keeping us on our toes, so no matter when you come be ready for anything.

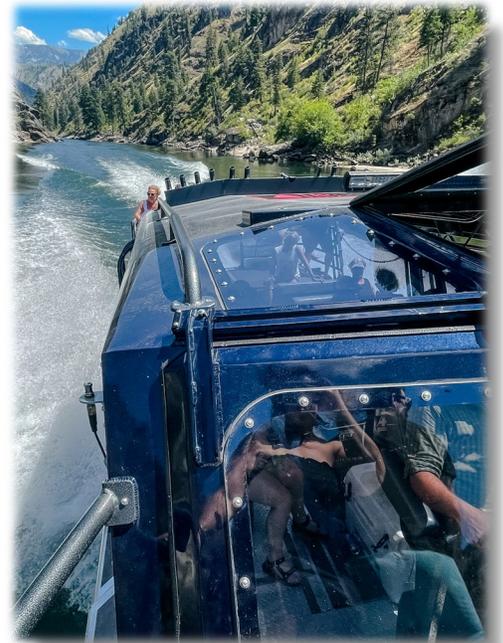
Spring time rafting May through June has beautiful wildflowers. Higher water flows allow for exciting whitewater and more time for hiking. Although temperatures during the day are warm, the nights can be chilly and the water temperatures cool. MRO provides wetsuits and splash gear for all of the spring trips. Most of our river trips are in uncrowded wilderness areas, but these early trips are usually smaller groups and less busy overall.

July and August are the most predictable, with hot sunny days and little humidity or bugs. The whitewater is good and the water temperatures are warm. On the Salmon River, the beaches get bigger as the water flows fall.

September is uncrowded and offers some of the mildest weather, although water temps can start to fall and the nights will be a bit cooler. Lower water flows usually make for better fishing and a slower paced trip.

More Vacation Options

If you are looking for a multi-sport package, with a Jet Boat Tour or Fishing Charter added to your vacation activities, please call us! Our reservation staff will be glad to assist you with these additional arrangements.



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What MRO Provides and What to Pack

All guests are provided a small personal dry bag for day use on the boats. A larger 16" x 34" waterproof camp bag will also be provided and will be transported on the gear boats. This bag will be waiting for you at camp. Your camp bag will have your sleeping bag and pillow already inside. Your remaining personal items will need to fit into this bag. Please limit your items to 30lbs. If an additional dry bag is needed please let us know in advance.

MOUNTAIN RIVER OUTFITTERS PROVIDES

- Roomy all-weather tent
- 20° sleeping bag with freshly laundered liner
- Deluxe self inflating 4" sleeping pad
- Sleeping pillow
- Clean Type V life jacket
- Dining tables and chairs
- Advanced wilderness first aid kits
- All rafting equipment, kitchen items, and food

YOU SHOULD BRING

T-shirts - Cotton is great for around camp or on the boats during the warmer months of July and August. Polyester or synthetic materials are much better for colder weather because they are fast drying and wick moisture away from the body to keep you warm. They will protect you from the sun and the cold. We recommend a synthetic shirt for every 2 or 3 days and the same for cotton t-shirts around camp.

Nylon Shorts - Nylon or similar quick-dry materials are lightweight, comfortable and pack easily. More than any other piece of clothing, you will wear your shorts the most. Two or three pairs are a good idea.

Swimsuits - The summer temperatures on the river will range from 75° to 100° during the day. A swimsuit will come in handy for a quick dip, tanning, or for soaking in the river.

Raingear - Good raingear is mandatory. We experience isolated mountain showers throughout the season, especially in May and June. Your raingear should have jacket with hood and pants. If the temperatures drop, your raingear can be worn over fleece or sweatshirt to keep you comfortable.

Fleece jackets and pants - They designed polar fleece with rafting in mind. This fabric dries quickly and stays warm when wet. Layering your clothing (swimsuit, shorts, t-shirt, fleece or fleece lined lightweight clothing and raingear) you are assured of complete comfort no matter what mother nature brings. Substitute with wool sweater if you prefer.

Shoes - You will need two pairs of shoes - a pair that can get wet and another to stay dry for around camp or hiking. On the raft your feet will be wet most of the day. Either canvas tennis shoe, river sandals with secure heel, or neoprene river booties with soles work best. At camp a dry pair of tennis shoes are perfect, hiking boots are usually not necessary and can be difficult to pack unless very lightweight.

Sun Screen - The sun will be out during most of the summer months. A waterproof sunscreen is a must. A minimum SPF rating of 15 is encouraged. You will be getting splashed and will be staying cool on the water but the reflective sun off the water and all day exposure requires you to protect yourself.

Wet socks - Water temperatures in May and June can be chilly (50 to 60 degrees) if your feet have a tendency to get cold neoprene wet socks are a good idea.

Towel - You will need a towel for showering and to wash up around camp. You will not need it on the raft. We encourage everyone to put it in their camp bag.

Flashlight - A small, lightweight flashlight or headlamp is good to have for night walks to the facilities or getting ready for bed.

Hats - Beanies are good for May and June while a baseball cap or large billed hat is **essential** for those sunny summer days on the raft.

Water Bottle - We will give you a river mug for beverages we serve at camp. A large water bottle with secure lid is needed for on the raft or hiking. We will have cold water to refill on the rafts and at camp.

Sunglasses - We recommend a pair of sunglasses to protect your eyes on the river. Be sure to have a good retainer to avoid your favorite pair ending up at the bottom of the river! Our storefront in Riggins sells a variety of sunglasses and Chums for your convenience.

Toiletry Items - Feel free to bring your favorite products and soap you use at home. Our guides will instruct you on where to use them as to not pollute the pristine waters. Pack them in a zip lock bag to protect leakage into your camp bag. We will have biodegradable hand soap available and a MRO wishy washy hand wash system for use on the river.

Fishing Gear & Tackle - Fishing equipment is provided upon request. Our gear is to be shared between all the guests. We encourage those avid fishermen to bring their favorite rod and reel for Small Mouth Bass and Trout fishing. Our guides will help maintain equipment and give instruction on what to use and where. (License Required)

Camera - You will want to capture your adventure. You may keep your camera in your dry bag on the raft. A zip lock bag for added security is recommended. Expensive SLR's and video equipment should be in a waterproof hard case (pelican case).

Cash - Cash is a good idea to have for fishing licenses, misc. snacks or beverages purchased, or for souvenirs at the lodge or Buckskin Bills.

Gratuity - Mountain River Outfitters prides itself on our outstanding crew. While tipping is not required, it is customary. Typical gratuity is 15%-20% of trip price. Your guides accept cash, Venmo, or a check made out to them directly. For multi-day trips, where several guides have contributed to your experience, your gratuity will be shared with the whole crew.

Our Store - Our store, S & S Outfitters Store and Tackle Shop, has many last minute essentials or post-trip souvenirs. We have a variety of sunglasses, including Smith and Suncloud, guide-approved sunshirts, Chums, and more! You can also grab your Idaho Fishing license from us too!



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