

# Main Salmon River Trip Information Packet

## 5-Night Oar Trip

Applicable for our 2010 trips

Thank you for choosing Tour West! We are delighted to share the Main Salmon River with you.

This information packet is for all passengers taking our 5 night rowing trip through on the Main Salmon River. If you are on a different trip, please contact our office so we can send you the proper packet.

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.

## ITINERARY

*For this entire trip you will be on Mountain Standard Time*

Your trip assembles in Boise, Idaho.

When you arrive at the Boise Airport you will need to go to the McCall Aviation terminal located on the first floor of the airport down the hall from the one baggage claim area. McCall Aviation will fly you by charter plane to Salmon City, Idaho.

You need to be at the airport before 4:00 p.m. We will need to know your arrival time and plans at least 6 weeks prior to your trip so that we can arrange your flight to Salmon as close to your arrival time in Boise as possible. We will let you know prior to your trip what time your flight is scheduled for.

We will coordinate incoming flights and passengers with McCall Aviation. We will try to schedule your flight so that, should you have to wait, your layover will be as short as possible. Should you arrive early, be assured a representative from McCall Aviation will be there at the assigned charter time to meet you. Please note: the FAA requires anyone who is 18 + years to present photo ID for this flight.

The price of this charter flight is included in your trip price.

Upon arrival in Salmon a representative from McCall Aviation will contact the Stage Coach Inn who will shuttle you to the motel for your first night accommodations.

**FIRST NIGHT OF YOUR TRIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(motel night)**

You will spend the night at the Stage Coach Inn. Your motel accommodations are included in your package. Please let us know your preferred accommodations no later than 2 months prior to your trip. If we do not hear from you we will make your accommodations for you. We can not guarantee your preferred accommodations will be met without contacting us within the given time frame.

You are on your own for your dinner this night and breakfast the next morning. There are small restaurants located in the town of Salmon.

### **Orientation Meeting at 8:30 p.m.**

You are scheduled to meet for an orientation meeting at 8:30 pm this night with your guide and the rest of the group. This meeting is held on the front lawn at the motel. At this time you will be required to sign an acknowledgement of risk form. If anyone in your group is under 18 and does not have a legal guardian on the trip we require a signed risk form in our office prior to the trip.

### **SECOND THROUGH FIFTH NIGHTS:**

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 81 river miles along the Main Salmon River. Each night you will camp under the stars along the beaches of the river.

### **LAST MORNING OF YOUR TRIP: \_\_\_\_\_**

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 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 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!

### **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 insure 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. 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.

# Tour West Will Supply The Following Gear:

- ◆ 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 lunch the last morning. All meals are expertly prepared and cooked by our guides.
- ◆ Cooking facilities – all cooking items including eating utensils
- ◆ Camping toilet facilities, toilet paper and supplies
- ◆ Beverages – unlimited water and lemonade. Coffee, tea & hot chocolate in the morning.
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ Sleeping Bag with sheet
- ◆ Comfortable sleeping pad
- ◆ Tent (one for every two people)
- ◆ Waterproof bag – 16” X 33” 108 liters--to put your personal duffel bag into during the trip
- ◆ Small water-resistant bag-9.5” X 20” 22 liters--(accessible at all times) for personal articles and camera

## **Also included in your trip is:**

- ◆ Motel Accommodations the first night of your trip at the Stage Coach Inn.
- ◆ Charter flight from Boise Airport to Salmon City
- ◆ Transportation from Salmon airport to Motel
- ◆ Transportation from Motel to Corn Creek
- ◆ Transportation from Carey Creek to Boise International Airport
- ◆ 3% Forest Service use Fee & \$5.00 per day fee demo project
- ◆ 7% Idaho State Tax

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.

Weather on the Salmon River is an outdoor experience with changing weather conditions.

With regards to clothes, give some thought 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 a river trip without a jacket or fleece sweatshirt, rain gear and a long pair of pants. Your best bet is, don't go on the trip without good rain gear and a jacket or fleece sweatshirt! The weather is unpredictable so please be prepared.

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. The number of inflatable kayaks varies depending on the size of the group.

# PERSONAL GEAR

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU

The following supply 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 by McCall Aviation )
  2. Your bag should be approximately 25" x 14" x 10" to fit inside our waterproof bag.
- ? Fleece- lined jacket or fleece sweatshirt
  - ? Long pants (light-weight, fast-drying material for sun protection)
  - ? Shorts- quick drying material
  - ? Shirts (at least one long sleeved for sun protection)
  - ? Underwear / undergarments
  - ? Socks
  - ? Swimsuit or fast drying shorts – (At least two pair)
  - ? Two pair tennis/athletic shoes OR other river-type sandals—SEE FOOTWEAR SECTION
  - ? Quality Two piece Rain Suit with hood (a poncho is not effective!) available for purchase on our website
  - ? Bandanna-great for keeping your sunglasses clean
  - ? Hat- with retention strap- good brim for sun protection
  - ? Small towel and washcloth
  - ? Toothbrush and toothpaste
  - ? Soap and deodorant
  - ? Shampoo and Conditioner
  - ? Zip lock bags – ½ dozen- gal. size- (For storing wet items & keeping things dry)
  - ? Flashlight or Headlamp and spare batteries-Headlamps work best
  - ? Fanny pack or small backpack –(optional-but nice to have on hikes and for storing extra things on raft)
  - ? Quart plastic water container- with carry strap or belt attachment
  - ? Medication or personal first aid items – if needed
  - ? Backup pair of prescription glasses – if needed
  - ? Sunglasses – with retention strap (Consider bringing a spare pair also)
  - ? Insect repellent – small can or one can per family (probably won't be needed)
  - ? Chapstick and Sunscreen-(Larger size or more than one) SPF 15+  
Aloe Vera?  
Hand Lotion/Moisturizer/Vaseline
  - ? Shaving Kit & Mirror – optional
  - ? Feminine Hygiene products
  - ? Small packs of Kleenex
  - ? Camera, lots of film and spare batteries and additional waterproof disposable camera for rapid shots
  - ? Fishing gear—optional—See Fishing section for more information
  - ? Money for gratuities at end of trip, or for small purchases before or after the trip
  - ? Small pillow
  - ? Baby wipes or Wet wipes –optional
  - ? Photo I.D.
  - ? Optional personal items – wet suit, solar shower, gloves, river guide, book, playing cards, small musical instruments (Call us for guitar information if you want to bring yours), Frisbee, etc.
- You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (most need far less). Nylon or other quick drying clothing is preferable.

**Special Note: DO NOT bring your suitcases with you on the river trip. For storage options see Section “Luggage Storage”. Bring what items you need in a soft duffel like bag or canvas type bag.**

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**WEATHER** – Temperatures can vary, but the following chart shows average temperatures for the months of June through September.

| Average Temperatures and Precipitation |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| TEMP                                   | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP |
| Average High                           | 80  | 93  | 90  | 82  |
| Average Low                            | 50  | 65  | 60  | 57  |

You can also visit our website for current weather conditions at [www.twriver.com](http://www.twriver.com)

Water temperatures vary from about 50-70 degrees June through August, getting warmer as they year progresses and starting to cool down again in September.

**RAIN GEAR** – It is important to have a quality 2-piece rain gear with hood, not a poncho. The rain gear is for keeping warm and dry while going through the rapids and for rainy days. Make sure that your rain gear is waterproof and not just water-resistant. **Don't go on your trip without rain gear!** You can purchase your rain gear on our online store at [www.twriver.com](http://www.twriver.com) .

**FOOTWEAR** – We encourage you to bring 2 pair of shoes. Shoes need to be worn on the raft and in camp. It's nice to have a dry pair for camp or an extra pair in case of loss or damage. Bring at least one pair of tennis/athletic type shoes. Quality river sandals with heel straps (Texas, Chaco, Alps, Merrill, etc.) are an excellent choice on our river trips as your second pair of shoes. Consider bringing a pair of socks for your sandals, because many people develop sore spots due to abrasive sand and straps rubbing on their feet. All shoes should have good traction, be broken-in, and be comfortable **Note: Because most hikes are in or around water, hiking boots that cannot get wet are not practical as footwear.**

**CLOTHES** – **PACK YOUR RIVER GEAR IN A SOFT COLLAPSIBLE GYM TYPE BAG.** Your bag should be approximately 25"x14"x10" to fit inside our waterproof duffle bags. Keep your clothes to a minimum and in colors that will not show dirt easily (avoid black clothes as they get hot during mid-summer). The river and sand may permanently stain some of your clothing. Fast drying nylon shorts and bathing suits are recommended. It is important to have something to cover up with if you start to sunburn or get too hot so be sure to bring along a pair of long pants and a long sleeve shirt in a lightweight nylon or cotton fabric. Also, if it should rain it will turn chilly or cold so bring a fleece-lined jacket or fleece sweater with you. Most people tend to over pack, bringing too many changes of clothes! You do not need a new outfit for every day, as most people wear their clothes more than one day.

**PERSONAL ITEMS** – Passengers may bring their wallets, credit cards, and airline tickets with them on their trips. They should be stored in zip lock bags in the bottom of your waterproof bags. **Do not bring expensive jewelry, expensive watches, cell or wireless phones, boom boxes or other such items and valuables with you on the river trip.**

**CAMERAS** – Bring plenty of film and spare batteries for your camera. All cameras should have straps. We recommend keeping your camera in a waterproof case, even when it is in your small water-resistant bag. The waterproof or panoramic disposable cameras are excellent on the river trip.

**VIDEOS** – As video cameras become smaller and batteries last longer we are seeing more and more on the river. Be aware, there is no place to recharge batteries on our trips so you need to bring extra batteries. Most video cameras will fit in your small waterproof bag but we recommend that you bring them in a separate waterproof case for them so that the camera doesn't take up all your space.

**BEVERAGES** – We provide cold lemonade and water all day long on the boat and in camp in the evening. If you wish to have any other beverages (soda, juices, alcohol, etc.) you must supply your own. Hard liquor should be in plastic containers. Soda, beer, and any additional beverages must be in aluminum cans (**NO GLASS**). Your beverages 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 on weekdays. If you are coming on a weekend and are planning on drinking Liquor please bring it with you before you get to Salmon.

**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 and trout. Idaho residents must have an Idaho fishing license. Out of state passengers can purchase a short-term license at North Fork on your way to the river.

**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 3%-5%. You may leave it with the trip leader and he/she will distribute it among the crew.

**PASSENGER INFORMATION FORM** – We require that each passenger taking our trip fill out the attached passenger information 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 or medical conditions we should be aware of. We send this form out once deposit has been made. Please be sure to fill this form out and send it back to our office asap.

**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. This form must be returned to our office prior to your trip.

**BALANCE DUE** – The unpaid balance for your trip is due 60 days prior to your trip date. Balances may be paid in the form of a check, money order, or credit card. We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** – A minimum \$300.00 cancellation fee will be assessed for all cancellations. Cancellations received between 30 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.

**LUGGAGE STORAGE** – Additional luggage can no longer be stored at the Boise Int'l Airport. If you are staying in Boise we recommend you store additional luggage at your hotel.

**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, will not be possible. 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.

# ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **1. Is the trip strenuous?**

Since our trip is an outdoor activity, and with the exposure to the elements, we consider our trips to be mildly strenuous, requiring some effort. You are responsible for carrying your personal bags to your camp and setting up your camp area. Our guides will give instructions the first night on how best to set up the camping equipment we provide. As with all aspects of the trip, we encourage the guests (with no medical restrictions) to participate in as many activities as possible. This includes helping the guides load and unload the rafts at camp. Some of the hikes off the river will require more effort than others. The guides will try and give you a brief overview of the hike. If you would rather not participate on any hikes you may find a comfortable place to stay near the rafts. You will enjoy the trip more if you have prepared with some walking or exercise and are in better physical shape. If you have any medical questions consult your own doctor and call our office so that we may help answer your questions.

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

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 a background in natural history and the ability to make each river trip special and memorable.

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

Your waterproof duffle bag, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, sheet, small water-resistant bag and cup will be available at the river orientation. Your tent will be available at the first night's camp. We recommend you only set up a tent if there is a threat of rain. Nothing beats sleeping under the stars!

## **4. 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.

## **5. 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, meals with an international theme, side dishes, and of course, desserts. All meals include water and lemonade 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.

## **6. What are the toilet facilities on the river?**

We take portable toilets, which are clean and comfortable. These facilities are available in the morning and night while in camp. We have a smaller portable toilet that can be used during the day but we do not set-up facilities to urinate during the day. The U.S. Forest Service requires us to have guests urinate in the wet sand or in the river. This can be a little more difficult for our female guests so you might consider bringing clothing that will make this easier such as a two-piece swim suit or shorts instead of a one-piece suit.

## **7. 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 only bring one per family.

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

The Salmon River is a very friendly place to camp. Mosquitoes and flying insects are not generally a big 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 bring an epi-pen shot with you. Please make sure we are aware of this allergy before your trip. Most trips will have the thrill of seeing Desert Big Horn Sheep and many varieties of birds.

## **9. 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.

**MAPS/BOOKS-** Below is a list of books about the wonders and history of the Main Salmon River.

1. The Salmon a Wild and Scenic River (mile by mile map) **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** printed by the USFS available by calling our office 800-453-9107 or visiting our website.

2. River of No Return

Authors: Johnny Carrey and Cort Conley

3. The Last of the Mountain Men

Author: Harold Peterson