



Kayak Trip Summary

SECTION: MAIN SALMON RIVER – CORN CREEK TO SPRING BAR

DIFFICULTY: CLASS III

AGES: 12 YEARS OLD AND UP

SEASON: AUGUST (CALL FOR AVAILABLE LAUNCH DATES)

LENGTH: 6 DAYS

Arguably America's most beloved wilderness river, Idaho's Main Salmon River offers everything a multi-day kayaking adventure should have: exciting whitewater rapids, sandy beach camping, amazing rolling landscape scenery, a natural hot spring, and the highest quality kayak instructors in the industry. A summer paddling vacation on the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon River offers a unique opportunity to improve your kayaking skills on friendly, big-water class III rapids, while rafts carry all of your gear and food. Ready for a break from kayaking? Relax in a raft or enjoy an afternoon swimming to cool off from the bright, Idaho sunshine. You'll take a trip back in time through visits to abandoned homesteader cabins and relax in the rocky tub at Hot Tub hot springs. The expedition along the famed Main Salmon River will be one you'll not soon forget.

Meeting Location & Time

We will meet as a group for a pre-trip meeting at 7:30pm the evening before your scheduled start date, at the Stagecoach Inn (201 Riverfront Drive, Salmon) in Salmon, Idaho.

For information on getting to Salmon, see the information in "Getting There".

Ending Location & Time

Our adventure will end in McCall, Idaho, on the 6th (final) day of your trip. We will provide a shuttle from the river take-out, and typically arrive in McCall in the late afternoon.

For information on getting back home from McCall, see the information in "Getting Home".

General Itinerary

EXACT CAMP LOCATIONS AND DAILY RIVER MILEAGE WILL VARY WITH WATER LEVELS AND RIVER CONDITIONS.

Arrival Day, the day before your scheduled launch date: Arrive in Salmon, Idaho and check in to your hotel. We will have a **pre-trip meeting at 7:30pm at the Stagecoach Inn the evening before you scheduled start date.** See “Getting There” for detailed information on getting to Salmon. During the meeting, we will discuss the trip, check out gear, help with packing, cover any last minute details, and answer any questions you may have.

Day 1: Our Journey Begins

Our shuttle vehicle will meet us in the morning at the Stagecoach Inn for our scenic drive to Corn Creek, our launch point on the Main Salmon River. From here, we'll begin our journey into Idaho's canyon landscape. We'll hit exciting rapids our first afternoon including Rainier Rapid and Alder Creek Rapid, washing away any weary travel vibes you may still be carrying. Pulling into the evening campsite, you'll have the opportunity for short hikes, games, or just pure relaxation with a camp chair, a book, and your toes in the cool water. With beach games, a hearty dinner, stories by the fire, and a starry sky, we'll all rest peacefully to await another great day on the water.

Days 2-5: River Days

Each day will bring new sights and adventures, but our routine will be relaxed and predictable. Coffee and hot beverages will be served as you rise from the comfort of your tent, or from your sleeping spot beneath the stars. Rise and shine surrounded by pristine mountain scenery and the faint lull of the river's flow. After a hot breakfast, the Wet Planet team will pack the rafts and prepare to launch for another day's explorations. We'll navigate through classic whitewater rapids, float and swim in serene stretches of meandering river, and even stop at hot springs. Days could include hikes through mountain meadows to see historic cabins from early settlers and rock drawings from ancient cultures. We'll choose a cozy, shady spot for lunch to recharge our adventurous spirits. As the sun dips lower, we'll pick our home for the night, balancing the need for shade during the hottest summer afternoons and more time playing in the river's warmer water.

Day 6: River and Take-out Day

After a final tasty breakfast and relaxing morning packing our bags at camp, we'll push off for one more float through the Salmon River wilderness. Our final day brings the famous Chittam and Vinegar rapids - your last chance to demonstrate your improved paddling skills or take that front seat in the raft for a wet and wild ride. At the Spring Bar take-out, your guides and instructors will unload rafts while you change into dry clothes and prepare for your shuttle ride to McCall, Idaho. We'll enjoy a final lunch together before saying goodbyes to each other and the magnificent Salmon River. A 2-hour shuttle drive will take you away from the canyon, and you will arrive in McCall, Idaho in the late afternoon.

What We Provide

- Transportation to the river from Salmon on the first morning of the trip
- All meals from lunch on the first day of the trip through lunch on our last day of the trip
- Rafts, kayak instructors, and guides - obviously!
- All camping gear not listed in the packing list: group gear, kitchen equipment, tents, sleeping pads, camp chairs
- River gear for non-kayakers: personal flotation devices (PFD), helmets, paddles
- One large dry-bag and one small dry-bag for packing personal clothing and items
- Group beverages: water, orange juice, lemonade/gatorade, coffee, tea, cocoa, hot cider
- Transportation from the river to McCall on the last day of the trip

What You Are Responsible For

- Transportation to Salmon, ID before your trip and back home from McCall, ID after your trip
- Reservations for lodging in Salmon the night before your trip and in McCall the night after your trip
- Personal clothing, kayaking gear, and miscellaneous gear for the river trip (see the included packing list)
- Personal beverages (see Beverages information under "Packing Info")
- Personal kayaking gear (helmet, PFD, skirt, paddle, kayak, and outerwear appropriate for the weather).

Where to Stay

You will need to plan on reserving lodging in Salmon, ID the night before your trip and in McCall, ID the night after your trip.

Salmon Lodging

The Visit Salmon website (visitsalmon.com) is a great spot for information. We recommend:

- Stagecoach Inn: 208.756.2919, stagecoachinnmotel.com
- Sacajawea Inn: 208.756.2294, hotelsalmon.com

McCall Lodging

You can find options for lodging in McCall at www.allmccalllodging.com. We recommend:

- Hotel McCall: 208.634.8105, hotelmccall.com
- Best Western Plus McCall Lodge & Suites: 208.634.2230, bestwesternidaho.com

Travel Insurance

Sometimes stuff happens. We highly recommend that you purchase travel insurance to guard against life's surprises (unexpected late cancellations, travel delays, medical emergencies, etc.). Past Wet Planet guests have reported good experiences with Travel Guard (travelguard.com) and Travel Insurance Services (select.travelinsure.com).

Personal Packing List

Arriving prepared for the hot Idaho sun, infrequent rain showers, and potentially cool Idaho evenings will make your adventure the most comfortable 6 days spent outdoors. Your guides will bring dry-bags for your belongings, sleeping pads, camp chairs, tents, and all group gear (including food and kitchen supplies).

When packing clothing, we recommend thinking in "layers." As the day warms up, it is great to be able to shed layers. As the sun hides behind the canyon walls or a cloud, you'll want to throw on a layer or two to warm up. This allows you to stay flexible and comfortable no matter what weather we encounter. Warm layers should be made from wool or synthetic fibers, such as capilene or polypropylene, to keep you warmer if you get wet. Cotton will only make you colder if you get it wet! This is especially true for the layers you wish to wear while riding in the rafts or kayaks. Below is a recommended packing list for your personal gear.

Always be prepared for changing weather!

- Sleeping bag (can be rented for \$25, just let us know)
- One pair of shorts for camp and hiking
- One or two t-shirts
- Rain jacket & pants (can be rented for \$25)
- One set long-sleeved light clothes (for sun and/or camp)
- Pants for camp (can be same as above)
- Synthetic thermal underwear layers (top & bottom)
- Fleece or pile top for camp (pullover or jacket)
- Swimsuit
- River Shoes: sandals with heel strap (Chaco, Teva, etc) or old running shoes. No flip-flops or slip-ons.
- One pair lightweight hiking shoes (for off river in good weather)
- Toilet articles (biodegradable soap)
- Wool or polypro/capilene/fleece socks (stay away from cotton)
- Shade hat/visor (baseball cap)
- Warm hat and gloves for camp
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing
- Sunscreen and chapstick with SPF
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses with securing strap
- Water bottle with securing strap (1 liter minimum, more if hiking)
- Headlamp/flashlight & extra batteries
- Personal medications
- Toiletries/small towel, etc.
- Comfort Kit rental (optional)

Kayaking Gear -

- Kayak, paddle, and spray skirt
- PFD (personal flotation device)
- Helmet
- Dry-top, dry-suit, and/or wetsuit
- Synthetic top and bottom layers for warmth while kayaking
- Rash guard, or lighter weight top for warm kayaking days
- Close-toed river shoes or other footwear for kayaking

Optional Items: Camera, binoculars, diary, sketchbook, a good paperback book, small daypack or fanny pack for hikes, paddling jacket & pants, small travel pillow, musical instrument. **Liquor, beer, and/or wine: you will need to provide your own alcoholic beverages!**

All rafting gear, group camping equipment, and meals are provided!

How to Pack

During the river journey, your personal gear/clothing will be packed in dry-bags provided by Wet Planet. A large dry-bag containing items you only need at camp will be packed away during the day. A smaller day-bag containing items such as sunscreen and an extra layer will be accessible while travelling on the river. You will receive your dry-bags at the pre-trip meeting and have a chance to pack them the night before your adventure begins.

We suggest packing your personal gear in a small, lightweight duffel bag. This can be useful for organizing your belongings inside your dry-bag. Any luggage not going on the river with you, such as suitcases, can be placed in the Wet Planet gear truck. It will be there waiting for you at the end of the trip.

Available to Rent

Trying to avoid traveling with a bulky sleeping bag? Heading to the desert after your river trip and hoping to leave your rain gear at home? We have the following personal gear available to rent to make your packing easier:

- Comfortable synthetic sleeping bag - \$25
- Rain gear: rain jacket and rain pants - \$25
- Wet Planet comfort kit: sleeping bag, rain jacket, rain pants, small camp pillow, ground sheet (small tarp used to keep belongings out of the sand) - \$40

Beverages

Wet Planet will have coffee and tea ready for you first thing each morning. Water and lemonade/punch/gatorade will be available throughout the day. At dinner, there will be hot drinks available (hot cocoa, hot cider, tea), as well as a bottle of wine for the group.

If you would like additional personal beverages at camp, such as soda, beer, wine, liquor, etc., you're welcome to bring your own. We will have a cooler with us to put beverages in. No glass bottles; broken glass and rafts don't mix! Soda comes in cans, there are some good canned micro-brews out there if PBR isn't your thing, wine should be in bags/boxes, and other adult beverages can be transferred from glass bottles to a plastic container before taking them on the river. Personal beverages can be purchased in Salmon before the trip if needed.

Gratuities

Your guide/instructor team will work hard to ensure that your river experience exceeds your expectations. If you had an amazing trip and feel that your guides/instructors did an amazing job, post-trip gratuities are an appreciated way of saying "thank you." Tips commonly range from 5 to 10 percent of the trip cost, but should always be based on your satisfaction, financial comfort, and personal attitudes about gratuities. It is common to leave gratuities with the lead guide at the end of the trip, and they will distribute it among the team.



Getting There

Our Main Salmon River adventure begins in Salmon, Idaho, where we will meet at the Stagecoach Inn (201 Riverfront Drive, Salmon) at 7:30pm the evening before your launch date. You will need to make hotel reservations in Salmon for the night before your trip begins.

Flying

The closest major airport to Salmon is in Boise, Idaho. If you are planning to fly to your Main Salmon River adventure, you will start by reserving a round trip flight to and from Boise.

From Boise, you will need to reserve an air-taxi flight to Salmon, arriving the evening before your trip begins. We recommend that you do not plan to depart Boise for Salmon later than 5:00pm. Gem Air (gemairflights.com - 208.756.7382) has regular, daily flights from Boise to Salmon that take about an hour and 15 mins. A round trip package with Gem Air (Boise to Salmon and McCall to Boise - see "Getting Back Home") is roughly \$385.

Driving & Vehicle Shuttle

If you are planning on driving to your adventure, we will meet you in Salmon at the pre-trip meeting the night before your trip begins.

Driving Times to Salmon: Portland - 11 hrs, Seattle - 10 hrs 15 mins, Missoula - 2 hrs 45 mins, Boise - 5 hrs, Idaho Falls - 3 hrs 15 mins

While you are on the river trip, you will need to have your vehicle shuttled to the trip ending point in McCall, Idaho. This allows you to arrive at the trip ending point with your vehicle and personal items waiting for you. The vehicle shuttle is accomplished by a professional vehicle shuttle service.

Make reservations to have your vehicle shuttled with River Shuttles (rivershuttles.com - 208.756.4188). River Shuttles transports vehicles for thousands of Salmon River floaters every summer, and they are very reliable. A vehicle shuttle from Salmon to McCall costs approximately \$300, plus \$60 for fuel.

Flying & Renting a Car

Some people choose to rent a car after arriving in Boise and drive to Salmon instead of taking the GemAir air-taxi. This is a common option for those who are planning to travel in the region before or after their trip. If you rent a vehicle at the airport and drive to Salmon, you will need to have your vehicle shuttled to McCall (the trip's final destination). See "Vehicle Shuttle" above for details.

If you are renting a vehicle at the airport, make sure you request an "Additional Driver's Form" from the rental agency. You will need to fax this to River Shuttles. If you have any questions about adding River Shuttles as an additional driver for your rental vehicle, don't hesitate to ask the folks at River Shuttles.



Getting Back Home

Our Main Salmon River kayaking adventure will finish in McCall, Idaho. You will be shuttled from the river take-out to McCall at the end of the kayaking trip, arriving in McCall in the late afternoon on the 6th (final) day of your river expedition. You will need to make reservations for a hotel in McCall the night after your trip.

Flying

If you are flying back home (or on to other adventures) out of Boise, you will need to arrange an air-taxi flight to Boise from McCall. Gem Air (gemairflights.com - 208.756.7382) has regular, daily flights from McCall to Boise. A round trip package with Gem Air (Boise to Salmon and McCall to Boise - see Getting There) is roughly \$385.

We highly recommend spending the night in McCall and flying out to Boise the morning after your trip to ensure that you do not miss your Boise flight. Plan on departing out of Boise after 10:00 am the morning after your trip.

Driving

Our Main Salmon River Kayaking adventure will finish in McCall, Idaho. You will need to have your vehicle shuttled to McCall from the trip starting point in Salmon (see Getting There - Driving & Vehicle Shuttle). We will be arriving in McCall in the late afternoon, and, thanks to the shuttle, your vehicle will be waiting for you. You'll be free to head off on your next adventure, or spend the evening in McCall.

Driving Times from McCall: Portland - 7 hrs 30 mins, Seattle - 8 hrs, Missoula - 5 hrs 15 mins, Boise - 2 hrs 15 mins, Idaho Falls - 6 hrs 15 mins

Driving & Flying Shuttle Options

Depending on where you are traveling from, some guests driving to the trip may find one leg of the drive (either Salmon or McCall) significantly easier than the other. In these instances, it may be easier to use a one-way air-taxi shuttle from GemAir in place of having your vehicle shuttled from Salmon to McCall during the trip.

For example, if you are driving from Boise (2 hrs from McCall), you might choose to drive to McCall before your trip, and take a one-way flight from McCall to Salmon to meet your group for the pre-trip meeting. In this instance, you would leave your vehicle in McCall during the trip, and it will be there waiting for you on the return.

The reverse is also possible. You would drive to Salmon and meet the group in Salmon for the start of the trip. Instead of shuttling your vehicle during the trip, you would leave the vehicle in Salmon during the trip, and reserve a one-way flight from McCall back to Salmon for the morning after the trip ends.

One-way flights between Salmon and McCall on GemAir are roughly \$200 per person.