



Trip Summary

SECTION: OWYHEE RIVER – ROME TO LESLIE GULCH

DIFFICULTY: CLASS III – IV; BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED

AGES: 10 YEARS OLD AND UP

SEASON: APRIL – MAY (CALL OR SEE WEBSITE FOR MOST CURRENT DATES)

LENGTH: 5 DAYS (65 MILES)

Few people have had the pleasure of exploring one of the country's secret gems of multi-day river rafting – the Owyhee River. This pristine and remote Wild and Scenic river trip takes us on a remarkable wilderness journey through the dramatic desert canyons of southeastern Oregon. The Owyhee, known as Oregon's Grand Canyon, contains thrilling Class III-IV rapids, abundant wildlife, and amazing riverside adventures. Mix all of this with stellar archeological sites and hot springs, and this trip contains all the ingredients to create one of the world's greatest river journeys.

Meeting Location & Time

We will meet as a group for a pre-trip meeting at 7:30 PM the evening before your scheduled start date at the Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport (2645 W Airport Way) in Boise, Idaho. On the morning of your trip launch, we will shuttle you to the river put-in.

*If driving to Boise, you will leave your vehicle at the Best Western Vista Inn during your trip.

Ending Location & Time

Our adventure will end in Boise, Idaho, on the final day of your trip. We provide a shuttle from the river take-out to the Best Western Vista Inn. We typically arrive in Boise in the late afternoon.

General Trip Itinerary

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

Arrival Day

Arrive in Boise, Idaho, the day before your scheduled launch date and check into your hotel. We will have a pre-trip meeting at 7:30 PM at the Best Western Vista Inn on Airport Way the evening before your scheduled start date. 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 (scheduled launch day)

After meeting again in the morning, your Wet Planet guides shuttle you to the beginning of our river journey. The trip starts with a nice float from our Rome Valley launch until we enter the first of many gorges. Look for Golden Eagles' nests high on the canyon walls. Lunch on our first day will be riverside before entering the first canyon. After running thrilling rapids like Bullseye and Upset, we'll arrive at our first camp in time to enjoy a hike or simply relax and listen to the river pass by before enjoying a delicious evening meal.

Days 2-4: River Days

Each day, we will follow a similar routine. In the morning, you will be awakened by the sunlight creeping down the canyon walls toward your tent and the rich smell of morning coffee and tea. After a hearty breakfast, we'll pack up our personal gear, load the rafts, and ready ourselves for another amazing day on the river. We'll encounter exciting rapids and enjoy the Owyhee's incredible canyon scenery, with opportunities for side hikes and relaxing soaks in natural hot springs. Each day, we will find a nice riverside lunch spot to replenish our energy levels for more river adventure. In the early afternoon, it will be time to choose one of the many unique and beautiful camps the Owyhee offers. Many of the camps provide excellent hiking opportunities for those interested. In places like Jackson Creek, Chalk Basin, and Green Dragon Canyon, you'll find colorful side canyons, stunning waterfalls, and scenic ridgelines with amazing views of the river below. After dinner, it's time to revel in the adventures of the day, tell stories by the fire, or drift off to your personal stargazer's paradise.

Day 5: River and Take-Out

We start our final day on the river in the usual style, with a tasty breakfast before breaking camp and loading the rafts. On our way downstream, we'll enjoy the last bits of the canyon and its incredible wildlife. At the Leslie Gulch take-out, your guides will unload rafts while you change into dry clothes. We'll enjoy a final lunch together before saying goodbye to the magnificent Owyhee River. A two-hour shuttle drive will take you out of the canyon to the Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport in Boise, ID, where you will arrive in the late afternoon.

What We Provide

- All meals from breakfast on the first day of the trip through lunch on our last day of the trip
- Rafts and guides
- All camping gear not listed in the packing list: group gear, kitchen equipment, tents, sleeping pads, and camp chairs
- River equipment: personal flotation devices (PFDs), helmets, paddles, and, if needed, wetsuits and booties
- Dry bags for your clothing and personal items (one large bag and one small bag)
- Group beverages: water, orange juice, lemonade/gatorade, coffee, tea, cocoa, and hot cider

What You Are Responsible For

- Transportation to Boise, ID, before your trip and from Boise, ID, after your trip
- Lodging in Boise, ID, the night before your trip the night after your trip
- Personal clothing and miscellaneous gear (see the “Packing List”)
- Personal beverages (see Beverages information under “Packing Info”)

Food Allergies

Beyond our standard menu, we can provide options for medically necessary allergy-restricted diets for a supplemental menu fee of \$100/person. However, we cannot always offer the same diversity or sophistication for restricted diets as our regular menu. Similarly, certain allergen-free snack foods are difficult or impossible to source in rural locations, so feel free to bring your favorite snacks to supplement our provisions. Due to the constraints of cooking for a large group in a wilderness setting, the availability of ingredients or specialty items in remote locations, and limited packing space, we are unable to cater to dietary preferences (likes or dislikes). Please keep in mind that by selecting a restricted diet, you are committing to eating specially-made meals for the duration of the trip. We only bring enough of our standard meals for those without restricted diets, so changing diets mid-trip will not be accommodated.

We cannot guarantee that cross-contamination from allergens will not occur during meal prep. If this is a consideration, please get in touch with us to discuss the potential for a medical emergency caused by a severe food allergy.

Travel Insurance

Sometimes life happens, so we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance to guard against any surprises (unexpected late cancellations, travel delays, medical emergencies, etc.).

Past Wet Planet guests have reported good experiences using Travel Guard (www.travelguard.com) and Travel Insurance Services (select.travelinsure.com).

Your Owyhee River adventure begins and ends at the Best Western Vista Inn near the Boise, ID airport.

Getting There

We will meet at the Best Western Vista Inn (2645 W Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705) at 7:30pm the evening before your launch date. You will need to make hotel reservations in Boise for the night before your trip begins. On the morning that the trip begins (launch day), we will shuttle the entire group from the Best Western to the Owyhee River launch site.

Flying to the Boise Airport (BOI):

Fly into Boise Airport, a small and easy-to-access airport, which is serviced by most major airlines. Make sure to reserve your flight for the day before your trip start date. We recommend arriving by 6:00pm to give yourself time to arrive at the pre-trip meeting at the Best Western Vista Inn by 7:30pm. The Best Western offers a complimentary airport shuttle - call the hotel for details.

Driving to Boise:

Boise is located conveniently along Interstate 84. Please note - Boise is on Mountain Standard Time. Be sure to account for the time change if driving from another time zone to ensure that you arrive at the pre-trip meeting on time. You will leave your vehicle at the hotel during your trip. This can be arranged with the hotel when making your hotel reservations.

Getting Back Home

Our Owyhee River rafting adventure will finish in Boise, ID. You will be shuttled from the river take-out to Boise at the end of the rafting trip, arriving at the Best Western Vista Inn in the late afternoon on the final day of your river expedition. You will need to make reservations for a hotel in Boise the night after your trip.

Arranging Return Flights:

We recommend staying the night in Boise, and arranging return flights for the day after we finish our river trip. If you choose to arrange your flight for the same day that we take out, please note that there is a risk of missing your flight as we cannot guarantee an exact arrival time in Boise.

Packing List

While we provide all group camping equipment and meals (including tents, sleeping pads, and camp chairs), you will need to provide clothing and personal gear for off the river and at camp. Below is a suggested packing list to use for your river expedition.

Always be prepared for changing weather! Appropriate clothing on a multi-day river trip is important for both comfort and risk management. While on the river, we could experience warm sunny days, cold rainy days, or anything in between. We need to be prepared for all possibilities. When planning for your trip, try to use the “layering system.” By bringing clothing that can be worn under or on top of others in layers, you will have the flexibility to adjust to a variety of weather conditions. Make sure you have warm layers made of synthetic materials (not cotton), such as polypropylene, Capilene, or wool. Cotton does not keep you warm when it is wet!

We will provide your river gear: wetsuit, booties, paddle jacket, helmet, and PFD (personal flotation device). We will also provide a dry bag (like a large waterproof backpack) to protect your belongings from the water.

- Warm sleeping bag (available for rent for \$25)
- Rain jacket and pants (available for rent for \$25)
- One pair of shorts for camp and hiking
- One or two T-shirts
- One set long-sleeved light clothes (for sun and/or camp)
- Pants for camp (can be same as above)
- Synthetic thermal underwear layers (top and bottom)
- Down or synthetic jacket (puffy and warm but compressible for packing)
- Fleece or pile top and bottom for camp (top can be pullover or jacket)
- Fleece pullover or jacket to wear on the river, under your paddle jacket
- Swimsuit
- One pair waterproof shoes/booties (for off-river if it is raining)
- One pair lightweight hiking shoes (for off-river in good weather - can be same as above)
- Wool or polypro/Capilene/fleece socks (stay away from cotton)
- Shade hat/visor (baseball cap)
- Thin wool or synthetic hat for on river under the helmet
- Warm hat and gloves
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing
- Sunscreen/moisturizing lotion
- Chapstick with SPF
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses with securing strap
- Water bottle with securing strap (1 liter minimum, more if hiking)
- Headlamp/flashlight and extra batteries
- Personal medications
- Toiletries (keep to a minimum)
- Optional Rental - Wet Planet Comfort Kit:** Sleeping bag, rain jacket, rain pants, small camp pillow, groundsheet (\$40)

Adult Beverages: You will need to provide your own alcoholic beverages. Please, no glass. There are good canned micro-brews out there, and other beverages can be transferred from glass bottles to plastic containers. We will have a cooler to keep beverages cold.

Optional Items: Sandals or flip-flops, binoculars, diary, sketchbook, a good paperback book, camera, paddling jacket and pants, small travel pillow, musical instrument.

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

How to Pack

During the river journey, your personal clothing and gear 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 on the rafts. You will receive your bags the evening before your trip so you can pack them before your adventure begins.

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 jacket and rain pants - \$25
- Wet Planet comfort kit: Sleeping bag, rain jacket, rain pants, small camp pillow, groundsheet (small tarp used to keep belongings off the sand) - \$40

Beverages

Wet Planet will have coffee and tea ready for you every morning. Water and lemonade/punch/Gatorade will be available throughout the day. At dinner, hot drinks will be available (hot cocoa, hot cider, tea), and 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! Wine should be in bags/boxes, and other adult beverages can be transferred from glass bottles to plastic or aluminum containers before taking them on the river. Personal drinks can be purchased in Salmon before the trip if needed.

Gratuities

Your guide team will work hard to ensure your river experience exceeds your expectations. If you had a fantastic trip and feel your guides did an incredible job, post-trip gratuities are an appreciated way of saying "thank you." Tips commonly range from 5 to 15 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 them among the team.