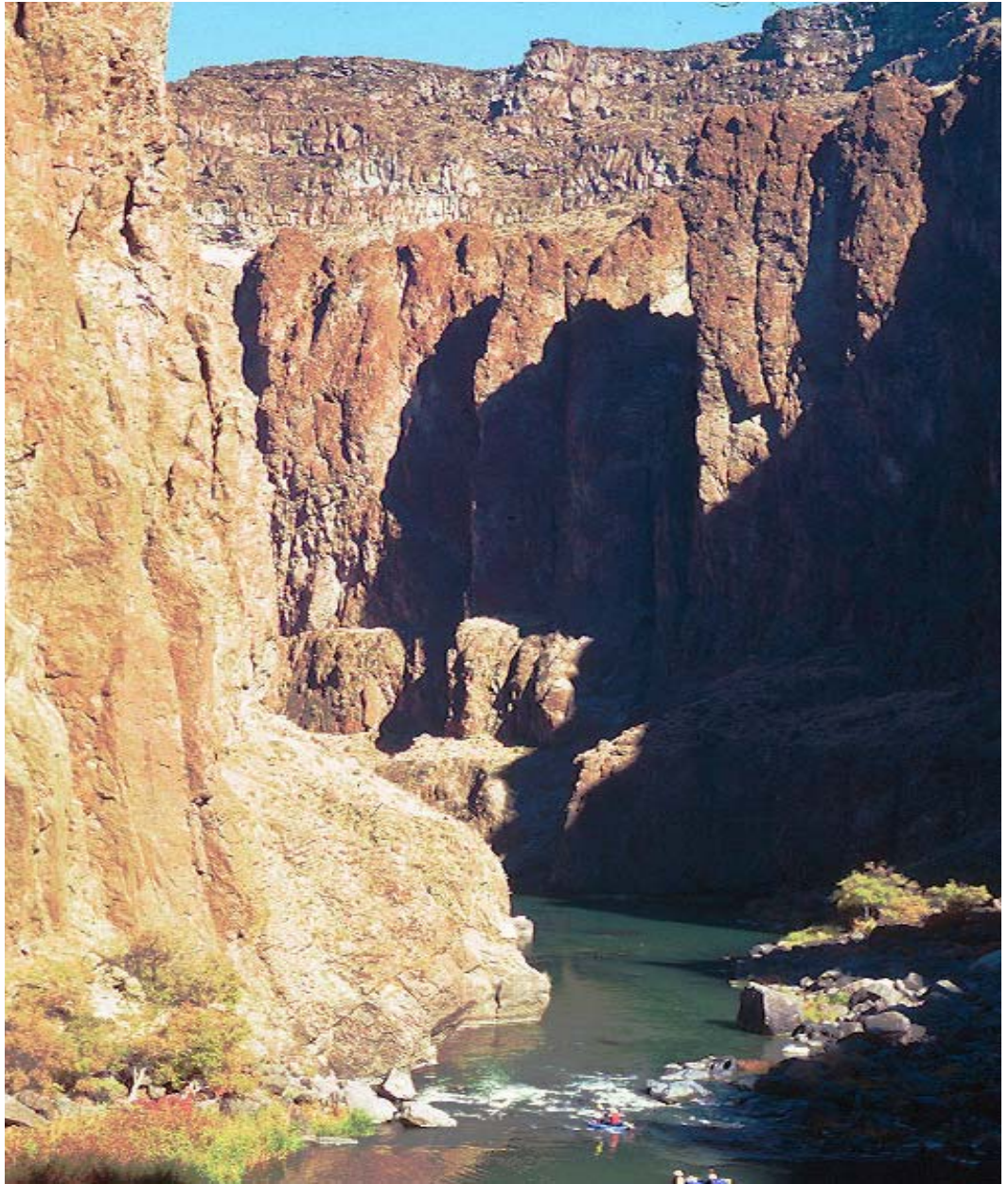


Wild & Scenic

Owyhee River

"Oregon's Grand Canyon"

Ouzel Outfitters



5 Day Trips, April—May

Oregon's Grand Canyon

Oregon's Most Remote River Journey

Tucked away in the empty southeastern corner of Oregon is a seldom-traveled desert canyon with exceptional scenery, isolated wilderness and dramatic colorful gorges teeming with many species of birds and other wildlife. There are just enough moderate rapids to deliver a good dose of fun and excitement without taking away from the scenery and the endless opportunities for hiking. Hot springs take the chill out of the often-fickle weather in April and May. Inviting sandy beaches surrounded by quiet un-crowded desert solitude create a premier camping experience.

A Geologist's Playground and a Birder's Paradise

The geologic history revealed by the Owyhee consists of alternating layers of shallow lake basins and flood plains and volcanic debris ranging from ash to lava. The wildly contrasting red, brown and black layers of Chalk Basin make for great hiking and excellent photography. Fossils preserved here include plants, fish and large and small mammals from 5 to 15 million years ago. Variety is the key with the river traversing fractures and faults caused by massive earthquakes, and cutting dramatic gorges through pink and gray rhyolitic lava, columnar basalt, inter-canyon lava flows, fluvial deposits and volcanic ash flows. There's always something interesting around the next corner.

While otter, mule deer and big horn sheep are often spotted on the Owyhee many folks come strictly for the Birding. During the rafting season migratory birds including grebes, cormorants, cranes and curlews are common. Raptors are everywhere and wrens, meadowlarks, sparrows and flycatchers entertain at camp. Don't forget to keep an eye out for our favorite, the Ouzel!



“The Ouzel alone of all birds, dares to enter a white torrent.” – *John Muir*

Transportation Information

If flying, make connections to Boise. From Boise you can rent a car or arrange a shuttle to Rome or Jordan Valley. For shuttles call Owyhee Shuttles (541) 586-2352. We provide return transportation by van from our take-out at Leslie Gulch to Rome where your vehicle awaits. For those wishing to depart to Boise or points north, we can arrange to have your vehicle shuttled to the take-out for an additional fee. If you choose this option, we recommend filling up in Burn's Junction if coming from the West or Jordan Valley if coming from the East. Also, please bring an extra set of keys.



Trip Options

We offer a 5-Day/4-Night camping trip beginning at Rome, Oregon and ending at Leslie Gulch on Lake Owyhee. As a free-flowing desert river (no dams to control water flow) the Owyhee is our most fickle river in terms of predictability. In an average season we run trips from Mid-April through the end of May. On occasion, the whole season can be in doubt due to lack of snowfall. We usually have a good indication by February of how the season will look. If your trip is questionable we will keep you informed on a regular basis, making every effort, within the bounds of prudence and safety, to insure your trip runs or at least to develop an alternative trip that you may join if you wish. In all cases, full refunds are given for trips cancelled due to lack of water.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1

Our journey begins as we meet our fellow travelers at the BLM Park and launch site in Rome, Oregon. After a short orientation, river bags are issued and instruction given on how to pack your gear. A safety orientation follows, and then we're out on the river for the first of five amazing days. After a few miles of easy floating through the Rome Valley we enter the first of many gorges. After a riverside lunch, easy whitewater and stunning vistas bring us to our first scenic camp where you'll have time to hike while the guides prepare a delicious evening meal.

Day 2

Varied canyons, spectacular hiking at Chalk Basin, several exciting rapids and a short hike to an old homestead with a gripping tale of cattle rustlers fill this day. With a little luck we'll camp at Rye Grass where a soak in the hot springs after dinner under the stars provides a welcome end to the day.

Days 3 & 4

A hot and hearty breakfast will send us on our way, giving us energy for the deepest (and liveliest) part of the canyon. Be on the lookout for Bighorn Sheep and keep your camera handy as we approach the dramatic formations of Green Dragon Canyon. Floating beneath walls towering 1000 ft overhead is an experience not soon forgotten. A hike to mysterious petroglyphs and another possible hot springs camp make these days the most memorable.

Day 5

A leisurely half-day float through Sentinel Canyon brings us to the head of Lake Owyhee. After lunch we motor across the upper end of the lake, on the lookout for Western Grebes and Pelicans. The spectacular ash deposit formations of Leslie Gulch mark our take-out. We've arranged transportation back to Rome.

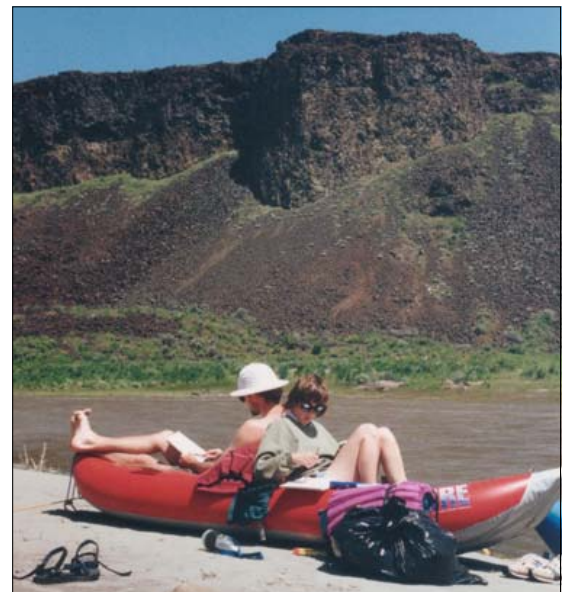
Accommodations

CAMPING:

You may camp at the Rome put-in. Primitive, water and toilets available (or) Crystal Crane Hot Springs. 541-493-2312. Rustic cabins and tent/RV sites available. Private and public hot pools. 30 miles SE of Burns on Hwy 78 and 80 miles from Rome.

MOTELS:

JORDON VALLEY – Basque Station (541) 586-2244
ROME – Rome Cafe, (541) 586-2294, Modest Cabins
BURNS – Best Inn, (541) 573-5295
ONTARIO – Best Western (541) 889-2600



How Do I Make a Reservation?

You can sign for a trip by phone or email

Call us at

800-788-7238

Email us at

info@OregonRafting.com

You may also find more information and make your reservation securely on line at

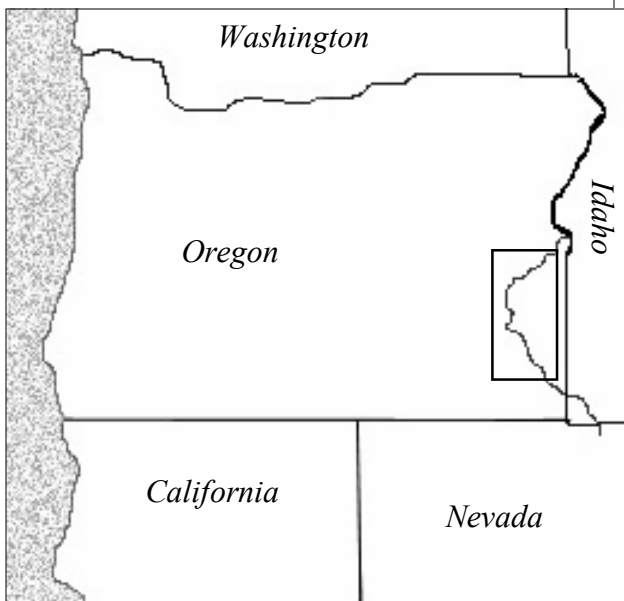
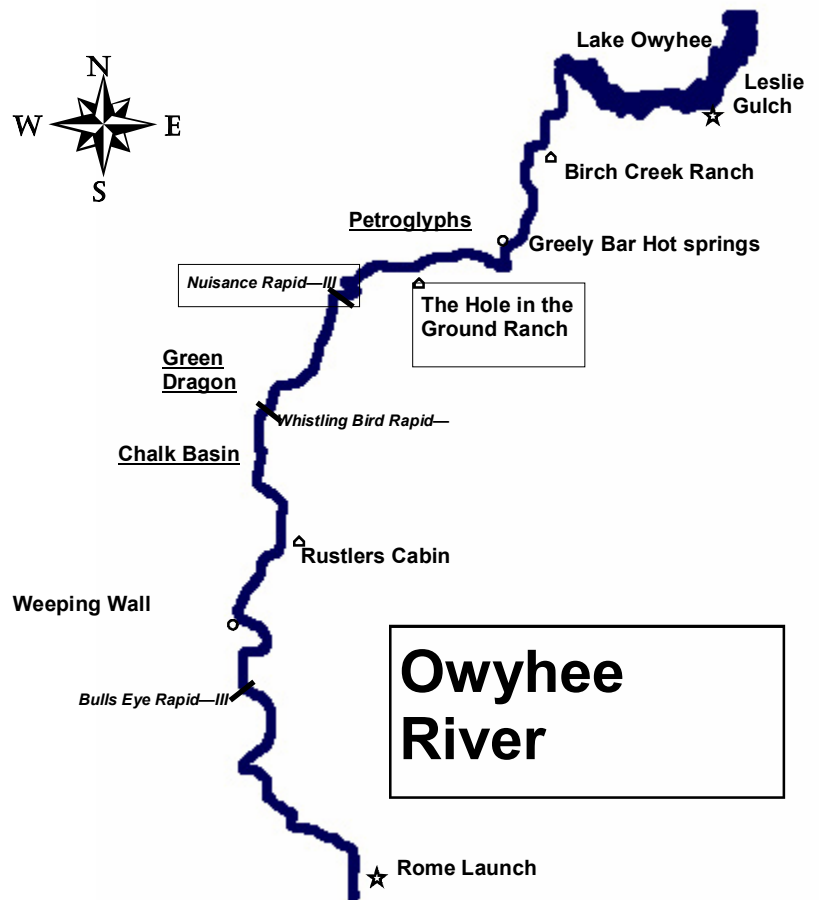
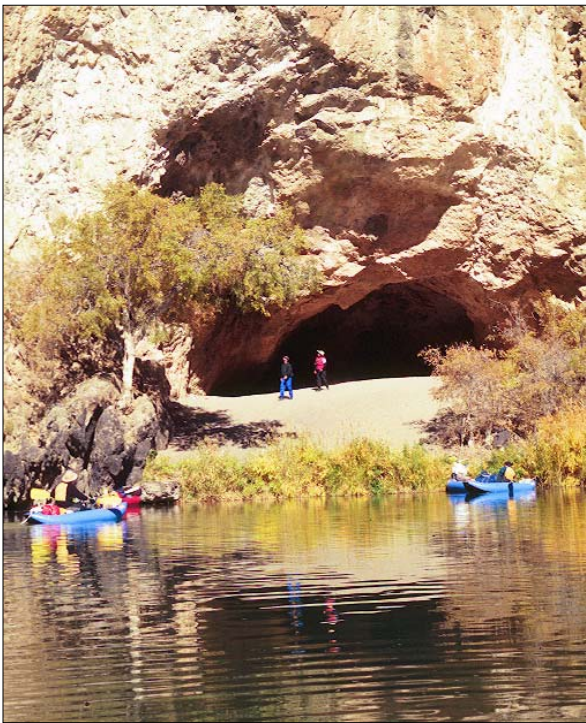
www.OregonRafting.com

A \$250/person non-refundable deposit is due 7 days after you make your reservation. The balance is due 30 days prior to departure. Once you've made your reservation we'll send you additional trip information including a personal packing list.

What's Included



- Assistance with pre/post lodging & transportation
- Experienced and knowledgeable guides
- Hearty and delicious meals
- Comfortable Camp Chairs
- Outfitter tents (sleeps two)
- Professionally laundered sleeping bags
- Thick pads for sleeping
- Complimentary Ouzel T-shirt
- Complimentary Nalgene water bottle
- Waterproof bags & boxes for your belongings
- Splash tops & pants in case of cold weather
- Wetsuits for those interested in kayaking



"I continue to be so impressed with Ouzel Outfitters, your guides, the equipment, the food and the choice of rivers."

—Wendy Jensen

