

*Ouzel Outfitters*

**Lower Gorges of the Salmon River**  
*Idaho's Premier Wild & Scenic River*



**4 & 5 Day Trips, July—September**

# Lower Gorges of the Salmon River

## A Crossroads of Human History

The Lower Salmon plays host to some of the oldest archeological sites known in North America. Native American habitation stretches from the well-known Nez Perce Indians of today to the nomadic groups roaming the canyon over 10,000 years ago.

Shortly after Lewis & Clark traveled through the area in 1805 (with life-saving assistance from the Nez Perce) fur trappers and pioneers began to arrive. Early pioneers who braved the Salmon's challenging rapids found returning east by river impossible giving the river its nickname, "River of No Return."

With increased settlement and the discovery of gold on the Lower Salmon in the 1860s, successive treaties shrank the size of the Nez Perce reservation. The first Indian battle was fought near Whitebird in 1877, after which Chief Joseph led hundreds of his people and thousands of horses on a remarkable 4-month, 1,170-mile flight to within a few miles of the Canadian border; eluding and fighting army troops the entire way. The trail has been designated the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. We pass the spot where Chief Joseph, in one of his greatest feats, led his followers across the flooded Salmon without the loss of a single life.



## A Spectacular Setting

Many natural features make the Lower Salmon River the ideal setting for a fun and comfortable river trip -- perfect for families with young kids, professional groups or anyone looking to "get away" for a few days. Without a single dam to impede its natural flow, the river has built spectacular white sand beaches in its Lower Gorges creating great campsites. A semi-arid climate produces plenty of sunshine and warm, clear water. As the river erodes a path through Columbia River basalt, it encounters the much older and more resistant Seven Devils formation in four locations. These are the Lower Gorges of the Salmon River and contain most of the whitewater. The rapids are big and splashy, but moderate and not too numerous. Kids love the roller coaster ride in the raft while the adventurous can challenge the river one-on-one in an inflatable kayak.

## TRIP OPTIONS

**4-Day Camp Trip:** Our most popular trip covers 50 miles of the Salmon through the Lower Gorges and 20 miles of the Snake River in the lower end of Hells Canyon.

**5-Day Camp Trip:** This trip covers the same stretch as the four day, but slows down the pace allowing more time to enjoy the scenery and activities. The slower pace is particularly enjoyable as water levels begin to drop in August.

**Charter A Trip:** The Lower Salmon is a popular destination for families and groups looking to arrange a rafting trip just for their group. Luxury camps and the addition of a thrilling jet boat ride on the Snake River on the last day can be added to your trip along with a wide range of other activities and amenities. Call us for more information.





## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Our journey begins as we meet our trip leader and fellow travelers at the Quality Inn in Clarkston, WA the morning of our trip. After a short orientation, river bags are issued and instruction given on how to pack your gear.

When we are all ready we board our van for the trip to Whitebird, our launch site. After a safety orientation we're out on the river for the first of many fun and exciting days. After a few miles of easy floating we'll encounter our first whitewater at Roller coaster rapids. Stunning vistas, a river-side lunch, swimming and exploring fill the day.

### River Days

Each day your guides have coffee on by 6:30 or 7:00 a.m., breakfast follows

at 8:00 and we try to be on the river by 10:00 a.m. Varied canyons, thrilling rapids and relaxing floating fill each day. Camp is reached each afternoon with plenty of time to hike or relax while the guides prepare dinner. During the course of the trip we'll visit Indian pictographs, explore old gold mines and the ruins of Chinese immigrant dwellings and investigate Nez Perce historical sites.

### Final Day

A leisurely half-day float brings us to the impressive confluence with the Snake River. With the help of a motor we continue down the Snake River on the lookout for Bighorn sheep and arrive at our take out at Heller Bar in the late afternoon. Transportation is waiting to return us to the Quality Inn in Clarkston.



## TRANSPORTATION INFO

If flying, make connections to Lewiston, ID. From the airport, the Quality Inn is only 10 minutes away and the motel provides complimentary airport shuttles for guests. For those driving, your car may be left in the Quality Inn's parking lot, whether a guest or not. Drive times are as follows: From Portland 6.5 HRS; From Seattle 8 HRS; From Spokane 2.5 HRS; From Boise



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

*John Muir*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### **CAMPING:**

Campsites are few in the immediate area. If you wish to camp, you might consult with our office about meeting at our Whitebird put-in and having your car shuttled to Clarkston during the trip.

### **LODGING:**

**Quality Inn** (highly recommended for moderate pricing, cleanliness and convenience) Clarkston, 509-758-9500

**Pony Soldier Inn**, Lewiston, ID 800-634-7669

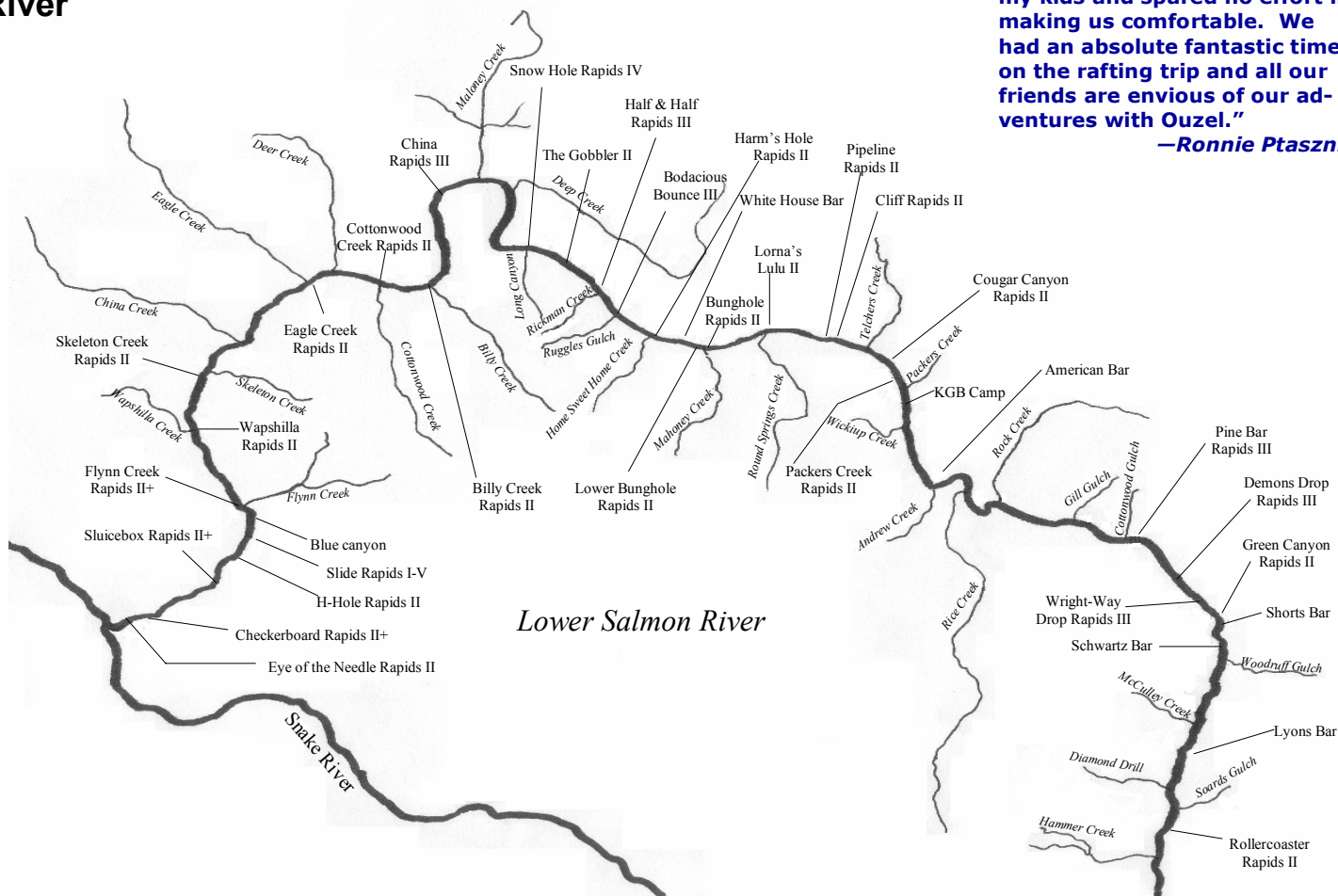
**Sacajawea Inn**, Lewiston, ID 800-333-1393

**Hells Canyon Resort**, Asotin, WA (30 minutes from Clarkston) Resort Lodging 509-243-4869

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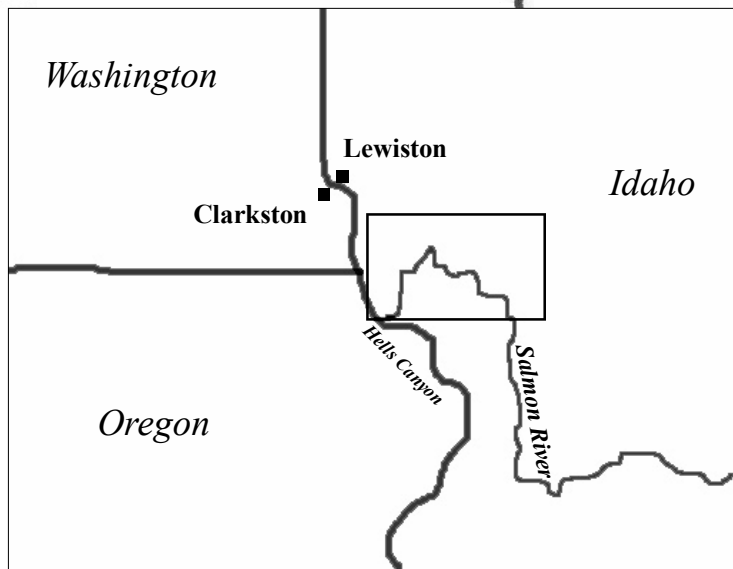
**"The guides were terrific with my kids and spared no effort in making us comfortable. We had an absolute fantastic time on the rafting trip and all our friends are envious of our adventures with Ouzel."**

**—Ronnie Ptasznik**



**What's Included**

- Round-trip transportation from the Quality Inn, Clarkston.
- Experienced and knowledgeable guides
- Hearty and delicious meals
- Comfortable Camp Chairs
- Professionally laundered sleeping bags
- Thick pads for sleeping
- Outfitter tents (sleeps 2)
- Optional family-sized tent (please call)
- Complimentary t-shirt & Nalgene water bottle
- Waterproof bags & boxes for your belongings
- Splash tops & pants in case of cold weather



**How Do I Make a Reservation?**

Call us at:

**800-788-7238**

Email us at:

**info@OregonRafting.com**

You can also 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.

