



Lower Salmon River Trip Planner 5-Day Camp Trip (*White Bird-Heller Bar – 73 Miles*)

Thank you for choosing Ouzel Outfitters. This trip planner contains detailed information designed to make you prepared for your trip. When you make a reservation you will receive a personalized planner with invoice information and specific meeting instructions. Don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions.

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Ouzel Outfitters

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Invoice, Payments & Cancellation Policy

Multi-Day Trips

Lower Salmon River: A \$250.00/ person deposit is due within 10 days of making your reservation. 50% of the deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to your trip. The balance is due 30 days prior to your trip. No refunds for cancellations received after 30 days prior to your trip.

Cancellation due to Insufficient Bookings

Trips with insufficient bookings may be cancelled. In this case full refunds will be offered. For multi-day trips with insufficient bookings we will inform you 30 days prior to the trip date.

Trip Cancellation/Travel Insurance

We highly recommend insurance to protect your vacation investment. Travel Services offers a wide variety of affordable plans that cover cancellation and medical emergencies. Click [here](#) for more information or ask us to send you a brochure.

Meeting Location & Time

When: 7:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Where: Lobby of the Quality Inn and Suites in Clarkston, WA. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE. From here transportation is provided to our put-in at Whitebird (about two hours with one short stop). Service at The Quality Inn's restaurant is slow; this is the most common reason guests are late. Being late affects the entire group and the first day's itinerary and may require us to skip popular stops or activities. Orientation and packing takes about an hour. If we have not heard from you the trip will depart when ready. If you are lost or will be late please use the following phone numbers to let us know. Please leave messages at each number.

Ouzel: 800-788-7238; After Hours: 541-815-4273; Quality Inn: 509-758-9500

Take me to [Map Quest](#) and Directions to Quality Inn and Suites in Clarkston, WA.

Local 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, WA 509-758-9500 Ask for the Ouzel Discount.

[Red Lion Inn](#), Lewiston, ID 208-799-1000

[Sacajawea Inn](#), Lewiston, ID 800-333-1393

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

Transportation Information

Airport Info

If flying, make connections to Lewiston, ID. From the airport, the Quality Inn is only 10 minutes away. You can rent a car or call the Quality Inn for a complimentary shuttle. *Note: the Quality Inn shuttle may not run after 9 P.M. Please check with the hotel before you arrive.*

Vehicle Security

For those driving, your car may be left in the Quality Inn's parking lot, whether you are a guest or not. Although we have never had problems with vehicles left at the Quality Inn, we cannot guarantee the safety or security of your vehicle or belongings during the trip. Please leave valuables at home or bring them with you on the river. For guests of the Quality Inn, safe deposit boxes are available at the front desk.

Shuttles

Transportation is provided from the Quality Inn in Clarkston, WA to our put-in location at Whitebird (a two-hour drive) and from our take-out location at Heller Bar back to the Quality Inn (about 45 minutes).

Approximate Driving Times to The Quality Inn, Clarkston, WA

From Boise, ID – 5 hours

From Coeur D'Alene, ID – 2 hours, 20 minutes

From Missoula, MT – 4 hours, 20 minutes

From Portland, OR – 5 hours, 45 minutes

From Seattle, WA – 5 hours

From Spokane, WA – 2 hours

Trip Itinerary

Orientation & Packing

Our day begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Quality Inn & Suites in Clarkston. You should have eaten breakfast before this time. Your trip leader or the front desk may direct you to the patio or a room close by for the orientation. Once everyone is assembled, the trip leader will give each guest an overnight dry bag and provide instructions on how to pack your belongings and seal your dry bag. Once your trip leader has reviewed how and what to pack you will have a limited amount of time to pack your dry bag.

Packing Your Dry Bag

The dry bag provides 3.8 cu. ft. of storage. When closed the bag is 16 inches in diameter and 33 inches tall. Your sleeping bag will already be packed in the dry bag. Most guests find it useful to separate clothes and belongings into smaller bags for easier packing and better organization. Small, collapsible duffels, laundry bags and even pillowcases work well. Large or rigid duffel bags are difficult to work into and out of your dry bag. Pack toiletries and liquid items in a Ziploc or waterproof container in case they leak inside your bag.

Your overnight dry bag will not be accessible during the day, but additional shared dry bags and waterproof boxes will be available on the rafts for belongings such as sunscreen, cameras and extra clothing that you'll want accessible during the day. Your trip leader will help you decide what to keep out. If you have special photography equipment or unusual items please call our office for packing suggestions. Many guests find that owning their own small dry bag for day-use is convenient and eliminates the need to share.

Getting Ready to Launch

Once your bag is packed bring it to the lobby of the hotel along with any other items that need to be stowed on our equipment rafts - this includes personal soft drinks, beer or other items that do not go into your dry bag. You may want to keep a little cash out as we make a quick bathroom stop at a market on the way to the river. Safe deposit boxes are available at the Quality Inn for valuables you do not want to bring on the trip. The Quality Inn will also store extra luggage - please check with the front desk. We try to depart the hotel by 8:30 a.m. Once we arrive at the launch location, your overnight dry bags will be loaded on to our equipment rafts and the items you want accessible can be packed into the smaller bags and boxes available on each raft. The orientation continues as we discuss safety, the environment and what to expect on the trip. We try to be on the river by 11:00 a.m.

Day 1

Our first day begins with a few miles of easy floating which leads us to a delicious riverside lunch. We'll make a quick stop to look at Indian pictographs and enjoy the fun waves at Roller Coaster and Pine Bar Rapids. Our equipment rafts will move ahead after lunch to select and set up camp. We'll arrive in camp this afternoon with plenty of time for hiking, swimming, relaxing and games. The guides will take extra time this afternoon to make sure that everyone is settled in comfortably and familiar with all camp facilities. Dinners is prepared by the guides this evening and served on full-sized banquet tables. When fire restrictions allow, we will enjoy an evening campfire.

Daily Schedule

Each day the guides will have coffee on between 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and breakfast is served at 8:00. We start packing up at 9:00 a.m. and try to be on the river by 10:00 a.m. Each day on the river is different and actual activities are chosen according to the general interests of the group. There are a wide variety of short hikes, swimming holes on side creeks, historic sites and places of interest to linger. You'll also have the opportunity to move from raft to raft, relaxing in the oar raft, joining a crew in a paddle raft or going solo in an inflatable kayak.

Day 5

Our last day will bring us to the end of the Salmon River at its confluence with the much larger Snake River in the lower end of Hell's Canyon. The trip continues down the Snake River with the help of an outboard motor. They'll be plenty of opportunities to spot bighorn sheep and an optional stop to look at ancient petroglyphs. We will arrive at our take-out at Heller Bar in the late afternoon where transportation is waiting to return you to the Quality Inn (about 45 minutes).

The Jet Boat Option

For private charter and luxury trips it is common to add a little high speed adventure on the Snake River on the last day. With this option, a chartered jet boat will meet your group at the confluence of the Snake and Salmon Rivers for a thrilling 2 hour high-speed ride which ends at the dock behind the Quality Inn in Clarkston.

Weather Conditions

The weather in the Salmon Canyon from mid-June to early September is typified by hot sunny days and pleasant nights. However, the mountainous terrain is susceptible to thundershowers during the summer. Pack as lightly as possible, but please prepare yourself for the possibility of a cool day during your trip. Water temperatures in July and August are usually in the high 60s or low 70s. Swimming is pleasant and popular on the Salmon. Follow the packing lists below and make sure to check the weather before you go. The trick is to be well prepared, but not to over pack. Don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions. [Check the Salmon River Weather](#).

What to Pack for Wearing on the River

On Warm Days

- Visor, Cap, or Sun Hat
- Sunglasses (w/strap)
- T-Shirt & shorts or swimsuit (most women prefer wearing shorts over bikini bottoms)
- Rafting Shoes: Sandals w/heel strap or sneakers
- Lip Balm (with spf) & Sunscreen (spray sunscreen runs out quickly)
- If you are sensitive to the sun, you might consider wearing pants and a long-sleeve shirt made from a lightweight, quick-drying material.

On Cooler Days Add a Second Layer

- Polypro or Capilene tops and bottoms. (synthetic fabric– NOT cotton). Being prepared with light to mid weight layers of synthetic clothing takes the chill out of cooler days on the river.
- Neoprene Gloves & Socks (recommended only if cold weather is in the forecast).

Ouzel provides a limited supply of splash jackets & pants for use on cooler days. We also recommend that you have rain gear for inclement conditions. Dressing in layers allows easy adjustment to changing conditions. The best way to keep warm on the river is to **AVOID WEARING COTTON on the river!**

What to Pack for Camp

- T-Shirts and Shorts
- Long sleeve shirts (cotton okay)
- One or two pairs of long pants (cotton okay)
- Sweatshirt or fleece top
- Socks and underwear
- Warm hat (optional for chilly mornings)
- Long Underwear (synthetic long underwear can also be worn on the river on cool days)
- Sneakers or light hikers (light hiking boots are fine for hiking)
- Small Towel & Toiletries
- Rain Jacket & Pants (lightweight – nice to have just in case!)
- Insect Repellent
- Flashlight or headlamp
- One Article of Attire for "Dress-up" Night. It is a tradition on our trips to have some fun on our last evening. Ties, cummerbunds, costumer jewelry, crazy hats – think Halloween. Be as creative and crazy as you want.

It is wise to assume that every article of clothing you wear on the river will be soaked by the time you reach camp in the afternoon. You should be prepared to change into a completely dry set of clothes each afternoon when we reach camp (including socks & shoes).

Optional Items to Pack for your Trip

- Camera and Film (disposable waterproof cameras work great)
- Extra batteries (for flashlight, camera, etc.)
- Hi-Tech Clothing. Hydroskin, Hydrosilk or Rash Guard shirts are designed for water activities. Many of these stretchy nylon/spandex fabrics offer UV protection, protect against chaffing from your life jacket and help keep you warm on cooler days.
- Soda, beer, wine or your favorite spirits—we'll keep your drinks on ice if desired. Avoid glass.
- Binoculars
- Small pillow (travel or backpack kind or a pillow case that you can fill with extra clothes)
- Personal amenities such as a journal, book, deck of cards, Frisbee, football, etc...
- Small personal dry bag for day use. (eliminates having to share with others – 9.5" X 18" is a good size for two people)
- Kayaking gloves. If you plan do spend a lot of time in the inflatable kayak, gloves will keep your hands from chaffing. Fingerless cycling gloves or neoprene gloves will do the trick.
- Small first aid kit with Band-Aids, ibuprofen, etc... All trips carry major and minor kits and each guide has their own supplies, but it can be handy to have your own "ouch pouch".
- Extra sunglasses
- Sarong

Recommendations for Kids

- A pair of river shoes or river sandals (designed for water sports) that wrap around the toes and provide extra protection for the feet. Avoid slip-on water socks and crocs.
- Hydrosilk or rashguard tops. These fabrics are warm and comfortable when wet, help avoid chaffing from the life jacket and are "cool".
- Hat & sunglasses with a strap. Kids can tire easily in the sun and protecting the eyes and face helps avoid over-exposure. Since kids often lose or break sunglasses, inexpensive pairs are recommended.
- Games. While there are plenty of activities for kids on our trips, we recommend bringing diversions that your kids or family can enjoy. Card games, compact board games, books, paints and other activities can provide occasional evening entertainment. Our game bags usually include bocce, horseshoes and other games, but if your family enjoys throwing a football or Frisbee around you should consider bringing one. We highly discourage electronic games and gadgets as they can be easily damaged and run counter to the wilderness experience.
- Bring plenty of sunscreen for kids and encourage them to drink lots of water.
- On colder trips make sure that the kids have neoprene footwear, a warm and waterproof hat and plenty of polyester/fleece tops and bottoms for layering.

What Ouzel Outfitters will Provide

- Tent (Sleeps two) *Family-sized tents are available on request and sleep four.*
- Sleeping Bag & Pad
- Souvenir T-shirt and water bottle with the Ouzel logo – your's to keep.
- Beverages include: Water, Lemonade, Iced Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Tea and an assortment of wines served with dinner (we plan for 2 glasses per adult per evening). You are welcome to bring your favorite sodas, beer, wine or spirits. We bring additional coolers with ice for this purpose. Consumption of alcohol is not allowed while on the river during the day.
- Splash Jackets & Pants (Our supply is limited and does not replace the need to bring good rain/wind tops and bottoms)
- Small library with books and information about the area
- All meals from lunch the first day to lunch on the last. Healthy snacks are always available.
- All group camp gear including tarps, fire pans, tables & chairs, toilets.

Where to Purchase Items on the Packing List

Items listed in the packing list and other useful “river wear” such as fleece and polypropylene tops and bottoms can be purchased at most local sporting goods stores. Neoprene socks and gloves are also available at sporting good stores and dive shops. Don’t hesitate to call us if you have questions. You can also find a useful tutorial on layering for a river trip as well as order clothes and equipment at www.rivertraveler.com . *Or call Cascade Outfitters at 888-748-3717 for a free catalog.*

Camping Equipment

Tents: Our tents are Alps brand outfitter model tents designed for durability. They are spacious for two (7ft x 8ft on average) and can accommodate more in a pinch. Special family-sized tents that accommodate up to four are available upon request. Please indicate your request for a family-sized tent on the Guest Information Form.

Sleeping Bags: Our sleeping bags are 3 or 4 pound square bags with a flannel or polypro lining. Sleeping bags are professionally cleaned by commercial launderers after each and every trip. You will find your sleeping bag packed inside your large overnight dry bag when this is issued during orientation. Letting you pack and unpack your sleeping bag each day insures that you won’t get anyone else’s during the trip. Our bags are of standard length (75” to 80”) and will sleep a 6’0 person comfortably. If you feel that you need a larger bag it may be advisable to bring your own. Please call us for options. If you wish to bring your own sleeping bag, please indicate this on the Guest Information Form.

Pads: The pads we use are called “Paco” pads. These pads are used by river rafters and guides all over the world for their comfort and durability. They are 1-1/2” poly foam in a heavy duty PVC shell. They are waterproof, do not roll up and are carried flat on our equipment rafts. If you feel you need additional padding you are welcome to bring an additional pad to use with the Paco pad that we provide. Please bring only a closed-cell foam “backpacker” pad or compact thermarest. If the pad you bring cannot get wet, it will need to be packed into your large dry bag along with your sleeping bag and personal items. If you bring a small air mattress make sure you have a pump and patch kit.

Setting up Tents: The riverside campsites we select most often have a variety of options for tent sites. We find that most guests enjoy selecting their own personal site and setting up our easy-to-set-up tents on their own. Our guides will be happy to teach you how to set up your tent at the first campsite and are always available for “troubleshooting” during the trip. If you find that setting up your tent is difficult and don’t mind the guides selecting your site, feel free to let your trip leader know that you would like your tent set up for you each night. We will be happy to accommodate your request.

Meals & Dietary Restrictions

Our menus are designed to be flexible in order to accommodate vegetarians and those with dietary restrictions. Since our meals are largely made from scratch, it is easy for us to prepare portions on the side without garlic, meat or other ingredients you may be allergic to. While we will know your preferences and allergies in advance, it is ESSENTIAL that you remind the guides of your preferences or restrictions PRIOR to meal preparation. When appropriate, dishes and utensils are not used to prepare or serve more than one dish. Utensils used to prepare dishes with meat are not used to prepare vegetarian options. Here is a breakdown of what we are able to provide:

Vegetarians/Vegans – Plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables (including avocado and bell peppers) will be supplemented with Hummus, Tofu, Bocca Burgers, Pates and other protein sources. Meals that have ingredients containing animal products and/or dairy products will have portions that can be prepared on the side without these ingredients.

Nut Allergies - Since we don't use a lot of pre-made and processed ingredients, it is not difficult for us to check for oils and extracts, avoiding them altogether or preparing portions on the side.

Wheat/Gluten Allergies – While we cannot guarantee your favorite brand we will have gluten free products such as breads, tortillas, snacks and pastas.

Non-Dairy – While we cannot guarantee your favorite brand, we can provide soymilk and will prepare dairy-free portions of meals where necessary.

Guest Information Form - Please record any dietary allergies or restrictions on the Guest Information Form. We purchase food for our trips the day before departure and do not have the ability to significantly adjust menus or add alternate dishes once the trip has begun. Please keep in mind that "preferences" are different than "restrictions". We often find that "preferences" become less important as most guests find they are burning more calories than they're used to during the course of a day. As an example, folks on low-carb diets often appreciate the "extra calories". It is also common for kids to eat foods that they may not eat at home. Don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions. Download a [Sample Menu](#) here.

Environmental Concerns

Whether you are on the river for a day or five days, you will be exposed to the elements. Exposure to the sun is our chief concern on the Salmon, but cold days are also possible at any time of year. Pay special attention to the clothing suggestions in your trip planner and [CHECK THE WEATHER](#) before you trip.

The Lower Salmon River is fairly pest free. There is always the chance to encounter poison oak in isolated areas while hiking, so keep an eye out. Rattle snakes, scorpions and spiders are all present but rarely seen. As a general rule while on shore, don't put your hands and feet where you can't see them. Yellow jackets (bees) can be troublesome as the summer moves on. They like to hang out where food is present. If you have a serious bee sting allergy, have a friend or one of the guides prepare your meals so that you can avoid the serving area. Mosquitoes are rarely a problem, but we do recommend bringing insect repellent – just in case.

Bathing

While swimming regularly will reduce the need to bathe, we understand that there is nothing like a refreshing wash and shampoo at the end of an active day. The most current "leave no trace" ethics encourages us to discard suds and wastewater into the river as opposed to on shore. As a result bathing takes place in or near the edge of the river and our main goal is to reduce the amount of suds. Please bring a biodegradable soap and use it sparingly. For showers we carry solar showers – a special bag with a small showerhead that heats water during the day. It works pretty well even on cloudy days. The bag is suspended on a tripod. Since wastewater must go into the river, privacy is often difficult; bathing in your swimsuit is common practice. Please let the guides know in the morning if you are interested in a shower that evening. Total hot water capacity is limited, but our guides will make every effort to make you comfortable.

Toilet Facilities

For many, the most feared and apprehensive aspect of a river trip is the “toilet situation”. When we arrive at a campsite on a wilderness river, we don’t expect to find the traces of previous visitors. Despite the fact that we arrive with tons of equipment and a score of people, we intend to depart leaving only marks in the sand. “Leave No Trace” means we take everything with us, from the ashes of our campfire to the food scraps from the cutting board. Like everything else, human waste must be transported out of the river canyon. We use the state-of-the-art “River Bank” toilet system on all of our trips. The River Bank system offers a large, double-hulled container with a molded seat that is slightly smaller than a normal household toilet. The toilet is set up away from camp in a private area. An “occupied indicator” insures privacy. One of the most difficult aspects of the portable toilet is the fact that capacity restrictions do not allow urination in the chamber – the toilet is for defecation only. This requires all users to urinate in the river or the separately provided “urinal” chamber nearby. Don’t forget to use the hand-washing system after every use. In some respects, this is the price we pay for seeing and experiencing the beautiful and dramatic settings our wilderness river canyons have to offer. Don’t despair! Our guides will take you through the procedures with sensitivity and humor. Be sure to ask them why we call it the “groover”.

Hygiene Information

Safety on a river trip doesn’t just mean wearing your life jacket and never diving into the river, it also includes washing your hands! We are very careful when it comes to contaminants on a trip. Our food coolers are “triaged” and drained daily and ice is carefully managed. Our dish washing and kitchen cleaning systems include a sanitizing bleach solution and hand washing stations are always set up near the kitchen and toilet. Please help us keep everyone healthy by washing your hands prior to each meal and after using the toilet.

For Women: Most of our river trips have female guides on them so it is easy to ask questions. Our male guides are also fully aware of issues specific to women, so if you are comfortable speaking with them, they are comfortable addressing your concerns. Sometimes, however, they need to be reminded that you may need more “stops” than they might have anticipated.

A helpful hint from past guests—having a comfy, casual skirt or wrap-around sarong handy makes urinating in the wet sand much more comfortable. You can wear it over your swimsuit during the day and/or rap it around you in the evening. Frequent stops for urination are common and locations are selected to maximize privacy. Don’t hesitate to ask your guide for a “potty stop”. If you are expecting your period during the trip, we suggest that you pack a small amount of toilet tissue, a few Ziploc bags (small and large sizes), a few small paper bags, a small bottle of hand sanitizer and your napkins/tampons into one large Ziploc bag. Each day, pack a day’s supply of tissue, pads/tampons, small Ziplocs and a paper bag in a large zip lock and put this in your day-bag or in one of the watertight boxes that is available during the trip. During the day when you change a napkin/tampon, place the used one in a small Ziploc bag and put that in the paper bag with everything going back into the large zip lock. You can dispose of used products in the garbage set up by the toilet each afternoon. Do NOT put used products in the toilets. Feel free to ask any of your guides for assistance. We carry extra feminine supplies on each trip as well as zip locks and plenty of toilet paper to help restock your kit.

Assumption of Risk

Whitewater rafting is an outdoor activity that requires moderate physical exertion and exposure to the elements. There are risks associated with whitewater rafting and trip-related activities that are impossible to eliminate. While we take all reasonable steps to minimize the risks associated with the activity, it is vitally important for our guests to understand what is required of them and to appreciate and assume the risks of participation. Each participant is required to sign an "Assumption of Risk" prior to departure. **Only parents or legal guardians can sign for minor children.** Please let us know ahead of time if there will be minors on your trip who will **NOT** be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A copy of our "Assumption of Risk" form is included for your review. To read our participation requirements in detail – [CLICK HERE](#) or you may call our office for a copy. Please don't hesitate to call or [email](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

How Strenuous is the Trip

Our Salmon River trips include [oar-assisted paddle rafts, oar rafts and inflatable kayaks](#). In an oar-assisted paddle raft, all participants are expected to assist with paddling. Paddling is intermittent and only moderately strenuous. A few rapids require short bursts of strong paddling. Optional inflatable kayaks require much more upper body strength and endurance. Oar rafts do not require paddling. Preference for riding the oar raft is usually given to folks who have difficulty paddling, require a back-rest or have other limitations. Camping involves sleeping on the ground (we provide pads) and negotiating rocky or uneven ground on hikes and around camp. The only lifting required is what you have packed in your dry bag. Days on the river can be long. Preparing for extended exposure to the elements is vitally important.

Fishing on the Salmon River

During the rafting season, fishing for smallmouth bass can be fun and rewarding. Bass strike from riffles and along the many cliffs. A lightweight rod and spinning reel with a selection of lures, plastic worms and crank baits work well. Please pack fishing rods in unbreakable cases. We'll keep your rod accessible and you will have time to fish in the mornings, at lunch, and in the afternoon once camp is reached. You must have the proper Idaho angling license and know the current regulations. Licenses are available at many locations in Lewiston, ID. More information on licenses and regulations can be found at [Idaho Fish & Game](#).

Raft Types

Oar Rafts, Oar-assisted Paddle Rafts, Inflatable Kayaks

Given the distances to be covered and occasional long stretches of slow water, Paddle Rafts are most often replaced by Oar-Assisted Paddle Rafts on all Salmon River trips. This allows for paddlers, especially children, to concentrate more on relaxing and having fun, and less on constant paddling. [Get a description of our raft types.](#)

Gratuities for Guides

If you have enjoyed your trip and feel that your guides have done an outstanding job, it is customary to thank them with a gratuity. The amount is up to you, but a gratuity of between 15% and 20% of your trip fare is typical for Ouzel guests. The guides share their gratuities and will appreciate any expression of thanks you care to offer.

Area Attractions

This area of western Idaho and north eastern Oregon provides a wide variety of attractions and activities and is a great place to extend your vacation. Here are a few of our favorite attractions. View our [Area Links Page](#) to find more attractions, accommodations, maps and much more!

[Hells Canyon National Recreation Area](#)

This impressive canyon, the deepest in North America, separates the states of Oregon and Idaho. Solitude, wildlife, hiking and scenic viewpoints are the main attractions. Just south of Lewiston.

[Wallowa Lake State Park](#)

Summer home to Chief Joseph's band of the Nez Perce, Wallowa Lake offers boating, fishing, swimming, and picnicking. The Mount Howard Tramway, the steepest of its kind in North America, ascends from the shore of the lake over 4,000 feet, offering spectacular views of the surrounding Eagle Cap Wilderness and the Seven Devil's Range in Idaho. Located near the artist's hamlet of Joseph, famous for its bronze foundry. Two hours south of Lewiston.

[Wolf Education and Research Center](#)

This twenty-acre enclosure is home to a pack of wolves. The visitor center is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day and offers self-guided and guided tours by reservation. Located in nearby Winchester; 40 minutes outside of Lewiston.

[Clearwater Historical Museum](#)

Dedicated to preserving the history of Clearwater County, the museum displays more than 4000 old photographs and artifacts, including items on the history of the Nez Perce Indians and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In Orofino, east of Lewiston on US Hwy 12.

[Idaho Repertory Theatre](#)

Established in 1953, the theatre is one of the longest running professional summer theatres in the Pacific Northwest and a premiere cultural resource for northern Idaho and eastern Washington. In Moscow, north of Lewiston on US Hwy 95.

[Nez Perce National Historical Park](#)

More than 38 separate sites scattered throughout Idaho and Oregon make up the park. An interpretive center near Spalding provides insight into Nez Perce culture.

Suggested Reading List for Salmon River Trips

[Roadside Geology of Idaho](#), David Alt & Donald Hyndman, Mountain Press Publishing, 1989.

[Guide to the Common Plants of Hells Canyon](#), Richard Bingham & Douglas Henderson, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 1978.

[River of No Return](#), Johnny Carrey & Cort Conley, Backeddy Books, 1978.

[Forlorn Hope: The Battle of White Bird Canyon and the Beginning of the Nez Perce War](#), John McDermott, Idaho State Historical Society, 1978.

[I Will Fight No More Forever: Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War](#), Merrill Beal, University of Washington Press, 1963

[Lower Salmon River Boater's Guide – Hammer Creek to Heller Bar](#), USDI Bureau of Land Management, Cottonwood, Idaho, 1995.

More about the Salmon River

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 to the 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.

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.

Section 1 I, the undersigned, as a participant on an Ouzel Holding, Co., Inc. (dba) Ouzel Outfitters (hereafter referred to as "Ouzel") trip, have been informed that Ouzel makes every reasonable effort to safeguard me, my family, and my (our) belongings. However, by reading and signing this document, I acknowledge and appreciate that during the river trip or tour and related activities in which I am participating with Ouzel and its agents, employees or associates, certain risks and dangers exist which are inherent in river running, associated activities and wilderness travel. I acknowledge and appreciate that these risks include but are not limited to loss or damage to personal property, personal injury or fatality to myself, my spouse, family members or friends. **Damage to or loss of property, personal injury or fatality may occur due to** the capsize of a raft, kayak or other water craft; collision of a raft, kayak or other water craft with a vehicle, bridge, other water craft, rock, log, tree, or other object in the river or on shore; falling into or from a raft, kayak or water craft, or falling while hiking or walking on shore on and off established trails and paths; water damage due to leaking bags or other containers; illness caused by waterborne parasites or insect or animal borne bacteria and viruses; exposure to temperature extremes or inclement weather; immersion in cold water and hypothermia (significant loss of body heat); prolonged submersion or entrapment in or under the water due to a rock, tree, water craft, loose equipment, river current or other object in the water; collision while swimming in swift or calm water with a rock, tree, water craft or other manmade or natural object in the water or on shore. Damage to or loss of property, personal injury or fatality may also occur due to vehicle accident while riding in vehicles operated by Ouzel, its agents, employee or associates. I also acknowledge and appreciate that delay of advanced medical care in the event of accident or illness in remote places without medical facilities, physicians or nurses is inherent in the activities in which I am participating with Ouzel. I further acknowledge that emergency electronic communication devices (satellite phones) are **NOT** carried on **Deschutes, McKenzie and North Umpqua River trips.**

In consideration of and as part of payment for the right to participate in Ouzel trips or tours and the services and meals arranged for me by Ouzel and its agents and associates, I certify that I have the necessary skills and ability to participate in this activity, and do voluntarily participate in this river trip and the related activities with knowledge of the dangers and risks involved, as stated above. By my signature below, I accept and assume responsibility for myself or a minor for whom I have legal guardianship, for injury, death and/or loss of or damage to personal property and expenses thereof as a result of my participation in this activity except to the extent such damage or injury may be due to the gross negligence of Ouzel. I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for myself, my property and those for whom I have legal custody and hereby release and discharge Ouzel and its officers, directors, stockholders, employees, representatives, sub contractors and agents from all claims, demands, and rights or causes of action for injuries or damages of any description which may occur as a result of my participation on this Ouzel trip. If I am signing this agreement on behalf of another person, I certify that all representations are true with respect to the participant and that I am the participant's legal guardian with full authority to bind that person to the terms of this agreement.

Section 2. Ouzel and/or its associates and employees act only as agents for the client in making arrangements for trips and/or travel services with common carriers or other outfitters and/or guide services, for vehicle shuttle services, and for carpools among various trip members, and accepts and assumes no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any damages, injuries, fatalities, losses, or delays due to any cause whatsoever, whether to person or property in connection with such services and/or arrangements. Ouzel shall not be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are aboard airlines, trains, buses, vans, or other common carriers or private passenger cars which are not operated by Ouzel and each trip member hereby agrees to release Ouzel from any and all liability in connection therewith.

Participants are strongly advised to have personal medical insurance, along with baggage and camera insurance. It is understood that if emergency evacuation should become necessary, the expenses are the sole responsibility of the participant and not that of Ouzel. Ouzel is not responsible for the safety and security of client vehicles or personal property left in vehicles during the course of any Ouzel trip or related activity. Ouzel reserves the right to accept or decline service to any person.

Section 3. I hereby agree to permit Ouzel employees and other guests to take photographs and make film records of the trip without further recourse or compensation to me. I understand and agree that such photographs and/or film records may be used for commercial and/or promotional purposes.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ ALL SECTIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF EACH. I AM AWARE THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND CONTRACT BETWEEN OUZEL AND/OR ITS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS AND MYSELF. I SIGN OF MY OWN FREE WILL ON MY BEHALF OR ON BEHALF OF PARTICIPATING MINORS FOR WHICH I HAVE LEGAL CUSTODY.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT _____ D.O.B. _____ TRIP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Minor participants should sign here, but parent or legal guardian must sign below.

NAME OF LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNING FOR MINOR LISTED ABOVE _____

SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____