

# Salmon River “Canyons”

## 3 or 4 Day Trip » Wild and Scenic Lower Gorge

3 to 4 day wild and scenic river trip rich in geological wonder, exciting whitewater and beautiful white sand beaches. This 60 mile journey down the Lower Salmon River offers very comfortable water temperatures, 70°+ in July and August that might invite you to enjoy swimming, water fighting and other fun activities. Many prefer to just relax at riverside on the beach or play volleyball with family and friends. The Salmon River is the largest un-dammed river in the lower 48 states giving it an abundance of pristine white sand great for play and overall camp quality and the fewest bugs of any river trip anywhere. The Lower Gorge of the Salmon River geological diversity will amaze as you pass through spectacular landscapes, steep granite walls, and metamorphosed volcanic gorges with columnar basalt formations. Your guides will interpret history of the Nez Perce Indians and the pictographs along the river. You will also visit Chinese pit dwellings from the gold rush of the late 1800's and abandoned homesteads. Fish for Small Mouth Bass that thrive in the warm summer water. Relax and reconnect on this premier river vacation and a true adventure of a lifetime.

## Escape... the Ordinary!

### MRO Wilderness River Trips vs Ordinary Vacations

On a river rafting trip with MRO, you will find absolute Escape from the hectic life around you - FREE of all distractions. Eliminated from your vacation are the constant decisions about what to do next and where to go and what and where to eat. On a river trip you will experience the pinnacle of relaxation as you float on tranquil pools of water under the shadows of diverse canyon walls and stately pine trees, the exhilaration of rolling waves and crashing whitewater, the exploration of seldom seen natural wonders and old west history, the peaceful moments of reflection, the star studded night sky and the feeling of renewal you feel when waking to the sounds of the river and the fresh air of the mountains. A river trip in the wilderness gives you a sense of oneness with yourself, nature and those around you. On a river trip with Mountain River Outfitters you will quickly discover why so many of our guests say “this was the best vacation of their lives”.



#### Mountain River Outfitters

1323 S Main St  
P.O. Box 1459  
Riggins, Idaho 83549

EMAIL: [mtnriveroffice@gmail.com](mailto:mtnriveroffice@gmail.com)

ON-LINE: [www.idahoriver.com](http://www.idahoriver.com)

Toll Free: 888-547-4837

Local: 208-628-3733



## Quick Facts

### Lower Salmon Launch Dates:

Launch dates vary year to year please call for availability.

**Launch Site:** Hammer Creek

**Take Out:** Pittsburgh Landing

**Distance:** 55 miles float 30 miles jet boat tour

### Rates:

#### 3 Day

Adults... \$1195.00

Youth... \$895.00 (7 to 14)

#### 4 Day

Adults... \$1495.00

Youth... \$995.00 (7-14)

**What's included:** With MRO you will only need to find yourself in Riggins the night before your launch date before 8:00 PM Mountain Time for a pre-trip orientation. We provide all transportation to and from Riggins. You will receive your MRO duffel, personal dry bag and large camp bag with sleeping bag and pillow at this pre-trip orientation. You will be transported to the launch site at Hammer Creek 30 miles from Riggins around 9:00 am.

### MRO Exclusive Jet Back:

On the last day after lunch you will get a Jet Boat ride through the lower section of Hells Canyon to Pittsburgh Landing then a short but spectacular hour shuttle out of the canyon and back to Riggins around 5:00pm.

## Pre-Trip Travel Information

There are many travel options to consider in planning your Idaho rafting vacation. Simply give us a call and we'll discuss your options and help arrange everything for you.

### How to get to Riggins, Idaho

Be sure to arrive in Riggins by 8:00 p.m. the evening prior to the trip departure in order to be at the orientation meeting. Most of our guests find it economical to fly into the Boise airport and rent a car and drive to Riggins, Idaho by using Hwy 95 just 3 hours north of Boise.

### Where and When to Meet

An orientation meeting will be held at the Mountain River Outfitters store at 8:00 pm where you will meet MRO's Trip Leader. This orientation meeting is to answer last-minute questions and where you will also receive your waterproof gear bags.

### Transportation/Shuttle

We include all transportation to and from the river.

### More Adventures Available

If you are looking at a multi-sport package with Jet Boat fishing or charter, drift boat fishing, horseback riding or other activities and would like additional nights at the motel our staff we will be glad to assist you with these additional arrangements.



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**Itinerary & Travel Information**

**Day 1** - An orientation at the river's edge on safety will take place while your personal gear is loaded to boats. After a few miles of fun roller coaster style rapids a tasty lunch stop on a sandy beach will help you take in "Green Canyon" the 1st of 5 canyons. At camp splash with the kids, build a real sand castle, play a game or chat with the other adults as the kids are entertained by one of the guides. Enjoy a tasty appetizer about an hour before the main dinner course is served.

**Day 2 or 3** -Our morning spread will be out at 6:30am that will include coffee, tea, coco and all your favorite fix-ins, breakfast is served around 8:00am. Pack up your personal gear while the guides make the kitchen disappear back in the boat. Enjoy a leisurely morning at camp, playing with the kids, going fishing or soaking up a book from our river library. At about 10:00am, the boats depart for a day of family fun on the river. Learn about more historical sites, the geography of the river and watch your kids faces as they ride the rapids of "Cougar Canyon". A campfire after dinner and an astronomy lesson are the perfect bedtime rituals to create the family time for which this trip is known.

**Day 3 or 4** -"Snowhole Canyon" is filled with lofty waves and rapids with names like "Lorna's Lulu, Bunghole, the Gobbler, and Bodacious Bounce. The memories made on this day are filled with rapids that will last a lifetime. Add to this the Offsprey and Eagles soaring overhead and the rustic cabins of early settlers and you've just realized you have escaped the ordinary and entered the extraordinary only mother nature can bring. At camp you'll see familiar games on the beach like horseshoes, volleyball, boccee ball and Frisbee but we also have a few MRO river games your sure to love. You may swim a gentle rapid with the kids just before you enter "Blue Canyon" where indigo colored igneous rock creates a majestic appearance and large rapids. The pace of the river picks up as it enters the Devil's Slide, Sluice Box and Eye of the Needle rapids. The Salmon "River of No Return" you're family has loved joins with the mightier flow of the Snake River at the lower end of Hell's Canyon the last of 5. Riding on twice the flow, there are some big waves on the Snake River, Oregon and Idaho share the Snake River as a boundary line between the two states. A final big lunch is shared, along with group photos. All of MRO Lower "Canyons" River Trips include Jet Back through Hells Canyon to Pittsburgh landing where your just an hour back to Rig-gins. The jet back gives you much more time to relax and enjoy the Salmon River eliminating the unpopular last 20 miles on the Snake River to Heller Bar.

\*Note: This itinerary is provided as a sample. Daily activities and sights



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## Camping with MRO

The truth is that you don't have to rough it to be able to enjoy the beauty and excitement of Idaho's wild and scenic rivers. Let our professional guides pamper you and your family while enjoying the serenity of the canyon and the thrill of the whitewater. All you need to worry about is packing your personal items in a soft sided duffel bag and we will do the rest.

» **Camp Equipment** - Our tents are top-of-the-line roomy 3-person models (one for each couple). Each tent includes an additional rain fly and vestibule for the occasional mountain shower. Each guest receives a complete sleeping package which includes sleeping bag with freshly laundered liner and small pillow, a deluxe 3" (Paco) sleeping pad is also included.

» **Good Food** - Careful planning and attention to detail allows us a wide variety of menu selections, all of which are unanimous favorites. You'll find our camp cuisine contains a healthy balance of fresh meats, fish and poultry, as well as fresh fruits, vegetables and bread. In addition, each evening meal is preceded by scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, capped off with a dutch oven dessert. Wine is provided for dinner only (2 glasses per adult) accompany these gourmet delights. We offer a flexible menu that varies to reflect our guests' preferences and dietary requirements.

» **Riverside dining** - Our river kitchen has been custom-designed for the preparation of gourmet meals that rival their city counterparts. Dining tables and chairs will be ready to make your meals an unforgettable and comfortable dining experience.

» **Wilderness restroom and shower facilities** - Both rivers offer different challenges, many years of guiding on these rivers has led us to our own system. The MRO custom wilderness restroom and shower system with privacy and view a priority. Our mission is providing our guests with the maximum degree of comfort and privacy, while still preserving some of the most pristine wilderness found in the lower 48 states.

» **Fun and Games** - Don't forget there is much more to do than just swimming and relaxing when we get to camp. Beach games like frisbee, bocce, washers, cards along with other river games. We also provide a library of books on river lore and history.



Testimonial:

*Thanks so much for a great trip. We enjoyed the scenery, the water, the guides, the gear and swamper guy's and our fellow vacationers. We appreciate all the time you put into the details of the food, comforts and service. We really appreciate all your hard work.*

*Thanks Again,  
The Noels Family*



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**LOWER SALMON RIVER "CANYONS" » 3 OR 4 DAY TRIP****MRO River Craft**

» **Supply Raft** - The use of our gear boats allows us to bring a higher level of overall trip quality to our clients. Because of our system you will have more river time that includes extra stops for hiking, history, fun and games. We have chosen the best rafts available where safety, durability and fun are all at the highest levels available.

Our custom-designed gear boats carry the river kitchen, all the guest camp bags, ice chests, and other camp gear. This allows our guest boats to stay open and free of clutter for a much better ride and a more spacious feeling. Each morning the supply boat is loaded with camp gear, and one of the guides takes the boat to our next camp. The supply boat arrives well ahead of the guests. Upon your arrival at camp each day, you'll find the site completely set up, even your tent will be up, sleeping pad inflated and hot or cold drinks will be waiting. What a life!



Testimonial:

*We were very impressed with the overall experience. Your guides were tireless in their desire to please their clients. The food and riverside accommodations were excellent. Very nice operation.*

*Thanks again,  
Greg Bahny*



» **Oar Raft** - Our most popular and versatile client boat for several reasons. These 16 foot "self bailing" rafts offer great comfort and plenty of excitement. Your guide can navigate this boat without the help of a paddle crew, however 2 or 4 paddlers are usually appreciated when smashing through the larger rapids. This raft is usually a 4 to 6 person craft. The oar raft offers more options when on the water for fishing, relaxing and moving from one craft to another. You will feel free to jump from the SUP boards or inflatable kayak when you feel a need for more excitement.

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**LOWER SALMON RIVER "CANYONS" » 3 OR 4 DAY TRIP**

**Stern Mount Paddle Raft** - A great way to get the most out of every wave on the river. Be part of the crew and grab a paddle to help maneuver our sporty 15 foot rafts. Your guide will instruct you on how and when to paddle as they sit on the rear of the raft with oars that give them plenty of control as you propel the boat through the crashing waves.

**Inflatable Kayak** - Also referred to as a "duckie", these 1 or 2 person kayaks let you challenge the river on your own. Enjoy the solitude of floating alone, many guests enjoy reclining between rapids and gazing at the spectacular scenery. Don't worry if you have not had kayaking experience our guides will assist you on what to do and give you basic paddle skills needed to adventure behind one of the guided boats through the white-water. Inflatable kayaks are available for everyone on all of our trips so you can take turns enjoying the ride. We recommend you request a kayak for yourself or family if this is your preferred craft for your adventure.

**SUP Board** - Stand Up Paddle Boards are becoming everyone's favorite. MRO has been providing our guests this great new option for several years, our guides will help you learn how to paddle around in the calm water around camp or show you how to navigate small to medium sized rapids with ease. These are also great for fishing around camp or just relaxing on as you admire the setting sun.



Testimonial:

*We had a blast!! Never laughed so hard. Ryan, our guide was so much fun and just a delight! He was skillful in getting into the biggest white water but safely as well. Fun Fun!*

*Annette Pumphery*



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**LOWER SALMON RIVER "CANYONS" » 3 OR 4 DAY TRIP****General Information**

**Cancellation Policy** Mountain River Outfitters is under federal management plans that limit trip size of 23 guests on the Salmon River. Because of limited number of seats available along with the seasonal nature, staff commitments, resource planning and pre purchasing of supplies involved, we adhere strictly to the following reservation, cancellation policy.

**RESERVATIONS** To reserve your seat, a 50% deposit is required. All Deposits are NON Refundable.

**FINAL PAYMENT** Your final payment is due 60 days prior to trip launch date for all overnight trips. . Guests can have their final payments automatically charged to their credit card on file or a check prior to the due date.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS** Deposits and final payments are non refundable. However, Mountain River Outfitters does provide for the transfer of payments to an alternate guest, provided we receive notice within 21 days before trip date.

**TRIP INSURANCE** We recommend TravelX Tour Protection Insurance that includes Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance, and Accident and Health Insurance. A policy will protect guests financially if your trip is cancelled, interrupted or delayed due to sickness, injury or health, financial default of airlines, weather conditions or acts of terrorism.  
(Restrictions Apply)

**When is the best time to go rafting?**

On all Mountain River Outfitters trips, no matter what time of year, gives you the option to kick back and relax while a guide takes care of the rest. The wilderness is always keeping us on our toes, so no matter when you come be ready for anything.

Spring time rafting May through June has it's wildflowers and higher water flows for exciting whitewater and more time for hiking. Although temperatures during the day are warm the nights can be chilly and the water temperatures cool. MRO provides wetsuits and splash gear for all during cooler weather trips. Most of our river trips are uncrowded wilderness areas but these early trips are usually smaller groups and less busy overall.

July and August are the most predictable with hot sunny days with little humidity or bugs. The whitewater is good and the water temperatures are warm. On the Salmon River the beaches get bigger as the water flows fall.

September is uncrowded and offers some of the mildest weather, although water temps can start to fall and the nights will be a bit cooler. Lower water flows usually make for better fishing and a slower paced trip.

**Tipping**

One of the most commonly asked questions is about tipping. While tipping is not required, it is customary if you feel your guides have worked hard and provided you with a wonderful experience. Any amount is certainly appreciated, and a gratuity of 10 to 20% is customary for all multi-day trips. 1/2 and Full Day gratuities range from \$20.00 to \$100.00+ per guide. For multi-day trips on which a crew of several guides have worked, your gratuity can be given to any of the guides and they will pool and share all tips equally.

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**LOWER SALMON RIVER "CANYONS" » 3 OR 4 DAY TRIP****What MRO Provides and What to Pack**

All guests are provided a small personal dry bag for all day use on the boats along with a large 16" x 34" waterproof camp bag that will be transported and waiting for you at camp. Your camp bag will have your sleeping bag and pillow already inside, please limit your items to 40 lbs. and must fit into this bag. If an additional dry bag is needed please let us know.

**MOUNTAIN RIVER OUTFITTERS PROVIDES**

- Roomy all-weather tent
- 20° sleeping bag with freshly laundered liner
- Deluxe self inflating 4" sleeping pad
- Sleeping pillow
- Clean type V life jacket
- Dining tables and chairs
- Advanced wilderness first aid kits
- Plenty of ice for your beverages
- All rafting equipment, kitchen and food

**YOU SHOULD BRING**

**T-shirts** - Cotton is great for around camp or on the boats on hot days during the warmer months of July and August. Polyester or synthetic materials like Under Armor are much better for colder weather because they are fast drying and wick moisture away from the body to keep you warm. They will protect you from the sun and the cold. We recommend synthetic shirt for every 2 or 3 days and the same for cotton t-shirts around camp.

**Nylon Shorts** - Nylon or similar quick dry materials are lightweight, comfortable and pack easily. More than any other piece of clothing, you will wear your shorts the most. Two or three pairs are a good idea.

**Swimsuits** - The summer temperatures on the river will range from 75° to 100° during the day. A swimsuit will come in handy for a quick dip, for tanning, or for soaking in the river.

**Raingear** - Good raingear is mandatory. We experience isolated mountain showers throughout the season especially May and June. Your raingear should have jacket with hood and pants. If the temperatures drop your raingear can be worn over fleece or sweatshirt to keep you comfortable.

**Fleece jackets and pants** - They designed polar fleece with rafting in mind. This fabric dries quickly and stays warm when wet. Layering your clothing (swimsuit, shorts, t-shirt, fleece or fleece lined lightweight clothing and raingear) you are assured of complete comfort no matter what mother nature brings. Substitute wool sweater if you prefer.

**Shoes** - You will need two pairs of shoes - a pair that can get wet and another to stay dry for around camp or hiking. On the raft your feet will be wet most of the day. Either canvas tennis shoe, river sandals with secure heel, or neoprene river booties with soles work best. At camp a dry pair of tennis shoes are perfect, hiking boots are usually not necessary and can be difficult to pack unless very lightweight.

**Sun Screen** - The sun will be out during most of the summer months, a waterproof sunscreen is a must with a minimum SPF rating of 15 is encouraged. You will be getting splashed and will be staying cool on the water but the reflective sun off the water and all day exposure requires you to protect yourself.

**Wetsocks** - Water temperatures in May and June can be chilly (50 to 60 degrees) if your feet have a tendency to get cold neoprene wetsocks are a good idea.

**Towel** - You will need a towel for showering and to wash up around camp. You will not need it on the raft we encourage everyone to put it in there camp bag.

**Flashlight** - A small lightweight flashlight is good to have for night walks to the facilities or getting ready for bed.

**Hats** - Beanies are good for May and June, a baseball cap or large billed hat is **essential** for those sunny summer days on the raft.

**Water Bottle** - We will give you a river mug for beverages we serve at camp. A large water bottle with secure lid is needed for on the raft or hiking. We will have cold water to refill on the rafts and at camp.

**Sunglasses** - Expensive sunglasses are great but have a tendency to go to the bottom of the river unless used with a good retainer. A cheap pair for the raft is a good idea.

**Toiletry Items** - Feel free to bring your favorite products and soap you use at home. Our guides will instruct you on where to use them so not to pollute the pristine waters. Pack them in a zip lock bag to protect leakage into your camp bag. We will have biodegradable hand soap available and a MRO wishy washy hand wash system for use on the river.

**Fishing Gear & Tackle** - Fishing equipment is provided upon request, our gear is to be shared between all the guests. We encourage those avid fishermen to bring their favorite rod and reel for Small Mouth Bass and Trout fishing. Our guides will help maintain equipment and give instruction on what to use and where. All sturgeon gear is provided. (License Required)

**Camera** - You will want to capture your adventure, you may keep your camera in you dry bag on the raft. A zip lock bag for added security is recommended. Expensive SLR's and video equipment should be in a waterproof hard case (pelican case).

Cash is a good idea to have for fishing licenses, misc. snacks or beverages purchased on the way to the river.

Mountain River Outfitters prides itself on our outstanding crew. If you feel the service they provide has been outstanding, you may want to leave a gratuity. The standard gratuity is 10 to 15% of trip price and can be left in cash with your guide or a personal check or credit card with our office.

We have a small retail store in Riggins with t-shirts and most specialty rafting gear you may need, this can be purchased last minute or pre purchased over the phone.

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