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Salmon near Riggins

Three-Day Whitewater Trips June 15, 22; July 1; August 31 & By Request

The Salmon River is the longest river in the contiguous United States that is completely without dams. The upper reaches of the river flow through the largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states. ROW offers trips on three different sections. One of these, near the headwaters, is the [Middle Fork of the Salmon](#), which is a six-day, 100-mile alpine river trip that starts in the Sawtooth Mountains and flows through the heart of the River of No Return Wilderness. Another is the [Salmon River Canyons](#) - the last 53 miles of the Salmon before it joins the mighty Snake River on its way to the Columbia. This is where we run our five-day [Family Magic™](#) trips as well as other four or five-day trips. Both these trips are described on separate information sheets. The third section we float is the **Salmon near Riggins**. We offer this trip in late June and early July when the water levels are usually too high for us to run trips on the Salmon River Canyons. This trip is an excellent value and a great introduction to whitewater rafting where both beginners and veteran rafters will find plenty of excitement.

In 2016 this special three-day trip is offered on several dates from June through August. If one of the above dates does not work for your group, please call us to discuss your options. This is a great getaway for those who only have a few days to escape. We start our float about 25 miles above the town of Riggins, known locally as the “*Whitewater Capital of the Universe*,” and continue our journey continues for roughly 33 miles. The first two days of our trip down the river follow along a dirt road used primarily by floaters accessing the river. Highlights of these days include a hike to a mountain hot spring, plenty of rambunctious whitewater rapids, and stunning mountain scenery. Once we pass the town of Riggins on our third and final day, the river follows Highway 95. The rapids keep you focused on the nature around you so you won't notice the road too much.

Whitewater: Lake Creek, Ruby, Time Zone, Lightning Creek and Trap Creek are just a few of the exciting rapids you'll run into that range from class II to IV. They're lots of fun, and perfect for paddle rafts and inflatable kayaks (affectionately called 'Daring Duckies'). These rapids are known as "pool and drop" because after each rapid there's a quiet pool. Between the rapids you may float alongside the raft in the warm waters, take a few pictures or just soak in the scenery.

In addition to paddle rafts and Daring Duckies, we always have oar-powered rafts along to provide a place for people when they don't want to be as active as the paddle raft or Daring Duckie require. On trips with more than 13 guests we send our large cargo boat ahead to set up camp. Otherwise, each of the oar rafts carries some of the camping gear and food and we travel on the river together as one group.

Weather: In early July, weather should be hot and sunny (80-90 degrees during the day) with water temperatures in the low to mid-60s. We camp on beautiful and expansive white sand beaches that are perfect for Frisbee, volleyball and sunbathing. Evening temperatures are mild (60-70 degrees) and there are no mosquitoes. The exact flows and water temperatures depend entirely on what sort of winter snowpack we have in the mountains, and so these approximations are subject to change.

Natural and Cultural History: As we travel on the river, our guides will tell you about the history of the Salmon River - the native peoples that lived along its banks, the white men that settled here, and the first settlers to brave the rapids. There are a number of old mining sites worked by the Chinese from about 1850 to 1890 that

border the river as well. You'll learn about their culture as well as marvel at their rock houses that remain today as the best-preserved example of Chinese rock dwellings anywhere in the world outside of China. Through hikes, stories, and examination we hope you'll gain an appreciation of these historic treasures.

Meeting Point: These trips meet in the town of Riggins located on the banks of the Salmon River in west central Idaho. Riggins is easily reached by car traveling north or south on US Highway 95. The nearest commercial airports are: Lewiston (two hours); Spokane (four hours); and Boise (four hours). If you are flying into one of these airports, you will need to rent a car to get to Riggins.

We recommend that you stay at either the Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodge (877-957-2743) or the River View Motel (888-256-2322). Both hotels have storage facilities for your luggage while you are on the river and cars may be left in their parking lots.

We meet you at 7:30 PM Mountain Time the evening before your trip at the Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodge. Here we have an orientation meeting to tell you more about the trip, answer your last minute questions, and give you waterproof bags to pack. We'll have some of our specialty outdoor items for sale such as ROW hats, eyeglass retainers, and T-shirts.

Early the next morning (around 8:00 am) we leave the motel in the ROW bus and drive about one hour to the put-in. Please have breakfast on your own before we leave. On the last day of the trip, we'll return you to Riggins by about 3:30 pm. Unlike our schedules for longer trips, we do not plan on a farewell dinner together after the trip.

Nearby Places of Interest: Locally you might enjoy visiting the Rapid River fish hatchery, taking a backpack trip in the Seven Devils Mountains, or visiting the Wolf Education and Research Center near the town of Winchester about one and a half hours north of Riggins (www.wolfcenter.org). A little over an hour to the north of Riggins is the fascinating museum of St. Gertrude's, which lies just outside of Cottonwood, Idaho. About two hours north of Riggins and 12 miles east of Lewiston is the Nez Perce National Historic Park (208-843-2261) where there is an excellent museum of Nez Perce tribal history and artifacts. Roughly four hours north of Riggins is the resort town of Coeur d'Alene and Lake Coeur d'Alene. Or if you are driving from the south, you might want to spend a day in the resort town of McCall, which lies only about one hour south of Riggins.

Last Minute Phone Numbers: If you need to reach ROW at the last minute, try our office first at 800-451-6034. If there's no answer, call our summer warehouse in Clarkston at 509-758-5585.

Gratuities: Here are some helpful guidelines on tipping. Your guide is a paid professional. Tips are appropriate and accepted only if we exceeded your expectations. Whether you tip and how much you tip should depend on your satisfaction with the trip, your feelings about tipping, and your financial means. If you believe your guide deserves a tip, a suggested range is from 7-12% of your trip cost. If you had the time of your life, then the sky is the limit! We also appreciate your comments. We use your feedback to recognize extraordinary guest service and to discover areas where we can make improvements. Our goal is to exceed your expectations! (P.S. Please let us know if you found these guidelines appropriate or helpful.) Tips can be given to the ROW "Team Leader," who will distribute it equally among the crew.