

SNAKE RIVER

HELL'S CANYON RAFTING



FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS ROW Adventures has been running the best Snake River in Hells Canyon rafting trips available. We know you have a lot of options when choosing a Snake River outfitter and we are happy you are considering us. Our service, guides, equipment and meals are unparalleled. We share our knowledge of the canyon's natural and cultural history to create a more meaningful and memorable trip. Our amazing guides are friendly, fun to be with and provide you with unparalleled service and a "can do" attitude. We lead you to many sights in Hells Canyon, taking you to see Indian rock art, pioneer homesteads and on amazing hikes.

DURATION: 5 days; 82 miles

INTENSITY: Intermediate; Class II-IV Rapids

SEASON: May-September

MINIMUM AGE: 7 (10 at high water)

BEGINS: Cambridge, Idaho **ENDS:** Lewiston, Idaho

AIRPORTS :Begin: Boise, ID; End: Lewiston, ID

RECOMMENDED HOTELS: Frontier Motel, Cambridge, Idaho & Hells Canyon Grand Hotel, Lewiston, Idaho

RETURN TIME: 5:00 PM MST Lewiston, Idaho

BOAT TYPE: Paddle raft, Oar raft, Inflatable kayak



THE DEEPEST RIVER GORGE IN NORTH AMERICA,

straddling the borders of Idaho and Oregon, Hells Canyon is a place of grandeur. According to Nez Perce Indian legend, the mythical figure “coyote” dug Hells Canyon with a big stick to protect the Indians’ ancestors in Oregon’s Blue Mountains from the “Seven Devils” across the gorge in Idaho. Our Snake River rafting adventures through Hells Canyon are journeys through a land rich in myth and geologic wonder.

Running from south to north, the Snake River in Hells Canyon cuts through some of the most rugged, spectacular landscape on earth. Where boulders and rockslides have rolled into the river, we find the biggest whitewater rafting rapids in the Pacific Northwest. High-crested waves and paddle-swallowing holes drench us in excitement. Between the rapids on the Snake River, there’s plenty of time to kick back and marvel at the snow-capped peaks over a mile above us. Below them are mountains of golden grass and pine forests. Attempting to grasp the scale of it all, our thoughts may be interrupted by a soaring eagle, ambling bear or wild mountain goat. A lot of folks come to raft the Snake River because of the bountiful fishing for small mouth bass, trout and North America’s largest freshwater fish, the white sturgeon. Others come to learn more about the pioneers who homesteaded here and to see the well-preserved Indian rock art. Most everyone enjoys swimming in the near 70-degree water!

ROW offers 5 day trips on the Snake River through Hells Canyon. When you go to Hells Canyon with ROW Adventures on a trip with 13 or more guests we send a cargo boat ahead to set up a comfortable wilderness camp. Instead of spending time setting up your own tent, you can be hiking, fishing, or otherwise relaxing. Our meals are superlative, made with the finest fresh ingredients and prepared by our talented staff.

Our Snake River trips begin at Hells Canyon Dam, 70 miles northwest of Cambridge, Idaho. Once we begin floating through the immense wilderness, which surrounds the river canyon, there are only two places where roads reach the river. The first is Pittsburg Landing. This point is 34 miles downstream (north) from the Hells Canyon Dam. The second access point is at Heller Bar, 48 miles further downstream from Pittsburg Landing. This is our take-out point for all 5 day trips.

The first 34 miles of the river (Hells Canyon Dam to Pittsburg Landing) have numerous rapids, including the two biggest - Wild Sheep and Granite Creek. In terms of sheer water volume and excitement, these two rapids compare to the big rapids on the Colorado in the Grand Canyon. On either side of the river are impressive mountain ranges that are both within designated wilderness areas. On the Idaho side are the Seven Devils and on the Oregon side, the Wallowas. At some locations on the trip, you can look up to points that are 7900 feet in elevation, over a mile above the river.

5 day trips continue beyond Pittsburg Landing into more fantastic canyon scenery, which many people think is the most spectacular of the entire trip. The great expanses of the West are apparent and each day brings a different look and feel. This section also has plenty of fun rapids with big waves and lots of punch. Many of these are especially well suited for those who want to use our inflatable kayaks (Duckies). One of the very special places we pass is the point where the Salmon River joins the Snake. These are the two largest rivers in Idaho, and it’s a magical confluence.

Join us on a 5-day trip through Hells Canyon, which for many travelers, affectionally becomes Heaven’s Canyon!



ITINERARY

WHY GO WITH ROW?

- ROW is an award-winning outfitter with over 40 years of experience.
- Along with outstanding rafting, ROW trip itineraries also include historical sites, points of interest and more!
- ROW guides are “people-friendly” and enjoy meals, conversations with guests.
- Emergency satellite telephones are carried on all trips.
- Luxury-style camping with tents, sleeping bags and sleeping pads provided.
- Complimentary beer, wine, coffee, juice and sodas provided (in moderate quantities).

DAY 0

ARRIVE IN CAMBRIDGE *Activities: Orientation meeting, Dinner on Your Own*

Travel from your home to Cambridge, Idaho and meet ROW's Team Leader at the Frontier Motel in the evening for a one-hour orientation meeting to answer last-minute questions. You'll also receive your waterproof gear bags. Dinner on your own.

DAY 1

WILD SHEEP & GRANITE *Activities: Safety orientation, Rafting, river camping*

Meet your lead guide early in the morning for the two-hour bus ride to the launch point for your Hells Canyon rafting trip on the Snake River. We'll provide quick breakfast foods to take on the go. Our launch point is at the base of Hells Canyon Dam, approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Before launching rafts the ROW staff prepares you with a thorough safety briefing while personal gear is loaded. The briefing covers how to ride in a raft, how to paddle, how to swim through rapids and other tips for the days ahead. Once this is complete everyone chooses a raft and climbs aboard. The Snake River has “pool and drop” characteristics. This means there's a long pool of calm water followed by a rapid. Not long after launching we run several splashy rapids that give a fun, roller coaster ride and taste of what's to come.

When we stop for lunch, some guides prepare the meal while others give a “camp orientation” to explain how we minimize our impact on the river. ROW adheres to “Leave No Trace” camping ethics, so you'll learn where to wash up, how the toilet system works, where to brush your teeth, place trash, etc. Then it's time to make a sandwich and enjoy the open-air dining experience. We usually run two big class IV rapids the first day – Wild Sheep and Granite. These impressive rapids never fail to get a guide's heart pumping. This is also a great day for fishing. The water is a bit cooler at this elevation and fishing for trout in the tail waters of the rapids is almost always successful. Around 4:00pm we arrive at camp with plenty of free time for hiking, fishing, reading or just relaxing. Hors d'oeuvres are served around an hour or two before dinner. The evening sky darkens and the first shimmering stars appear, inviting contemplation on the day and conversation with friends, new and old.





DAY 2

SALT CREEK *Activities: Rafting, Rock Art Sites*

Wake up to the smell of fresh-brewed coffee and tea. Breakfast is served around shortly after coffee at sunrise, and while we clean up the kitchen, you pack up your personal gear. We depart camp after everyone's packed and had breakfast for today's Hells Canyon rafting adventure. Plenty of rapids, sun and dramatic scenery treat you and we'll explore a homesteader's cabin, root cellar and farm implements.

You'll get a good sense of what pioneer life would have been like 100 years ago. After more Snake River whitewater rafting, the river mellows and we have time to jump in and float along with our rafts. The mountains tower above and you relax in the warm sun. There are over 100 Native American rock art sites along the Snake River in Hells Canyon and during the trip we'll stop to investigate a few. Hells Canyon is unique because we find both pictographs (rock paintings) and petroglyphs (rock carvings) left by the different tribes that traveled the canyon. Camp tonight is somewhere in the Salt Creek area. After dinner another peaceful evening awaits.

DAY 3

KIRKWOOD HISTORIC RANCH; PITTSBURG LANDING

Activities: Hiking, Rafting



Today we'll hike along the trail at "Suicide Point." This incredible view offers sweeping panoramas some 300' above your Snake River rafting trip. After the hike we float to our next stop at Kirkwood Historic Ranch, a historic sheep ranch. We visit the sheering shed, blacksmith shop and homesteader cabins. Before the creation of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area thousands of sheep grazed in the surrounding mountains. Soon the canyon opens up and we crash through some big wave rapids. When we arrive at Pittsburg Landing, we take a short hike to see one of the richest collections of Indian petroglyphs on the Snake. After Pittsburg Landing the river narrows and the area's beauty intensifies. At camp this evening our guides may set up horseshoes or guide a hike. We'll refuel with a nutritious meal and the night sky and fresh mountain air will help you sleep like a baby.

DAY 4

CHINA CREEK *Activities: Hiking, Rafting*

Today's spectacular scenery and Hells Canyon whitewater is complemented by short history lessons. We'll see the ford used by Chief Joseph and the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce Indians during the famous 1877 exodus from their homeland. At China Creek we learn about the massacre of Chinese miners who were thought to have had a large cache of gold. The human drama in Hells Canyon rafting trips is as intriguing as the many natural wonders we discover, like the fascinating wildlife, plant life and geology. It's been another full day of river rafting fun and discovery. Tonight we camp on a large, white sand beach. We'll have time for playing on the beach, sunbathing and another evening of laughter and camaraderie under Idaho's star-studded sky.

DAY 5

EUREKA BAR, SALMON/SNAKE RIVER CONFLUENCE, DEPARTURE ACTIVITIES

Activities: *Hiking, Rafting,*

We continue to float and marvel at the dramatic scenery. By now you'll be completely adjusted to "river time" as you welcome a new day of adventure. There are some big waves and big rides on this section of the Snake River and also some long stretches of flat water. Depending on the river flow we may join the rafts together and use a small, quiet outboard motor to cover some of today's river miles. As we travel downstream we'll see the original Nez Perce trail descending down the canyon to a ford used for centuries by the Nez Perce as they traveled east from the Wallowa Mountains (in today's northeast corner of Oregon). Between the white water rapids, look for golden eagles soaring overhead. Learn about the copper mines at Eureka Bar and the era of steamboats that traveled along the Snake. In the afternoon we'll pass the river's confluence with the legendary Salmon "River of No Return." The Salmon, where we run our Salmon River rafting trips, ends its journey and mingles with the waters of the mighty Snake in a powerful joining of forces. We now float on double the volume of water as compared to just the Snake River alone. We stop for another fine lunch on a sandy beach then dawn big smiles for a group photo. After a few more miles of magnificent scenery we reach our take-out spot below the Snake River's confluence with the Grande Ronde River. Gear is untied and everyone carries their personal gear to the waiting bus. It's a quick 45- minute ride back to the town of Lewiston, Idaho. Enjoy a hot shower, change clothes and then find dinner and settle in for the evening on your own. Next Morning Departure: If you drove to Cambridge and had your car shuttled north it will be waiting for you at the hotel. If you're flying there's a free shuttle from the hotel to the Lewiston airport. Or you can take a taxi two hours north to the Spokane airport.





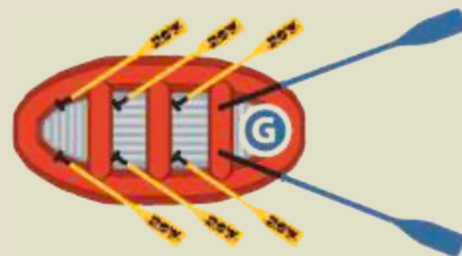
Snake River Quick Facts

- Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in all of North America.
- The Snake River spans 1,078 miles across Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.
- The Snake River is home to North America's largest freshwater fish: the white sturgeon.
- Through pictographs and petroglyphs, the Snake River shows signs of possible human occupation from 7,000-15,000 years ago.
- No roads cross the Snake River through Hells Canyon.
- The Snake River has been carving Hells Canyon for six million years.
- Hells Canyon is home to peregrine falcons, bald eagles, big horn sheep, black bears, mountain goats, mountain lions, and more.

WATER CRAFT

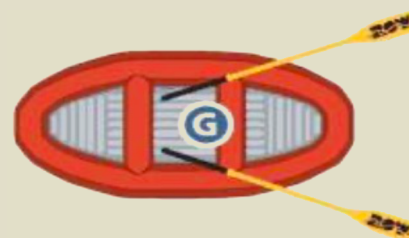
PADDLE RAFT OR STERN MOUNT

Teamwork and fun are key elements of paddle rafting! With paddle in hand, your guide helps you navigate the rapids. To maximize the fun ROW uses the smallest possible paddle rafts for each river and water condition. These rafts are 12-16 feet and carry from five to seven passengers plus a guide. Usually the guide also uses a paddle, but we sometimes add two oars in the back for additional strength and maneuverability. This hybrid raft is known as a stern mount.



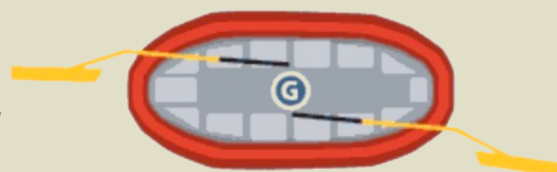
OAR RAFT

The perfect place to kick back, take pictures and enjoy the scenery. Rowed by a skilled guide using wooden oars, these 16-18 foot rafts have lots of room. Custom-made aluminum boxes carry our kitchen and dry goods. Huge coolers packed with ice carry fresh food and cold beverages. The padded passenger seat across the front doubles as a kitchen table at camp.



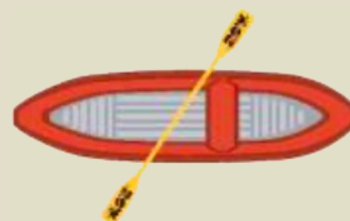
SWEEP/CARGO RAFT

On trips larger than 13 guests ROW runs a sweep or cargo raft. This boat and guide arrive early in camp and set up the kitchen as well as the spacious tents that ROW provides. When the rest of the group arrives all you have to do is carry your personal gear to the tent of your choice and roll out your sleeping bag.



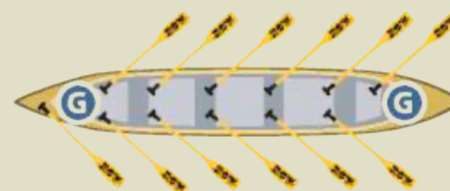
INFLATABLE KAYAK

ROW Adventure's inflatable kayaks are 11-13 feet long and carry one or two people. Even with no prior experience, these stable craft allow you to enjoy the thrill of the river kayaking within minutes of putting on your flotation device and helmet. On appropriate rivers, you can reserve one for exclusive use, or share with others on the trip.



VOYAGEUR CANOE

On the Missouri River ROW runs 34' canoes that replicate those early fur traders used. Carrying 10-16 paddlers, these stable and maneuverable canoes create the perfect platform to gaze upon the passing scenery and tell stories of the river. Smaller 17' canoes are also available.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

RAPID CLASSIFICATION

Class I - Fast-moving water with small waves and few obstacles.

Class II - Gentle rapids that can be negotiated with ease. May feature rocks and waves of medium height.

Class III - Moderate waves through possible narrow passages requiring complex maneuvers. These rapids can offer strong eddies and powerful currents.

Class IV - Powerful rapids, with tight passages and turbulent water that requires precise maneuvering. Large waves are often encountered, along with other hazards that require a skilled guide.

Class V - Turbulent, strong, and violent water with large drops and chutes.

PACKING LIST AND MORE!



Scan the QR code above to see our recommended packing list, weather conditions, travel trips, and more important trip details!

CONTACT US

(208) 765-0841
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INCLUDED

Services of our Adventure Consultants and Professional Guides

All meals/beverages as indicated in the itinerary

All rafting/camping gear including dry bags

Clean drinking water available at all times

Transportation to/from river meeting points

NOT INCLUDED

Pre & post hotel reservations

Airfare/transportation to beginning & end points

Gratuities for guides

Items of personal nature



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