



MIDDLE FORK RIVER EXPEDITIONS

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER- IDAHO

The Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho is the premier wilderness rafting trip in the US. It flows 100 miles of Wild and Scenic free-flowing river through the largest wilderness area in the US. The canyon is the second deepest in North America. The Middle Fork of the Salmon is unspoiled, remote and roadless so you can be sure you will “get away from it all”. Simply put, it is the best river run in the West!

Middle Fork River Expeditions, licensed and bonded outfitter, has run safe and well-managed river trips on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho for over 20 years. Trips are 5 or 6 days of exciting river rafting, wilderness camping, fine fishing, and adventure travel. Our equipment is specially designed for wilderness whitewater rafting, and offers mild and wild boat choices (oar boats, paddle boats and inflatable kayaks). Our river guides are seasoned professionals, licensed by the state of Idaho and First Aid Certified. They are expert river runners, magnificent cooks, great storytellers, and knowledgeable, helpful outdoorsmen. Join Middle Fork River Expeditions for a magical wilderness river vacation.

ITINERARY

☞ Please *arrive in Stanley, Idaho the night before the trip begins*. Stanley is a 45-minute flight or 2 1/2 hour drive from Boise. We have a pre-trip orientation at the Mountain Village Lodge at 7:30pm the evening before the trip. We will get acquainted, answer questions, and have a short orientation to show you how to pack the waterproof gear bags we provide for your personal gear. Please note lodging in Stanley is on your own.

DAYS 1 ~ 3

Upon launching our rafts at Boundary Creek, 6000 feet above sea level, you'll enter an enchanted forest of fir and spruce that scents the high mountain air. Sparkling clear waters careen through boulder-choked rapids with names that guides speak with reverence such as Velvet Falls, Pistol Creek and Tappan Falls. Stops at mountain hot springs and pioneer homesteads provide the perfect balance to the on-river

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excitement. Evenings find us relaxing by the campfire, playing horseshoes and listening to the river and watching for shooting stars!

B,L,D...camping in paradise!

DAYS 4 ~ 5

As we drop in elevation, the river widens and the spruce forest opens to vistas of pine-studded mountains and we enter Impassible Canyon, where no trails can be cut as the sheer walls go up over 6,000 feet.

Between rapids, you'll drift quietly over deep pools of transparent water, home to native cutthroat and rainbow trout. Hikes underneath Waterfall Creek and up to Veil Falls are highlights for many of our guests.

B,L,D...camping in paradise!

DAY 6

The last day has some of the best and biggest rapids of the trip, which is a wonderful way to end a week in the largest wilderness area in the continental US. We drive back to Stanley for the night before heading home in the morning. That evening there is an optional "farewell" dinner at Redfish Lake Lodge, which is 20 minutes down the road, and a great place to take in the vistas of the Sawtooth Mountains.

B,L (Dinner at Redfish Lake Lodge and overnight at Mountain Village Lodge is not included)

2008 Dates

June 2-6*

June 11-16

June 20-25

June 29-July 4

July 7-12

July 15-20

July 23-28

July 31-Aug 5

August 8-13

August 16-21

August 24-29

Sept 1-5*

Sept 17-21*

Sept 25-29*

* is a 5 day trip

LAND COST

6 day trip: \$1850 (\$1750 for kids 11 and under)*

5 Day trip: \$1542 (\$1452 for kids 11 and under)*

* plus 3% USFS user fee & \$4.00 per day USFS fee demo

** If water conditions warrant a fly-in and/or a fly-out from the river, there will be an additional charge.

What's Included

- ◆ ground transportation from Stanley, Idaho, to the river and back to Stanley
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ expert leadership with seasoned Idaho Middle Fork Salmon river guides

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- ◆ all camping equipment incl. tents & dry bags for clothing (sleeping bag, pad & rain gear on request)
- ◆ all commissary equipment for meals and camp
- ◆ all rafting equipment

What's Not

Flights to/from Stanley, Idaho; Motel in Stanley for night before the trip and night trip ends; possible flight charge in/out of river; insurance (we strongly recommend you purchase trip insurance offered by Middle Fork River Expeditions, which includes trip cancellation insurance); farewell dinner at Redfish Lake Lodge; optional tipping to guides (5-20% of trip cost) depending on level of satisfaction.

Payments

Deposit: \$500.00 per person, required for confirmed reservation.

Balance: Payable 90 days prior to launch date. Deposits and final payments are refundable (less \$150.00 service charge per person) if written notice is received 90 days prior to your departure date. With less than 90 days notice your monies are nonrefundable unless you fill the vacancy. If Middle Fork River Expeditions must cancel a trip due to water level, weather conditions or other circumstances, your payment will be refunded in full. Custom trips and groups of ten or more have a separate payment and cancellation policy.

Travel

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. There is commercial air service to Boise, Idaho. Then you may either drive (131 miles) or fly (45 minutes) to Stanley, Idaho, where our trips begin and end.

Drive: Rental cars - Budget, Payless, Alamo, Hertz, Avis

Fly: McCall Aviation (800) 992-6559

Lodging

Lodging is needed before and after your trip. We recommend: Mountain Village Lodge (800) 843-5475. Call them directly after you decide on a trip date.

Orientation

Plan to arrive in Stanley, Idaho, our summer headquarters, by early evening the day before your trip for our 7:30pm meeting. We will get acquainted, answer questions, and have a short orientation to show you how to pack the waterproof gear bags we provide for your personal gear.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Expert Leaders

Middle Fork River Expeditions attracts gifted guides for whom leading trips is their passion. Middle Fork River Expeditions guides positively elevate your experience by being educators, companions, and the best of friends. For 2008, all our guides are returning including Pat Ridle, Greg Blatter, Josh Rafkind, Erin Ridle, Scott Jernigan, James Ellsworth and Leslie Bower.

Boats & Rapids

Middle Fork rapids are rated 1 to 4 on a scale of 1 to 6. You'll run these rapids with the aid of experienced, professional, licensed guides. In our state-of-the-art whitewater rafts, you'll run Velvet Falls, Pistol Creek, Haystack, Redside and Rubber rapids. Most guests ride in our oar powered self-bailing rafts. For the more adventurous we run a paddle boat, no experience required as your boatman steers at the stern

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while you and your newfound friends paddle. And when water levels permit (most of the time) you can try out our single inflatable kayaks. We also use a large baggage boat that runs ahead of our group to start putting up camp.

Hiking & Hot Springs

There is plenty of time and numerous opportunities to hike and visit hot springs during your trip. There are six hot springs to visit in the river corridor and we try to camp at or near at least one during our trip. Time and logistics permitting we hike to waterfalls, scenic grottos, Indian paintings and old miner's cabins in a given day. The Middle Fork Trail runs 80 miles along the Middle Fork, so there is always the option to hike along the river as well from any camp.

Fishing

The Middle Fork is a fisherman's paradise, a blue ribbon fishery and all fish are natives - Cutthroat Trout, Rainbows and Dolly Varden. Special fishing regulations protect the Middle Fork and help restore the fish population - (catch-and-release, no live bait, single barbless hooks.) The Middle Fork is the premier fishing experience. An Idaho State fishing license is required and may be purchased in Stanley, Idaho before the trip. Fishing is world class.

Camping

This is one of the best parts of the trip, to be lulled to sleep by the sound of the river. We provide all camping gear for you, including sleeping bag & pad, tents, rain gear and all camp equipment. In the evening, we set up a camp and have chairs to relax in for meals. We bring along a wilderness porta-potty and place it in a private place with stunning views. We practice Leave No Trace camping ethics, so you are sure to learn a lot about this on the trip and be able to take some of these new skills home with you.

Food

We provide healthy and delicious meals, accompanied with lots of salads, fresh fruits and vegetables. We also use as much organic produce/products as is available in central Idaho. Our goal is to have you eat healthy meals so that you feel good and refreshed during the day with lots of energy for fun in this remote wilderness setting. If you would like a copy of our menu please call us. Vegetarian's welcome and meat eaters alike!

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our very best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. If water conditions warrant a fly-in and/or a fly-out from the river, there will be an additional charge.

Weather

Idaho weather can be variable and vigorous. So come prepared with warm and cold weather clothing.

Packing List

- Sleeping bag*
- Thermarest or air mattress*
- Raingear (sturdy jacket and pants)*
- Towel & personal toiletry items
- Biodegradable soap
- Sunscreen lotion
- Sunglasses & sun hat

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- Bathing suit
- Wool or polypro socks - 2 pair
- T-shirts - 2
- Long sleeved shirts - 2
- Long pants - 2
- underwear
- Shorts - 2
- Cold weather jacket & fleece sweater
- Shoes - one pair for camp & hiking
- Shoes - one pair for boat (tennis shoes, river sandals)
- Fishing gear (rod in sturdy case)
- Fishing license (buy in Stanley)
- Camera & extra batteries if digital
- Flashlight or headlamp & extra batteries
- Plastic liquor containers & water bottle
- Ziplock bags - handy for small items
(isolate wet articles from rest of gear)

*By prior arrangement we can provide a sleeping kit (sleeping bag & thermarest) and rain gear.



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