

#### Welcome!

ARTA's Middle Fork-Main Salmon Combination trips allow you the unique opportunity to experience an entire river system. Beginning within 20 miles of the Middle Fork's headwaters and ending within 40 miles of the Main Salmon's confluence with the Snake, we will cover over 180 miles of river and drop an astounding 3,700 feet through the heart of the Idaho backcountry.

**MIDDLE FORK:** The trip begins on this clear, free-flowing river, famous for its scenery, rapids, fishing, and hot springs. Flowing almost due north for 100 miles, the Middle Fork offers a diverse river experience. The upper stretch travels through dense alpine forests and contains many small, technical rapids. The middle portion is more open, with grassy slopes, glorious hot springs and fewer rapids. The last section takes us through Impassable Canyon where big cliffs dominate the shore and big rapids dominate the river.

**MAIN SALMON:** After 100 miles of northward travel on the Middle Fork, we will head due west. The Main is much bigger and warmer than the Middle Fork and moves at a slightly slower pace. The rapids, although farther apart, are generally bigger and are renowned for their roller-coaster waves. The scenery is a mixture of new and old, with sections that are reminiscent of the Middle Fork as well as new stretches filled with big boulders, talus slopes, and soaring mountains.

#### Meeting Time and Place:

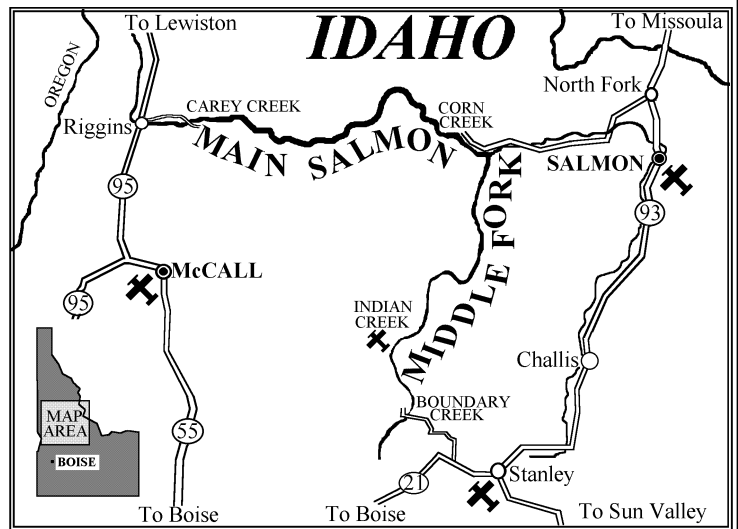
All trip members will meet at **8:00 pm the evening before the trip begins** at the Mountain Village Lodge in Stanley, Idaho, (208/774-3661). Stanley is a small town at the junction of Highways 21 and 75 and the Mountain Village Lodge is easy to find. For complete travel arrangements, please see the Transportation Information supplement included with this packet. At the pre-trip meeting your trip leader will distribute dunnage bags, answer questions and give trip and shuttle information.

#### Transportation:

This trip begins in Stanley and ends in McCall. A separate Transportation insert detailing the various travel options should be included with your reservation information. Please call if you do not have one.

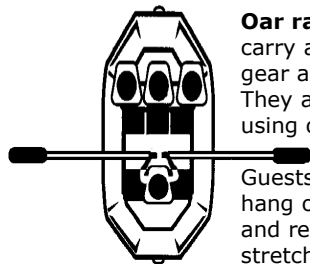
#### Accommodations:

Lodging before the trip is good at the Mountain Village Lodge, (208/774-3661). The Lodge fills up quickly and we advise that you make reservations well in advance. Lodging after the trip is available in McCall at the Western Mountain Lodge, (208/634-6300) or the Hotel McCall (208/634-8105). In Boise we recommend the Best Western Vista Inn, (208/336-8100), which is close to the airport and provides shuttle van service for their guests. All accommodations should be reserved well in advance of the trip and are not included in the trip fee.

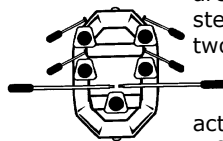


#### Types of boats:

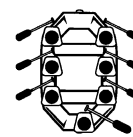
On the Middle Main Combination trips we offer three types of boats in which to ride:



**Oar rafts** are 18 feet long, carry all of the overnight gear and up to 5 guests. They are rowed by a guide using oars attached to a metal frame. Guests ride in the front, hang on through the rapids and relax in the calm stretches.



**Oar-paddle combo rafts** are 14 feet long and are steered by a guide using two oars and assisted by 2 or 4 paddlers riding in the front. These are active and exciting hybrid rafts which offer a high level of maneuverability and participation.



**Paddle rafts** are 14 feet long and carry 6 paddlers who actively paddle through the rapids and down the river. Everyone has a paddle, sits on the outer tube of the raft and follows the commands of the paddle guide who sits in the rear.

*Please note that paddle rafts are only available at appropriate water levels and with appropriate paddlers. We do not guarantee space in paddle rafts. If there are more people who wish to ride in the paddle raft than there are spaces, or we will rotate so that everyone gets a chance to participate.*

#### Equipment List:

A separate Equipment List and Packing Guide should be included with your reservation information. Please call our office if you do not have one. The water levels are high and the weather is unpredictable when we offer these 6 day combination trips; read the Equipment List and pack with that in mind and please come prepared for cold water and wet weather. Good rain gear, (tops AND bottoms), good thick fleece (bottoms and 2+ tops), and a good tent are essential. If you have a wetsuit, bring it; we will provide wetsuits for those who do not have them.



# 6 DAY MIDDLE MAIN HIGHWATER EXPRESS TRIPS

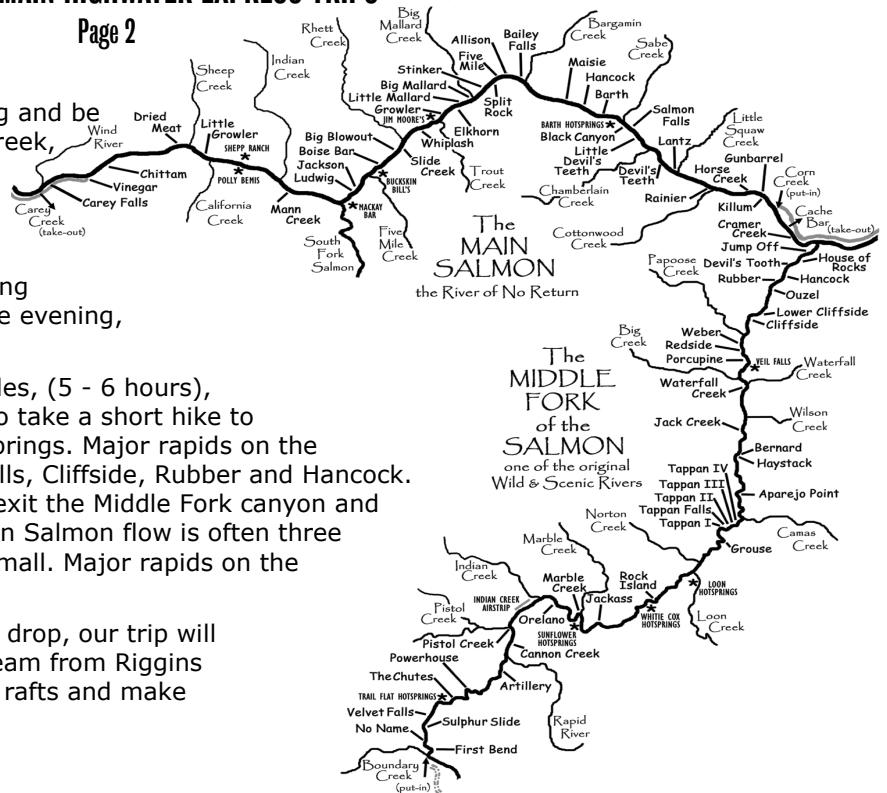
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## Itinerary:

**Day 1:** We will meet in Stanley early in the morning and be transported either to the launch site at Boundary Creek, (2 hours), or to the airport in Stanley for the 30 minute flight to Indian Creek (at extreme high water). After a thorough safety and orientation briefing, we will launch around noon. The upper river is very swift and we will tackle many challenging rapids right away. By the time we reach camp in the evening, you will be very tired.

**Days 2 - 5:** We will float an average of 30 - 40 miles, (5 - 6 hours), each day, stopping for a picnic lunch and perhaps to take a short hike to explore an interesting historical site or visit a hot springs. Major rapids on the Middle Fork include Pistol Creek, Marble, Tappan Falls, Cliffside, Rubber and Hancock. At some point, depending on our progress, we will exit the Middle Fork canyon and Continue downstream on the Main Salmon. The Main Salmon flow is often three times as great as the Middle Fork and we will feel small. Major rapids on the Main include Split Rock, Big Mallard and Whiplash.

**Day 6:** After 180 miles and 3,700 feet in elevation drop, our trip will conclude at either Carey Creek or Spring Bar upstream from Riggins on the Main Salmon. We will have lunch, de-rig the rafts and make the two-hour drive to the airport in McCall.



## Weather:

The weather in the mountains of Idaho is difficult to predict, but it is safe to say that you should come prepared for cold and rain. The Middle Fork put in elevation is over 5,000 feet, frost is common in June. There is always a chance for rain in Idaho all summer, and June can be particularly volatile; so please come well prepared for a variety of conditions. The Middle Fork water temperature is about 50 degrees, the Main is about 10 degrees warmer.

## Camping:

During the course of the trip, everyone is encouraged to participate as much as they desire, whether that be on the river, collecting firewood, or helping out in the kitchen. We have found that the more involved you become with your trip, the more rewarding your trip becomes. Overnight camping will be at riverside beaches or flat benches above the river. All sites afford spectacular views of the river and canyon. Some campsites have Forest Service pit toilets; at others ARTA will set up portable toilets. There is usually a central kitchen and campfire area, and trip members pick out spots in the surrounding area to pitch their tents or lay out their sleeping bags.

## Meals:

ARTA meals are well-balanced and consist of quality foods with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables. Guides double as camp chefs and the menu includes a wide variety of dishes. Lunches consist of hand-foods and are served picnic-style at riverside stops. Dinners and breakfasts are cooked over an open fire and often include tasty Dutch Oven baked treats. If you have special dietary requirements or are celebrating a special event during the trip, please let us know in advance.

## Drinks:

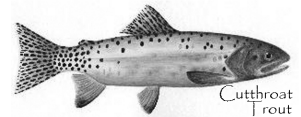
ARTA provides water and fruit drinks (lemonade, orange juice, punch, etc) at meals. If you would like soda, beer, wine, or liquor with your dinner, please bring your own in unbreakable containers (beer and soda in cans, wine and liquor in plastic bottles). Due to weight and space restrictions, we ask that you limit the amount of canned drinks to a moderate amount.



Trillium

## Fishing:

Generally, fishing on the Middle Fork is excellent, on the Main it is good, but the high water of early June makes fishing very challenging. Both rivers are "catch and release"; only single, barbless hooks are allowed and all fish must be released. Poles should be protected in sturdy cases and only a small amount of tackle is needed. Dry flies and small spinners work best; you do not need waders or nets. If you want to fish you must have a valid Idaho State Fishing License. Fishing gear, licenses, and good advice are available from McCoy's Tackle in Stanley, 208/774-3377, which is open 7 days a week.



Cutthroat Trout

## Suggested Reading:

Great books to have along on the trip are *River of No Return*, and *The Middle Fork, A Guide*, both written by Johnny Carrey and Cort Conley. These and other books about the area are available Cascade Outfitters, (800/223-7238) or online through amazon.com. Excellent maps of both rivers are available locally in Salmon or directly from the Forest Service (208/879-5204).

## We will provide:

- ♦ Transportation from Stanley to the river.
- ♦ Transportation from from the river to McCall.
- ♦ Friendly, entertaining and professional guide service.
- ♦ All meals from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day.
- ♦ Waterproof bags, lifejackets and other specialized river touring equipment for the trip.

## You are responsible for:

- ♦ Meals and lodging before and after your trip
- ♦ Personal clothing and toiletries (see Equipment List)
- ♦ Sleeping bags and tents (these items can be rented from ARTA - see enclosed Equipment List)
- ♦ Soda, wine, alcoholic beverages (see **Drinks** to the left)
- ♦ Guides gratuities (see below)

## Tipping

We want you to feel like a guest in our home. Tips are never expected, but are always appreciated when given in recognition of outstanding service. Our guides have gotten tips ranging from gifts of prized river gear to invitations to visit to 5% to 15% of the trip cost, all of which were greatly appreciated and always put to good use.