

#### Welcome!

The Salmon River springs forth from the high lakes and snowfields of the spectacular Sawtooth Mountain Range in central Idaho. Descending steeply at first, the Salmon heads in a northerly direction through the dry "Upper Gorge" and the fertile Salmon Valley before turning abruptly west and heading into the beautiful and remote Frank Church Wilderness Area and the section known as the River of No Return.

Our trips begin where the road ends at Corn Creek, and finish 84 miles downstream where the road ends at Carey Creek. Here the river alternates between stretches of lively whitewater and sections of peaceful current, providing a balance of excitement and relaxation. Each day is filled with fascinating things to see and interesting places to explore. Clear, cascading sidestreams, natural hot springs, Native American artwork, abandoned mines, decaying homesteads, and plenty of wildlife are just a few of the Main's attractions.

Our trips are designed to allow us ample time to explore the canyon's many interesting historical sites as well as to enjoy the on-river excitement that the river offers. Early season trips are scheduled for 5 days because the water is high and fast, enabling us to cover more miles each day without losing any off-river time for exploration. Later in the summer the river is a bit tamer, warmer, and slower, and 6 days are needed to enjoy the entire canyon. A late July or August Main Salmon trip is one of the greatest family vacation trips available.



#### Meeting Time and Place:

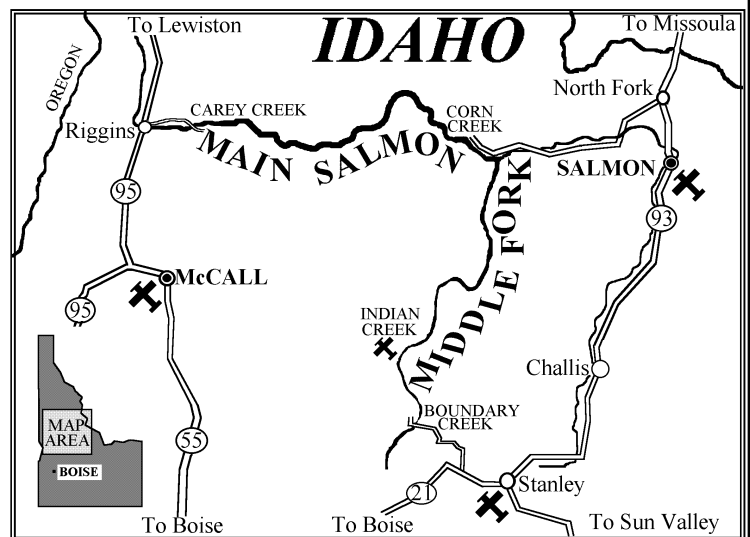
All trip members will meet at 8:00 pm **the evening before the trip begins** at the Stagecoach Inn (208/756-4251) on Highway 93, in Salmon, Idaho. The Stagecoach is located at the north end of town, just across the bridge over the Salmon River. At the pre-trip meeting the trip leader will distribute waterproof dunnage bags, give trip and shuttle information and answer any last-minute questions.

#### Transportation:

Main Salmon trips begin in Salmon and end in McCall. A separate Transportation insert detailing the various options should be included with your reservation information. Please call our office if you do not have one.

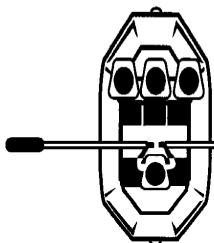
#### Accommodations:

Lodging before the trip is good at the Stagecoach Inn (208/756-4251), Super 8 (208/756-8880) or at the Motel DeLuxe (208/756-2231). After the trip, lodging is available in McCall at the Western Mountain Lodge, (208/634-6300), or Hotel McCall (good downtown location, 208/634-8105). For those returning to Boise the evening the trip concludes, accommodations are good at the Best Western Vista Inn (800/528-1234) which is by the airport. Pre- and post- trip accommodations are not included in the trip and all reservations should be made well in advance.

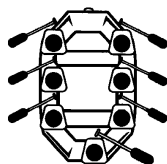


#### Types of boats:

On the Main Salmon 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.



**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.



**Inflatable kayaks** are 10 - 12 feet long and are paddled by 1 or 2 people using double-bladed paddles. They are fairly stable, require no previous experience and allow you to feel the thrill of independently paddling the river.

Please note that we do not guarantee space in paddle rafts or inflatable kayaks. If there are more people who wish to ride in these boats than there are spaces, we will rotate so that everyone gets a chance to participate. Also, inflatable kayaks may not be available during the June high water period.

#### Equipment List:

A separate Equipment List and Packing Guide should be included with your reservations information. Please call our office if you do not have one.



# 5 & 6 DAY MAIN SALMON

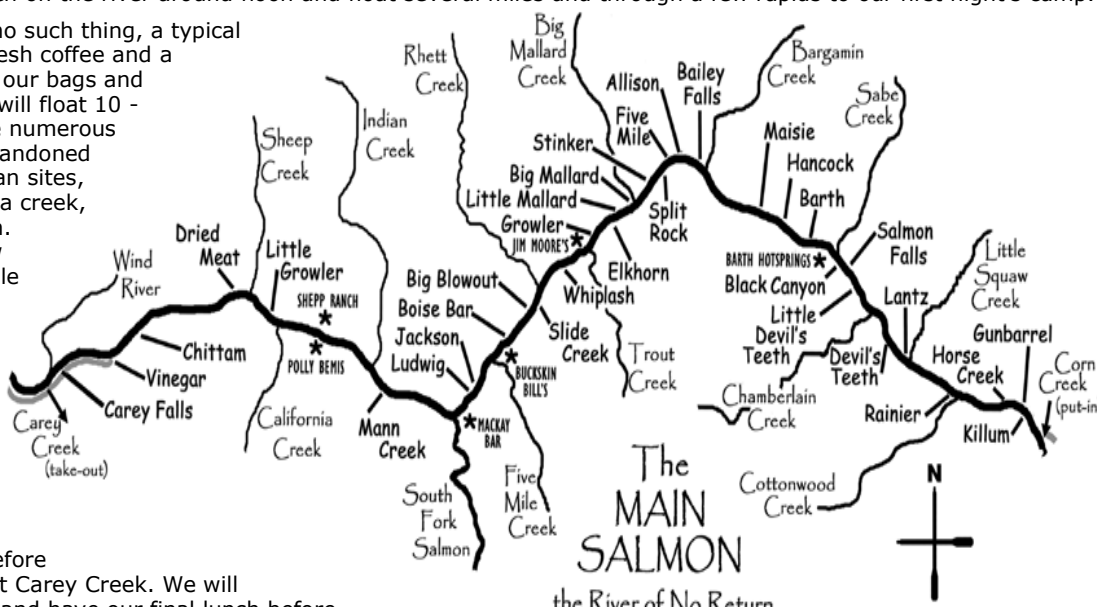
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## Itinerary:

**First day:** We will meet at the Stagecoach and be transported to the launch site at Corn Creek, (2 - 3 hours). After a short safety and orientation briefing, we will launch on the river around noon and float several miles and through a few rapids to our first night's camp.

**Typical day:** Although there is no such thing, a typical day on the Salmon starts with fresh coffee and a hearty breakfast before we pack our bags and load into the rafts. Each day we will float 10 - 14 miles, (5 - 6 hours), and take numerous stops to scout rapids, explore abandoned homesteads, visit Native American sites, soak in a hot springs, wander up a creek, as well as enjoy a riverside lunch. We commonly rotate boats a few times each day, giving new people the opportunity to paddle or relax. We usually arrive at camp in the late afternoon and, while the guides prepare dinner, you are free to hike, relax, swim, or fish. After dinner, the campfire is often kept burning for singing and storytelling.

**Last day:** The last day on the river has some exciting rapids before we arrive at our take-out point at Carey Creek. We will de-rig the rafts, change clothes, and have our final lunch before being transported to your motel or the airport in McCall, (2 hours). Arrival time in McCall will be around 5:00 pm and we will stop on the way to call the air taxi company and confirm flights.



## Weather:

The weather in the mountains of Idaho is difficult to predict; we have encountered hailstorms in August and heatwaves in June, so please come prepared for a variety of conditions. The Main Salmon canyon usually enjoys mild and comfortable conditions, however afternoon thunderstorms are common at any time during the season. We strongly recommend good rain protection for both day and night. Generally, temperatures range from the 70's to the 90's during the day and the 40's to the 50's at night, with early season trips being 10 degrees cooler and summertime extremes being 10 degrees warmer. The water temperature is a chilly 50 degrees in June, warming into the 70's by late in the summer.

## Camping:

During the course of the trip, everyone is encouraged to participate as much as they desire, whether that be on the river or helping out in the kitchen. We have found that the more involved you become with your trip, the more rewarding your trip becomes for you. Camping will be at beautiful riverside beaches or flat benches along the river with spectacular views of the canyon. ARTA will provide portable toilet facilities in camp. 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.

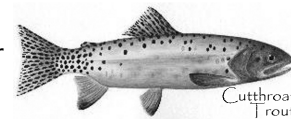
## Drinks:

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.



## Fishing:

The fishing on the Main Salmon is fairly good and is usually better after the water levels drop in mid July. Poles should be protected in sturdy cases, and only a small amount of tackle is needed. Dry flies and small spinners with single barbless hooks work well; you do not need waders or nets. If you want to fish you must have a valid Idaho State Fishing License. Licenses and gear can be purchased in Salmon at Silver Spur Sports, (208/756-2833), which is open from 8 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Saturday.



## Suggested Reading:

*River of No Return* by Cort Conley gives a detailed, mile-by-mile description of the history of the river and canyon. *The Last of the Mountain Men* by Harold Peterson and *Thousand Pieces of Gold* by Ruthanne McCunn are stories of two of the Main's more colorful characters. A good map and guide is available locally in Salmon or from [blackcanyonguides.com](http://blackcanyonguides.com).

## We will provide:

- ♦ Transportation from Salmon 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.