

Welcome!

The Middle Fork of the Salmon is the classic alpine mountain river. For 97 pristine miles in the heart of the Idaho backcountry, the river cuts through a canyon of remarkable history, beauty, and solitude, providing the setting for one of the finest wilderness whitewater vacations available.

The Middle Fork is diverse and unpredictable. The upper stretch, (which we only run on May, June and July trips), is intricate and intimate, as the creek-like stream cascades over rocky ledges and winds through an evergreen forest. The middle section, (where we begin our August and September trips), is more open and arid with longer vistas of expansive hillsides and isolated stands of giant pines. The lower stretch is awe-inspiring as the river cuts through the impressive rock walls of Impassible Canyon. All along the way, the river provides plenty of excitement with rapids that range from short abrupt drops to long, technical boulderfields. Velvet Falls, Power-house, Haystack, Redside, Rubber and Hancock are a few of the river's better known rapids.

But whitewater is only one of the Middle Fork's special attractions. The canyon boasts an abundance of natural phenomena as well as occasional reminders of the area's interesting human history. We will stand beneath shimmering waterfalls, soak in miraculous hot springs, and swim in water too clear to believe. We will also marvel at the pictographs of the Sheepeater Indians, as well as smile at the legends and leftovers of the Middle Fork's early pioneers. There will be time to hike, explore, fish, relax, and thoroughly enjoy this unique region.



Meeting Time and Place:

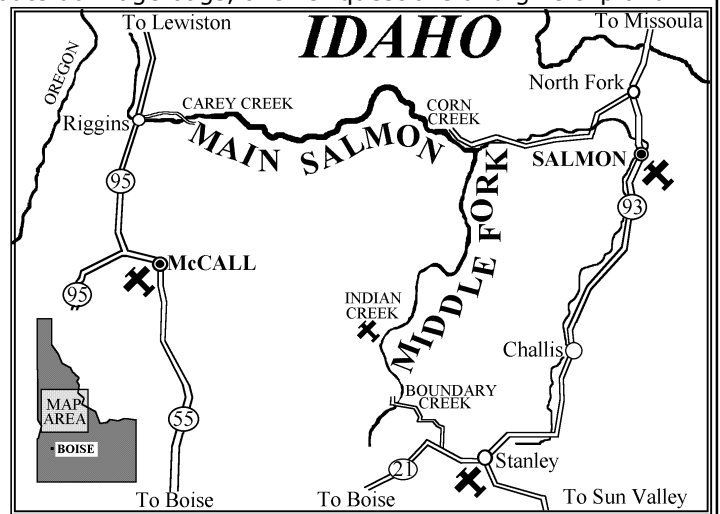
All trip members will meet at 8:00 pm **the evening before the trip begins** at the Mountain Village Lodge in Stanley, Idaho, (208/774-3661). Stanley is a small town at the junction of Highways 21 and 75 and the Mountain Village Lodge is easy to find. For complete travel arrangements, please see the 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:

Middle Fork trips begin in Stanley, Idaho and end in Salmon, Idaho. 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.

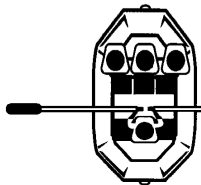
Accommodations:

Lodging before the trip is good at the Mountain Village Lodge, (208/774-3661). The Lodge fills up quickly and we advise that you make reservations well in advance. Other lodging includes the Triangle C Ranch (208/774-2266) and McGowens's Cabins (208/774-2290). Lodging after the trip is available in Salmon at the Stagecoach Inn, (208/756-4251), Super 8 (208/756-8880) and the Motel DeLuxe (208/756-2231). All accommodations should be reserved well in advance of the trip and are not included in the trip fee.

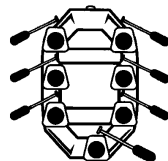


Types of boats:

On the Middle Fork 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.

We usually have 2 paddle rafts and no inflatable kayaks in May, June and July, and 1 paddle raft and 4 to 6 inflatable kayaks in August. 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.

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.

6 DAY MIDDLE FORK SALMON

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Itinerary:

Day 1: We will re-convene at the Mountain Village Lodge in the morning and be transported either to the launch site at Boundary Creek, (1½-2 hours, May through mid-July trips), or to the airport in Stanley for the 30 minute flight to Indian Creek, (August and September trips). After a safety briefing and trip orientation, we will launch around noon.

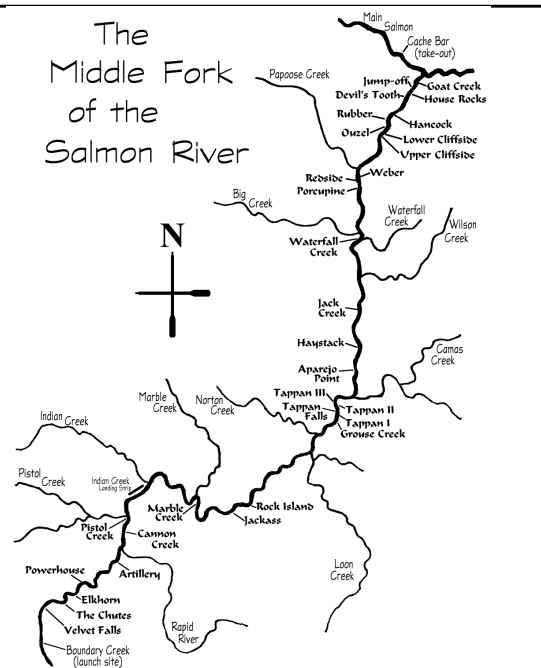
Days 2 - 5: Although there is no such thing, a typical day on the Middle Fork starts with coffee and a hearty breakfast before we pack our bags and load on to the rafts. We will float an average of 15 - 18 miles, (5 - 6 hours), each day, stopping for a picnic lunch and perhaps to take a short hike, soak in a hot springs, or explore an historical site. Camp will be made in the late afternoon with early evening available for hiking, fishing, swimming or relaxing.

Day 6: An early morning prepares us for some of the Middle Fork's biggest rapids as we finish the Impassible Canyon and float on to our take out at Cache Bar on the Main Salmon. We will de-rig the rafts and have our final lunch at Cache Bar before heading back to Salmon for an early evening, (4:00 - 5:00), arrival at the Stagecoach Inn or Salmon Airport.

Local Attractions:

Within a day's drive of Salmon are Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks, as well as Sun Valley resort and numerous western guest ranches.

The Middle Fork of the Salmon River



Weather:

The weather in the mountains of Idaho is difficult to predict; we have encountered snowstorms in August and heatwaves in May, so please read the equipment list and come well prepared for a variety of conditions. Rain, usually in the form of spectacular, afternoon thunderstorms, is common; good rain gear and a reliable tent are strongly advised. Generally, summer temperatures range between 65 to 75 degrees on the upper reaches of the river and up to 90 degrees in the lower canyon. Nighttime temperatures can dip into the 30's, particularly in June. Brief, spectacular thunderstorms are fairly common. The water temperature of the river is about 50 degrees early in the season and 60 degrees later on.

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.

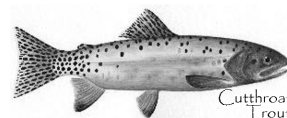
Drinks:

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.



Fishing:

The fishing on the Middle Fork is excellent, with an abundance of 12 - 16 inch cutthroat trout. This is a "catch and release" river, so only single, barbless hooks are allowed, and all fish must be released alive. Fishing is better after the water level drops in mid-July. Poles should be protected in sturdy cases and only a small amount of tackle is needed, (no waders, nets, or big tackle boxes; vests and lumbar packs work well). Dry flies, (Caddis, Grasshoppers and Stimulators, size 12 to 18), and small spinners, (Mepps, Panther Martins, etc) work well. 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.



Suggested Reading:

The Middle Fork, A Guide by Johnny Carrey and Cort Conley is an interesting book about the river and the history of the area. It is available in Stanley or online through amazon.com. The Forest Service has a handy map which is available in Stanley or directly from the Forest Service (208/879-5204) and there is also a good map-guide combo available in Stanley or at mattlphoto.com.

We will provide:

- ♦ Transportation from Stanley to the river.
- ♦ Transportation from from the river to Salmon.
- ♦ 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.