

#### Welcome!

The Illinois is a beautiful, remote, and dynamic river with its headwaters high in the Siskiyou Mountains of Northern California. Flowing north through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area, the river cuts a steep and isolated canyon to its confluence with the Rogue River, approximately 35 miles from the Pacific. The 34 mile section that we run is protected as a Wild and Scenic River and contains some of the most challenging whitewater in the west. It also contains some of the most exquisite scenery in the world. Numerous side creeks cascade directly into the river; deep, blue-green pools burst into sparkling whitewater; giant house-sized boulders and steep cliffs pinch the river through narrow passages; and colorful wildflowers bloom on shore. Adding to this spectacle of scenic wonder are rapids which can hold their own against any on the continent; Pine Flat, Submarine Hole, Prelude and the Illinois' signature rapid, Green Wall, are just a few of the many rapids that we will encounter.

The Illinois is a secluded, remote, and rarely run river with wide variations in its flow. Due to its difficulty, isolation, and unpredictable nature, it is best suited for experienced rafters looking for a challenging adventure. This is a challenging trip in a remote and inaccessible canyon; everyone should be physically fit, agile, coordinated and healthy.

#### Meeting Time and Place:

All trip members will meet at **8:00 pm the evening before the trip begins** in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express in Grants Pass, Oregon (800/838-7666 or 541/471-6144). At the pre-trip meeting your trip leader will distribute dunnage bags, go over final trip logistics and answer any last minute questions. The following morning we will leave our vehicles at the Holiday Inn and be transported by van to the river (3 hours). At the conclusion of the trip we will be returned to the Holiday Inn (5 hours).

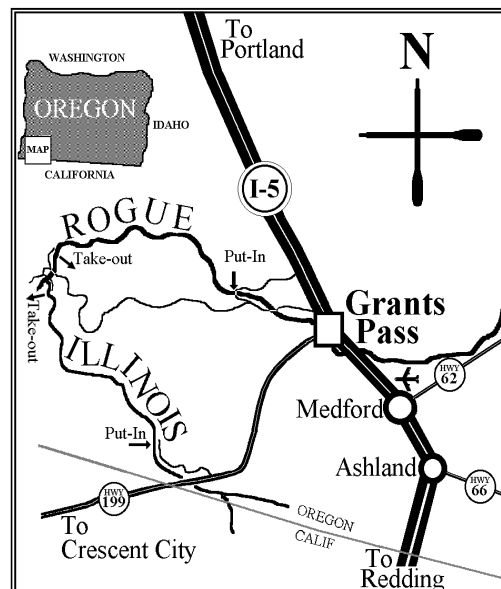
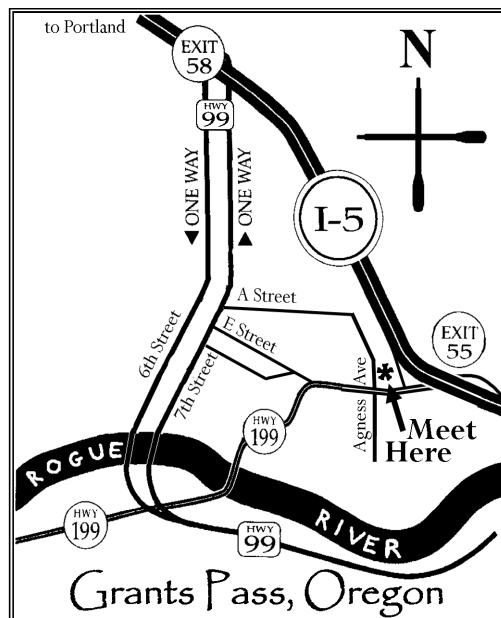
#### Transportation/Directions:

**Driving:** Grants Pass is located on Interstate 5 about 55 miles north of the Oregon-California border; 6-7 hours from San Francisco, and 12-14 hours from Los Angeles. To get to the Holiday Inn, take the South Grants Pass exit, (#55), and head west towards town on Grants Pass Parkway. Take the first right onto Agness Ave. and the motel will be on your right.

**Flying:** Skywest/United, Horizon, and US Airways serve Medford, Oregon, about 30 miles southeast of Grants Pass. For transportation from the Medford airport to Grants Pass, contact Galice Resort, 541/476-3818 or High Country Shuttles at 888-203-8502. Due to potential delays, we do not recommend flying out of Medford the evening that the trip ends.

#### Independent Shuttle:

If you are planning to tour the Oregon coastline after the trip, consider having your vehicle shuttled to our take-out point which is 35 miles up the Rogue from the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach. The cost is about \$110 per vehicle and arrangements can be made at the pre-trip meeting.



#### Accommodations:

Overnight accommodations for both before and after the trip are good at either the Holiday Inn Express (800/838-7666 or 541/471-6144) or next door at the Best Western Inn Grants Pass (800-553-7666 or 541/476-1117). Reservations should be made well in advance. There are other motels nearby, including the La Quinta Motel (800/531-5900) and The Redwood Motel (888/535-8824).

#### Local Attractions:

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival in nearby Ashland is renowned for its Elizabethan Stagehouse and repertoire of Shakespearean drama. Call the Box Office, (541/482-2111) for ticket information. Also in the area is scenic Crater Lake National Park.

#### Weather:

Think rain! The Illinois is only runnable during the early spring when the weather is usually wet. It doesn't rain all the time, (it sometimes snows), but you should be prepared for drizzly overcast days. Highs are usually in the 60's with lows in the 40's. The water temperature is in the 50's.

#### Included:

The trip fee covers all meals from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last day, transportation from the Holiday Inn to the river and back, all guide service and the use of waterproof bags, lifejackets, helmets, wetsuits and other river gear during the trip.



## Being Prepared

Illinois River weather is notoriously inclement and you should come prepared for cold and rainy conditions. **DO NOT SKIMP ON THE EQUIPMENT LIST!** Because the river is extremely cold, we will provide each trip member with a 3mm "farmer-john" type wetsuit and a waterproof splash jacket, but you will need to bring at least one thick, synthetic fleece top to wear under the splash jacket, (and another for camp is smart). Synthetic fleece garments (such as "polartec" or "polarfleece") retain their insulation even when wet and are ideal for river wear. Our splash jackets work well on the river, but are not ideal for camp, so you will also need your own rainshell for off the river; waterproof, not just wind proof or water repellent. Also, polypropylene fleece socks, (not cotton), and a fleece hat will help keep you warm on really cold days.

## Equipment Packing

Camp items will be packed in a watertight bag provided by ARTA and will not be accessible during the day. The bags are roughly 17" in diameter and 24" tall, the size of a large duffel bag and large enough to accommodate all your gear if you pack wisely. River items will go in a small, watertight "dry-sack" provided by ARTA, (one per person), which is perfect for extra fleece, rain gear, etc. For expensive cameras we recommend a foam-lined 50 caliber ammunition box or a Pelican Box which can be found at most outdoor stores. ARTA will provide space in ammunition boxes on a shared basis. Light, compact and efficient are the key concepts to keep in mind when picking and packing your gear..

## Types of boats:

Due to the difficulty of the Illinois River we only offer oar-paddle combination rafts. These rafts are 14 or 16 feet long and are configured to allow two or four paddlers to assist a guide who rows the raft using 10 foot oars. The precision of an oar raft and the power of a paddle raft makes this the ideal rig for the Illinois.



## Personal Equipment List

**CAMP ITEMS:** These will be packed in your dunnage bag and will not be available during the day.

- Sleeping bag\*, (compact, down or synthetic, rated to 30°)
- Closed-cell foam or self-inflating sleeping pad\*, (ensolite or Thermarest)
- Lightweight tent\*, and tarp\* or ground cloth
- 1-2 complete changes of clothing, (versatile pants and shirts, cotton is fine, fleece is better - plan for cold)
- Extra socks, (wool or fleece are best), and underwear
- Camp shoes, (ultra-lite boots, tennis shoes, etc. comfortable enough to walk and hike in, not heavy)
- Towel and biodegradable soap and shampoo
- Personal hygiene items, medicine, dry-skin lotion, etc.
- Warm jacket, (thick fleece will work on-river as well)
- Good rain gear, tops and bottoms, (essential)
- Flashlight with extra batteries (headlamps are great)

## RIVER ITEMS:

- Synthetic fleece or polypropylene pile top, (**required**)
- 2 - 3 swimsuits or shorts and T-shirts, (nylon quick-drying shorts are best)
- Sport sandals (Teva's), or tennis shoes & fleece socks
- Polypropylene long underwear or fleece pants (encouraged)
- Brimmed hat, with strap, (baseball caps work well)
- Waterproof sunscreen/block (SPF 25), lip balm
- Sunglasses with strap, (maybe not your best pair)
- Small water bottle, 1 quart, (**essential** - even if its just an empty plastic Gatorade bottle)

## OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Camera and film
- Small daypack, "dry bag", or ammunition box
- Beer, wine, or liquor in unbreakable containers

\***RENTAL ITEMS:** ARTA has the following gear available for rent during the trip, (please reserve in advance):

- ♦ 35° Sierra Designs polarguard bag with cotton liner, self-inflating pad and tarp = \$30/kit
- ♦ 2 person Sierra Designs free-standing tent = \$30/tent

ARTA will provide cups, plates and eating utensils. Please do not bring valuable jewelry, radios, guns, cellular phones or irreplaceable items.

## Insurance

We strongly recommend that you purchase short-term travel insurance prior to your trip. Contact USI Travel Insurance (800-937-1387 or [www.travelinsure.com](http://www.travelinsure.com)) for more information.

## Tippling

We want you to feel like a guest in our home. Tips are never expected, but are flattering to receive 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.

