



# The Rogue



river trips

4 or 5 day rafting trip

## 5

### best things about the Rogue

- Incredible wildlife
- Warm water
- Fun rapids
- Lush scenery
- Mule Creek Canyon

### SPECIFICS

**Length in days:** 4 or 5

**Length in miles:** 37

**Overall difficulty:** III

**Highest difficulty (#):** IV (1)

**Rapids/day:** ~10

**Gradient:** 14 feet/mile

**Signature Rapids:**

Mule Creek Canyon

**Types of boats:**

Oar, paddle & inflatable kayak

**Minimum recommended age:** 6

Rapids:	★★★★★
Scenery:	★★★★★
Wilderness:	★★★★★
Swimming:	★★★★★+
Hiking:	★★★★★
Campsites:	★★★★★
Wildlife:	★★★★★+
Fishing:	★★★★★

## 5

### best things about ARTA

- Friendly, fun & gracious guides
- Active, engaging & informal style
- Steadfast commitment to safety

Over 50 years of experience on the west's most iconic rivers

We donate our profits back to protecting the environment

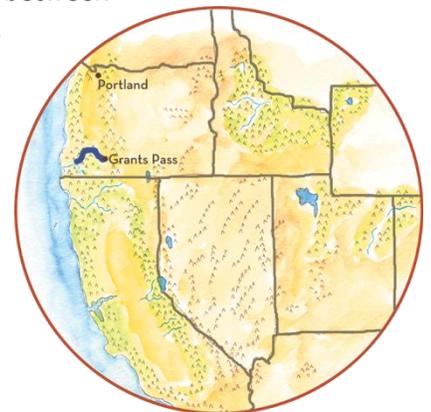


## Everyone loves the Rogue

With its lush and picturesque canyon, abundant wildlife, warm water, numerous side creeks, and exciting but not overwhelming rapids, the Rogue is a wonderful place to enjoy life on the river. It was one of the original rivers to be protected as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1968 and continues to provide one of the most beloved river trips in the world.

The river is born on the slopes of the Cascade Mountains surrounding Crater Lake and flows west past the towns of Medford and Grants Pass before carving a wild and remote canyon through the coastal range of the Siskiyou. Because of its proximity to the ocean and temperate climate, the Rogue canyon has an abundance of wildlife. We commonly see deer, otter, osprey, bald eagles, and black bears on our trips and, depending on the season, we often see salmon migrating upstream to spawn. The canyon walls are blanketed with stands of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, madrone, and numerous varieties of oak while ferns, wildflowers and blackberries grow up the numerous side streams.

The river itself follows a diverse course, alternately crashing over abrupt ledges, flattening into shallow expanses, and squeezing between house-sized boulders or through narrow gorges. There are rapids every day with highlights at Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar on day 3 or 4.



*"I can't say enough about your guides. They really helped make the trip one of the greatest vacations my kids and I have ever been on."*

—Susan McKinney

# The Rogue ~ logistics



## 4 or 5 day rafting trip

### Meeting Place

Morrison's Lodge  
8500 Galice Road  
Merlin, OR 97532  
800/826-1963

### Meeting Time

6:00 pm the day before your launch date.

### Return Time

Between 5:00 and 6:00 pm on the last day of your trip.

### Pre-trip checklist

- **Complete on-line registration**  
(follow the directions and link that came with your original reservation)
- **Reserve pre- & post-trip lodging**  
(most people stay at Morrison's; other options are listed to the right).
- **Plan for the unexpected**  
(purchase Travel Insurance through [USI Travel Insurance](#)).
- **Gather and pack your gear**  
(there is a complete list on the Equipment page; call if you have any questions).

### What we provide

- Transportation from Morrison's to the river and back.
- Friendly, entertaining and professional guide service.
- All meals from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day.
- All taxes and government access fees.
- Waterproof bags, lifejackets, and other specialized river touring equipment for the trip.

### What you are responsible for

- Transportation to Morrison's before your trip.
- Meals and lodging before and after your trip.
- Personal clothing and toiletries (see Equipment page).
- Camping gear (see Equipment page for information on renting equipment from ARTA).
- Soda, wine, alcoholic beverages (see Details page).
- Guide gratuities (see Details page).

### Where and when to meet

We will meet you at 6:00 pm the evening before the trip begins on the lawn overlooking the Rogue River at Morrison's Lodge, 8500 Galice Road, Merlin, OR 97532 (800/826-1963). We'll give you your waterproof bags, go over final trip logistics, arrange shuttles and answer any last minute questions. Cars will be left at Morrison's during the trip. If you are planning to tour the Oregon coastline after the trip, consider having your vehicle shuttled to our takeout point which is 35 miles from Gold Beach and the Pacific Ocean. The cost is about \$110 per vehicle and arrangements can be made at the pre-trip meeting.

### How to get there

**Driving:** Morrison's is located on the Rogue River just west of Galice, Oregon, about 60 miles north of the Oregon-California border; 6-7 hours from San Francisco, and 4 - 5 hours from Portland. To get to Morrison's, take Exit 61 off of I-5, turn west on Galice Road and continue straight 12 1/2 miles (through the small town of Merlin) to Morrison's Lodge (on the right).

**Flying:** Alaska, Delta and United serve Medford, Oregon, about 30 miles southeast of Grants Pass. For transportation from the Medford airport to Morrison's, contact Galice Resort, 541/476-3818 or Affordable Shuttles, 866/484-4467. Due to potential delays, we do not recommend flying out of Medford the evening that the trip ends.

### Where to stay

Morrison's is a wonderful place to stay before and after your trip. Right on the river, they offer a variety of lodging options from cozy rooms in the main lodge to private cabins overlooking the river to secluded cottages with kitchens on a quiet creek. The property is very relaxing and comfortable. Alternative accommodations are available 5 miles further down river at the Galice Resort (541/476-3818, [www.galice.com](http://www.galice.com)). Reservations should be made well in advance. There are also numerous chain motels 30 minutes from Morrison's in Grants Pass.

### Before you get to Morrison's

Morrison's Lodge and Galice Resort are isolated, self-contained establishments and once you are there, you won't want to leave. Both places carry a limited assortment of everything you might need for your trip, but you may prefer to purchase last minute items (snacks, drinks, batteries, etc.) or even eat in Grants Pass before you arrive, (The Haul in Grants Pass and Baldini's in Merlin are staff favorites). If your pre-trip accommodations have kitchen facilities, you can get groceries at Ray's Market near the freeway on Galice Road.

### Other things to do in the area

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival ([www.osfashland.org](http://www.osfashland.org)) in nearby Ashland is renowned for its Elizabethan Stagehouse and outdoor plays. Also in the area are the dramatic Crater Lake National Park, the scenic Oregon Caves National Monument and the historic town of Jacksonville which is home to the Britt Music Festival. For those trip members who are driving, we will be getting off the river about 35 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach. The southern Oregon coastline is spectacular and worth a visit after your trip. If you want to continue your vacation with a visit to the Oregon coast, you can have your vehicle shuttled to the take-out at Foster Bar and be at the ocean the evening your trip concludes; the cost is about \$150 per vehicle and arrangements should be made in advance; you can reserve your shuttle at <https://my.wildrogue.com/reserve/bg7-morrison-s-shuttles>.

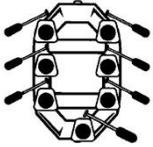
# The Rogue ~ details



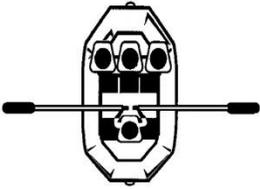
## 4 or 5 day rafting trip

### Types of boats

On the Rogue River we usually have three types of boats in which to ride:



**Paddle rafts** are 14 feet long and carry 6 or 7 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 instructions of the paddle captain who sits in the back.



**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.



**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 cannot 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. A full Rogue trip of 20 guests usually has 1 or 2 paddle rafts and 3 or 4 inflatable kayaks.*

### A Special Note About Two Special Rapids

The Rogue River is primarily a Class III river with two notable exceptions: Rainie Falls and Blossom Bar. The risks that these two rapids present are unusual and significant and the rewards they offer are minimal. Under most conditions, we will have everyone take a short, scenic hike around the rapids while our guides take the empty rafts through the most dangerous sections.

### Weather

Southern Oregon's summer weather is usually excellent with highs ranging from the 80's to the 90's and dropping into the 60's at night. Very little rain falls on the Rogue during the summer months, however, overcast and cool days do occur and you should be prepared with fleece tops and good rainshells. The water temperature warms up into the high 60's during the summer.

### Wildlife

The Rogue is famous for its abundant wildlife and we often witness spectacular events: osprey diving for fish, otter playing on the bank, salmon jumping, or bear fishing along the shore. Of all our trips, the Rogue is the best for seeing wildlife.

### Fishing

Although the Rogue is famous for its salmon and steelhead runs, fishing usually isn't very good until the fall. If you want to fish, you will need an Oregon Fishing License which can be purchased at Morrison's prior to the trip.

### Meals and drinks

Our meals are well-balanced and consist of quality foods with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables. The guides double as camp chefs and the menu includes a wide variety of dishes. If you have a special dietary request or allergy, please let us know in advance so we can accommodate you. We will provide water and juice during the day and hot coffee, tea, and cocoa in the morning. If you would like soda, beer, wine, or liquor with your dinner, please bring your own, (beer and soda in cans; wine in boxes or bags. Hard liquor in glass bottles is fine, but might require sharing!)

### Camping

Camping will be at beautiful riverside beaches or flat benches along the river with spectacular views of the canyon. Our guides will set up a central area with chairs, a snack and beverage area, and a complete kitchen. You will pick out a spot nearby to pitch your tent or lay out your sleeping bag (our guides are happy to help). If you enjoy helping out in camp, you are welcome to pitch in as much as you want. A portable toilet will be set up away from camp. "The Groover", a sturdy metal box with a comfortable toilet seat and minimal odor, and a hand-wash station will be set up in an isolated (and usually beautiful) location; going to the bathroom in the wilderness is surprisingly pleasant.

### Suggested Reading

Western writer Zane Grey spent time fishing along and writing about the Rogue and his stories make for fun reading during the trip. *Riders of the Purple Sage* is his best-known novel, *Rogue River Feud* is the most relevant. Maps (Rogue River Guide Book) and interpretive guides are also available at both Morrison's and the Galice Resort as well as on-line through Amazon.

### Tipping

If you truly enjoy your trip, tipping is a great way to show your appreciation. Tipping is optional and personal, but since a lot of people ask, a customary amount is between 10 and 15 percent of the trip cost. Tips can be given to the Lead Guide who will share them with the entire crew. And the entire crew will appreciate them and put them to good use. (And thank you.)



# The Rogue ~ equipment

4 or 5 day rafting trip



## Get ready!

One of the joys of life on the river is how simple it is. We will be carrying everything we need into the wilderness with us and leaving a lot of stuff behind; bringing the proper gear will make your trip much more enjoyable. The basic rule of packing is: **the right stuff, not more stuff**. One synthetic fleece pullover is much more compact and versatile than six cotton sweatshirts; a good raincoat is better than twenty ponchos. You should be able to find most of the gear you need in your closet, garage or neighbor's basement and what you can't find or borrow, you can rent from us. Your guides will help you make last-minute decisions at the pre-trip meeting, but please feel free to call us if you have any questions as you go through this list; we want you to have the best trip possible.

## PERSONAL EQUIPMENT LIST

This list has everything we can think of for a trip in May OR August.

You can adjust it to fit your departure date (more and thicker fleece early in the season), but you probably shouldn't skip anything.

### CAMP ITEMS: These will be packed in your dry bag and will generally not be accessible during the day.

- \*Compact sleeping bag, (down or synthetic, rated to 35°)
- \*Closed-cell foam or self-inflating sleeping pad, (ensolite, Thermarest, or air mattress)
- \*Sleeping bag liner or flat bed-sheet (perfect for hot nights and will add warmth on cold nights)
- \*Small tarp or groundcloth
- \*Compact, lightweight tent, (free-standing work better; tents will be packed in a separate communal bag)
- Your favorite pillow (an extra pillow-case is handy for organizing stuff in your bag)
- 2 complete changes of clothing (versatile pants and shirts, cotton is fine - something exciting for dinner is welcome!)
- Extra swimsuit or shorts and T-shirts for on the river and in camp
- Extra socks, (wool or fleece are best), and underwear
- Camp shoes, (flip-flops, trail running shoes, tennis shoes; something you can walk and hike in comfortably)
- Small towel, soap and shampoo (*Campsuds* & *Dr. Bronner's* are the most environmentally friendly, Ivory is fine)
- Personal hygiene items, including medicine, insect repellent, dry-skin lotion, etc. **Please bring twice the amount needed of any essential medicine.**
- Warm jacket, (thick fleece is great - will work on-river as well or compact/down coat)
- Rain gear, (can double as on-river gear); top is essential, bottoms are advised before July 1
- Small flashlight with extra batteries, (headlamps are great)
- Book, sketch pad, journal, etc.

### RIVER ITEMS: These will be worn or packed in your personal semi-dry day bag and WILL be accessible during the day.

- Sandals with heel strap (Chaco, Teva) or old running shoes  
NO FLIP FLOPS OR SLIP-ONS
- Swimsuit or shorts and T-shirt, (nylon, quick-drying shorts and synthetic "tech-dry" type shirts are best - women often prefer to wear shorts over their swimsuits)
- Polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece top (essential)
- Polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece pants (encouraged)
- Waterproof rainshell (essential) and rainpants
- Brimmed hat, (baseball-style or visors work well; inflatable kayakers and others at certain water levels will wear helmets)
- Lightweight cotton clothing, (synthetic long-sleeved or old cotton dress shirts) for sun protection
- Waterproof sunscreen/block (SPF 30+), lip balm
- Sunglasses with strap, (maybe not your best pair)
- Small water bottle, 1 quart, (essential - even if it's just an empty plastic Gatorade bottle)

### OPTIONAL ITEMS: These are not absolutely necessary, but you are welcome to bring them.

- Waterproof camera, (if you want to bring your cell phone to use as a camera, we strongly recommend getting a sturdy case such as an Otter Box or EscapeCapsule)
- Beer, wine, liquor, or soda in unbreakable containers
- Sarong (very versatile)
- Fishing gear, (compact, lightweight, rods protected in a case)
- Biking/Sailing gloves for inflatable kayakers
- Locking carabiner, handy for securing your day-bag
- 1 or 2 plastic garbage bags & zip-lock bags for organizing gear

\* These items are available to rent from ARTA and can be reserved when you fill out your on-line registration.

Underlined items are the preferred choice of our professional river guides!

ARTA WILL PROVIDE: a chair, cup, plate and eating utensils for each guest.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING: Valuable jewelry, radios, guns, or any irreplaceable items!

# The Rogue ~ life on the river



4 or 5 day rafting trip

## Professional Tips

Our **dry-bags** are great for keeping things dry but are somewhat awkward for packing and living out of, (they are tall and narrow with a small opening at the top). Compact sleeping bags are much more convenient, and small stuff sacks or zip-lock bags are helpful for dividing up your stuff inside the bag. Trying to put your entire duffel bag or rolling luggage into the dry-bag never seems to work.

Our guides say that one of the most versatile things to bring on a trip is a **sarong**. Comfortable and colorful, sarongs get used for quick clothing changes, beach throws, sun screens and dinner celebrations.

**Layering your clothing** is an effective way to adjust to the daily weather changes that you will encounter. A light polypropylene layer under a heavy fleece top under a rainshell will get you going on the chilliest of mornings and allow you to shed layers as the day warms up.

**"Fleece"** is a generic term for a spun, polyester fabric developed for outdoor use. It is thick and fluffy and does not absorb water, making it ideal insulation on a river trip. It is commonly called Polartec or Polarfleece. "Polypropylene" is a thinner, stretchier, woven variation used predominately for long underwear. Any polypropylene long underwear will work; heavy-weight is the most versatile.

Parents will want to make sure that their kids have at least **two fleece tops and a waterproof rainshell**. Fleece pants and a fleece hat are also recommended. Children get cold more easily, (and wet more often), than adults. Remember, if you don't bring it for them, they will use yours!

## A day on the river

Every day is full. Every day is different. We encourage you to leave your watch behind and find the natural rhythm of life on the river. Mornings will begin with our revered "COFFEE" call, your invitation to join us for a hot breakfast and warm conversation. After breakfast, we'll gather, plan the day, then head downriver for an adventure. Generally we'll spend about 5 hours "on the water" each day with stops for a hike, a swim, or a visit to an historical site, as well as a break for a healthy picnic lunch. Throughout, we'll make sure to tell you what's coming up so that you can find yourself in the appropriate boat. We usually arrive at camp in the late afternoon and have some unstructured time for relaxing, hiking, or fishing before we serve scrumptious early evening appetizers and a wonderful riverside dinner. Evenings are magical, with campfires, stories and anticipation of another day on the river. You'll drift off to sleep to the enchanting sound of the river.

## How to dress

**On hot days** you will want clothing that dries quickly (nylon shorts and bathing suits) and something to shield you from the sun, (a high-tech SPF long-sleeved shirt, an old cotton dress shirt and maybe even lightweight long pants or capris).

**On cool days** you will want a thick, synthetic fleece top, (pullover is best; "polartec" or similar) and a sturdy, fully-waterproof rainshell. You may also want fleece pants or polypropylene long underwear bottoms and rainpants, particularly in June. Don't bring a cotton sweatshirt and a windbreaker; cotton is worthless when wet and won't work for on-river insulation and you need something **waterproof** over your fleece.

**On your feet** you will want shoes that stay on if you go for a swim and are comfortable for hiking. Sport sandals with heel straps (Tevas, Chacos) work well, (buckles are better than velcro). Old running shoes work well and are easy to find. Neoprene, wool or fleece socks will add a bit of insulation.

**In camp** you will want practical walking/hiking shoes, (flip-flops or trail running shoes), and versatile clothing, (T-shirts, warm shirts, shorts, jeans or sweats, extra fleece, etc). Cotton is o.k. for camp stuff, but because it is worthless for keeping you warm on the river, many people bring two sets of fleece - one for the river and one for camp.

## How to pack

**Camp items** will go in a watertight dunnage bag provided by ARTA, (one per person). These are generally not accessible during the day. The bags are roughly 17 inches in diameter and 24 inches tall, (the size of a large duffel bag; plenty big, but you should try to limit all of your gear to about 25 pounds). Plastic garbage bags, zip-locks, stuff sacks, and pillow cases are good for keeping track of small and/or wet things inside your bigger dry bag. Tents will be packed in a separate, communal dry bag.

**River items** will go in a semi-watertight, personal dry-bag provided by ARTA, (one per person). These bags are 9 inches in diameter and 12 inches tall, perfect for rain gear, fleece, sunblock, and other things you want to keep handy during the day. The bags are marginally waterproof so for expensive cameras or other things that must stay dry we recommend a Pelican Box which can be found online and at outdoor stores. If you want to bring your cell phone to use as a camera, please get a sturdy waterproof case.

## How to find it

**Buy it:** Local mountaineering or sporting goods stores should have everything you need. Great selections of river gear are also available on-line through REI and Patagonia.

**Rent it:** We have good equipment available to rent. Reserve and pay for it in advance, pick it up at the pre-trip meeting, leave it behind when you're done. Simple.

**Sleep Kits** (polarguard bag, liner, self-inflating pad & tarp) are about \$10 per day.

**Tents** (two-person, free-standing, comfortable) are also about \$10 per day. Call us or reserve your rental gear when you register on-line.