



river trips

# Hike the Rogue

5 day raft-supported hiking trip



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## best things about the Rogue Trail

Gentle gradient  
Lots of creeks  
Lush scenery  
Incredible wildlife  
Enchanted forest

### SPECIFICS

Length in days: 5

Length in miles: 40

Overall difficulty: Moderate

Miles per day: ~8

Gradient: 14 feet/mile (downhill)

#### Signature Sections:

Inspiration Point, Ewok Forest

#### Types of boats:

Oar boats if you want a break

Minimum recommended age: 12

Rapids:	N/A
Scenery:	★★★★★
Wilderness:	★★★★★
Swimming:	★★★★★+
Hiking:	★★★★★
Campsites:	★★★★★
Wildlife:	★★★★★+
Fishing:	★★★★★

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## 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

In 1968, the Rogue was one of the original rivers to be protected as a National Wild and Scenic River. Lush and picturesque, with abundant wildlife, heavily forested canyon walls and numerous side creeks, the Rogue Canyon is a magical place. Paralleling the river for 40 miles is the renowned Rogue River Trail, an enchanting pathway that wends through lush forests, past historic cabins, over pristine creeks and along the majestic river. Hiking the trail in the spring, when the temperatures are usually cool (and the wildflowers are always cooler) is a great way to see the Rogue Canyon.

The trail was originally built by miners in the 1800's who used it to pack in supplies using mules and wheelbarrows. On this trip, our mules will be rafts which will parallel us on the river, carry all of our camping gear and food, and allow us to hike with just a light daypack and to enjoy fresh hearty meals (spinach salad! grilled chicken! brownies!) and other non-backpacking luxuries (chairs! pillows! beer!) when we get to camp. Overall, the trail drops about 200 feet in a gentle up and down pattern over 40 miles; the hiking isn't particularly strenuous, but you should be comfortable hiking 8 – 10 miles per day. We'll keep a steady pace to give us more time to explore the historical sites, enjoy the swimming holes and relax on the beach in camp.

*"I loved the quiet moments on the trail, listening to the river and the birds and the wind in the trees. Oh, and jumping in the river at the end of a hot day was exhilarating!"*

- Healy Vigderson



# The Rogue ~ logistics

5 day raft-supported hiking trip



## Meeting Place

Galice Resort  
11744 Galice Road  
Merlin, OR 97532  
541/476-3818

## Meeting Time

8:00 am the morning the trip begins.

## Return Time

Between 4:00 and 5:00 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 Galice; 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 Galice to the river trail 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 Galice 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 8:00 am the morning the trip begins on the deck overlooking the Rogue River at [The Galice Resort](#), 11744 Galice Road, Merlin, Oregon 97532 (541/476-3818). We'll pack our waterproof bags, go over final trip logistics, arrange shuttles, and answer any last minute questions. Cars will be left at Galice 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 Galice in the morning.

## How to get there

**Driving:** The Galice Resort is located right on the Rogue River about 15 miles west of I-5, and about 60 miles north of the Oregon-California border. To get to Galice, take Exit 61 off of I-5, turn west on Merlin-Galice Road and continue straight 15 miles (through the small town of Merlin) to Galice Resort (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 Galice Resort 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

[The Galice Resort](#) is a family-owned, informal place that is the hub for river trips on the lower stretch of the Rogue. It is a wonderful place to stay before and after your trip. Right on the river, they offer a variety of lodging options from rustic cabins to full modern houses. Reservations should be made well in advance. There are also numerous chain motels 30 minutes from Galice in Grants Pass.

## Before you get to Galice

Galice Resort is an isolated, self-contained establishment and once you are there, you won't want to leave. They 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 and be at the ocean the evening your trip concludes; the cost is about \$120 per vehicle and arrangements can be made in the morning at Galice.



# The Rogue ~ details

## 5 day raft-supported hiking trip



### Riding in the rafts

Accompanying our trip and carrying all of our gear will be two or three 18-foot oar rafts, each rowed by a guide. We'll try to have the rafts available should you get tired, but because the river is not always accessible from the trail, this isn't always possible. Also, because we have limited space in the oar rafts, not everyone can opt out of hiking at the same time. Generally, we'll be together in the morning, at lunch, and once we get to camp and we'll try to facilitate anyone who wants to take a break accordingly.

### Weather

Southwestern Oregon's springtime weather is variable and you should come prepared for a variety of conditions. It can be rainy and cold, misty and cool, or sunny and warm; sometimes all in the same day. Dressing in layers is the most practical solution and a good rain jacket and rain pants are valuable.

### 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). Camp activities vary from hiking and exploring the area, to relaxing along the river with a good book, to playing "koob" (you will learn). 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.

### 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. Observing these animals is one of the special attractions of our trips - don't forget your camera!

### Suggested Reading

KS Wild will provide a handy hiking guide and map that provides some basic information about what we might see along the trail. Additionally, 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 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.)

### Giving back

By joining us, you'll be helping to protect the Rogue River Canyon. We will be donating \$100 per participant to KS Wild in support of their work to protect and restore the extraordinary biological diversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou region of Southwest Oregon and Northern California. KS Wild values healthy forests and rivers and advocates for wildlife and wildlands (and loves the Rogue River). You can learn more about their valuable work on their [website](#).



# The Rogue ~ equipment

5 day raft-supported hiking 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. One of the treats of raft-supported hiking is not having to worry about weight. You can be fairly liberal with the amount of gear that you bring, but space is still a bit limited, so be judicious. 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

**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
- \*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!)
- Swimsuit or shorts and T-shirts
- Extra socks, (wool or fleece are best), and underwear
- Extra pair of shoes for camp (flip-flops are nice)
- 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 or down work well great)
- Small flashlight with extra batteries, (headlamps are great)
- Book, sketch pad, journal, etc.

**RIVER AND TRAIL ITEMS:** These will be worn or packed in your personal day pack .

- Day pack
- Hiking shoes or boots (broken in!)
- Pants or shorts and T-shirt, (nylon, quick-drying shorts and synthetic "tech-dry" type shirts are best )
- Polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece top (essential)
- Polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece pants (encouraged)
- Waterproof rainshell (essential) and rainpants
- Brimmed hat
- 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)
- Large water bottle or hydration pack (Camelbak, Platypus, etc)

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

- Camera
- Beer, wine, liquor, or soda in unbreakable containers, (cans or plastic bottles). We will try to keep it cold
- Trekking poles
- 1 or 2 plastic garbage bags & gallon size 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

5 day raft-supported hiking 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 camping 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.

## A day on the trail

We'll start each day with a hearty breakfast and a preview of the schedule and mileage, then grab some snacks and head off on the trail. We'll have a lead hiker, a sweep hiker and a general idea about the necessary speed and stopping points, but for the most part you'll be free to find your own pace. The KS Wild representative will offer insights into the history of the canyon as well as information about the flora and fauna that we'll encounter and there will be numerous interpretive stops for those interested in learning more about the area. If possible, we'll rendezvous with the rafts for lunch and a chance to off-load extra clothes, pick up new ones or even opt out of hiking for a chance to float downstream a bit. We should be able to get to camp early enough in the day to relax and enjoy some river time. Our guides will prepare sumptuous appetizers and you'll be able to enjoy your well-earned dinner and dessert sitting in a chair watching the river flow by.

## How to dress

**On the trail** - Most people start the day in long pants, synthetic long-sleeved top, comfortable hiking shirt and a cap (fleece beanie if it is cool, brimmed hat if it is sunny), with extra socks and a pair of shorts in their day pack. If it is rainy, they'll be wearing their rain shell; if it is sunny, it will be packed in their day pack. At the end of the day, most people have shed their insulation and are hiking in shorts and a lightweight shirt with their insulation layer, rain shell and dirty socks in their day pack.

**On your feet**, you want comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots. Make sure they are broken in! There are a few places where you will be hiking on uneven bedrock, but for the most part, the trail is pretty smooth. Wear something you can walk in all day. Clean socks and comfortable shoes or even flip-flops are great for around camp.

**In camp** - It can be chilly in the mornings and evenings, so a cozy down jacket or cotton hoodie are really nice for lounging by the river or sitting by the fire. A fleece beanie and gloves are nice, too. If it is raining, we'll have a big tarp set up, but you will need a good rain shell and pants to keep dry. It can also be sunny and warm in the afternoons, in which case a swimsuit is great; the Rogue and the sidestreams are cold, but provide a refreshing cleanse after a day on the trail.

## How to pack:

We'll provide you with a watertight dunnage bag for all of your camp gear. The bags are roughly 17 inches in diameter and 24 inches tall, (plenty big, but please try to limit all of your gear to about 25 pounds). Garbage bags, zip-lock bags and stuff sacks are good for keeping track of small and/or wet things inside the big bag. The bags will be transported by raft so you won't generally have access to them during the day. During the day, you will be carrying the essentials in your daypack, so make sure it is big enough for some extra clothes, rain shell, camera, snacks, water bottle, etc.

## How to find it

**Buy it:** Local mountaineering or sporting goods stores should have everything you need and fleece garments are now available at most department stores (and our guides find a lot of fleece and other trip clothing at thrift stores). Great selections of river trip gear are also available on-line through REI, Columbia or 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.

**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.