

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON

TRIP PLANNING GUIDE

TIMELINE & TO DO

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Read Through Your Booking Information

Keep yourself and your group informed by reading through your booking email and the attached PDF. Please contact us with any questions by calling our office at (208) 756-8116 or emailing info@idahoriverjourneys.com.

Purchase Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance to protect the investment you've made in your trip. Travelex Insurance is our suggested provider, and Idaho River Journeys' agency location number is 05-0917. Per our cancellation policy, all deposits and payments are non-refundable. Please see our Cancellation Policy and Performance Statement at the end of this document for more details.

Reserve Lodging in Stanley, ID

We recommend staying at our meeting place, the Mountain Village Resort. You can book your room on their website or by calling 1-800-843-5475. Please make your reservations well before your trip, and mention that you'll be floating the Middle Fork with Idaho River Journeys. If you are returning to Stanley at the end of your trip, don't forget to make reservations for that evening as well.

**If you are booking your river trip more than a year in advance, you will not yet be able to make your lodging reservation. Mountain Village Resort opens a special booking window for river trip guests in the autumn of each year. We will send a reminder to you when they open their yearly reservations.*

Make Travel Arrangements to Stanley, ID

Consider how you will arrive in Stanley, ID to start the trip. Book any flights or rental cars that you may need. Please refer to the Logistics section of this document for detailed travel information.

90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Complete Your Final Payment

Your remaining balance is due 90 days before the trip. You may pay your final payment by credit card by using the link to our website in your booking email. If you would prefer to pay by check or direct deposit, please let us know and we will assist you.

Complete Your Registration and Waiver

To help us prepare for your trip we need you to complete your trip registration and participation waiver. Forms are available through our website and linked in your booking email. Each participant must fill out their individual forms before meeting us in Stanley, ID.

Physical Conditioning

Your river trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon is an active and participatory wilderness experience. We do not have physical requirements, but encourage you to maintain a good level of fitness to get the most out of your backcountry adventure.

1-2 DAYS BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Arrive in Stanley, Idaho

7:30 P.M., Evening Before the Trip

Our pre-trip meeting is at 7:30 P.M. at the Mountain Village Resort. We meet on the back lawn between the wings of the building. We'll answer last-minute questions about the trip, give out waterproof bags for your gear, and review trip plans.

8:00 A.M., Morning of Departure

We meet at the front of Mountain Village Resort at 8:00 A.M. Please have breakfast before meeting for departure. Arrive "river-ready" wearing layers. Our primary launch site is Boundary Creek but water and safety concerns sometimes require that we launch our trips from a downstream airstrip necessitating a flight from Stanley the morning of departure.

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LOGISTICS

STARTING YOUR TRIP

Our Middle Fork trips originate in the small mountain town of Stanley, Idaho. Guests are responsible for getting to Stanley and for pre-trip lodging and meals. Plan to arrive in Stanley with plenty of time to make the 7:30 P.M. pre-trip meeting. You may choose to have dinner before or after the meeting.

Drive to Stanley

If you are within driving distance, driving to Stanley is a great option. At the end of your river trip, we provide ground transportation back to Stanley so your vehicle does not need to be shuttled to the end point. Your vehicle can be parked across the street from the Mountain Village Resort (MVR) for the days that you are on the river. There is a parking fee and you will need a parking permit from MVR's office. Only lodging guests who have booked a room at MVR will be able to use the long term parking lot. Please contact us to make arrangements for parking if you are staying elsewhere.

Fly to Boise & Take an Air Shuttle to Stanley

The closest major airport to Stanley is located in Boise, Idaho. From Boise, you may take an air shuttle to Stanley. We recommend Sawtooth Flying Service or Gem Air for your air shuttle service. It is a 45-minute spectacular flight over Idaho's backcountry. There are strict bag weight limit of 35 lbs per person. Upon arrival in Stanley, Mountain Village Resort will provide van transportation to the hotel.

Fly to Boise & Rent a Car

For families and larger groups, renting a car and leaving it in Stanley is an economical alternative to using an air shuttle service. Even though the vehicle isn't being utilized while you are on the river, it is still less expensive than an air charter. Car rental agencies with weekly rates include Enterprise, Hertz, Dollar, Avis, and National. Enterprise offers our guests special rates. Call or email us for details. There are no car rental drop-off facilities in Stanley and rental vehicles cannot be shuttled.

ENDING YOUR TRIP

Guests are responsible for making post-trip air and lodging arrangements. After lunch on the last day of the trip, we board our bus and head to the village of North Fork for a short break before continuing to the town of Salmon. From there we go to Stanley. We usually arrive in Salmon around 3:30 P.M. and arrive in Stanley around 6 P.M.

If You Drive:

Return to Stanley, ID

Ride back to Stanley on the bus and pick up your vehicle from where it was parked at Mountain Village Resort. From here, you may choose to spend the night in Stanley before departing, or begin your drive back home.

If it fits your travel plans better, you can have your personal vehicle shuttled from Stanley to Salmon while you are on the river. We will help you make shuttle reservations at the pre-trip meeting the evening before the trip.

If You Fly:

You have various options for returning to Boise to catch your departure flight. Please schedule departure flights out of Boise for the day after the trip's end at the earliest. Most people who use an air charter service fly from Salmon to Boise at the end of the trip and do not return to Stanley. We will have you at the Salmon airport around 3:45 P.M. on the day we get off the river. The flight from Salmon to Boise takes about 90 minutes. Alternatively, you can return to Stanley on our bus and fly to Boise the next morning. You need to decide on your round-trip option when you book your flight from Boise to Stanley with the air shuttle service.

IDAHO RIVER JOURNEYS

MIDDLE FORK PACK LIST

It's better to have it and not need it
than need it and not have it!

Suggested Pack List

- Quick dry shorts (2) one for the river and one for camp
- Long pants - for camp
- SPF long sleeve shirt and pants for sun protection
- Synthetic or wool long underwear - top and bottom
- Comfortable shirts for camp (3)
- Bathing suit (2) - (a two piece is recommended for those who squat to pee)
- Extra layers (layering is key)
- Fleece jacket
- Warm hat for cool camp mornings and evenings
- Wide brimmed hat for sun protection
- Raincoat and rain pants (foul weather gear is a must!)
- Sturdy water sandals or multi-sport shoes - with a back strap, good tread & support
- Lightweight hiking shoes or tennis shoes
- Socks (3 pair) - synthetic or wool for hiking
- Underwear and sleepwear
- Sunscreen and lip protection
- Sunglasses with retention strap
- Headlamp or flashlight with fresh batteries
- Small quick dry towel
- Small camping pillow
- Toiletries - travel size works best
- Personal medications
- Liter water bottle with a loop and carabiner
- Camera and extra batteries, memory card, or solar charging device and cord
- Wallet - in a ziplock, packed in overnight bag
- Check or cash for guide gratuity
- A Hawaiian shirt or party outfit for a festive night on the river!

Optional Items

- Fishing license (for guests 14 years or older)
- Fishing equipment - rods in protective cases
- Flip flops, crocs, or other comfortable shoes for camp
- Sundress or sarong
- Large Ziplock bags - for wet items and organization
- Binoculars
- Insect repellent
- Fanny pack or small day pack for hiking
- Paperback book
- Middle Fork Guide Book (+ fine point sharpie = river diary)

Gear IRJ Provides

- Outfitter quality tent set up for you by the crew
- Sleeping bag - rated to 20°
- Deluxe 2" thick "Paco" sleeping pad
- Large overnight dry bag (85 L)
- Small daytime dry bag (22 L)
- Hard waterproof Pelican boxes for DSLR cameras
- Idaho River Journeys mug for beverages
- Class V Personal Floatation Device
- Helmet for use in paddle boat/inflatable kayak
- Wet suit and splash top (weather dependent)

Additions for Early June/September

- Neoprene socks
- Puffy or insulated jacket
- Gloves
- Even more extra warm layers!

Please Leave At Home

- Valuables (wedding ring, etc.)
- Speakers and Music Systems
- Firearms

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FAQs & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What food and beverages are provided?

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last day. The food is fresh and wholesome and our guides will prepare it. We provide a selection of soda, sparkling water, beer and wine. You are welcome to bring additional beverages and snacks.

Do I need a fishing license?

The Middle Fork is a classic trout stream. Guests 14 years and older who are fishing must have an Idaho license. You can purchase one in Stanley before the trip or online at www.idfg.idaho.gov. A social security number is required for licensing. The Middle Fork is a catch-and-release river. Regulations require that only artificial lures (no bait) with single, barbless hooks be used.

Can I bring a personal satellite phone?

For many of our guests, part of the appeal of a river vacation is getting away from computers, email, and phones. Although the Middle Fork canyon is remote, in many places satellite phones are functional. On occasion, a guest will bring a private satellite phone with them. In this event, we ask that the phone not be used in our immediate camp setting, on our boats, in the vicinity of other guests or anyplace where other people are aware of its use.

Emergency contact information:

If there was a personal emergency that necessitated our contacting you during your trip, we would attempt to get a message to you. For emergency use, we carry a satellite phone. We would leave a text message for the crew and they would make a return call to us when they could, probably from camp that evening. The number to leave for someone to contact us is 1-208-756-8116.

How do gratuities work?

Gratuities are equally shared by all crew members. Typical tip amounts are 10-20% of the trip fare. Our crew is extraordinary and take extra efforts to make sure you have a fabulous vacation. Tips should be made by cash or check and go to the lead guide. Please note, the IRJ crew does not return to Stanley with guests.

Idaho River Journeys Cancellation Policy

Should you have to cancel your trip, deposits and final payments are NON-REFUNDABLE and we cannot issue credits for a future trip. We operate under strict federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. If you must cancel, try to find someone to take your place.

Performance

Although infrequent, it is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip, including moving to an alternative river, because of unusual or unexpected circumstances. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to adverse weather or water conditions, log jams, debris flows, forest fires, travel restrictions that limit access to the river, or other circumstances beyond our control. Adverse conditions may require the use of boats different from those advertised, promised or reserved. In the event of a cancellation, or modification of a trip, Idaho River Journeys cannot be responsible for any resulting expenses incurred by guests.

Permit Information

Middle Fork trips are conducted under permit issued by the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Salmon, Idaho. Operations and Facilities are operated on a nondiscriminatory basis. We are an equal opportunity employer.