

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) 768-7961 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 Salmon, Idaho

We recommend staying at our meeting place, the Stagecoach Inn. You can book your room on their website: stagecoachinnmotel.com or by calling (208)756-2919. 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 spending the night in Salmon at the end of your trip, don't forget to make reservations for that evening as well.

**If you are booking your river trip a year or more in advance, you will not yet be able to make your lodging reservation. We will send a reminder to you when lodging reservations open for the year of your trip.*

Make Travel Arrangements to Salmon, Idaho

Consider how you will arrive in Salmon, 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 make this payment by credit card using the online payment link 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 form 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 Salmon.

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 Salmon, Idaho

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

Our pre-trip meeting is at 7:30 P.M. at the Stagecoach Inn. We meet on the back lawn near the river. 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 in front of the hotel at 8:00 A.M. (subject to change based on our flight time). Please have breakfast before meeting for departure. Arrive "river-ready" wearing layers. From the hotel we will load up on a bus and drive 10 minutes to the airport in Salmon to catch our backcountry flight in to the Middle Fork wilderness.

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LOGISTICS

STARTING YOUR TRIP

Our Middle Fork trips originate in the small mountain town of Salmon, Idaho. Guests are responsible for getting to Salmon and for pre-trip lodging and meals. Plan to arrive in Salmon with plenty of time to make the 7:30 P.M. pre-trip meeting the evening before your trip begins.

Drive to Salmon

If you are within driving distance, driving to Salmon is our recommended option. At the end of your river trip, we provide ground transportation back to Salmon so your vehicle does not need to be shuttled to the end point. Your vehicle can be parked in the long-term parking lot at the Stagecoach Inn for the days that you are on the river. You will need a parking permit from the front desk. You can leave your keys with hotel staff for safe-keeping.

Fly to a Regional Airport & Rent a Car

The closest major airports to Salmon, Idaho are located in Missoula, MT (MSO, 3 hour drive), Idaho Falls, ID (IDA, 2.5 hour drive), and Boise, ID (BOI, 5 hour drive). Renting a car and leaving it in Salmon is an economical option. Even though the vehicle isn't being utilized while you are on the river, a weekly car rental is generally less expensive than an air charter. Enterprise Rent-A-Car offers our guests special weekly rates. Call or email us for details. There are no car rental drop-off facilities in Salmon.

Fly to Boise & Take an Air Shuttle to Salmon

If you fly in to Boise, ID (BOI), you may take an air shuttle to Salmon. This option is more expensive than renting a car, but is a time-saver. We recommend Sawtooth Flying Service or Gem Air for your air charter needs. There are strict bag weight limit of 35 lbs per person. Upon arrival in Salmon, Stagecoach Inn will provide van transportation to the hotel.

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. We usually arrive in Salmon around 3:30 P.M.

By Vehicle:

Ride back to Salmon on the bus and pick up your vehicle from where it was parked at Stagecoach Inn. From here, you may choose to spend the night in Salmon before departing, or begin your drive to your final destination.

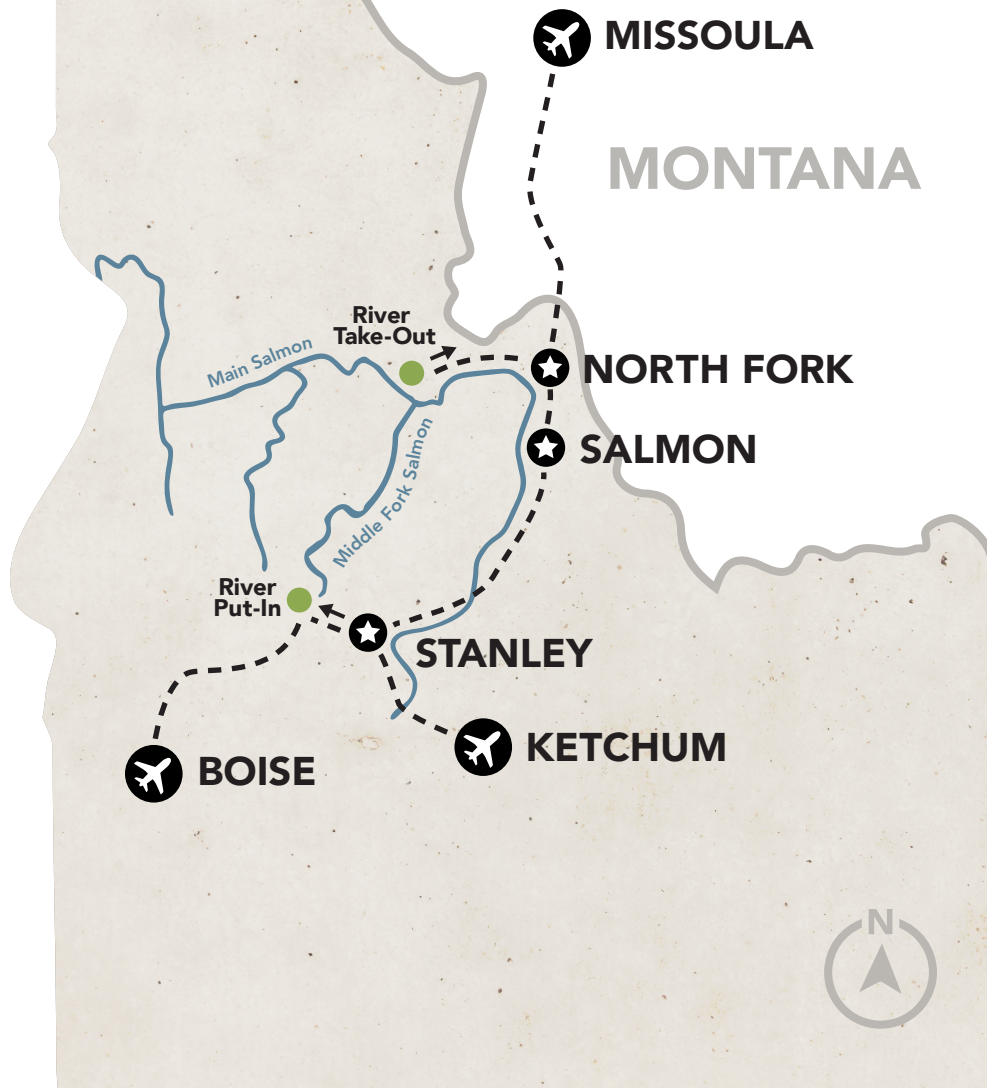
By Air Shuttle Flight:

Guests who use an air charter service from the Boise airport will book a round trip ticket to return to Boise. The round trip option departs from the airport in Salmon, Idaho in the afternoon on the day you get off the river. Idaho River Journeys provides transportation to the Salmon airport. The flight from Salmon to Boise takes about 90 minutes. We suggest staying the night in Boise and scheduling your main departure flight for the next day.

Please Note

Mountain weather in Idaho is dynamic and often unpredictable. Please schedule departure flights out of MSO, IDA, or BOI for the day after the trip's end at the earliest.

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER TRAVEL MAP



MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON PACKING 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) cotton is OK
- ☐ Bathing suit (2) - a two piece is recommended for those who squat to pee
- ☐ Extra layers (layering is key)
- ☐ Fleece or pile 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
- ☐ 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 map and guide book

Gear IRJ Provides

- ☐ Outfitter quality tent
- ☐ 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 box for DSLR cameras
- ☐ Idaho River Journeys mug for beverages
- ☐ Class V Personal floatation device and helmet
- ☐ Wetsuit and splash jacket (weather dependent)
- ☐ All group camping gear (chairs, tables, etc.)

Additions for Early June/September

- ☐ Neoprene socks or booties
- ☐ Insulated puffy jacket
- ☐ Gloves (neoprene or coated gardening gloves)
- ☐ Extra warm synthetic layers

Please Leave At Home

- ☐ Valuables and jewelry
- ☐ Speakers and music systems
- ☐ Firearms

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FAQs & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Food and beverages

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last day. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions as long as we are made aware of them to make advanced preparations. 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 fishing license. You can purchase one in Salmon before the trip or online at www.idfg.idaho.gov. 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.

Idaho River Journeys Cancellation Policy

IRJ is a small family business that operates under federal regulations that limit the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. When you book your reservation, we initiate preparations and arrangements with our vendors and guides. Your commitment means that we must decline other potential guests who wish to book the spaces we're holding for you. For these reasons, should you have to cancel your trip, deposits and all payments are NON-REFUNDABLE unless you can find a replacement for your reservation. In the event that you replace your reservation with another guest, all but half of your deposit per person will be refunded.

Performance

Although infrequent, it is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip 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.