

# Middle Fork of the Salmon

## Rafting Trip

### **A Rafting and Camping Adventure on America's Premier Wild River!**

*Idaho's Middle Fork of the Salmon is America's premier wilderness river. Deep cathedral forests, steep canyon walls, natural hot springs, fabulous fly fishing, 100 miles of exhilarating whitewater, spectacular hiking trails, and carefree camping in spacious and private sites make the Middle Fork of the Salmon rafting experience world famous.*

#### **Why Choose Us?**

More than 20 companies operate on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. So why choose us?

Let's start with our exceptionally talented [crew](#). It's the guides that differentiate between rafting companies and ours are outstanding--they come from varied backgrounds, have worked together for a number of years and enjoy sharing their knowledge of the canyon with guests. They'll show you favorite sites along the way, hike with you to magnificent vistas, help you with your fly casting, introduce you to kayaking and make you feel comfortable visiting this remarkable wilderness. You will enjoy spending your vacation with them—they're just plain FUN people!

How about our hearty, distinctive and [delicious meals](#)? From California Creek blueberry pancakes to Cajun marinated chicken to Dutch oven desserts, our talented crew does it all.

Safety is our biggest concern, and probably yours as well. The primary elements for a safe, healthy trip are always wear a life vest on the water, be diligent about hand washing and follow the directions of our guides. Our camping gear and boating equipment are as good as they get. Our track record is exceptional and we aim to keep it that way—we take your safety seriously and carry a satellite phone in the event of an emergency.

We're at our very best with family groups. Our guides are terrific role models for kids and enjoy boating with families. A Middle Fork trip provides a blend of excitement and relaxation for the parents and fun-filled, action-packed days for the kids. Our [Just for Moms](#) page has loads of information about taking your family on a Salmon River rafting vacation with us.

If you're a past guest of The World Outdoors, you'll receive an automatic 5% discount on this trip as part of our Frequent Traveler Program.

If this is your first trip with us, we have 75 other adventurous itineraries in the U.S. and Canada and 35 other countries to choose from in the future and you'll receive a 5% discount on any of them as a returning guest.

Those are just a few of the reasons...we're sure you'll come up with a few more once you've done the trip!

#### **The River**

The Middle Fork of the Salmon River originates with the merging of Bear Valley and Marsh Creeks. It begins as a small, quick stream close to 6000 feet above sea level. The flow increases more than five-fold as it flows north over 100 miles before its confluence with the Main Salmon River. The upper river runs through a tight canyon covered with Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. As the canyon opens, the landscape features ponderosa pine, sagebrush and mountain mahogany. The Middle Fork travels through three National Forests: Challis, Payette and Salmon.

#### **Rafting**

Put-in is at Boundary Creek. In the event of low or extreme high water flows, put-in is at Indian Creek, which requires a flight into a nearby airstrip. Most of the rapids on the Middle Fork are class III, with a few easy class IV. High water trips in late May and June offer more exciting challenges for experienced rafters.

For the last 20 miles, the river tumbles through the famed Impassable Canyon, which features almost

vertical batholith granite walls that tower thousands of feet over the river bed. It is inaccessible to drivers and hikers, leaving rafting or kayaking as the only way to take in this incredible sight. Take-out is at Cache Bar, which is four miles down the Main Salmon.

### **Wildlife**

Land and water mammals thrive in this wilderness setting. A trip to the area will often provide sightings of Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, mountain goats or bighorn sheep. During the summer most elk and mountain goats head to high elevations to graze in cool mountain meadows.

River otters will entertain everyone with their playful antics as they swim, dive and splash before heading out of the river to sun themselves on rocks. These otters dine on the abundance of fish in the Middle Fork and have webbed toes, short legs and strong tails allowing them to glide gracefully underwater.

The canyon surrounding the Middle Fork supports a wide variety of bird life including eagles, osprey, hawks and water ouzels. Grouse are also prevalent in the area. Bald eagles are probably the most fantastic bird sighting with their distinctive appearance and a wingspan of up to seven feet.

### **Trip Details**

**Trip Type:** Camping

**Trip Length:** 5 days/4 nights or 6 days/5 nights

**2012 Dates:** June 3-7, June 12-16, June 21-26, June 30-July 5, July 8-13, July 16-21, July 24-29, August 1-6, August 9-14, August 17-21, August 25-29, September 2 fly fishing departure, September 10 fly fishing departure, September 18 fly fishing departure

#### **Price:**

##### **Adults**

\$1695 June 3 and June 12 departures (5 days)  
\$1995 June 21, June 30, July 8, July 16, July 24,  
August 1, August 9 departures (6 days)  
\$1695 August 17 and August 25 departures (5 days)  
\$2195 September 2, September 10, September 18  
Fly Fishing departures (5 days)\*\*

##### **Kids & Students (including college and graduate school)**

\$1595 June 3 and June 12 departures (5 days)  
\$1895 June 21, June 30, July 8, July 16, July 24,  
August 1, August 9 departures (6 days)  
\$1695 August 17 and August 25 departures (5 days)  
\$2195 September 2, September 10, September 18  
Fly Fishing departures (5 days)\*\*

*\*\*12 guest limit - 2 fishermen / 1 guide per boat.*

**Group Size:** Minimum 1/ maximum 23 (except fly fishing departures, see info above)

**Trip Rating:** Moderately Easy

**Activities:** Rafting (every day), inflatable kayaking (optional), hiking (short hikes from camp), fly fishing (optional)

**Gateway City:** Boise, Idaho

**Meeting Time & Place:**

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Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: [fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com](mailto:fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com)**

### **Fishing**

The Middle Fork of the Salmon has world-class cutthroat, bull and rainbow trout fishing due to its clear water and the lack of upstream dams. All fishing on the Middle Fork has been catch and release since 1973, which has allowed the trout population to thrive. Only artificial flies or lures (no live bait) and single, barbless hooks are allowed.

The Middle Fork remains a stronghold for cutthroat trout and most average 12-15 inches. This river provides instant gratification for beginners to fly fishing. The water is incredibly clear allowing you to see the fish move to your fly. Experienced anglers will have no problem catching multiple trout each day.

Cutthroat and trout are all native to the Middle Fork. The season begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. Trout fishing is superb from about the third week in June throughout the summer. September is particularly good for fishing as the rafting season has died down and the water has slowed to a lower flow and cooler temperature causing the fish to become aggressive as they pack on winter weight.

June 3-August 9 Departures: Mountain Village Lodge in Stanley, Idaho at 7:30 p.m. the evening before the trip departure date; we meet at the back of the lodge near the walkway between the wings of the building.

August 17-September 18 Departures: Lobby of the Best Western Vista Inn in Boise, Idaho at 7:30 p.m. the evening before the trip departure date. These trips require a flight to a landing strip next to the Middle Fork on the morning of departure. The cost of this flight is included in the trip price.

**Trip Conclusion:** After lunch on the last day of the trip, our bus shuttles everyone to the town of Salmon. If there are guests who want to return to Stanley, we provide a shuttle from Salmon. We usually arrive in Salmon around 4:00 p.m. and two hours later in Stanley. Some guests enjoy spending the night in Salmon before flying to Boise the next morning. For lodging in Salmon, we recommend the Stagecoach Inn. Their reservations number is 208-756-4251. If you are returning to Stanley, we recommend our meeting place, the Mountain Village Lodge.

For guests who prefer to fly to Boise from Salmon the day they come off the river, flights can be scheduled for that afternoon at 4:00 p.m. For lodging in Boise, we suggest Best Western Vista Inn, 1-800-727-5006. They offer shuttle service to the nearby Boise Airport.

Guests are responsible for flight arrangements from Salmon or Stanley and should make reservations well in advance. The phone number for Salmon Air Taxi is 1-800-448-3413.

**Trip Fees Include:** Airfare from Boise on departures that originate there, meals (lunch Day 1-lunch on the final day), activities as described in the itinerary, tent, sleeping pad, freshly laundered sleeping bag, wetsuit as needed, life vest, all necessary equipment and instruction, bus transfers, and the services of professional, licensed guides.

**Trip Fees Exclude:** Airfare to and from Boise, airfare to Stanley and from Salmon, airfare from Stanley to a river airstrip if required [approximately \$125], alcoholic beverages (some beer and wine will be provided for free, however), pre-and post-lodging and meals, and guide gratuities.

### **The Next Step...**

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at [www.TheWorldOutdoors.com](http://www.TheWorldOutdoors.com). Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Malanify, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at [sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com](mailto:sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com). Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call James TravelPoints, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at [GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com](mailto:GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com). Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

### **General Information / Questions & Answers**

What weather conditions can I expect? Daytimes highs typically range from the mid 60s in early June to 80s in July and August and in the mid 70s in early September. Nighttime low typically range from the mid-30s to mid-50s. June through September are generally fairly dry with about an inch of rain each month on average. You should, however, come prepared for a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions. The weather can change quickly in the mountains.

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How difficult is this trip...Really? No experience is required for any activity including rafting, but this is an activity-oriented trip. On our trips we provide a variety of boats that allow you to actively paddle the river or sit back and take in the scenery or fish.

Tour Operator: This tour is operated by our partner, Idaho River Journeys, who have been running trips on the Middle Fork since 1978. The owners of The World Outdoors and Idaho River Journeys have served for several years together on the board of directors of America Outdoors Association.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Malanify at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Idaho River Journeys: Office at 888-997-8399 or Bob Volpert at 208-756-8116

What Is the Camping Like: We are assigned private campsites for each night by the U.S. forest Service at the start of the trip. Camping on our trips is spectacular and comfortable. Our sweep boat travels ahead of our group and camp is set up before our arrival. Even if you've never camped before, you'll be very comfortable and marvel at the [delicious meals](#) our crew prepares.

Is this trip OK for Kids: The minimum age for children is 9. But younger children may be allowed with prior approval.

Rafts: 14 ft paddle rafts and 16 ft. oar boats plus inflatable kayaks. Paddle boats hold 6 guests plus a guide, oar boats 2 - 3 guests plus a guide. Kayaks are single person. Typically a trip will consist of four oar boats rowed by guides, two participatory paddle rafts, a small fleet of inflatable kayaks and a large gear boat that travels ahead of the group and sets up camp.

Sleeping Bags and Tents: We provide spacious tents, freshly laundered sleeping bags, and comfortable sleeping pads for use by our guests. Our sleeping bags are medium sized "mummy" types. You may, of course, bring your own bag and tent if you'd prefer.

Food and Beverages: 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 some soda, beer and wine. You are welcome to bring additional beverages.

Fishing: The Middle Fork is a premier trout stream with a hearty population of cutthroat trout. To fish, you must have an Idaho license. You can purchase one in Stanley or Boise before the trip or by phone directly from Idaho Sports Licensing by calling 1-800-554-8685. The Middle Fork is a catch-and-release river. Regulations require that only artificial lures (no bait) with single, barbless hooks be used and that all fish caught be released. With notice, we can provide fly rods for guests.

Pre-Trip Meeting: Our pre-trip meeting is at 7:30 p.m. the evening before we depart for the river. We'll answer questions about the trip, give out waterproof bags for your gear and review trip plans. At 8:00 a.m. the next morning we leave for the river. Our primary launch site is Boundary Creek but water and safety concerns sometimes require that we launch our trips downstream from the airstrip at Indian Creek, necessitating a flight from Stanley the morning of departure. The cost (about \$125) of the charter flight from Stanley to Indian Creek is not included in our trip fare. If your trip meets in Boise, the flight to the river is included in our fare.

Travel Arrangements to Boise and Stanley: Airlines with service to Boise include Southwest, United, Delta, Northwest, US Air, Alaska, Frontier and ExpressJet. If your trip meets in Stanley, the easiest way to get there is by air charter. McCall Salmon Air Taxi has flights every day. You need to book this flight in advance. Their phone number is 1-800-448-3413. Air shuttle companies have a maximum baggage weight of 35 pounds per person. Soft sided duffels work best for both flying and packing into our waterproof bags.

Car Shuttles: If you drive to Stanley, you can arrange to have your car shuttled to Salmon from Stanley while you are on the river. Contact River Shuttles at 1-800-831-8942 for information and rates. Arrangements should be made in advance.

Pre- and Post-Trip Accommodations: The World Outdoors recommends the following hotels when you arrive before or stay after your trip.

- Mountain Village Resort in Stanley, Idaho / 800-843-5475 or 208-774-3661/ <http://www.mountainvillage.com/>
- Best Western Vista Inn in Boise, Idaho / 800-727-5006 / <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=13029>
- The Stagecoach Inn in Salmon, Idaho / 208-756-4251 / <http://www.stagecoachinnmotel.com/>

Cancellation Policy: If you must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund if the cancellation is made at least 60 days before departure. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests

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per trip and the number of trips per season. If you must cancel, try to find a friend to take your place. Idaho River Journeys requires a nonrefundable deposit of \$500 per person to confirm a reservation. The balance is due at least 60 days prior to departure. Cancellations within 60 days of a trip are not eligible for refund.

Tiping: Gratuities are equally shared by all crew members. Typically tip amounts are 10-15% of the trip fare.

Trip Cancellations and Changes: 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, The World Outdoors is not responsible for any resulting expenses incurred by guests.