

Rogue River Trip Information

ROGUE RIVER JOURNEYS



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RIVER TRIP DETAILS

In 1968, Congress designated and protected the Rogue River as one of the initial rivers of the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act". The Rogue is magnificent with lively rapids, deep forests and dramatic canyon views. Trips here are a blend of fun whitewater and relaxation. Campsites are comfortable, wildlife abundant and the scenery spectacular.

Our Rogue River vacations are designed so that planning is easy and hassle free. From the time that we meet you at the Galice Resort until your return after the trip, we supply everything that you'll need to enjoy your rafting vacation. This includes all rafting gear, delicious meals, snacks, juice, water and a limited supply of soda, beer and dinner wine.

Most of our trips include a last night's stay at a river lodge. During June, July and August our trips are usually four days long and we camp out the first two evenings. On our three-day trips in May, September and October, we spend our first night camping and our second night at a lodge.

These notes will help you prepare for your trip. You'll find information on everything from travel and lodging arrangements, typical weather and menus, to cancellation and refund policies. When reading these notes, it is helpful to have a road map of Oregon handy.

PRE-TRIP MEETING

On the morning of your trip, our lead guide will meet you and other guests at the Galice Resort & General Store at **8:00 A.M.** We'll answer questions about the trip, give out waterproof bags for personal gear and then shuttle everyone to our put-in site by van. *Please be prompt. Have breakfast before the meeting and be dressed for a day of rafting.*

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Meeting Place:
Galice Resort & General Store

Meeting Time: 8:00 A.M.
(Please be ready to go by our 8:00 A.M. meeting)

Our meeting place is on the north, or riverside of Galice Road, about a 40-minute drive from Grants Pass. From Grants Pass, take Interstate 5 north about 1-1/2 miles to the Merlin exit (Exit #61). Follow the Merlin-Galice Road west through the town of Merlin to Galice. If you plan to have your car shuttled (see below) make sure that you have a full tank of gas, two sets of car keys and allow time to make shuttle arrangements. The Galice Resort serves breakfast and has a small store for last minute needs. They sell books about the Rogue as well as fishing licenses.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Rogue is a day's drive from the San Francisco Bay Area. The most direct route is driving north on I-5 to Grants Pass and then to Galice that day or the next morning.

Medford is the nearest airport to the Rogue and has service with United, Alaska, Horizon and other airlines. Plan on arriving the day before your trip departs. The Galice Resort is about a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from the airport. Shuttles to and from the airport can be arranged with High Country Shuttle, or, if you have a group, directly with the Galice Resort. These shuttles are not included in the price of your trip.

For airport shuttle service, call:
The Galice Resort 1-541-476-3818

The Galice Resort can pick you up from the airport, take you to your motel and if needed, take you to the Galice Resort the next morning to rendezvous with us and start your trip.

On the last day of your trip, we will transport you back to Galice in a shuttle van. This shuttle takes about 2 hours and we usually arrive at Galice by 6:00 P.M. Although you may be able to arrange a flight home from Medford after 8:00 P.M. that evening, we urge you to fly out the next day. The Galice Resort can transport you from Galice back to the airport.

SHUTTLE ARRANGEMENTS

Although we provide transportation back to Galice at the end of the trip, some guests prefer to have their car driven to our take-out at Foster Bar. This makes sense if you would like to tour the Oregon Coast or visit Redwood National Park in California. Arrangements for this vehicle shuttle can be made at the Galice Store the morning of your trip. Guests are responsible for paying the shuttle fee, which costs about \$100.00 depending upon the route used. If you plan to have your car shuttled, please make sure that you have a full tank of gas and let our lead guide know about your plans at the pre-trip meeting. Having two sets of keys available also makes logistics easier.

LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS

In planning your trip to Oregon, we recommend that you stay at our meeting place, the Galice Resort, the night before your trip departs. This makes meeting easier on the morning of your trip. Galice's phone number is (541) 476-3818. Galice has rustic cabins and rooms in the Galice House available. Please call the Galice Resort as soon as possible to make lodging reservations. Be sure to let them know that you will be rafting with Rogue River Journeys.

If Galice is full, it's no big deal, as there are a number of lodging alternatives close by. The closest alternatives are the Pine Meadow Inn Bed and Breakfast, 1-800-554-0806 and Morrison's Lodge, 1-800-826-1963.

Both establishments are beautiful settings, with upper end lodging accommodations and meals available. In Grants Pass (40-minute drive from Galice) there are numerous motels available including the Holiday Inn Express (541) 471-6144, Shilo Inn (541) 479-8391 and the Riverside Inn (541) 476-6873.

The best camping facility nearby is Indian Mary Campground, a few miles before Galice. It is operated by Josephine County. A few miles beyond Galice is another campground, Almeda Bar. It is less developed with fewer sites and facilities. For campsite reservations, call Josephine County Parks and Recreation at (541) 474-5285.

ON THE RIVER & RIVER SAFETY

On your trip we'll float about 40 miles and run some outstanding whitewater. Typically, we'll have breakfast around 8:00 A.M. each day and try to be on the water by 10:00 A.M. We raft about 6 hours every day with a break for lunch early in the afternoon. When we arrive at camp you'll have time to relax, swim or sit back with a good book. Some guests like to help with camp chores and you are welcome to participate as much or as little as you like.

Safety on your trip in our primary concern and probably yours as well. You will be traveling in a remote area and doing something that is quite a bit different from your everyday routine. The primary elements for a safe, healthy trip are to ALWAYS wear a lifevest on water, be diligent about hand washing and to follow the directions of our guides. Guests and guides wear lifevests whenever we're on river. There are lodges and access points along the river in the unlikely event that an evacuation is needed. Our guides are trained in First Aid and river rescue techniques.

GUIDES

We have a great crew. Their ages range from 20-50 and they represent a broad spectrum of backgrounds. Our guides are bright, fun people and you will enjoy spending time with them. Because many of our guests book as families, we take a cautious approach when it comes to staff conduct and appearance. Our crew follows careful sanitation and food handling practices. The guides do all of the camp cooking and clean up on the trip, although you are welcome to help with camp chores if interested.

BOATS & EQUIPMENT

Our boats are rugged inflatable rafts 12 to 18 feet in length that carry gear and passengers. On nearly all of our trips, we bring along inflatable kayaks. These stable, easy to use boats let you run rapids on your own. We usually bring a paddle boat on our 20 guest/large trips, but generally do not take a paddle boat on our 12 guest/small trips, because the oar boat/kayak set up gives us more flexibility to run a "camp chase boat," carry plenty of food, drinks and ice and handle other on-water logistics. Accessory equipment that we provide includes comfortable lifevests designed specifically for rafting, waterproof bags for personal gear and first aid and safety supplies.

WHAT TO BRING

River attire should be casual and comfortable. Please limit your personal gear but bring warm, functional clothing in the event weather is inclement. The Rogue canyon is usually warm, however rain and cold weather can occur at any time. Rain gear and a tent are essential on all trips. A light change of clothing and a wool or fleece pullover are usually sufficient for camp.

We have camping gear available if you want to borrow a tent, pad or sleeping bag. ***Please let us know at least two weeks before your trip if you would like to borrow this gear.*** There is no extra charge for this service.

- Sleeping bag, pad, light, compact tent.
(We can lend you this gear if needed)
- Rain jacket with rain pants
- Wool sweater or fleece pullover or jacket (Please avoid cotton jackets or sweatshirts)
- Pillow
- Shirt and pants for camp
- Sunscreen
- Baseball type cap
- Sunglasses with strap
- Tennis shoes for camp and the lodge
- Swimsuit and shorts
- Insect repellent
- Toiletries
- Personal medication
- Towel
- Water bottle with loop for attaching to the boats
- Flashlight
- River sandals with straps (so they will stay on your feet) or tennis shoes to wear in the boats and while swimming
- A floral print or Hawaiian shirt makes for fun attire at the lodge.

Each guest is provided with a waterproof bag for personal gear. It is about the size of a standard duffel bag and you'll need to pack carefully since it must hold your sleeping bag, changes of clothing and other items. We usually pack tents separately and provide "day bags" for easily accessible gear on the boats during the day.

Optional items might include a paperback book, sketchpad, field glasses, fishing equipment (rods in protective, aluminum cases) and camera. Do not bring radios or firearms.

Remember that the Rogue can experience changeable weather throughout the season. Our experience has shown that wool or fleece clothing (it stays warm even when wet) provides the best all weather comfort. Cotton jackets and sweatshirts provide little warmth if they get wet and should be avoided. Rain jackets and pants are not only good for foul weather, but also provide splash protection on cold mornings.

You may not use all of the gear on your packing list, but we strongly recommend that you bring it all.

RIVER TIME

Our Rogue trips are long enough to begin to forget what time and day of the week it is. We affectionately refer to this feeling as "river time." So much of our lives are run by the calendar and time of day that it's nice to enjoy the experience of time not mattering. To that end, you might want to leave your watch in your vehicle for the duration of your trip.

FOOD

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last. The food is fresh and hearty and our guides will prepare it. With advance notice, we can accommodate special diet requests.

We carry ample supplies of juices, coffee, tea and hot chocolate, as well as a limited supply of soda, beer and dinner wine. We plan on providing 1-2 sodas and beers per guest, per day. In addition to our supply, you are welcome to bring your own beverages on the trip. Canned soda and beer works best for packing, but bottled wine is fine to bring as well.

CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

To protect the canyon, we carry out all trash and use no soap in the river. Guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact of our group's trip.

Camp toilets are either a BLM three-sided pit toilet with seat and lid, or our own heavy duty, metal porta potties with seats that seal tightly for transport. Our crew sets them up in private places away from our camping and eating areas. We place a paddle next to the hand-wash set up down the trail, away from the toilet. When someone uses the toilet, they take the paddle with them to show that it is in use.

When done, they return the paddle to the hand-wash area, signaling that it is vacant. A hand wash system is always available at both the toilet and in the kitchen area.

TIPPING

Guests sometimes ask whether gratuities are appropriate. If you enjoyed your trip, please feel free to leave a tip with the lead guide at the end of the trip. Typically, tips range between 8-15% of the trip fare. Gratuities will be shared among all the guides.

YOUR HEALTH

Our Rogue River trips are relaxing, but they are a dramatic change in routine for most people. To participate, you should be in good health. You may also need to perform certain physical activities. These include basic swimming, hiking in rugged or uneven terrain, climbing in and out of rafts and assisting in your rescue, if that becomes necessary. Please let us know when you return your Release Agreement, if you have any health or dietary restrictions. We'll gladly accommodate reasonable dietary restrictions with advanced notice.

RESPONSIBILITY

Trip participants should understand that river trips involve known and unknown risks. Rogue River Journeys assumes no responsibility for injuries, death or loss/damage to client's property while on the river. All clients must sign a Release and Waiver Agreement expressly acknowledging these points. Rogue River Journeys assumes no responsibility for vehicles and/or the contents of vehicles parked during the trip. Because of the risks associated with river trips, including personal injury, death, property loss or damage or financial loss in the event of trip cancellation, we urge all trip participants to supplement their own insurance with vacation insurance.

Please read and provide the personal information requested on our Participant Agreement and return it to our office well before your trip.

AGE LIMITS

The minimum age on our Rogue River trips is six years old. Our trips in July and August are best suited for children. This age limit is in place for the safety of your child, the safety of our other guests and our guides.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you supplement personal insurance with travel insurance. Policies that include accident, cancellation, and baggage protection are available through our office, as well as most travel agents. Cancellation initiated by you may result in substantial loss of fees paid. Available insurance protects against the loss of deposits in the event you must cancel because of unforeseen circumstances.

PERFORMANCE

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to weather or water conditions or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for expenses other than refunding all or part of fees paid to Rogue River Journeys.

The determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details. Guides and other on-river personnel are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or credits. Such determinations can only be made by company officers.

CANCELLATIONS

If you must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under stringent federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. We incur substantial expenses before each trip departs and, in the event of late cancellations cannot recover costs, nor can we make refunds. If you must cancel at the last minute and do not have travel insurance; try to find a friend to take your place.

Rogue River Journeys requires a non-refundable deposit of \$250 per person to confirm a reservation. The balance of the trip fee is due no later than 60 days prior to departure. If the balance is not paid within our terms, the reservation is assumed to be canceled and the deposit forfeited.

Written cancellation notice received by our office more than 60 days prior to the trip will result in a refund of fees paid less the non-refundable portion. Within 60 days there are no refunds.

PERMITS

We operate under Special Use Permit from the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Oregon State Marine Board licenses our activities. Our permit and license are your assurance that Rogue River Journeys is legally outfitting on the river. Our operations and facilities are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. Because the Rogue is in the mountain west and summer weather is usually dry, the managing agencies sometimes ban open fires during the summer. In this case, we use propane stoves for cooking and are unable to light a campfire at night.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Many of our guests enjoy visiting other attractions in the southern Oregon area as part of their vacation. Some options include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in nearby Ashland, Oregon, (541) 482-2111; Crater Lake National Park, (541) 830-8700; and Oregon Caves National Monument, (541) 592-2100. The Grand Canyon of the Rogue River and the headwaters of the Rogue are also worth a visit. These attractions are north of Medford, along Highway 62. We'd be happy to suggest other attractions in southern Oregon to compliment your rafting trip. Give us a call for details.

WEATHER INFORMATION

A recorded weather forecast for the Rogue area is updated daily at (541) 476-5256. You can also access local weather information through our website, RogueRiverTrips.com

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about our Rogue trips, call Jim Ritter. Jim's toll-free phone number is 1-866-213-7754. His e-mail address is Jim@RogueRiverTrips.com. ■