

Chetco River Trip Details

TRIP CHECKLIST

- ☐ Plan for the unexpected by purchasing [Travel Insurance](#)
- ☐ Make lodging arrangements for the night before and night after your trip
- ☐ Complete your [trip registration and request camping gear on our web site](#)
- ☐ Sign your release form on our [web site](#)
- ☐ Pay the final balance 60 days before the trip
- ☐ Watch our [pre trip safety talk](#)

THE RENDEZVOUS

MEETING PLACE

[Holiday Inn Express](#)
Grants Pass, Oregon

PRE TRIP MEETING

7 PM in the [Holiday Inn Express](#) lobby the evening before the trip

AFTER THE TRIP

You'll return to Grants Pass on the last day around 5 PM

HOW TO GET THERE

If you Fly: The closest commercial airport is in Medford, Oregon (MFR). Plan your flight to arrive at least the day before your launch date. The easiest way to get from the Medford Airport to the Holiday Inn Express is a taxi or an Uber.

If you Drive: We'll meet you at the Holiday Inn Express in Grants Pass at 7 PM the night before the trip. You can leave your car in their parking lot if you are staying the night before and after the trip. If you plan to stay just one night please call them at (541) 471-6144 to confirm you can leave your car in their lot for the duration of the trip.



WHERE TO STAY BEFORE AND AFTER

Make reservations well in advance. Northwest Rafting Company does not make reservations or cover the cost of your room.

GRANTS PASS, OR

Meeting Place

Holiday Inn Express

(541) 471-6144

GRANTS PASS, OR

2.6 Miles Away

Riverside Inn

(541) 476-6873

GRANTS PASS, OR

2.6 Miles Away

The Lodge at Riverside

(541) 955-0600

Camping at Almeda Bar, Indian Mary, Griffin Park, Whitehorse Park, Lake Selma Park, and more can be reserved through the [Josephine Country Parks web site](#).

NWRC PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING

- ☐ Post trip transportation from back to Grants Pass, OR
- ☐ Transportation from the river back to Grants Pass, OR
- ☐ All on-river meals
- ☐ Tent*
- ☐ Sleeping bag and sleeping pad*
- ☐ Waterproof bags for your personal gear
- ☐ Wetsuit**

* **Camping Gear** Tents, sleeping bags, and pads are available from us at no additional cost, but you must request them. Please indicate your gear requests in your trip registration on our website.

** **Wetsuits** can be requested during your trip registration on our web site.

YOU ARRANGE THESE DETAILS

Some things are out of our hands. You'll need to make arrangements for the following:

- ☐ Meals and lodging before and after your trip
- ☐ Personal clothing and other miscellaneous items
- ☐ Transportation to and from Grants Pass, OR
- ☐ Guide gratuities

CHETCO RIVER WEATHER

Weather on the Chetco River is typically warm and sunny but it can be cold with occasional showers or downright deluges. Expect highs in the 90s and lows in the 40s with water temperatures in the 40s. The river canyon is close enough to the Oregon Coast that weather systems can move in and change the overall conditions as fast as the tides turn. The majority of trips have great weather, but at times the weather can be unexpectedly bad or even miserable.

ON THE RIVER - TYPES OF BOATS



INFLATABLE KAYAKS (“DUCKIES”) are an opportunity to paddle under your own power and direction. Each morning you’ll tie your personal bag in your kayak.

The guides will give instructions before the trip and directions for navigating the bigger rapids. Helmets are always required in the inflatable kayaks.



TOILETS AND SANITATION

We will be using portable river toilets. When setting up toilet facilities we are conscious of sanitation and privacy needs. We follow Leave No Trace principals, carry out all trash, and use no soap in the river. The guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact of our group on the canyon and we ask for your cooperation.

PACKING AND BAGS

Each individual will be provided **half of a dry bag** for the duration of the trip. The bag, when fully packed, measures about 17 inches in diameter by 32 inches in height and is almost the size of a large garbage bag. Your sleeping bag, pad, and personal items must fit into this bag.

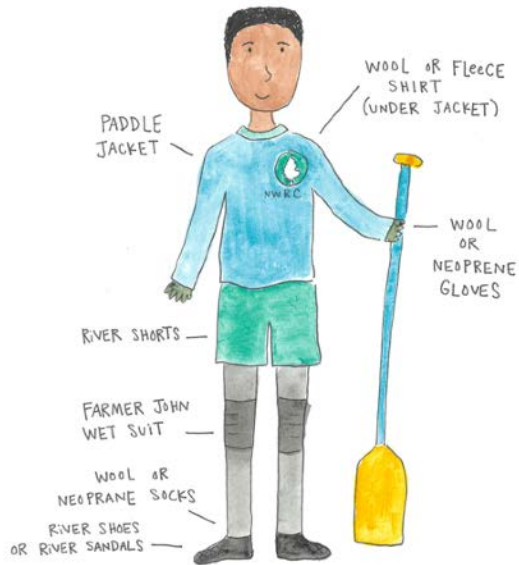
Separate bags will be available for tents. You will also be provided with a dry day bag for items you may want during the day, such as a camera, chapstick, sunscreen, extra layer, or rain gear.

RIVER NAVIGATION

Portaging around rapids is part of the experience. At times rapids will be too difficult or the water will be too low to navigate them. It’s important that you’re physically fit so you can push, pull, and drag your boat in and around rapids.



THE NOT - SO - FAIR WEATHER BOATER



We are carrying all of our equipment 10 miles to the river so please keep the total weight of your gear to a minimum.

RIVER CLOTHING/GEAR

- ☐ Shorts or Swimsuit
- ☐ Lightweight Wool or Polypro Shirt
- ☐ Wool or Polypro Shirt
- ☐ Wool or Polypro Pants
- ☐ Wool or Neoprene Socks
- ☐ Sturdy River Shoes (see next page)
- ☐ Wetsuit and Paddle Jacket (see next page)

CAMP CLOTHING/GEAR

- ☐ Lightweight Pants
- ☐ Lightweight Camp Shirt
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Warm Jacket or Heavy Wool Shirt
- ☐ Rain Jacket
- ☐ Rain Pants
- ☐ Wool or Fleece Beanie
- ☐ Wool or Fleece Socks
- ☐ Hiking Shoes (see next page)
- ☐ Headlamp or Flashlight

THE RAINY WEATHER CAMPER



CAMPING GEAR

- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Sleeping Pad
- ☐ Tent
- ☐ Mylar Emergency Blanket

PERSONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Small Camp Pillow
- ☐ Toiletries and Medications
- ☐ Sunscreen and Lip Balm
- ☐ Insect Repellent
- ☐ Water Bottle with Locking Carabiner
- ☐ Sunglasses

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Bike Gloves for Paddling
- ☐ Knee Pads
- ☐ Lightweight Flip flops for Camp
- ☐ Biodegradable Soap and Shampoo
- ☐ Dramamine for Van Ride

Dressing safely and comfortably (not to mention fashionably) for river trips is a challenging task. You will need two sets of warm clothing: one for the river and one for in camp.

USE THE “LAYERING SYSTEM”

WETSUITS AND PADDLE JACKETS

These are required although you may not need to wear them every day. We're happy to provide them, but you'll need to tell us what size you would like as part of your trip registration. Our wetsuits are 1/8 inch farmer john style and can be worn over your polypro or wool shirt and with a paddle jacket on top.

BRING CLOTHES THAT CAN BE WORN UNDER OR ON TOP OF OTHERS

Layering allows easy adjustment to quickly changing weather conditions by adding or subtracting layers.

POLYPROPYLENE (POLYPRO) OR FLEECE

These synthetic materials wick moisture away from the skin. A medium or heavy weight shirt and pants are essential as the first layer.

WOOL

Wool is a natural fiber that naturally wicks moisture away from your skin keeping you warm when wet. Merino wool is a soft, lightweight type of wool.

COTTON

Cotton can significantly lower body temperature when wet. Your primary clothing should be wool, polypro, or other fabric designed to provide insulation in wet conditions.

RAINWEAR

A rain jacket and pants can be worn over a wetsuit to protect you from the spray from rapids as well as wind and rain from storms. Coated nylon or breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex are best.

PACKING PRO-TIPS

- Pack clothing that can get wet and dirty. To cut down on bulk, plan to re-wear your dry clothes.
- Large Ziploc bags are great for organizing items like toiletries, electronics, or socks and underwear.
- Bring a garbage bag to keep your dirty clothes separate from everything else.
- We are traveling through remote wilderness. There is no internet, no cell service, and no electricity. If you need to be reached while on the river, consider renting a [satellite phone](#).
- If you bring a camera consider purchasing a [Pelican Box](#) to protect it.*
- If you bring your smart phone it's a good idea to purchase a [waterproof case](#).*

* We receive a commission if you purchase from these links.

STURDY RIVER SHOES

On the river you'll need high quality river shoes with soles that stick to wet rock. We'll be portaging some rapids and walking in the riverbed. We highly recommend the [Astral TR1 Merge](#) since they grip on wet rock and provide ankle support.

HIKING BOOTS OR TRAIL SHOES

You'll need solid shoes for the 10 mile hike into the Chetco River. We recommend either hiking boots or trail shoes with good ankle support. If you purchase new shoes please wear them for a few days on uneven terrain before the trip.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

— All participants must be able to meet the physical requirements and demands of the trip for which they have registered. Participants are responsible for contacting Northwest Rafting Company if they have any questions regarding their physical abilities and the trip's demands or to request an accommodation. All participants will be required to follow the safety policies and procedures of Northwest Rafting Company and its guides, as well as all other policies and procedures. NWRC reserves the right, in their sole discretion, to deny participation to any participant who engages in conduct that is considered by the guides to be unsafe, that risks the safety of other participants or guides, or that is inappropriate. All participants will be required to sign an agreement to assume all risks, a release of liability/agreement not to sue, and an agreement to indemnify in favor of Northwest Rafting Company.

ON THE RIVER

— The pace of your river trip is very dependent on the water level! You will usually spend four to five hours a day on the river. Breakfast is about 8 AM and you are typically on the river around 10 AM.

There will be a stop mid-day for lunch and maybe a short hike. We get to camp in the late afternoon, allowing time to hike and relax before dinner.

AFTER THE TRIP

— The trip ends in the early afternoon of the last day. At this time board a van, which will return to Grants Pass.

The van trip takes about 5 hours, arriving back in Grants Pass around 5 PM. It's a beautiful but windy drive: those prone to carsickness may want to be prepared with Dramamine and sit near the front of the van.

MEALS AND ALCOHOL

— NWRC provides all meals from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day. Dietary restrictions and allergies can be accommodated with advance notice. Alcoholic beverages may be brought in unbreakable containers. For your safety, drinking alcoholic beverages on the river is not allowed.

FISHING

— If you're interested in fishing you'll need a fishing license which can be purchased at the [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife web site](#). Please bring collapsible rods in unbreakable cases.

RIVER GUIDES

— Our guides have a deep appreciation for the rivers we run, and want you to enjoy your trip with them. They are happy to help you if you are an inexperienced camper or have questions about the river.

NWRC guides are accomplished in outdoor skills and extensively trained in first aid and CPR. In addition, the guides are mature, interesting people we think you'll enjoy.

GRATUITIES

— We are often asked if tipping is appropriate. Tips are certainly appreciated by your guides and are usually around 10% to 15% of the trip cost. Tips can be given to the head guide who will evenly distribute them between the guide crew.

Whether and how much you tip should depend on your satisfaction with the trip, your feelings about tipping, and your financial means.