



TRIP DETAILS | CHETCO RIVER

THE WILD AND SCENIC CHETCO AWAITS!

Planning ahead will help you enjoy all that the river wilderness has to offer. A few things to check off your to-do list before departure are:

- Complete your Trip Registration online, or fill out the paper form and mail or fax it to the NWRC office.
- Plan for the unexpected with Travel Insurance.
- Make lodging arrangements for the night before and night after your trip.
- Final payment is due 60 days before your trip.

THE RENDEZVOUS

MEETING PLACE

Holiday Inn Express
105 NE Agness Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97526

MEETING TIME

8:00 AM on your trip start date

AFTER THE TRIP

You'll be back to Grants Pass in the early evening of the last day of your trip



HOW TO GET THERE

— If You Fly | The closest commercial airport is in Medford, Oregon. Plan your flight to arrive at least the day before your launch date. Shuttle service can be arranged from the Medford airport through the Galice Resort (541) 476-3818 or Affordable Shuttles (866) 484-4467.

— If You Drive | Take Interstate 5 towards Grants Pass. Take the South Grants Pass exit (#55) and head west towards town on Grants Pass Parkway. Take the first right onto Agness Avenue and the Holiday Inn will be on your right. You can leave your car here for the duration of the trip.



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NWRC PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING

You get to leave most of the trip logistics to us. We'll take care of the following:

- Transportation from Grants Pass to the river
- Transportation from the river back to Grants Pass
- All on-river meals, snacks, and beverages
- Waterproof bags for your personal gear
- Tent (by request)
- Freshly laundered sleeping bag and pad (by request)

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 / effects
- Transportation to and from Grants Pass, OR
- Guide Gratuities

GRANTS PASS LODGING

- [Holiday Inn Express](#) | (541) 471-6144
- [Best Western](#) | (541) 476-1117

WE HAVE ONLY ONE TYPE OF BOAT ON THE CHETCO – THE DUCKY

The duckies are the ultimate vessel for the active river runner. This is an opportunity to run the rapids of the Chetco River under your own power and direction. The guides will give instruction for the duckies before the trip and directions for the rapids while on the water. Helmets are required at all times while paddling the duckies.

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.

EQUIPMENT

NWRC provides rafts, paddles, PFDs, helmets, and waterproof bags. We recommend you bring a waterproof box and purchase camera insurance for high-end cameras. NWRC also provides cups, plates, eating utensils, camp gear (by request) and camp chairs.

TOILETS AND SANITATION

We will use portable river toilets. When setting up toilet facilities, we are conscious of privacy needs. We 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.

FISHING

Fishing on the Chetco is world class! If you plan to fish, Oregon fishing licenses may be purchased at Oregon sporting good stores. We recommend collapsible rods and a protective case for ease of packing.



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THE MORNING OF YOUR TRIP

— At 8:00 AM your head guide will meet you in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express. A shuttle van will take you on a two hour drive to the put-in. Be sure to eat a hearty breakfast before your trip, it'll start off with a big hike!

THE HIKE IN



— We hike ten miles down to the river where we camp by Carter Creek. This is a physically demanding hike with a heavy pack.

ON THE RIVER

— The pace of your river trip is very dependent on the water level. You will usually spend five to six hours a day on the river. Breakfast is served around 8:00 AM and you are on the water about 10:00 AM. There will be a stop midday for lunch and maybe a few short hikes. We set up camp in the late afternoon, allowing time to hike, play games, and relax before dinner.

AFTER THE TRIP

— The trip ends near Brookings, OR in the early afternoon. At this time you will board a van, which will return you and your gear to Grants Pass. The van ride takes about five hours, arriving back in Grants Pass by early evening. It's a beautiful, but winding drive; those prone to car sickness may want to be prepared with Dramamine.

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. Coffee, tea, and cocoa are available at breakfast and dinner. Additional beverages may be brought preferably in unbreakable containers. For your safety, drinking alcoholic beverages on the river is not allowed.

CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

— We strictly adhere to our cancellation policies as explained on your (or your group organizer's) invoice. Trip capacity is strictly regulated by law and your reservation may mean we cannot sell space to others. Because of this, [Travel Insurance](#) is strongly recommended. It can reimburse you if you make a late cancellation because of illness or an illness in the family. Otherwise you are welcome to find a friend to replace you. Please contact us if you would like more information on [Travel Insurance](#) or a copy of NWRC's cancellation policy.

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. Tips are usually around 10% of the trip cost. How much you tip should depend on your satisfaction with the trip, your feelings about tipping, and your financial means.



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*TENTS AND SLEEPING BAGS

Double occupancy tents, sleeping bags, and self-inflating pads are available at no additional cost, but you must request them when completing your Trip Registration.

CLOTHING LIST

- Swimsuit: Women may wear a swimsuit as their first layer under anything else.*
- Shorts: Can double as a swimsuit for men. One pair to wear on the river and one for camp.*
- Canyoneering Shoes (See next page)*
- Hiking Shoes (See next page)*
- Socks: Polypropylene or Wool*
- Pants / Shoes for Camp*
- Shirts: Long Sleeved for Sun Protection*
- Long Underwear: Polypropylene, Smart Wool, or Capilene*
- Sweater or Jacket: Fleece or Wool*
- Pants: Fleece or Wool*
- Rain Jacket and Rain Pants*
- Beanie: Wool or Thick Fleece*

GEAR LIST

- Sleeping Bags and Pad*
- Tent and / or Ground Cloth*
- Mylar Emergency Blanket*
- Small Camp Pillow*
- Water Bottle with Strap*
- Flashlight or Headlamp*
- Sunglasses with Strap*
- Insect Repellant*
- Sunscreen / Lip Block*
- Small Towel and Toiletries*
- Medications*
- Cold Weather Gear*
- Wetsuit (See "Wetsuits" on next page)*
- Long Underwear: Polypropylene, Smartwool, or Capilene*

OPTIONAL

- Bike Gloves (To protect hands while paddling)*
- Small Zip Lock Bags (For organizing gear)*
- Flip Flops (For camp)*
- Knee Pads*
- Fishing Equipment and License*
- Book / Journal / Notebook*
- Neoprene Socks (Especially if your feet get cold)*
- Small Day Pack or Fanny Pack*
- Dramamine (If prone to car sickness)*
- Camera*



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Dressing safely and comfortably (not to mention fashionably) for river trips is a challenging task. For much of the season, you will need two sets of clothing: on the river and in camp.

USE THE “LAYERING SYSTEM”

Bring clothes that can be worn under or on top of others. Layering allows you to adjust quickly to changing weather by adding or subtracting layers. Loose, fast drying, durable clothing is best for rafting. We recommend the following materials because they are compact and made to keep you warm and comfortable through a range of temperatures.

POLYPROPYLENE

(Polypro) or capilene Synthetic materials that wick the moisture away from the skin. Long underwear (shirts and pants) are essential as the first layer in cool or wet weather.

FLEECE

A synthetic material that is heavier than polypro, it makes an excellent middle layer in cool or wet weather. Wool is also a good insulator. Bring a jacket or sweater as well as pants of these fabrics.

COTTON

Should NOT be worn during cool or wet weather since wet cotton lowers body temperature. Cotton is recommended for hot weather only!

RAINWEAR

Rain jacket and pants are to protect you from the wind and spray, from the rapids as well as from storms. Coated nylon or breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex are best. Ponchos are bulky and dangerous so they are not recommended.

WETSUIT AND PADDLE JACKET

These will be required based on river flow and weather. Please contact us if you'd like us to provide one for you.

CANYONEERING AND HIKING SHOES

The right shoes are critical for this trip. You'll want comfortable hiking shoes for the hike in and to wear in camp. You may also want to bring flip flops to wear around camp.

On the river you'll need high quality canyoneering shoes with soles that stick to wet rock. We'll often be walking in the riverbed and portaging rapids on slippery rocks so knee pads are also nice to have. We highly recommend the [Five Ten Canyoneer](#) as your river shoe.

PACKING AND BAGS

Each individual will be provided 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 about the size of a garbage bag. Your sleeping bag, pad and personal items must fit in the bag. Since your waterproof bag will not be accessible during the day, we'll also provide you with a waterproof “day bags” for day use items such as sunscreen, small cameras, rainwear, or water.

NOTE ABOUT THE WEATHER

The summer weather in southwest Oregon is usually very pleasant: warm and dry. However, you need to be prepared for wet, cool weather as well as dry and hot. This can be easy if you pay attention to the information provided and to your own tolerance to varying conditions.

PRO-TIP

- Pack clothing that can get wet and dirty. To cut down on bulk, plan to re-wear your dry clothes.
- Please note that you're traveling through designated wilderness. There is no internet, no cell service, and no electricity. If you need to be reached while on the river, you can consider renting a [satellite phone](#) to bring with you.

