

Illinois 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.



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 [Reserve America website](#) or by calling (800) 452-5687.

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** is 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

ILLINOIS RIVER WEATHER

Springtime weather on the Illinois River varies from being warm and sunny to occasional showers to downright deluges. Expect highs in the 60s 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 fairly decent weather, but at times the weather can be bad or even miserable.

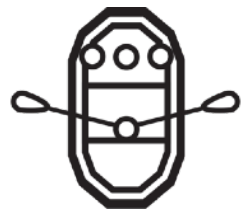
ON THE RIVER - TYPES OF BOATS



PADDLE BOATS are 14 to 15 foot boats that are powered by strokes of the paddle crew. The guide typically sits in the back and gives paddle commands to the 4 to 7 paddlers.



OAR BOATS carry gear and supplies as well as one to four passengers. A ride on an oar boat is an opportunity to relax, enjoy the scenery, watch for wildlife, or chat with friends and family. The oar boat is the least active option and typically provides the greatest stability.



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.

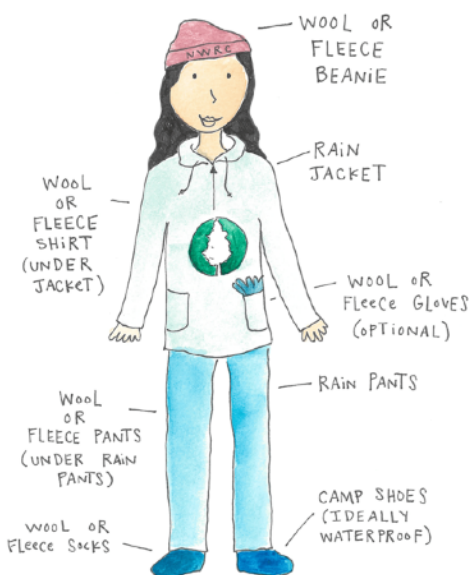
PACKING AND BAGS

Each individual will be provided 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.



THE RAINY WEATHER CAMPER



RIVER CLOTHING/GEAR

- ☐ 2+ Shorts or Swimsuits
- ☐ 2+ Shirts
- ☐ Lightweight Wool or Polypro Shirt
- ☐ Wetsuit and Paddle Jacket (see next page)
- ☐ 2+ Wool or Polypro Shirts
- ☐ Wool or Polypro Pants
- ☐ Wool or Neoprene Gloves
- ☐ Wool or Neoprene Socks
- ☐ River Shoes or River Sandals
- ☐ Hat for Sun Protection
- ☐ Water Bottle with Locking Carabiner
- ☐ Sunglasses with Strap

CAMP CLOTHING/GEAR

- ☐ 2 Shirts
- ☐ 2 Pairs of Pants, Shorts, Skirts, or Dresses
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Warm Jacket
- ☐ Rain Jacket and Rain Pants
- ☐ Wool or Fleece Beanie
- ☐ Camp Shoes
- ☐ 2 Pairs of Socks
- ☐ Headlamp or Flashlight

CAMPING GEAR

- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Sleeping Pad
- ☐ Tent

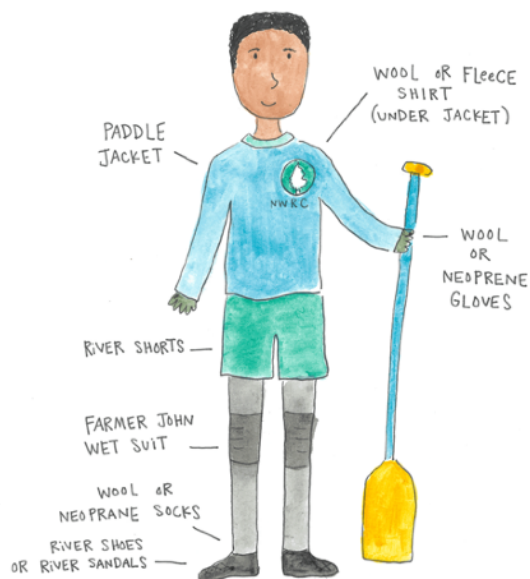
PERSONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Small Camp Pillow
- ☐ Toiletries and Medications
- ☐ Sunscreen and Lip Balm
- ☐ Insect Repellent

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Bike Gloves for Paddling
- ☐ Biodegradable Soap and Shampoo
- ☐ Sun Shower and Small Towel
- ☐ Book or Notebook
- ☐ Small Day Pack
- ☐ Dramamine for Van Ride
- ☐ Beer and Soda in Cans or Plastic Bottles
- ☐ Wine in Glass Bottles or Boxes

THE NOT-SO-FAIR WEATHER BOATER



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 for our Illinois River trips 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. Loose, fast drying, durable clothing is best for rafting.

POLYPROPYLENE (POLYPRO) OR FLEECE

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

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 that we highly recommend.

COTTON

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

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.

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.

FOOTWEAR

You'll find guides and fellow guests in tennis shoes, wetsuit booties with soles, and river sandals. Closed toe shoes do offer the most foot protection while on the river and, if worn with wool or neoprene wetsuit socks, they can help insulate your feet when the water is cold.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

— 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 served 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 set up camp in the late afternoon, allowing time to hike and relax before dinner. If you are new to camping the guides will be happy to help you pick a camp and set up a tent so don't hesitate to ask.

AFTER THE TRIP

— The trip ends in the early afternoon of the last day. At this time you say good-bye to your guides (except your head guide) and board a van, which will return you and your gear back to Grants Pass.

The van trip takes about 4 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.

Personal beverages may be brought, preferably in unbreakable containers. For your safety, drinking alcoholic beverages on the river is not allowed. Beer and soda need to be in aluminum cans and will be stored in a shared cooler. Please mark the tops of your cans with your initials using a permanent marker.

FISHING

— Fishing is not permitted on the Illinois River from April 1 to May 21.

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 rescue, 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. They 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.