

LCTA Main Salmon River Itinerary

Pre-trip One day prior to departure, we have a pre-trip meeting at a location convenient for the group, usually the Holiday Inn Downtown OR whichever lodging or residence that works for the majority. See recommended lodging in Missoula.

Day 1 Depart 7am - Exact TBD depending on the group's location. Drive time from Missoula to Corn Creek put in is about a 3.5-hour drive. Before we head down the Salmon River Road, we stop at The North Fork Store for bathroom break, snacks, and they have a full outdoor gear store.

Arrive at Corn Creek Boat Launch: Lunch at the put in. At the put-in you can get "river ready" and organize your dry bag/s. We have a river briefing, pack up the rafts and begin the river journey.

On The River: We paddle/float to our first night's camp. Usually, no stops this day as we make our way to camp. There are some fun Class II and III whitewater. Most camp locations are reserved, but not always. The Main Salmon has dozens of beautiful camps to choose from each day.

Camp: We usually try to arrive at camp around 4pm but maybe earlier some days based on the designated camps or many other factors. Our trips are run where everyone stays together on the river and arrives at camp together. Everyone helps unload the boats and heads up to the beach to find their perfect tent site. This process takes about an hour. Meanwhile, the guides get the kitchen set up and prepare appetizers. At camp, we try to follow the 4-5-7 timing. Arrive at 4, appetizers at 5 and dinner by 7, approximately... While at camp there is time for fishing, hiking, playing beach games, swimming, etc..

Day 2-5 **Typical day on the river:**

Mornings on the Salmon are peaceful and worth enjoying. We try to follow the 7-8-9 schedule. Coffee by 7am Breakfast by 8:00. Pack up by 9:00. Depart camp by 9:30 / 10am.

If you are an early riser, packing before breakfast is good. Your guides will go over what to expect each day as far as rapids, hot springs, historical stops, etc... We stop for lunch each day sometime between 12-1pm. Be sure to let your guide know if you need a snack during the day keep your energy up, we always have granola bars or fruit. Evening routine is same as above. Some significant stops:

Day 2 – Black Creek Rapid (newly formed from a blowout in 2011) and arguably the biggest rapid on the river, followed by the Hot Springs!

Day 3 – Usually the big whitewater day – we run Bailey, Sapp Creek (new in 2023) Five-Mile and Split Rock, Bid Mallard – Elk Horn – Growler with lunch somewhere in the middle.

Day 4 – We pass more private in holdings and history homesteads in this section. A big highlight is the stop at Buck Skin Bills for some mountain man history, souvenirs and ice cream! Then what we call "salmon lake" – after we pass the confluence of the South Fork of the Salmon and the Main Salmon, the river turns due west, and the canyon walls come straight out of the river creating a dramatic and peaceful float to our camp.

Day 5 – Usually this is a relaxing day where we cover less miles and there are some easy class II rapids but nothing too big. Great day for a beginner inflatable kayaker. We arrive at our last nights camp.

Day 6 Last Day. We usually plan a quick breakfast and get an earlier start on the river. Arrive at the take-out for lunch, load up bags and head back to Missoula. The drive is about 5-6 hours, through some of the most beautiful country in Idaho. You will want to make lodging reservations for this night and flight arrangements for no earlier than the following day. We return you to the same lodging / location that we departed from. We can help arrange transport if you need to go somewhere else.

Please call or email if you have any questions:

info@trailadventures.com or 406-728-7609