Snake River » Idaho
HELL’S CANYON 4, 5 OR 6 DAY EXPEDITION

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HELL'S CANYON 4, 5 OR 6 DAY EXPEDITION

Forming the border between Idaho and Oregon, the Snake River cuts through the deepest river gorge in North America — Hells Canyon. Journey through a land rich in myth and geologic wonder. Snake River rafting boasts the biggest whitewater rapids in the Pacific Northwest. Idaho whitewater rafting trips are known for their wilderness beauty, and Snake River rafting trips are no exception. Here mountains of golden grass and pine forests topped with snow-capped peaks over a mile above are home to soaring eagles, wild mountain goats and Native American Nez Perce legends. Near 70-degree water perfect for swimming and paddling, rounds out this 4, 5, or 6-Day Snake River rafting vacation as a must-do trip for adventurers worldwide.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY ONE » Meet your team leader at 7:30am for the two-hour bus ride to Hells Canyon. We’ll stop along the way for a breakfast. Our launch point is at the base of Hell’s Canyon Dam, approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Before launching rafts, ROW staff prepares you with a thorough safety briefing while personal gear is loaded. Once this is complete everyone chooses a raft - paddle raft or oar-powered - and climbs aboard for two big class IV rapids rapids ahead!

These impressive rapids never fail to get a guide’s heart pumping. This is also a great day for fishing. The water is a bit cooler at this elevation and fishing for trout in the tail waters of the rapids is almost always successful. Around 4:00pm we arrive at camp with plenty of free time for hiking, fishing, reading or just relaxing. Hors d’oeuvres are served around 6:00 and dinner around 7:30.

DAY TWO » You’ll wake around 7:00am to the smell of fresh-brewed coffee and tea. Breakfast is served around 7:30, and while we clean up the kitchen, you pack up your personal gear. We depart camp about 9:30 for today’s rafting adventure. Today you will experience plenty of rapids, sun and dramatic scenery. We’ll explore a homesteader’s cabin, root cellar and farm implements of yesteryear.

DAY THREE » You will hike along the trail at “Suicide Point.” This incredible view offers sweeping panoramas some 300’ above the Snake River. And, back on the rafts, the Snake slowly carries us to our next stop at Kirkwood Historic Ranch, an historic sheep ranch. We visit the sheering shed, blacksmith shop and homesteader cabins.

DAY FOUR, FIVE & SIX* » Spectacular days of scenery and whitewater are complemented by short history lessons and more historic sites. The human drama in Hell’s Canyon is as intriguing as the many natural wonders we discover, like the fascinating wildlife, plant life and geology. On the last day, mid-afternoon you take out at Heller Bar with a 45 minute bus ride to Lewiston, Idaho. Farewell dinner follows that night.

*Note: This itinerary is provided as a sample. Daily activities and sights will vary based on weather conditions and guide preferences.
A Typical Day on the River

After meeting your guides you will be given a trip orientation that will include how and where you can sit on the rafts, how to hold on, and safety precautions while on the river.

A typical day will include rafting for a few hours at a time, stopping for scenic side hikes, bathroom breaks, lunch and possible swimming opportunities. Visiting with new-found friends and learning river lore and geology from our well-trained guides adds to the enjoyment of each day.

After a full day of learning and fun we arrive in camp. A cargo raft will have arrived ahead of the group each day to find a camp site, set up tents and all camping needs. When you arrive, just select your tent and make yourself at home for the night.

Your outfitter provides pads, tents, sleeping bags, sheets, camp chairs and waterproof gear bags for all guests. You’ll have no need to worry about bringing any of your own camping equipment.

While you relax at the river’s edge, your guides will prepare dinner. Every night is different, but the menu may include items such as grilled chicken breast, steak with sautéed onions, pasta, fajitas or fresh fish.

At night, whether you choose to sleep in your tent or under the vast canopy of stars, the fresh night air and the rhythm of the river will lull you to sleep. Each morning, your guides will prepare a delicious breakfast. You’ll have a chance to enjoy eating before returning to your campsite to take down your tent and pack up your belongings in your dry bag. After bringing your bag down to the boats, you are off on another fun-filled day of adventure.

Rafting Trips vs. Other Vacations

The setting and pace of a rafting adventure gives you something you don’t find in other vacations. On a whitewater rafting trip, you will quickly discover why so many are calling this “the best vacation of their lives.” It’s the combination of drifting over tranquil pools of water under the shadows of towering rock formations, the exhilaration and thrill of rolling waves and crashing whitewater, the exploration of seldom-seen waterfalls and Native American history, the peaceful moments of reflection as you gaze up at the star-studded sky and the fresh feeling of renewal as the morning sun slowly filters through winding canyons. All this provides an indescribable sense of belonging. A sense of oneness with yourself and those around you. A sense of adventure, reflection and renewal. Come discover the difference.

Expedition Partners

ROW Adventures owns the river permits for the area you’ve chosen to explore. Western River Expeditions’ friendship with ROW Adventures allows us to offer a wider variety of river expeditions in the west at the same rates as the trip operator. We are proud to work with ROW Adventures and are confident that you’ll enjoy their hospitality and quality of river experience.
Rafts on the Snake River

The Snake River offers the opportunity to paddle your own inflatable kayak, enjoy the excitement of a paddle raft, or ride aboard a comfortable oar rig piloted by your skilled guides.

The Oar Rig

Your river guides will adeptly maneuver four to six passenger oar rigs. These specially designed 18-foot boats offer a comfortable ride and are “self-bailing” which means that any water that comes into the raft immediately flows back out.

A  Ice water and cold lemonade
B  Guest seating
C  First aid kit
D  Guest gear bags
E  Guide seat atop coolers
F  Throw bag
G  Oars
H  Dry food storage box
I  Personal storage boxes or bags
J  Storage for tents, cots, kitchen stoves, tables
K  “Flip Lines” designed to flip a boat over in the rare event of an overturn
L  Bucket for boat rinsing...
...and water fighting

Inflatable Kayak

Also known as a “duckie” or “duck,” these two-person inflatable kayaks let you challenge the rapids on your own. They also provide a peaceful and relaxing way to recline and gaze up at the spectacular scenery in the calm stretches of river. If you’ve never paddled before, acquiring some basic paddle skills with the help of a guide takes only a few minutes. Inflatable kayaks are available throughout the trip and guests can take turns enjoying the ride.

Paddle Raft

In conjunction with our Oar rigs, Snake River trips also offer 18’ paddleboats which provide “hands-on” excitement in conquering the waves with a spirited team of 6 to 8 rafters. Paddlers need not have any prior experience as your guides will provide ample instruction and ensure everyone’s success.

“Another delightful trip with Western River... but our first kayaking white water and we are hooked! Western is such a class act... the guides go out of their way to make the trip a great experience whether 7 or 70. Though a senior, petite female, they made sure my trip was all it could be.

PALM SPRINGS, California
Camping on the Snake River

Whether you’re a veteran camper or experiencing sleeping in the outdoors for the first time, we will make camping simple. All you need to worry about is packing your personal items in a soft-sided duffle bag. We’ll supply the rest:

» **“Paco” Pads** make sleeping and relaxing on the river easy.
» **Roomy tents** are always available. You may be like many of our river guests who prefer to sleep under the vast canopy of stars. If you haven’t ever experienced camping you’ll be surprised at how dry and comfortable everything stays when sleeping under the stars.
» Freshly laundered **sleeping bags**, pillows and sheets provide warmth on cool evenings.
» **Water-resistant bags** protect your personal belongings from exposure to sand and water.
» **A personal day-use bag** keeps important items handy during the day.
» **Camp chairs** offer comfortable seating while in camp.
» **A sturdy vinyl ground cloth** keeps your gear and camping areas clean. (not shown above)

**TOILET FACILITIES**

On the river we use a portable toilet and hand wash system that is set up each day in camp in a secluded location that assures privacy. The toilet is available from the time we pull into camp until we leave the following day. An orientation concerning everything from rapid safety to bathrooms will be given at the beginning of your trip.

“I still haven’t come down from this trip! It was amazing, beautiful, adventurous, fun, exciting & spiritual all at the same time. Having never camped a day in my adult life, I did things I never thought possible. From sleeping under the stars to washing in the river - it was incredible. I am so thankful we had the chance to experience the river.”

FLORENCE - New York
Physical Requirements for Rafting Trips

Our primary concern is participant safety. The nature of an outdoor adventure involves some physical exertion and also possible exposure to weather conditions that can fluctuate greatly due to heat, sun, wind, or rain. We do have experience accommodating persons with a wide range of physical challenges, disabilities, or medical and health conditions. However, we have found that for some people the fact of age, weight, lack of conditioning, heart or other disease, can endanger themselves, other guests or create additional hardship that diminishes the suitability or enjoyment of this type of vacation. Please consider these conditions in making your choice of river adventures. Please check with your physician prior to your trip if you have any medical or health condition or if you are taking any medications, and then notify us of how we can better help you with these conditions. In general, participants will need to meet the following physical requirements:

» Fit into a Type 5 Life Jacket (maximum chest size is 52") required by the U.S. Coast Guard
» Ability to securely grip ropes provided for handholds while running the rapids
» Enough agility to climb on and off the rafts—this could be as much as a 2-3 foot reach and often on wet and slippery surfaces
» Ability to navigate uneven terrain on hikes and in camp
» Carry your own dry bag which will include your 20-pound duffle bag along with the sleeping bag and ground cover provided

Our principle objective is for you and your fellow guests to have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. If you are concerned about any of these requirements, please call our friendly staff to further discuss which trip is right for you.

Our Participant Acknowledgement of Risks Form will more fully describe some of the inherent risks involved in these activities. We look forward to having you join us on the adventure of a lifetime.

Weather

We always hope for good weather but you should be prepared for the possibility of cooler weather and storms. This is applicable to all trips throughout the season. The following chart shows averages for the months of May through September. Temperatures and precipitation will vary. A rain storm or a cool front can happen anytime. You can find current weather forecasts at:

www.westernriver.com/trips/snakeriver/weather.php

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<th>TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION – SNAKE RIVER, HELL’S CANYON:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean Max. Temperature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean Min. Temperature</td>
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<td>Precipitation (inches)</td>
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“I had a great time on this trip, I would recommend this trip to anyone. The guides were unbelievable, they made the trip even better. Their knowledge of the river and the canyons were second to none. Besides their knowledge, the guides were alot of fun to talk with and listen to their stories. I expected to have a good time on the trip, and my expectations were met tenfold.”

TIM - Kansas
**Snake River 4, 5 or 6 Day Expedition**

**Packing List & Travel Tips**

**Duffle Bag**
All of your personal items should be packed into a soft-sided duffle bag approximately 12” x 13” x 24” in size. Please limit gear to 20-25 lbs.

**Day Bag**
Upon arrival at the orientation meeting the night before your trip, you will be provided a water-resistant day bag (approximately 9” x 20”). In this day bag, you will want to put those items you wish to access during the day (raingear, camera, medications, sun block, lip balm, etc).

**Gear Bag**
Also upon arrival at the orientation meeting the night before your trip, you will receive a water-resistant gear bag. This bag will contain your sleeping bag, sheet and a pillow. You will put your duffle bag inside this bag, roll the top down and clip it securely to avoid getting your personal gear wet. Your personal gear bag will be available at camp each night of your trip.

**Clothing Items**

- **Two-piece rain suit or “paddle gear”** (Not just for rainstorms - water temperatures can be chilly! Offers protection against the cold water when running rapids - especially in the early season. No ponchos please). “Farmer John” wetsuits are provided May/June.
- 2 swimsuits (2-piece swimsuit and quick-drying shorts or sports bra and shorts recommended for women)
- 2-3 quick-drying shirts (long sleeve and/or short sleeve)
- 2 pair of lightweight pants/shorts, shirts & underwear for camp
- 2 pair of socks for use in case of sunburn or foot injury
- 1 pair quick-drying pants (optional - for sun protection)
- Lightweight fleece top
- Sturdy water sandals or water shoes (no flip-flops). Based on the type and condition of your footwear, you may want to consider a backup pair of sandals or shoes in case of any damage.
- Comfortable footwear for camp (optional - some guests prefer to change out of wet sandals or shoes into flip flops or other light weight shoes)
- Hat for sun protection with string or hat clip
- Bandana or Buff

**Personal Items**

- Personal hygiene products, Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Plenty of sunscreen
- Sunscreen lip balm
- After-sun moisturizing lotion
- Biodegradable soap (Ivory) ALL soaps must be used in a designated spot away from the river.
- Sport water bottle with clip or carabiner
- Small towel and wash cloth
- Small pack of tissues
- Small headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses with safety strap
- Camera - waterproof digital camera with extra batteries and memory cards recommended
- Extra eyeglasses/contacts (include retention strap)
- Padding gloves
- Cash for gratuities (Your guides will make every effort to see that your trip is enjoyable and successful. Gratuities for guides are appropriate, greatly appreciated and at your discretion, as a gesture of thanks for their professionalism and service. A suggested guideline is 10 percent of the trip cost. The common practice is to give the gratuity to the trip leader on the last night. It will later be divided equally with the rest of the crew.)

**Cold Weather Items**

- Polypro socks for river - Wool socks for camp
- Stocking cap, fleece or wool gloves
- Thick fleece jacket and/or lightweight down coat
- Lightweight long underwear for sleeping
- 1 additional set of poly-pro or capilene underwear (tops & bottoms)
- Splash Jacket and pants recommended for cold trips

**Optional Personal Items**

- Plastic bag for dirty or wet clothing
- A few clothespins to secure wet clothing while drying
- Disposable moist towelettes
- Personal bee sting kit (if allergic)
- Fishing gear and Idaho (and/or) Oregon license (see note pg. 12 on fishing licenses for Snake River) (gear must be in protective case and disassembled during travel)
- Sarong (long cloth worn like a skirt, wrapped at the waist)
- Sundress for ladies
Items Provided

- Transportation from Boise to Cambridge, Idaho
- Lodging in Cambridge & Lewiston, Idaho (available for opt out)
- Cambridge to Snake River Boat Launch
- Shuttle from Snake River to Lewiston, Idaho
- Professional, licensed guides
- All meals between trip departure and return
- All eating utensils and souvenir cup
- Unlimited water on the boats
- Freshly laundered sleeping bag, sheet & pillow
- Ground cover & “Paco” pad
- Tent
- Water-resistant dry bag for sleeping gear and personal duffle bag
- Water-resistant day-use dry bag (9” diameter x 20”) for personal items
- Oar Boats, Paddle Rafts and Inflatable Kayaks
- US Coastguard approved whitewater life jackets
- Wilderness First-Aid kit
- Sanitary Facilities
- Wetsuit in May/June (“Farmer John” style covers legs, no sleeves)

Be Prepared for Any Weather:

Weather is always present on a river trip... Temperatures can fluctuate daily, and may even disobey predicted weather forecasts! It is wise to come prepared for anything, but we realize there are weight and size limitations for packing. While we cannot predict it all, hopefully we’ve given you the proper insights and information to prepare you for the adventure of a lifetime!

Rain Gear vs. Paddle Gear

Key Feature: Easy to wear, versatile, best in warmer weather and rain.

PROS:
- Keeps you relatively dry without the “sweat chamber effect"
- Blocks wind-chill after rapids
- Versatile purpose/easy to wear
- Best for rain, shields whitewater

CONS:
- Not waterproof during large rapids
- Getting cold can be a threat to fun

Key Feature: Neoprene rubber “gaskets” around wrists & neck. Best in cold weather & whitewater.

PROS:
- Nothing better for staying dry
- Ideal when weather remains cold
- Blocks water from all directions
- Best for whitewater

CONS:
- Not waterproof during large rapids
- Getting cold can be a threat to fun

Get Ready in One Order: Red Rock Outfitters

Through several decades of experience on the river, Western knows what clothing and gear will keep you smiling every second of your adventure. Specifically, we’ve bundled “The Works” for him, for her and one for gear in general. Get a FREE item with a “Works” purchase. For your convenience, you can order all these items online with Western’s retail division: 

www.RedRockOutfitters.com

1-855-245-1658

Order “The Works”

GET A FREE ITEM WITH “WORKS” ORDER THE SMARTEST WAY TO GEAR UP!

www.RedRockOutfitters.com

1-855-245-1658
FINAL CHECKLIST: The morning of your trip:

- Check out of your accommodations & eat a good breakfast.
- Meet at the Frontier Motel in Cambridge at 8:00 PM (MST) for an important one hour orientation to answer any last questions. There you will receive your waterproof gear bags.
- Come dressed and ready to raft (see diagram below):

**Things to bring:**
- Duffel bag (approx. 12”x13”x24”), packed with personal items outlined on the packing list
- Extra drinks, if desired. Avoid glass containers. (see “Beverages” in General Information).
- Extra snacks, if desired. (Snacks will be provided during the trip).
- Camera(s) - Phones as cameras in waterproof cases/sleeves (Cell service unavailable)

**Things to leave:** (NOT TO BRING ON THE RIVER)
- Suitcases and extra luggage can be transported to the take-out for you.
- Unnecessary electronic devices (game devices for kids, etc.)
- Jewelry

**Gear provided:**
- Large water-resistant gear bag containing a sleeping bag, sheet, and pillow. Once you are dressed and ready for the river that day, you should pack your personal duffel so it is ready to place inside this large rubber bag. You can access it again that night at camp. (Inaccessible during the day).
- Small day bag to hold personal items you need throughout the day (sunscreen, lip balm, rain suit, camera, snacks). Pack these items the night before your river trip.
- Lifejacket / PFD will be handed out and proper fitting will be demonstrated by your guides when you meet them at the rafts.
Pre-Trip Travel Information

There are many travel options to consider in planning your Idaho rafting vacation. Simply give us a call and we’ll discuss the options outlined below in, perhaps, more detail.

**HOW TO GET TO CAMBRIDGE, IDAHO**

- Fly directly to Boise, Idaho (BOI), catch the shuttle provided by ROW Adventures at 4:30 pm on the afternoon prior to your scheduled launch. A bus or van from Harlow’s will meet you for the two hour drive to the Frontier Motel in Cambridge.
- Fly to Boise, rent a car, drive 2 hours to Cambridge, Idaho.
- Drive personal vehicle directly to Cambridge, Idaho.

**WHERE AND WHEN TO MEET**

Once in Cambridge, you will meet at the Frontier Motel at 7:30 PM (MST) for an important one hour orientation meeting to answer any last questions. There you will receive your waterproof gear bags. Enjoy dinner in Cambridge on your own.

**WHERE TO STAY**

Lodging reservations will be made for you (fee of $110 added to base price) for lodging in Cambridge (Frontier Motel) the night before your trip and in Lewiston (Red Lion Hotel) the night after your river adventure. Although flying out from Lewiston on the same day your river adventure ends is not recommended, for logistical reasons, it is possible to adjust the lodging fee accordingly.

Post-Trip Travel

Hotel Arrangements will have been made for you at the Frontier Motel in Cambridge, Idaho before your trip, and the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston after your trip. The Red Lion offers free airport shuttle service to the Lewiston Airport (LWS). The Spokane, Washington Int’n’l Airport (GEG) is also an option just 1.5 hours from Lewiston.
General Information

BEVERAGES » Water is available in unlimited quantities on the boats and in camp. Limited amounts of soda, beer and wine will be available. If you wish to bring your own alcoholic beverages and soda pop you may do so in moderate amounts. Please avoid glass containers. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans work well.

VALUABLES » You will want to have photo ID, a major credit card, and some cash for gratuities. All other valuables and jewelry should be left at home. In addition, as a safety precaution we suggest that you not wear rings on the river. Also, each year a few of our guests traveling on airlines arrive without luggage. With this in mind, we suggest you carry with you medications, prescription glasses, and anything you may not be able to replace the evening before your trip departs.

EXTRA LUGGAGE » Transfer all of your personal clothing and gear which you will need on the river expedition into a small lightweight duffel bag (approximately 14” X 21”). PLEASE DO NOT BRING SUITCASES ON THE RIVER! As part of your camping equipment package, we provide a water-resistant bag in which you will place your duffel bag (approx. 14” X 21”) as well as the sleeping bag we provide for you. If you have extra luggage we will arrange to have it transported for you.

OTHER QUESTIONS » If you have additional questions, our friendly staff is available Monday – Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM Mountain Time. Also, visit us online at westernriver.com for more information. Be sure to see our “FAQS & POLICIES” section online under each trip.

Payment & Cancellation Policies

PAYING YOUR BALANCE
Deposit and payment are non-refundable. Payment in full is due 90 days prior to trip departure and may be paid by check or credit card. For your convenience, we offer an automatic payment service to charge the balance to your credit card 90 days prior to trip departure. We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if full payment is not collected by the due date.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS
The cancellation policy applies at the time of deposit. Details regarding cancellations and travel changes for each trip can be found at WesternRiver.com or on your reservation confirmation. If you must cancel any reservation, the cancellation policy applies in every instance and there will be no exceptions for any reason.

Western will not issue any refund for arriving late or leaving a trip early. Western River Expeditions is not responsible for any expenses incurred in preparation for any cancelled trips or for costs incurred due to travel delays, flight cancellations, or illness. If you are concerned about the possibility of having to cancel, you may find information about cancellation coverage and policy details at:

westernriver.com/cancellation

Fishing & Spin Fishing are both popular on the Snake River. Chinook Salmon and Steelhead abound, as well as a variety of Trout species.

You will be expected to bring your own fishing gear. Collapsible poles, or rigid pole cases are recommended. Lures can be purchased at the Gateway Store on the way to the launch on the first day.

FISHING LICENSES

Fishing licenses for both/either Oregon AND Idaho (as the Snake River forms the border between the two states). Note: Fishing from the boat is allowed with a license from either state, but fishing from the shore requires a license from that state. Generally, there are more fishing opportunities on the Oregon side.

Idaho: (208) 334-3700
www.fishandgame.idaho.gov

Oregon: (800) 720-6339
www.eregulations.com/oregon/fishing/