



Clackamas River

Trip Guide

1/2 and 1 Day Trips



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The Clackamas River

Oregon River Experiences is proud to be one of the few outfitters granted a permit by the U.S. Forest Service to offer whitewater rafting trips on the beautiful and thrilling Clackamas River.

The Clackamas is without question one of Oregon's best rafting adventures. Thrilling class III and IV whitewater is perhaps the river's primary attraction, but lush mountain scenery, solitude, and crystal clear water add to the river's charm. This is the most thrilling one-day trip we offer.

The river's beauty and exotic rapids are a world away from everyday city life. Yet the Clackamas is as close as a 45 minute drive from Portland's east side.

The Clackamas is one of Oregon's finest raft trips, and it offers the closest whitewater to Portland. That's an unbeatable combination.

Spring's high water offers thrilling rapids to those looking for maximum whitewater excitement. Early-season rapids are big, and promise a wet ride. As the water level drops with the arrival of summer the river's character changes. Summer's rapids are less likely to drench a paddle crew, but the fun of negotiating the river's rocky slalom-course provides ample challenge while leaving time to bask in the sun.

The Clackamas River was named for the Clackamas Indians, a Chinook tribe who once lived along the river.

In 1988, Congress designated 47 miles of the Clackamas River as a Wild and Scenic River, in recognition of the river's outstanding scenery, fishery, and recreational values.

Weather

	April	May	June	July	Aug.
Average daytime high temp.	58	64	71	77	78
Average nighttime low temp.	37	42	47	50	50
Average monthly rainfall	5.30"	3.90"	2.70"	0.90"	1.30"

Itinerary

Portland residents familiar with the placid lower Clackamas may be unaware that a short distance upstream an exciting series of class III and IV rapids awaits. For many the best thing about boating the upper Clackamas may be that it is so close to Portland. But the river offers much more. The scenery is outstanding, and the rapids are thrilling. Powerhouse, Roaring River, Headwall, and Carter Bridge are a few of the many exciting rapids encountered, as well as Bob's Hole, site of a well-known kayak competition held each May.

Our high water half and 1 day trips begin at Sandstone Bridge. High water 1 day trips take out at Memaloose, while high water half day trips take out at one of several upstream access points. In order to create an enjoyable trip of appropriate length, low water half day and 1 day trips will begin and end at alternate access points.

Pre-Trip Details

How to Sign Up

Call, write or e-mail us. We'll hold your reservation for 10 days while we await your deposit, which confirms your reservation (\$35 per person). (Full payment is required to confirm your reservation for all 1/2 day trips, and if less than three weeks remain prior to your full day trip.)

Where and When to Meet

We meet just east of Estacada, Oregon. 1 day trips meet at 9:30 AM*. Half day morning trips also meet at 9:30 AM*, while most half day afternoon trips meet at 1 PM*+.

From Portland, take Highway 205 to exit 12 (which is the exit for both highways 212 and 224). Head east to the 212-224 junction, then turn right to continue to follow OR-224. Follow OR-224 through the town of Estacada and then up and over a long hill. We meet at Promontory Park, which is seven miles beyond Estacada, on your right. At Promontory Park turn off the highway, take an immediate left, then take an immediate right into the parking area for Small Fry Lake.

Look for the O.R.E. van. Your vehicle will remain at the parking area, and we will transport you from this point to the rafting launch point.

Promontory Park is approximately 45 minutes from Portland's east side, and one hour from downtown.

To use a web-based mapping system, handheld GPS, phone GPS, or car navigation system to find our meeting place please enter the following address: 40500 E Highway 224, Estacada, OR 97023. But be sure to turn left as you enter Promontory Park (see directions above) rather than right (as the automated system will direct you to do).

* Please plan your drive carefully so as to arrive at our meeting place on time. Our guides will attempt to wait for you if you are running late, but circumstances typically do not allow them to wait more than 20 minutes. If you miss your intended trip we will most likely not be able to provide a transfer to an alternate trip, and we are unable to provide a refund for missed trips.

+ Some afternoon half day trips join a 1 day trip already in progress. If this will be the case for your trip an earlier meeting time may be set. This will be arranged at the time you book your trip.

Additional Information

Your trip fare includes the following

- ✓ The services of our professional guide staff.
- ✓ Shuttle service to and from our meeting place.
- ✓ A hearty, freshly prepared picnic lunch at the riverside on 1 day trips. (Special dietary needs may be accommodated with advance notice.)
- ✓ Use of professional quality self-bailing rafts and top-notch river running equipment, including U.S. Coast Guard Approved lifejackets.
- ✓ Waterproof river bags for your personal gear.

Gratuities

Guests sometimes ask whether it is appropriate to tip their guide. Tipping is optional, but if your guide did a great job then feel free to thank him or her with a gratuity. The amount is up to you, but tips between 8% and 20% of trip cost are customary.

Nearby attractions

Regional attractions are too numerous to mention, but include all that the city of Portland has to offer, as well as the trails and sights of Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. For Portland information contact the Portland Visitor's Bureau at 503-222-2223. For more about Mount Hood and the Gorge contact Mt. Hood National Forest headquarters at 503-667-0511.

What to Bring

Please come to the river prepared for all possible weather conditions. The weather in the river canyons of the Northwest is often different from that in surrounding areas, so you won't really know how it will be until you get there. At that time, you may decide that some of the items listed here are not needed; but you need to have them along just in case! In addition, Clackamas River water is usually quite cool, even on a hot day. So please pay close attention to the following information and checklists, and help to insure your enjoyment of the day by bringing along the proper clothing.

Spring (and cool weather) trips: We strongly recommend that guests on our April, May and early June trips plan to wear a wetsuit while on the river. Wetsuits may be rented directly from O.R.E., and may also be available at windsurf or dive shops in your area.

O.R.E. rents wetsuit/splash jacket sets (\$5 per day) in sizes to accommodate persons from 4'8" and 85 pounds to 6'4" and 240 pounds. Also included are wetsuit shoes (men's sizes 5 to 12). Our wetsuits are a 1/8" thick, one-piece "farmer john" style which fully cover the legs and torso but which leave the arms free. The splash jacket helps to protect your arms and torso from the cold water, and may be worn with a sweater or jacket underneath if needed for extra warmth.

Reservations are required. To place a reservation for a wetsuit/splash jacket set please call our office at least 24 hours prior to your trip. (503-563-1500 or 800-827-1358)

Clothing tips: The best clothing is that which retains your body heat while wet, or one that dries quickly. Modern high-tech synthetic fabrics like Polypropylene, Capeline, and Polyester fleece do both, and are readily available at stores like REI and L.L. Bean. But if you don't want to spend a lot on a rafting wardrobe look for wool clothes, which provide some warmth even when wet. Thrift stores and military surplus stores are good places to find inexpensive wool clothes. On all but the hottest days you should avoid wearing cotton clothing while on the river. When wet, cotton sucks warmth from your body at an amazing rate. (An exception to the "no cotton" rule: cotton shorts may be worn over a wetsuit to reduce slippage while sitting on a raft.)

Where to find it

Check with local sporting goods stores. If they cater to outdoor sports (hiking, backpacking, etc.) rather than team sports, they should have most of the items you need. Gear is also available through mail order and on-line by contacting REI (800-426-4840, or www.rei.com), L.L. Bean (800-341-4341, or www.llbean.com), or Northwest River Supply (800-635-5202, or www.nrsweb.com).

Tell us about your river trip

After your trip please contact us to let us know us how it went! You can call us, email us, or visit our web site to complete a short, anonymous trip survey (www.oregonriver.com/survey.html).



Equipment Checklist

For Spring (and Cool Weather) Trips

To wear in the raft:

- wetsuit, or shorts and a T-shirt
- sunglasses with strap
- wetsuit socks or thick wool socks worn with athletic shoes or sport sandals (such as Tevas or Chacos), or hard-soled wetsuit shoes
- wetsuit and splash jacket, **or** a light weight rain jacket **plus** synthetic or wool (medium to heavy weight) long underwear tops and bottoms.

To bring on the river:

- wool or synthetic sweater or jacket
- wool or synthetic "ski" hat (for extra warmth as needed)
- wide brim hat or baseball cap (for sun protection)
- water bottle or canteen*
- waterproof sunscreen

To leave in the car:

- a towel and complete change of clothes, including dry shoes, socks and a sweater or jacket.

For Summer Trips

To wear in the raft:

- swimsuit, or T-shirt and shorts
- sun glasses with strap
- wide brim hat or baseball cap (for sun protection)
- thick wool or synthetic socks, or neoprene wetsuit socks
- athletic shoes or sport sandals such as Tevas or Chacos

To bring on the river:

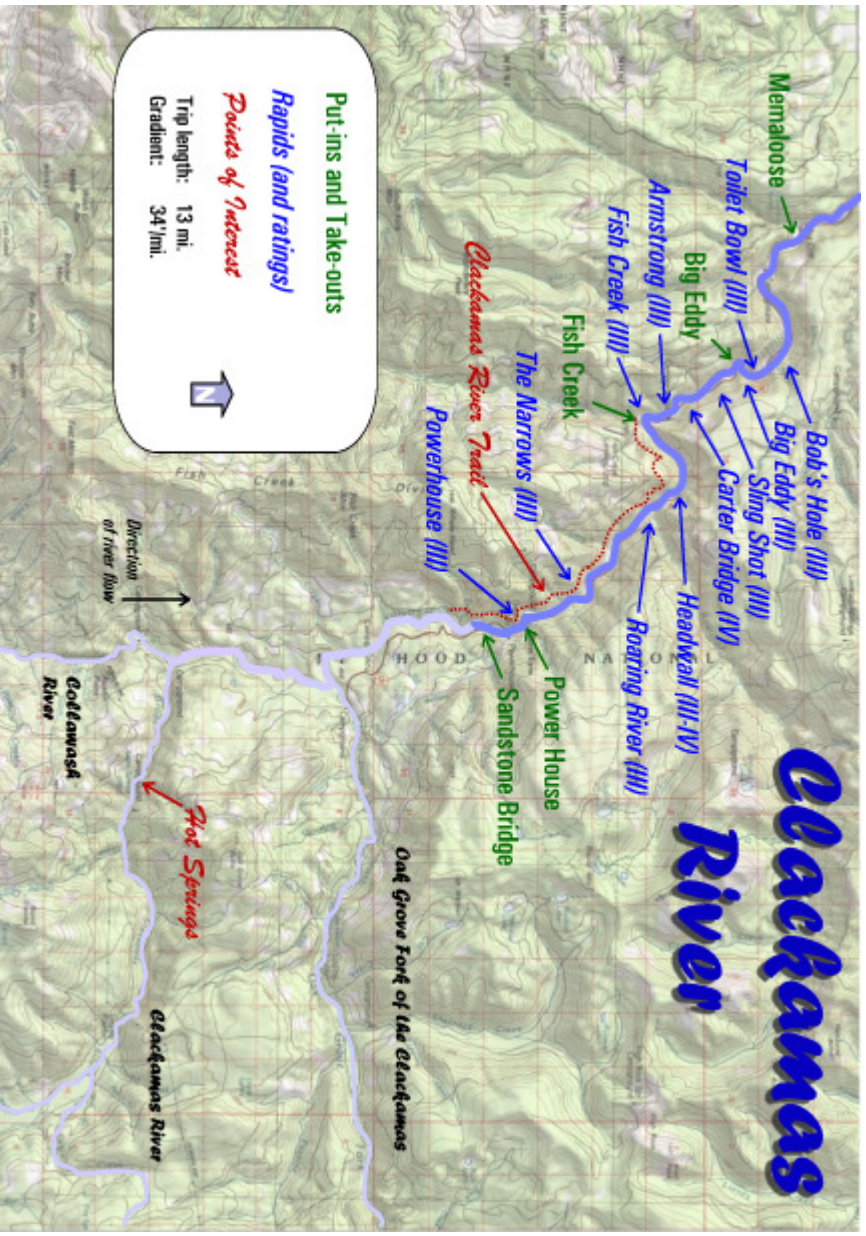
- water bottle or canteen*
- waterproof sunscreen
- light weight long-sleeved shirt (to protect from sunburn)
- wool or synthetic sweater
- lightweight rain jacket or windbreaker

To leave in the car:

- a towel and a complete change of clothes, including dry shoes and a sweater.

* Please note the terms of our license - as well common sense - lead us to insist that you refrain from consuming alcohol during your river trip (even during lunch).

Clackamas River



Put-ins and Take-outs
Rapids (land ratings)
Points of Interest
Trip length: 13 mi.
Gradient: 34'/mi.



Direction
of river flow

Gofflawash
River

Hot Springs

Clackamas River

Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas