



McKenzie River

Trip Guide

1/2 and 1 Day Trips



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The McKenzie River

The McKenzie River is one of western Oregon's most beautiful streams as well as one of the region's most popular whitewater rafting trips. Flowing through the McKenzie Valley from its headwaters at high in the cascades at Clear Lake, the McKenzie is a swift, spirited river. Float with the McKenzie's lively current and you may feel as if you're flying over the riverbed — the water is that clear.

Thick fir forests, mild yet enjoyable whitewater, and easy accessibility are a few of the river's other charms. We offer trips on two sections of the river. Boat either and you'll see the McKenzie at its best.

Most of our McKenzie trips begin at Paradise Campground. For the next 12 miles we will encounter numerous class II rapids. They're all relatively mild, although the McKenzie's steep and swift flow creates rapid that are more thrilling than their rating would suggest.

Besides lively whitewater, a few of the McKenzie's other highlights are the river's extraordinarily clear water, the beautiful forest scenery encountered, and the excellent fishing available here.

Weather

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average daytime high temp.	72	79	86	86	79
Average nighttime low temp.	40	46	48	47	43
Average monthly rainfall	3.50"	2.60"	0.80"	1.40"	2.90"

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 if less than six weeks remain prior to your river trip.)

Where and When to Meet

We will meet at 10:00 AM* the day of your trip at Forest Glen Boat Landing (1 day trips). (1/2 day trips meet at 9:30 AM* or 1 PM*) We'll make our shuttle arrangements there, before going to the launch site.

Take Oregon Highway 126 east from Interstate 5 in Eugene, about 35 miles to Blue River. Forest Glen Boat Landing is across the highway from a medical clinic, just outside the town of Blue River. (Stay on the main highway. Do not turn off the highway into town.)

* - 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.

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.

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, McKenzie 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 trips:

We recommend that guests on our April and May 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 and advance payment are required for O.R.E. rental gear. To place a reservation for a wetsuit/splash jacket set please call our office, at 800-827-1358, at least 48 hours in advance.

Summer trips:

Wetsuits are usually not required. But be sure to bring along warm clothing just in case the weather (or the water) is cooler than anticipated.

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, Capilene, and Polyester fleece do both, and are readily available at stores like REI. Polyester fleece is increasingly available, as well, at large department stores. (Just be sure to look for polyester fleece, not cotton fleece.) 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).



Equipment Checklist

For Spring 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 (available for rent from O.R.E.)
- wetsuit and splash jacket (may be rented from O.R.E. or from windsurf and scuba shops), **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)
- wool or synthetic socks
- athletic shoes or sport sandals such as Tevas or Chacos

To bring on the river:

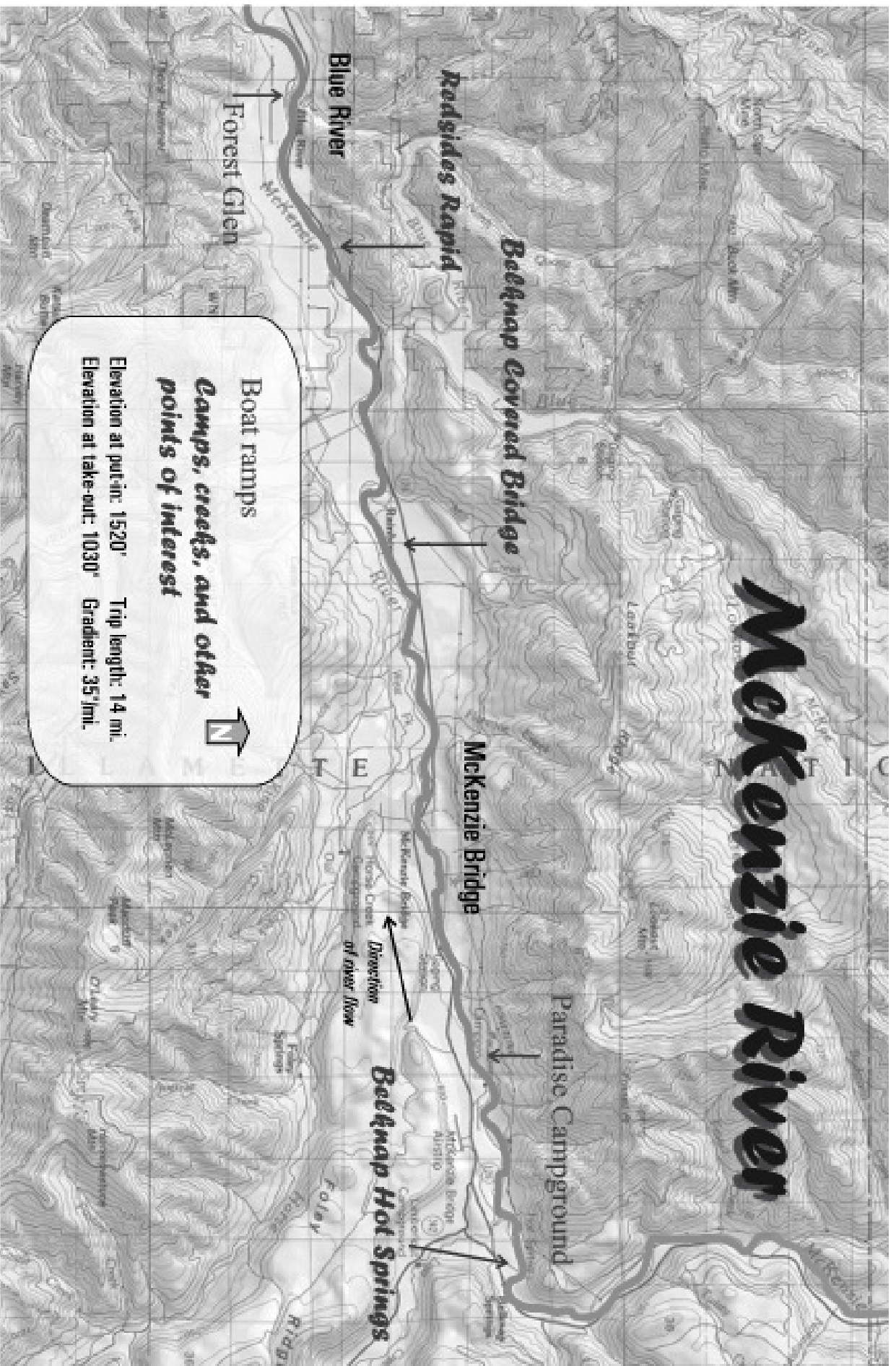
- water bottle or canteen*
- waterproof sunscreen
- light weight long-sleeved shirt (to protect from sunburn)
- wool or synthetic sweater
- lightweight rain jacket or windbreaker

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).

Mckenzie River



Boat ramps
Camps, creeks, and other points of interest

Elevation at put-in: 1520' Trip length: 14 mi.
Elevation at take-out: 1030' Gradient: 35'/mi.

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