



McKenzie River

Trip Guide

2 Day Trips



Oregon River Experiences ^{LLC}

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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 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.

Our McKenzie two day trips typically launch at Olallie boat ramp. We encounter a number of class III rapids during our trip, but most rapids are milder, class II drops. Although most of the McKenzie's rapids are relatively mild, the river's steep and swift flow creates a more exciting ride the class II 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

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
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 email us. A deposit (\$70 per person) confirms your reservation. (Full payment is required if less than six weeks remain prior to your chosen trip date.)

Where and When to Meet

We will meet at 10:00 AM the day of your trip at Forest Glen Boat Landing We'll make our shuttle arrangements here, 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 the "McKenzie River Family Practice" clinic, just outside the town of Blue River.

Pre and Post Trip Accommodations

Just downstream of Blue River is the Eagle Rock Lodge (888-773-4333, www.nim-rod.com). A short drive upstream is Belknap Hot Springs Resort (541-822-3512). Additional lodges and B&Bs are nearby, and numerous motels and hotels are available in Eugene.

Additional Information

- ✓ The services of our professional guide staff.
- ✓ Shuttle service.
- ✓ Hearty, freshly prepared meals, from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last. (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.
- ✓ Cups, plates, eating utensils, and camp chairs.

Camping

On the McKenzie we camp in beautiful and convenient car-accessible USFS riverside campsites. (Your camp and personal gear can stay in your car - it need not be loaded into a boat on the McKenzie.) Our guides establish a central kitchen and social area, and trip members select spots in the surrounding area to pitch a tent.

Gratuities

We are sometimes asked if it is okay for guests to tip the guides. As a way to express your satisfaction with the river trip, tipping is never required, but always appreciated.

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 your vacation by bringing along the proper clothing.

What to wear

Spring trips: We 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 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.

Summer trips: Wetsuits are usually not needed. But be sure to bring along warm clothing just in case the weather 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, Capeline, 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.)

Camping gear: O.R.E. offers camping equipment for rent to those who do not own or do not wish to transport this gear. High quality, two-person backpacking style tents are available for \$20 per tent per trip. Sleep kits (Polarguard sleeping bag, cotton liner, self-inflating sleep pad, and ground cloth) are also available for \$20 per person per trip. To place a reservation for a tent or sleep kit please call our office at 1-800-827-1358.



Equipment Checklist

For Spring (and Cool Weather) Trips

To wear

in the raft:

- swimsuit, or shorts and a T-shirt
- sunglasses with strap
- wetsuit socks or thick wool socks worn with athletic shoes or sport sandals, 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

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

Camp Gear for Spring and Summer Trips

Camp

Clothing:

- camp shoes
- long pants
- shorts
- long-sleeved shirts
- short-sleeved shirts
- socks and underwear

Camp

Equipment:

- compact tent
- medium-weight sleeping bag
- foam sleeping pad (Thermarest is a popular pad), or air mattress
- small tarp (to place beneath your tent, or as a ground cloth for sleeping under the stars)
- personal toiletries, including small towel, biodegradable soap, dry-skin lotion, prescription medicines
- small flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries

Optional

Items:

- binoculars
- camera and film
- reading material
- pen and journal or notebook
- fishing gear
- spare glasses, sunglasses
- small daypack or small dry bag
- beer or soft drinks, wine or liquor. (We provide coffee, tea, and juice; also wine with dinner). Please note: Consumption of alcohol is prohibited during the day — but is okay once we arrive in camp.

Raft Options

Our 2 day McKenzie trips feature paddle rafts and inflatable kayaks. Guided oar rafts and row-yourself oar rafts are available by special arrangement.

Paddle rafts are fast and exciting. These popular craft mix whitewater excitement with teamwork and group fun. (4-7 guests plus a guide; everyone gets to paddle.)

Inflatable kayaks are small, highly maneuverable one-person craft. They're fast and exciting but also surprisingly stable. We bring along one or more kayaks to be shared by the group. (1 guest per kayak. O.R.E. guides provide instruction and supervision.)