



North Umpqua River

Trip Guide

1-Day Trips



Oregon River Experiences ^{LLC}

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The North Umpqua River

The North Umpqua is our favorite southern Oregon one-day whitewater raft trip. Flowing through a gorgeous, thickly forested, steep-walled canyon, the Umpqua offers sparkling clear water and numerous challenging rapids.

Of all the rivers we run, the North Umpqua sports the greatest number of rapids per mile. The Umpqua's rapids are not the largest we run, but this river wins the "most action in a day of boating" award. Our one day trips run the exciting 12 miles from Boulder Flat put-in to Gravel Bin take-out, encountering such drops as Boulder Hole, Cardiac Arrest, Weird Weir, African Queen, and Pinball.

(Our two-day trips feature a downstream run highlighted by fewer -- but larger -- rapids such as Wright Creek, Steamboat, and Bathtub. Alternately, groups chartering a two day trip may opt to repeat the exciting run of day one.)

The North Umpqua is renowned for its outstanding steelhead fishing. If you would like to try your hand at fly fishing, bring your gear and an Oregon fishing license. Fishing is permitted from shore only.

Weather

	April	May	June	July	Aug.
Average daytime high temp.	62	69	76	83	83
Average nighttime low temp.	37	41	46	48	48
Average monthly rainfall	4.60"	3.00"	1.75"	0.60"	1.00"

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 meet at 10:00 AM* on the day your trip begins at the Gravel Bin boat ramp, which is approximately 40 miles east of Roseburg on Highway 138. You'll find the boat ramp about 3/4 mile upstream from Steamboat Creek, roughly midway between highway mileposts 39 and 40.

* - 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.

Accommodations before and after the trip

Lodging is available at the Steamboat Inn in cabins and deluxe cottages (800-840-8825, and www.thesteamboatinn.com). Another option is Steelhead Run (800-348-0563), a bed and breakfast in Glide, 20 miles from Steamboat. In addition, numerous nearby campgrounds are available.

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. (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

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.

Nearby attractions

While in the area consider including a hike on the Umpqua River Trail in your itinerary. Or visit a few of Umpqua National Forest's numerous waterfall, including picturesque Toketee Falls (highway 138, milepost 59), or Watson Falls (milepost 61), the third highest falls in Oregon. Another enjoyable side trip is a visit to Umpqua Hot Springs. For information about these recreational opportunities contact the Umpqua National Forest at 541-672-6601.

Slightly further afield but still easily within reach is world-famous Crater Lake National Park. (It is approximately 50 miles between our meeting place near Steamboat and Crater Lake.) For Crater Lake information contact the Park at 541-594-2211.

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, North Umpqua 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, 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, 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, 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.)

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 (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)
- 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).

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