



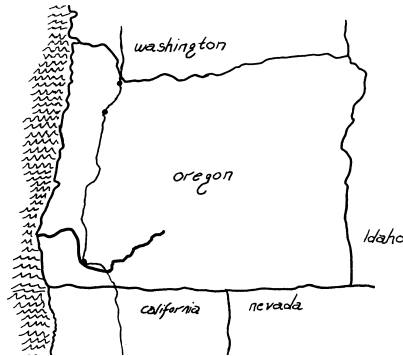
The Rogue River Trail



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The Rogue River

From its headwaters near Crater Lake in southwest Oregon, the Rogue River flows west some 200 miles before it meets the Pacific Ocean at the town of Gold Beach. Our hike through the river's lower canyon begins at Grave Creek (not far from Grants Pass), and ends 42 miles later at Foster Bar (roughly 35 miles upstream from the coast). We'll hike the entire length of the historic Rogue River trail, through a pristine wilderness well known for its scenic beauty. The Rogue River canyon is an enchanting blend of lush forests, fern grottos, beautiful sandy beaches, sparkling waterfalls, lovely side streams, cool clear swimming holes, and abundant wildlife.



Natural History

Geologic forces in the Rogue River country have created a wonderland of beautifully sculpted canyons and polished rock formations. Surrounding the river are lush forests and a diverse mix of plant communities that provide homes for a wide variety of wildlife. Among the many tree and shrub species found along the river are the California bay, with its richly scented leaves, Pacific madrone, with its striking red bark, and Azalea, which sports fragrant white springtime blossoms. Osprey, bald eagles, water ouzels, heron, and a variety of songbirds are seen. Raccoons, river otters, deer, mink, black bear, and other mammals are here, too. Steelhead, chinook and coho salmon either live in the river year-round or migrate up-river to spawn. And trout are native to the larger tributaries, such as Big Windy, Kelsey, and Missouri Creeks.

Human History

The Rogue River canyon is rich in history. Although several Indian tribes lived along the river for many years, few signs remain of their time here. But numerous historic sites do remain from the trapping and mining days that followed. Time permitting, we may stop at one or more cabins built by the miners, trappers, and early settlers who moved to the river canyon beginning around 1850.

Weather

The weather in the Rogue River canyon is usually very pleasant. Warm or hot days are likely, especially June through September. The river water itself is cool in the Spring, and warms by early July to the high 60's.

Here's some climate data for the nearby town of Grants Pass. Temperatures in the river canyon are generally a few degrees cooler.

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average daytime high temp.	75	82	90	89	84
Average nighttime low temp.	44	50	53	53	47
Average monthly rainfall	1.37"	0.76"	0.28"	0.32"	0.75"

For More Information

For more information about the Rogue canyon contact our office to request our natural and human history booklet. A map, *The Rogue River Float Guide*, which may be purchased at the Galice Resort prior to your trip, focuses primarily on the river but includes trail details as well. For additional, in-depth reading we recommend the following books:

Illabe: The Story of Settlement in the Rogue River Canyon, by Kay Atwood (1978). Local History.

The Rogue: A River to Run, by Arman and Wooldridge (Wildwood Press, 1982). Personal history from the Rogue's pioneer river runner.

Hip Pocket Naturalist: A Guide to Oregon's Rogue River Basin, by Jackman and Bernstein (Magnifica Press, 1989). Natural History.

Itinerary

First day

We will meet at 10 AM at the Galice Resort in Galice, Oregon. (Please have breakfast before our meeting time, and arrive in your hiking clothes.) After a brief orientation you will pack your things into our river bags, and park your vehicles at Galice. We will then travel by van to the trailhead (a 15 minute drive), and begin the hike to our first night's camp.

A typical day

Each day is a bit different. But a typical day begins with freshly brewed coffee by 7 AM, and breakfast by 8 AM. After breakfast we'll pack our bags and load the boats. Then, after a brief orientation to the day's adventures, we'll hit the trail.

This is a raft-supported hiking trip. Our rafts will carry your camping gear, as well as all food and group camping supplies. You will need to bring a day pack or fanny pack, but you will need to carry only those few items you'll need along the trail. On some days we'll meet the rafts for lunch; on other days we'll carry sack lunches and meet the rafts at that evening's camp.

In some cases the day's hike may be relatively short, and there will be time for relaxation and side hikes to points of interest. Other days will involve longer stretches of trail that will take most of the day to traverse.

The last day

We typically arrive at trail's end between 2:30 and 3:30 PM. Once we've unpacked, you'll board a van for the ride back to Galice. The ride takes about two hours, on scenic Bear Camp Road through the Siskiyou National Forest. (It's a beautiful but winding road, so if you're particularly susceptible to car sickness, you may want to bring dramamine.)

We normally arrive back in Galice between 5 and 6 PM.

Trail Conditions

The Rogue River Trail provides for a delightful, exceptionally beautiful 40 mile wilderness hike. But the trail can present challenges and difficulties as well as delights. Poison oak grows in places along the trail, and ticks can occasionally be a problem for some. (For protection from both we recommend you hike in long pants and a long-sleeved shirt.) In addition, although the trail is of moderate difficulty overall, unexpected changes can make sections of the trail more challenging. Hikers should be prepared for changes in trail conditions including washouts and down trees. (We will attempt to notify you, prior to the trip's start date, should we become aware of a sudden deterioration in trail conditions.) Also, the location of camps dictates one longer (eleven mile) day, as well as shorter hikes. Finally, because some sections of the trail — while reasonably safe — are exposed, participants should not be unusually afraid of heights.

Physical Conditioning

We strongly recommend that you prepare yourself physically for the hike. In particular, we suggest that you take daily walks over uneven terrain. (To be ready for the Rogue Trail hike, you should be capable of hiking 12 miles in a day, over uneven terrain, at 2.5 m.p.h.)



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 (\$100 per person).

Where and When to Meet

We will meet at 10 AM on the day your trip begins, at the Galice Resort Cafe. The Resort is situated along the banks of the river not far from the town of Grants Pass. Galice is roughly 400 miles north of San Francisco, California, and 250 miles south of Portland, Oregon.

Getting To and From the River

◀ If you Drive

To get to Galice, take Interstate 5 to the Merlin exit (exit # 61), five miles north of Grants Pass, then follow the signs to Merlin. This will put you on the main road, which passes through Merlin and continues to Galice, about 20 miles west of I-5. The Galice Resort is on the right-hand side, between the road and the river. It takes about 40 minutes to drive from Grants Pass to Galice.

◀ If you Fly

The closest commercial airport is Medford, Oregon. It is serviced by Alaska, United, and Northwest Airlines. Plan your flight to arrive the day before your river trip begins.

Car rentals are available at Medford. Galice Resort offers shuttle service from the airport to Grants Pass or to the resort (which is our meeting place). Shuttles are \$75 each way per van, so your ultimate cost depends on the number of people (1 to 14) who share the ride. For more information or reservations contact the Galice Resort at 541-476-3818.

Trip Shuttles

Your trip fare includes transportation from Galice to the trailhead, and from trail's end back to Galice at the end of our journey. If you're planning to drive up or down the Coast after your river trip, you may wish to leave directly from trail's end. When we meet in Galice our guides can assist you in arranging to have your car shuttled. Galice Resort conducts these shuttles, for a \$ 85.00 fee.

Accommodations (before and after your trip)

Rustic cabins and a lodge are available at the Galice Resort. Phone 541-476-3818. Also nearby are the Rogue Forest Bed and Breakfast (541-472-1052), Buckhorn Mountain Lodge (541-471-9516), and Morrison's Lodge (800-826-1963).

Camping is available nearby at Indian Mary Park, and at Almeda Bar Recreation Area, both within 5 miles of Galice. Neither site takes reservations. (For information concerning probable availability at Indian Mary call the County Parks Department at 541-474-5285.) Further afield, camping is also available at Griffith Park and Whitehorse Park. For additional information and reservations call the county parks department.

What to Bring

Most of the time the weather in the Rogue River canyon is warm and pleasant. But cool wet weather is a possibility, too. So please pay close attention to selecting your clothes and gear for your hiking adventure. Hopefully, you'll never need most of the cool-weather gear we recommend that you bring. But please do bring it, just in case!

What to wear

◀ On cool or rainy days

Appropriate clothing for these conditions is clothing that dries quickly, and keeps you warm even when the garment is wet. Modern high-tech synthetic fabrics such as polypropylene, capilene, and polyester fleece do both. (Wool provides warmth when wet, but does not dry quickly and is less

comfortable. Wool is often less expensive, however, especially when purchased from Thrift or Military Surplus stores.)

Think in terms of layers of clothing for changeable and cool weather. As conditions change, you can add or subtract layers as needed. The first layer in cool weather should be long underwear made of synthetic materials such as polypropylene or capilene, which provide warmth and wick moisture away from your skin. The middle layer should consist of polyester fleece (or wool), and will provide further warmth. The outer layer consists of a rain jacket and rain pants, or (as a second choice) a poncho. Rain gear made of modern waterproof, breathable fabrics such as Goretex are best. But for a less expensive option, coated nylon will work, too.

A surprisingly large percentage of heat loss occurs from our heads. For this reason, a wool or synthetic hat will go a long way towards keeping you warm.

◀ On hot days

Shorts and a T-shirt may be worn, as well as a hat to keep the sun out of your eyes. But you may wish to wear a long-sleeved cotton shirt and cotton slacks, in order to ward off sunburn and brushes with poison oak.

Cotton clothing is recommended for hot weather only! Wet cotton will lower your body temperature. This is great for keeping cool during a heat wave. But cotton provides no warmth when wet.

◀ On your feet

Different hikers require different degrees of support from their footgear. For most people we recommend light to mid weight hiking boots. Waterproof or water resistant boots are a plus on the Rogue trail. Whatever boots you wear, make sure that they're well broken in!

◀ In camp

You may want a change of shoes, and comfortable clothing for lounging. Cotton clothing may be worn on shore in dry weather. But in order to be prepared for rainy weather, we recommend that you have camp clothing available made of synthetic or wool.

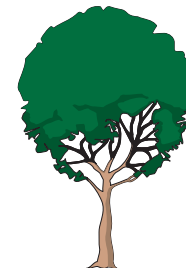
Where to find it

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 online by contacting REI (800-426-4840, or www.rei.com) or L.L. Bean (800-341-4341, or www.llbean.com).

How to pack it

Pack your gear in a manner appropriate for your journey to Galice. When we meet we will supply you with a watertight river bag, into which you will pack your clothing. This bag is roughly 14" in diameter and 24" tall. We'll also provide you with a second, larger river bag (roughly 16" in diameter and 33" tall), which you will share with one other person. Into this second bag will go your tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and other bulky items. These bags will be transported from camp to camp by raft. Generally, they will not be accessible during the day. For gear that you wish to have with you on the trail, please bring along a daypack.

A few words about the term *waterproof*. The bags and boxes we provide are watertight under most conditions, even when temporarily submerged. However, leakage can occur, and we recommend you wrap your sleeping bag and clothing in heavy-duty plastic garbage bags for extra protection. We also recommend that you pack your camera, binoculars, reading material and similar items in large zip-lock food storage bags.



Equipment Checklist

◀ Clothing

- _____ hiking boots (make sure they're well broken in!)
- _____ shoes for camp
- _____ wool or synthetic “ski” hat — for cold/rainy days
- _____ wide-brimmed hat or baseball cap — for sunny days
- _____ 2-3 pair hiking socks (wool or synthetic recommended)
- _____ waterproof rain jacket and rain pants
- _____ Polypropylene or Capilene long underwear tops and bottoms (light or mid-weight suggested)
- _____ 1 warm sweater or jacket, polyester fleece or wool
- _____ swimsuit
- _____ 1 pair long pants
- _____ 1-2 pair shorts
- _____ 1-2 long-sleeved shirts
- _____ 1-2 short-sleeved shirts
- _____ socks and underwear

◀ Camp Gear and Other Equipment

- _____ daypack
- _____ water bottle or canteen
- _____ waterproof sunscreen (SPF 15 minimum), lip balm
- _____ sunglasses
- _____ compact, lightweight tent (freestanding is preferred)
- _____ compact, medium-weight sleeping bag
- _____ compact foam sleeping pad (Thermarest is a popular pad), or air mattress
- _____ small tarp (to place beneath your tent, or as a groundcloth 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

- _____ trekking poles or walking staff
- _____ binoculars
- _____ camera and film
- _____ reading material
- _____ pen and journal or notebook
- _____ compact fishing gear
- _____ spare glasses, sunglasses
- _____ insect repellent
- _____ second warm jacket, especially for spring trips
- _____ beer or soft drinks (up to 2 six-packs per person), wine or liquor — all in unbreakable containers. (We provide coffee, tea, and juice; also wine with some dinners). Please note: Consumption of alcohol is prohibited during the day — but is okay once we arrive in camp.

Please do not bring: pets, guns, valuable jewelry, cellular phones, or radios (personal mp3 or “walkman” type music players are okay).

Additional Information

Your trip fare includes the following

- ◀ The services of our professional trail and river guide staff.
- ◀ Transportation to the trailhead from Galice, and from trail's end back to Galice.
- ◀ All meals, from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last. Our menu is delicious, varied, and hearty. Meals are freshly prepared by our guides from the highest quality ingredients. Juice and water are available at each meal. Coffee, tea, and cocoa are available at dinner and breakfast, and complementary wine is served with some dinners. Special dietary needs may be accommodated with advance notice.
- ◀ Waterproof river bags for your personal gear.
- ◀ Cups, plates, and eating utensils.
- ◀ Camp chairs.

Fishing

Fishing on the Rogue is generally only fair during spring and summer, although conditions improve in the fall. If you would like to fish you'll need an Oregon fishing license, which may be purchased at Oregon sporting goods stores, or at the Galice Resort.

Camping

We select beautiful beaches, meadows, and forest glens for our camp sites. Our guides establish a central kitchen and social area, and trip members select spots in the surrounding area to pitch a tent or roll out a sleeping bag.

Some camps are equipped with outhouses, while at other camps O.R.E. will set up a portable toilets.

O.R.E. practices minimum impact camping, and the crew will instruct you on the simple steps we follow to protect the river.

Gratuities

Our guests sometimes ask whether it is appropriate to tip the guides. Tipping is optional, but if your guides did a great job then feel free to thank them with a gratuity. The amount is up to you, but tips between 8% and 20% of trip cost are typical. Gratuities are customarily presented to the Lead Guide, and will be shared equally among all guides on your trip.

Nearby attractions

While in the area you may want to visit Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument, or the southern Oregon coast. You may also want to visit the nearby towns of Jacksonville and Ashland. Jacksonville, a National Historic Landmark, hosts the Britt Music Festival on weekends in July and August. The Festival features classical, jazz, and bluegrass music under the stars. For information contact the Festival at 800-882-7488. Ashland is site of the renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Because Festival performances often sell out, we recommend that you call well in advance for tickets and information (541-482-4331).

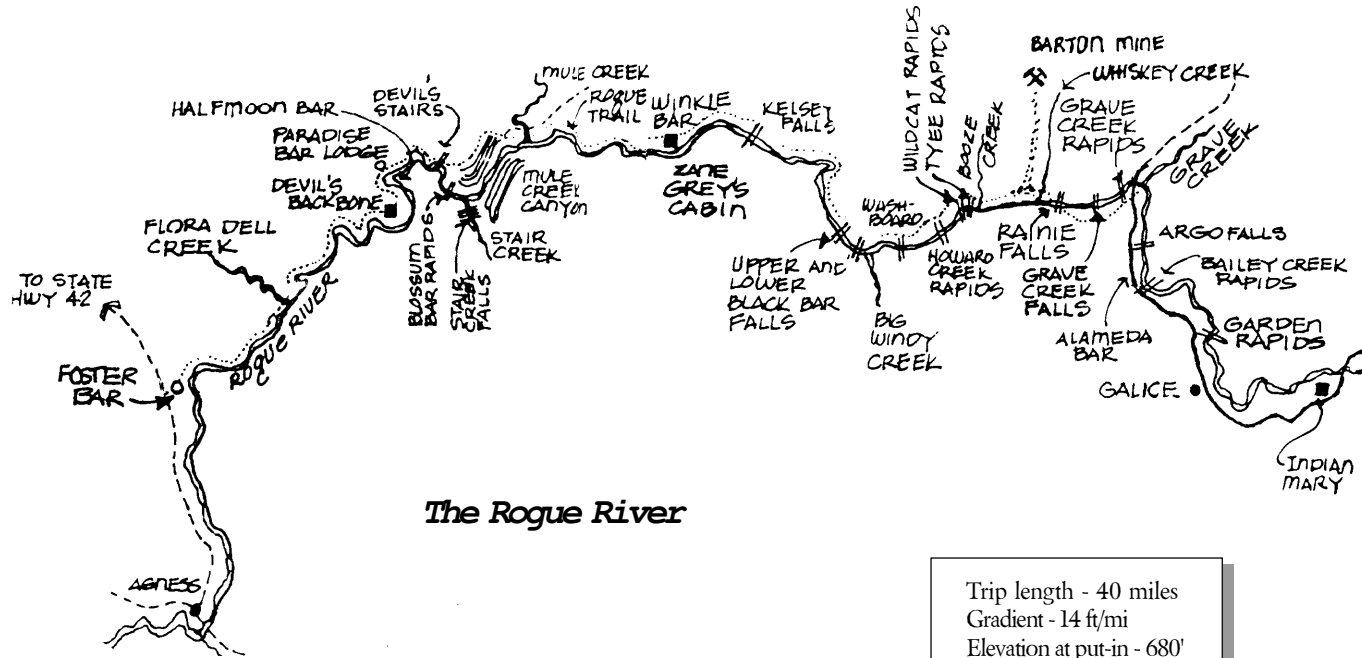
Cancellations and Travel Insurance

The size of our trips is strictly regulated by law, and your reservation means we cannot sell the spaces to others. So we strictly adhere to the cancellation policies we explain in our reservation materials. For this reason we strongly recommend that you consider the purchase of travel insurance, which will reimburse you if you must cancel your trip due to illness.

Emergencies

It may be difficult for family and friends to reach you while you are on the trail. In case of emergency they should contact the local Bureau of Land Management office (Grants Pass) at 541-618-2200 or the Forest Service office (Gold Beach) at 541-247-3600. They should also call the O.R.E. office at 800-827-1358.





The Rogue River

Trip length - 40 miles
 Gradient - 14 ft/mi
 Elevation at put-in - 680'
 Elevation at take-out - 150'