



# The Rogue River

Trip Guide  
3, 4 and 5 day trips



**Oregon River Experiences** <sup>LLC</sup>  
18074 S. Boone Ct. Beavercreek, OR 97004  
phone and fax: 503-632-6836  
toll-free phone: 800-827-1358  
e-mail: [info@oregonriver.com](mailto:info@oregonriver.com)  
web site: [www.oregonriver.com](http://www.oregonriver.com)

# The Rogue River

The Rogue River is born near Crater Lake in the Cascade mountain range, then flows southwest to its meeting with the Pacific ocean near the town of Gold Beach. We float the most spectacular 38 miles of the river, where it cuts through the rugged coastal mountains of southern Oregon, not far from the town of Grants Pass.

When congress first passed legislation to protect America's wild rivers, the Rogue was among the first to receive protection. And no wonder. The Rogue River canyon is an enchanting blend of lush forests, fern grottos, beautiful sandy beaches, sparkling waterfalls, lovely side streams, and cool clear swimming holes. It's wild country and wildlife is everywhere: more wildlife than you're likely to see on a river trip anywhere outside Alaska.

The Rogue's rapids are mostly class III in difficulty: exciting and challenging, but not too threatening for our guests who choose to try their hand at inflatable kayaks or our row-yourself rafts. (Rapids are rated I through VI. Class I indicates the smallest possible rapid, while VI indicates steep, turbulent, highly dangerous rapids and waterfalls.)

The Rogue is a river for all seasons. Summer trips promise hot, sunny weather and warm water for swimming. Spring trips are sensational, with multitudes of wildflowers. Fall trips reveal gorgeous colors, warm days and cool crisp evenings. And the whitewater is exciting, any time of year.

A great family trip, the Rogue is one of our nation's finest river journeys.

## 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 different 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	1.40"	0.75"	0.30"	0.30"	0.75"

## For More Information

For more information about the Rogue contact our office to request our natural and human history pamphlet. A map, *The Rogue River Float Guide* (published by the BLM and USFS) may be purchased at the Galice Resort prior to your trip. And 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 meet at 8:30 AM at the Galice Resort. (Please have your breakfast before our meeting time, and arrive in your river clothes.) Our Lead Guide will meet you in front of the cafe and store. Look for a vehicle sporting the O.R.E. logo. If in doubt about where to find us, ask a Galice employee at the store, and they will assist you. After a brief orientation you will pack your things into our river bags, and park your vehicles at Galice. We will then go by van to the launch site a few miles downstream. Depending upon trip length and water level, we begin our river trip at either Almeda Bar, Argo Bar, or Grave Creek boat ramp.

Once we arrive at our launch site, you'll meet the rest of our guide crew, and they'll conduct a short safety and orientation briefing, which will include instruction on paddle and rowing techniques. We're normally on our way downstream by mid-morning.

## A typical day

Each day is a bit different. But a typical day on the river begins with freshly brewed coffee around 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 head downstream.

We're on the river an average of four to five hours per day. Along the way we stop for a riverside picnic lunch. We may also stop to swim, to explore historic sites, to scout rapids, or hike up scenic side streams. We usually arrive in camp by mid to late afternoon, and while the guides prepare hors d'oeuvres and dinner, you'll have time to hike, swim, fish, read, or nap. Five and six day trips may include layover days.

## Last day

We typically arrive at Foster Bar, our take-out point, between 1:30 and 3 PM. Once we've unpacked, you'll board a van for the ride back to Galice. (On small trips, we will completely de-rig the boats, and our guides will accompany you back to Galice. On larger trips, you will say good-bye to the guides when you leave Foster Bar, as they will stay behind to finish de-rigging.) The ride takes about two hours, on scenic Bear Camp Road through the Siskiyou National Forest. Climbing 4,000 feet through moun-

tainous terrain before descending to Galice, it's a beautiful but winding journey. (If you're particularly susceptible to car sickness you may want to bring dramamine.) We arrive back in Galice between 4:30 and 6:00 PM.

## Trip Highlights

Our first day on the river begins with mild rapids which are ideal for a warm up, especially for those behind the oars or paddling an inflatable kayak. Once past Grave Creek boat ramp we encounter our first major rapids, Grave Creek rapids and Grave Creek falls. Not long after we come to the biggest rapid on the river: class V+ Rainie Falls. No-one will raft the falls themselves, and most people will walk around the rapids altogether. But water levels permitting we may invite members of the group to challenge a class III+ side channel, the "Fish Ladder". While at Rainie we'll keep an eye out for Salmon, jumping the falls: a spectacular sight.

The next few days provide the most exciting whitewater of the our journey. We encounter numerous class III rapids, including Wildcat, Horseshoe Bend, and Black Bar Falls. Two spectacular class IV rapids — Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar — are the whitewater highlights of the trip. (Please note: Unless water levels are particularly favorable, our guides will take the inflatable kayaks and row-yourself rafts through the first section of Blossom Bar, before turning these boats back over to our guests for the remainder of the rapid.)

In addition to the rapids, the Rogue offers other attractions. Time and conditions permitting, we may hike sections of the Rogue River Trail, stop to explore the swimming holes at Howard Creek or Big Windy Creek, pay a visit to the historic Rogue River Ranch, or stop for a picnic lunch at the waterfalls of beautiful Flora Dell.



# Raft Options

We offer four different boat types on the Rogue: guided oar rafts, "row-your-own" oar rafts, paddle rafts, and inflatable kayaks.

## Guided oar rafts

Our 14 to 18 foot-long guided oar rafts are the most stable of river boats. They're ideal for young children and anyone who wants to hang on while the guide rows the rapids. And they're a great boat to choose if relaxation and enjoying the scenery are your primary interests.

## Row-your-own oar rafts

Row-your-own oar rafts are smaller, livelier versions of the boats our guides row. If you want a safe, yet exciting and rewarding personal experience, this is a great way to go. You don't need to be an athlete to pilot your own raft: anyone with the desire to learn can do it, and beginners are welcome!

We outfit you and a boat partner with one of our custom designed self-bailing rafts\*, rigged with frame and oars. We provide coaching and encouragement, and while our guides lead the way, you float "follow the leader" style down the river. You trade off rowing with your boat partner, and have ample time to relax, take pictures, or enjoy the passing scenery.

Oregon River Experiences pioneered row-your-own river vacations. This is the ultimate "hands-on" adventure and our most popular option.

\* On most of our Rogue trips we use "catarafts" for our row-your-own guests. These craft consist of twin pontoons, coupled with a sturdy metal frame that provides a solid, secure floor and comfortable, cushioned seating.

## Paddle rafts

Paddle rafts are fast and exciting. Each paddle crew consists of 4 to 7 guests plus a guide. Each crew member gets a canoe type paddle, and works as a team under the direction of the guide. For those who want to combine excitement with group involvement, a paddle raft is the boat of choice.

## Inflatable kayaks

Inflatable kayaks are small, highly maneuverable one-person craft that are sporty yet also surprisingly stable. We bring along 2 to 4 inflatable kayaks to be shared by the group.

### A few important details about raft options

- ✓ Paddle rafts are available only when a minimum of six adults express a strong desire to paddle.
- ✓ Inflatable kayaks are available on a shared basis, and may be reserved for exclusive use by special arrangement only.
- ✓ You are welcome to switch between boat types, but because of the need for training and practice prior to substantial rapids, certain restrictions will apply.
- ✓ Paddle raft, inflatable kayak, and row-your-own raft availability is subject to water level limitations.

## 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 p.p.).

### Where and When to Meet

We will meet at 8:30 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 served by a variety of airlines including Alaska, United, and US Air. 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.

### River Shuttles

Your trip fare includes transportation from Galice to our put-in point, and from our take-out point back to Galice at trip's end. If you're planning to drive up or down the Coast after your river trip, you may wish to leave directly from takeout. When we meet in Galice on put-in day, your guides can assist you in arranging to have your car shuttled to takeout. Galice Resort conducts these shuttles, which cost \$ 85.00.

### Accommodations (before and after your river 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 Alameda 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.

## Additional Information

### Your trip fare includes the following

- ✓ The services of our professional guide staff.
- ✓ Transportation to our launch point from Galice, and from our take-out back to Galice at trip's end.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Durable, professional quality rafts and river running equipment, including U.S. Coast Guard Approved lifejackets.
- ✓ 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

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 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 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 river. In case of emergency they should contact the local Bureau of Land Management office (Medford) at 541-770-2200 or the Forest Service office (Gold Beach) at 541-247-6651. They should also call the O.R.E. office at 800-827-1358.

## What to Bring

Most of the time the weather in the Rogue River canyon is warm and pleasant. But cool, wet weather can occur on any trip. It can be quite chilly when it's overcast, breezy or rainy, especially when you're in a raft. Please pay close attention to selecting your clothes and gear for your river 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 (or when the rapids are chilly)

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(s) should consist of polyester fleece (or wool), and will provide further warmth. The outer layer consists of a rain jacket and rain pants (ponchos are not recommended). 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.

Wetsuits are generally not needed (although for spring trips they can substitute for a middle clothing layer). But they do make inflatable kayaking more comfortable in cool weather, and for this reason O.R.E. provides wetsuits on a shared basis for kayakers. If you'd like to bring your own suit, look for an 1/8" thick "farmer john" style (which can be worn in conjunction with a sweater and raincoat). Thicker, full-body scuba style suits are warm, but they're less comfortable, and their bulk makes makes rowing and paddling more difficult.

✓ On hot days

Nylon shorts and bathing suits are worn, as well as a hat to keep the sun out of your eyes. Cotton shirts may be worn to keep cool and to ward off sunburn.

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

For footwear while on the river we recommend nylon or canvas tennis shoes, hard soled wetsuit boots, or sports sandals such as Tevas. For extra comfort you may want to wear nylon or polypropylene socks as a first layer. For cool weather and cold water, wetsuit boots work well. Sport sandals and shoes also work well, when combined with thick wool socks or neoprene wetsuit socks. Sport sandals are comfortable for rafting, and are preferred by many of our guides. But they're generally more expensive, and do not protect your feet as well as do shoes.

✓ In camp

You may want a change of shoes, and comfortable clothing for lounging or hiking. While cotton clothing may be worn on shore in dry weather, you may want to bring a second set of polypropylene and fleece for rainy weather.

## 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](http://www.rei.com)), L.L. Bean (800-341-4341, or [www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)), or Northwest River Supply (800-635-5202, or [www.nrsweb.com](http://www.nrsweb.com)).

## Rental Equipment

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 \$25 - \$35 per trip. Sleep kits (Polarguard sleeping bag, cotton liner, self-inflating sleep pad, and ground cloth) are also available for \$25 - \$35 per person per trip. Reservations and advance payment are required. To place a reservation for a tent or sleep kit please call our office at 1-800-827-1358.

## How to pack it

Pack your gear in a manner appropriate for your journey to the river. 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. Items that you want to keep handy during the day but which must stay dry (camera, binoculars, a book, etc.) go best in a 50 caliber military surplus ammo box. O.R.E. provides these boxes on a shared basis. If you would like your own, they are available at most surplus and some outdoor stores, and work best when painted white or a light color and lined with foam. (Please note: ammo boxes cannot be carried in paddle rafts or inflatable kayaks.)

**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

✓ River Gear

- \_\_\_\_\_ swimsuit, or shorts and T-shirt (avoid cotton shorts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ tennis shoes or sport sandals, or hard-soled wetsuit boots (for spring trips)
- \_\_\_\_\_ wool or synthetic "ski" hat — for cold/rainy days
- \_\_\_\_\_ wide-brimmed hat (preferably with chin-strap), or baseball cap — for sunny days (wide-brimmed hats do a better job of keeping the sun off, but baseball caps can be worn beneath the helmets used by inflatable kayakers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pair socks (wool or synthetic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof rain jacket and rain pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Polypropylene or Capilene long underwear tops and bottoms (midweight or expedition weight)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 warm sweater or jacket, polyester fleece or wool

- \_\_\_\_\_ water bottle or canteen
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof sunscreen (SPF 15 minimum), lip balm
- \_\_\_\_\_ sunglasses, with strap (i.e. “chums” or “croakies”)

✓ Extra river clothing, camp clothing

- \_\_\_\_\_ camp shoes (or *lightweight* hiking boots)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pair long pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 pair shorts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 long-sleeved shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 short-sleeved shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ socks and underwear

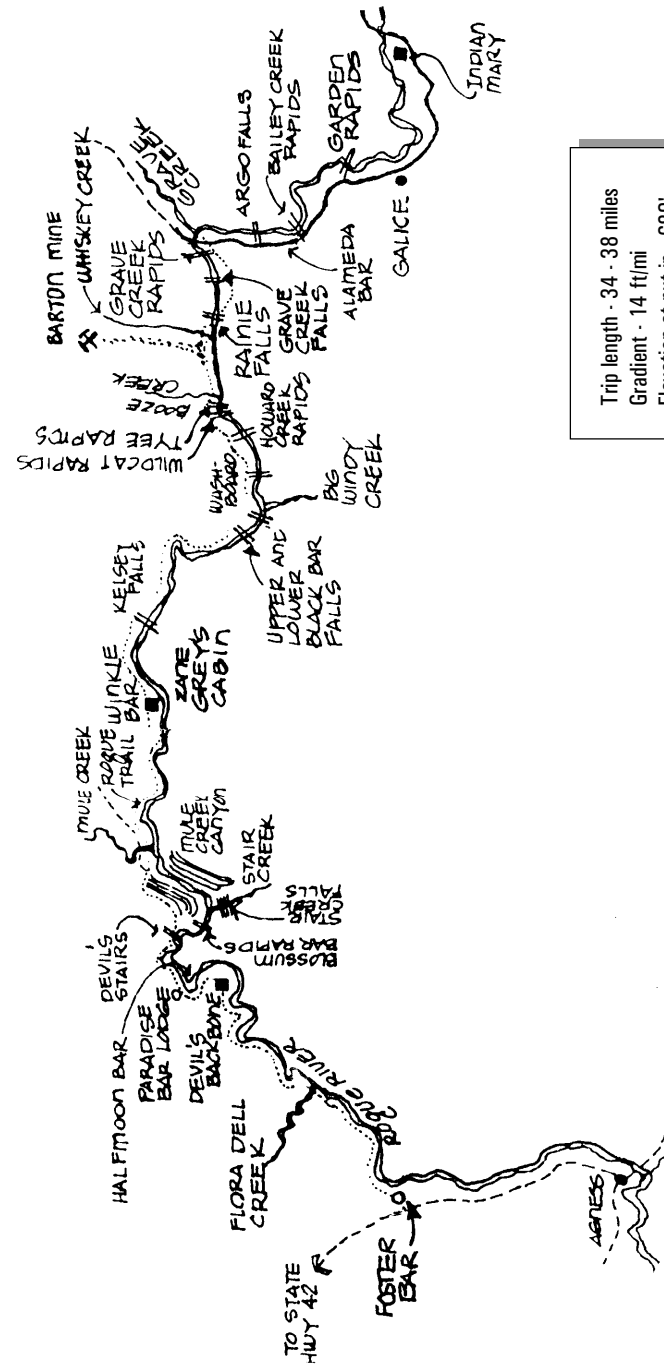
✓ Camp Gear

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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

- \_\_\_\_\_ a second warm sweater or jacket, polyester fleece or wool, and fleece or wool pants (especially for spring trips)
- \_\_\_\_\_ gloves (especially if you’ll be rowing) — bicycling, weight lifting, or gardening gloves work well
- \_\_\_\_\_ binoculars
- \_\_\_\_\_ camera and film
- \_\_\_\_\_ reading material
- \_\_\_\_\_ pen and journal or notebook
- \_\_\_\_\_ compact fishing gear
- \_\_\_\_\_ spare glasses, sunglasses
- \_\_\_\_\_ small daypack, ammo box, or small dry bag
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 o.k. once we arrive in camp.
- \_\_\_\_\_ People sensitive to the sun may want to bring lightweight cotton clothes (such as a surgeon’s outfit) for sun protection on midsummer trips.

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



Trip length - 34 - 38 miles  
 Gradient - 14 ft/mi  
 Elevation at put-in - 680'  
 Elevation at take-out - 150'