



Deschutes River

Trip Guide

1/2 and 1 Day Trips



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The Deschutes River

Do outstanding whitewater, blue skies, and easy accessibility whet your appetite for fun? Then a Deschutes River whitewater rafting trip is for you.

This is not the river on which to seek solitude — the Deschutes is too popular for that. And with good reason. The river is located near the population centers of western Oregon and Washington, and features both sunny weather and enjoyable rapids.

In the eyes of many people the best thing about the Deschutes may be the weather. The section we run is located in the rain-shadow of the Cascade Mountains, which results in an enjoyably dry and sunny climate. Yes, it does rain here, as it does almost everywhere else on the planet. But on those Spring days when the Willamette Valley to the west is cloudy, Deschutes rafters often find themselves basking in the sun.

Whatever the weather, the Deschutes numerous thrilling rapids. Some of the bigger drops (in order of appearance) are Wapinitia, Boxcar, Surf City, Oak Springs, and White River. But for many the greatest thrill comes at Elevator rapids. On full day trips, after running elevator in our rafts we stop along shore, and those who wish can accompany one our guides on as we float feet-first through the rapid (wearing our lifejackets, of course!).

Itinerary

Morning half day trips meet at 9:30 AM*, afternoon half day trips meet at 1:00 PM*, and full day trips meet at 10:00 AM. We meet in front of the Oasis Cafe, on the east side of the river, in the town of Maupin.

After a brief orientation you will park your car then board an O.R.E. van for the 10 minute ride to the launch point. Once we arrive at our launch site our guides will conduct a safety orientation. We'll then all board rafts and be on our way downstream.

Day trips include a stop for a riverside lunch between noon and 1 PM. Full day trips include a short hike up the White River to a swimming hole and water slide, and also include a stop at the swimming rapid.

Half day trips day are pure boating runs. They do not include a meal stop, and because they cover the same mileage as full day trips they do not allow time for the White River and swimming rapid stops.

We typically arrive at our take-out point around 12:30 PM (1/2 day morning trips), or around 4 PM (1/2 day afternoon trips) and around 3:30 PM (full day trips).** We then drive you back to where your vehicle was parked in Maupin.

* 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.

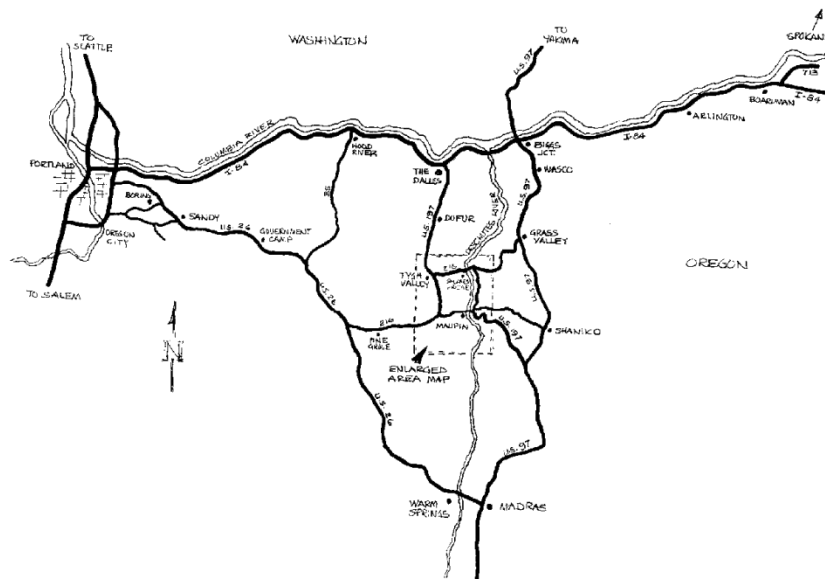
** Many factors influence our timetable, including water levels, winds, and the needs and preferences of our guests. Please consider these times approximate.

Weather

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average daytime high temp.	71	79	87	87	78
Average nighttime low temp.	37	43	46	46	39
Average monthly rainfall	0.80"	0.80"	0.40"	0.50"	0.50"

How to get there

From Portland, take US-26 (the Mt. Hood Highway) east, to the junction with OR-216. Follow OR-216 to its junction with US-197, which will take you into Maupin.





What to bring and what to wear

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! 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.

The best clothing is that which retains your body heat while wet, or one that dries quickly. Modern high-tech synthetic fabrics like polypropylene and polyester fleece do both, and are readily available at stores like REI and L.L. Bean. 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. During the spring you should avoid wearing cotton clothing while on the river. When wet, cotton sucks warmth from your body at an amazing rate.

Gear checklist for Spring Trips

To wear (clothing should be of synthetic or wool fabric – no cotton)

- ✓ Swimsuit or shorts
- ✓ T-shirt
- ✓ Sunglasses with a strap
- ✓ Baseball cap or wide brim hat
- ✓ Sweater or jacket
- ✓ Synthetic long underwear top

Splash jackets are provided by O.R.E.

To bring with you on the river:

- ✓ Water bottle or canteen
- ✓ Sunscreen

To leave in your car:

- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Complete change of clothing

Gear checklist for Summer trips

To wear

- ✓ Swimsuit or shorts
- ✓ T-shirt
- ✓ Sunglasses with a strap
- ✓ Baseball cap or wide brim hat
- ✓ Athletic shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops)

To bring with you on the river:

- ✓ Water bottle or canteen *
- ✓ Sunscreen

To leave in your car:

- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Complete change of clothing

Additional information

Your trip includes the following

- ✓ The services of our professional guides.
- ✓ Shuttle service to and from our meeting place.
- ✓ A hearty, freshly prepared picnic lunch at the riverside on full day trips. (Special dietary needs can 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.

Nearby attractions

If you're coming from out of town a Deschutes River trip can be included in a visit to nearby Portland. For Portland information contact the Portland Visitor's Bureau at 503-222-2223.

Rafting the Deschutes can also be combined with hiking on Mount Hood or a tour of the Columbia River Gorge. For more about both Mount Hood and the Gorge contact Mt. Hood National Forest headquarters at 503-667-0511.