

Hells Canyon of the Snake River Four Day River Trip

Rafting one mile deep through Hells Canyon of the Snake River, it is obvious why the Nez Perce Indians were drawn to this "Place of Shadows." As North America's deepest river gorge, Hells Canyon combines world class rapids, cultural history, beautiful beaches, and warm water to create a trip of a lifetime for all ages. A Snake River Trip in Hells Canyon combines the awesome thrill of class III and IV rapids with incredible scenery, wildlife viewing, and great fishing opportunities. The complex geology of the Seven Devils Mountain Range creates a wonderland of towering basalt cliffs and granite promontories. Nez Perce Indian legend claims Coyote dug Hells Canyon with a big stick to protect their ancestors in Oregon's Blue mountains from the Seven Devils across the gorge in what is now Idaho. The vast elevation changes in the canyon provide excellent habitat for all types of flora and fauna, from bald eagles nesting in ponderosa pines to otters sunbathing on the river banks. Hidden amongst the forests and open grassy slopes, you are likely to spy Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, mountain goats, elk, and black bear roaming this wild country.

With warm water, exciting rapids, and incredible scenery, this canyon river trip is the perfect adventure for all ages of rafters!

Difficulty: Class III – IV; Beginners to Advanced

Ages: 7 years old and up

Season: June - September; 2011 launch dates: June: 8th, 16th, 24th, July: 2nd, 10th, 18th (Adults Only), & 26th, August: 3rd, 11th, 19th (5 day Yoga Trip), and 27th

The General Trip Itinerary

(exact camp locations and daily river mileage may vary with water levels and river conditions)

Arrival Day – the day before your scheduled trip launch date: Arrive in Joseph, Oregon and check-in to the Chandlers B&B. Pre-Trip Meeting at Chandlers at 6pm.

Day 1 (Launch Date): Breakfast served at Chandlers by 6:45 am with a planned departure around 7:30 am. Depart in van for Hells Canyon Dam with a stop at Scotty's Market, where you can purchase an Oregon fishing License if needed. We'll try to launch by 11 am after a brief trip orientation, with lunch served riverside. We'll encounter rapids such as Wild Sheep and Granite on this first day, as well as have time to relax, fish, explore archeological sites, and take in the breathtaking views. At camp, you can expect an evening beginning with a delicious meal, followed up by good conversation, a campfire, games and music.

Day 2: The morning routine: hot drinks and fruit juice served by about 7:00 a.m. Breakfast by 8:00 a.m. After breaking camping and launching on the river, we'll run exciting class III-IV rapids such as Bernard, Water Spout, and Rush Creek. We will also have time to visit ancient pictograph sites and riverside homestead cabins. The evening will feature another great riverside camp site and delicious meal. There is always time in camp to take a swim, go on a short hike, read a book, catch a fish, play Bocce Ball, or simply lay in a hammock.

Day 3: After the morning routine, we're on the river again. Today will be spent hiking to the overlook at Suicide Point, floating, scanning the slopes for wildlife, spotting the birds responsible for those beautiful songs, exploring Kirkwood Ranch, laughing and playing in the river.

Day 4: Our final day on the river, we will float through the Lower Canyon. The canyon walls seem to crowd in on us rising as far as the eye can see, and the landscape changes every minute as our perspective changes. We often see Big Horn Sheep and Bald Eagles in these tight canyons. As we reach the take-out, it will be time for farewells and goodbyes, before your travels home. However, there is one final treat on your journey: you will be transported out of the canyon and back to your vehicles in either a jet boat or airplane.

What to Bring on the Wet Planet Hells Canyon of the Snake River Trip

Below is a suggested packing list to use for your river expedition. We will provide you with a dry bag to protect your belongings from the water. Feel free to contact us at any time with packing questions. **Always be prepared for changing Idaho weather!**

- Sleeping bag (can be provided for free if preferred, just ask us)
- One or two pair of shorts for camp and hiking
- Two or Three T-shirts
- Rain jacket & pants
- One set long-sleeved light clothes (for sun and/or camp)
- Synthetic thermal underwear (top & bottom)
- Fleece or pile top & bottom (top can be pullover or jacket)
- Swimsuit
- One pair tennis shoes or river sandals (for on river)
- One pair lightweight hiking shoes (for off river)
- Toilet articles (biodegradable soap)
- Wool or polypro/capilene/fleece socks (try to stay away from cotton)
- Shade hat/visor
- Warm hat (spring and fall trips)
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing
- Suntan/moisturizing lotion
- Chapstick with SPF
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses with securing strap
- Water bottle with securing strap (1 liter minimum, more if hiking)
- Flashlight/small headlamp & extra batteries
- Personal medications
- Toiletries/towel, etc.
- Spare eyeglasses

Optional Items: Binoculars, diary, sketchbook, a good paperback book, small daypack or fanny pack for hikes, camera and film, paddling jacket & pants, small travel pillow, musical instrument.

Liquor, beer, and or wine: you will need to provide your own alcoholic beverages!

All rafting gear, camping equipment, and meals included!

Getting to the Hells Canyon of the Snake River

Our Hell's Canyon trip begins & ends at Chandlers Bed and Breakfast, in Joseph, OR. The closest airport to Joseph is in Lewiston, Idaho.

Driving Directions for the Hells Canyon River Trip

Portland to Joseph, OR

Chandlers Bed and Breakfast

- Take I-84 East to LaGrande, OR
- Take State Highway 82 (Wallowa Lake Highway) to Elgin
- Follow Highway 82 through Wallowa, Lostine, Enterprise on into Joseph
- Go through Joseph to the corner of Highway 82 (S Main Street) and East 7th St
- Chandlers will be on your left at this corner.

Seattle to Joseph, OR

Chandlers Bed and Breakfast

- Take I-90 East out of Seattle to Ellensburg
- Take I-82 East to Yakima
- Continue on I-82 to I-84
- Take I-84 East to LaGrande, OR
- Take State Highway 82 (Wallowa Lake Highway) to Elgin
- Follow Highway 82 through LaGrande, Lostine, Enterprise on into Joseph
- Go through Joseph to the corner of Highway 82 (S Main Street) and East 7th St.
- Chandlers will be on your left at this corner.

Boise to Joseph, OR - about 4.5 hours

Chandlers Bed and Breakfast

- follow I-84 W, entering Oregon / 165 miles
- take exit 261 for OR-82 towards La Grande City Center, Elgin / 0.4 miles
- turn right at Island / OR-82 / 1.4 miles
- turn left at N. McAlister Rd/OR-82/Wallowa Lake Hwy / 17.7 miles
- turn right at Albany St / OR-82 / Wallowa Lake Hwy / 34.2 miles
- slight left at OR-82 / State St. / Wallowa Lake Hwy / 10 miles
- turn right at OR-82/N River Street / 6.5 miles
- Go through Joseph to the corner of Highway 82 (S Main Street) and East 7th Street
- Chandlers B & B will be on your left at this corner