

Owyhee River Expedition

General Description:

Few people have had the pleasure of exploring one of the country's little known whitewater gems, the Owyhee River. This pristine and very remote river trip takes us through the dramatic desert canyons of southeastern Oregon and is designated Wild and Scenic. Known as Oregon's Grand Canyon for its striking similarity to the canyon country of the Southwest. Containing thrilling class 3 rapids that are a perfect level for our guests to enjoy in the rafts or inflatable kayaks. Keep your eyes peeled for a myriad of wildlife seen in the canyon like bighorn sheep, antelope, bobcat and a rich collection of birds of prey. This is a true wilderness journey with only one 'town' located along the 400-mile path of this river on its way to its confluence with the Snake River. Along with stellar archeological sites and hot springs, this trip contains all of the ingredients of one of the world's great river journeys. This is on many veteran boater's 'top ten list' and the spring (April/May) is the only predictable time of year to run this trip due to its free flowing nature and annual snowmelt. Come see for yourself and join us for an exploration of this most special of Northwest rivers.

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Your Wet Planet trip leader will meet you at the Sahara Motel in Jordon Valley, OR. Everyone will receive waterproof bags and instruction on packing. After all of the gear is loaded onto our shuttle van, we will take the short 30-mile drive to our put-in where the rest of the guides are waiting. Upon reaching the put-in, we will quickly load your personal gear onto the rafts and cover a detailed river safety and wilderness camping orientation. Next, we'll pass out all of the necessary rafting equipment, board the rafts and head downstream. The trip starts with a nice float from our Rome Valley launch until we enter the first of many gorges. Look for Golden Eagles' nests high on the canyon walls. At some point, we'll pull over and prepare a welcome riverside lunch before continuing through this first stunning canyon to enjoy rapids with names like Bullseye and Upset before reaching our comfortable beach camp to call home the first night. We'll arrive at camp in time to enjoy a hike or simply relax and listen to the river pass by while the guides prepare a delicious evening meal.

Days 2-4: Each day we will follow a similar routine. In the morning you will be awakened by the sunlight creeping down the canyon walls toward your tent and the rich smell of morning coffee and tea. After enjoying a cup and a hearty breakfast, its time to pack up your personal gear as we load the rafts and ready ourselves for another amazing day on the river. During these days, we will encounter thrilling rapids such as Montgomery, Squeeze and Whistling Bird. There will be opportunities to freshen up at natural springs flowing directly out of the canyon walls and revitalize the body and spirit with a long soak in riverside geothermal hot springs. Each day we will find a nice riverside lunch spot to replenish the energy levels for more river adventure. Sometime in the


it will be time to choose one of the many unique and beautiful camps the Owyhee has to offer. Each of these camps offers great hiking opportunities for those interested. In places like Jackson Creek, Chalk Basin and Green Dragon Canyon you'll find colorful side canyons, stunning waterfalls, and scenic ridgelines with amazing views of the river below. After dinner its time to revel in the adventures of the day, tell lies by the fire or drift off to your personal stargazer's paradise.

Day 5: We start our final day on the river in usual style with a tasty breakfast before we break camp and load the rafts. On our way downstream, we'll encounter the long abandon remains of the whole in the ground ranch. We opt for a leisurely pace as we drift into the upper reaches of Lake Owyhee. On the Lake we will meet up with a motorboat that will tow us through the lake to our take-out point at Leslie Gulch. Depending on our timing, lunch will be served during the relaxing tow across the lake. Upon reaching Leslie Gulch, we will quickly de-rig the rafts and load the equipment onto our shuttle vehicle. Before we leave, don't forget to toast the river for yet another amazing descent of this little known desert gem! After loading into the shuttle vehicles, sit back and enjoy the scenery pass by on the way back to the Sahara Motel where your vehicle will be waiting.

**Depending on water levels, weather or road conditions, we might opt to take out above the lake at the historic Birch Creek Ranch.

What To Bring

- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses (with retainers)
- waterbottle (with carabiner to attach to raft)
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sleeping bag (warm and compact)
- Warm, fleece jacket
- Raingear (top and bottom that is actually waterproof!)
- 1 pair long pants and shirt for camp
- 2 pairs polypropilene top/bottoms (1 pr. midweight and 1 pr. expedition weight)
- Warm hat, socks and gloves (fleece or wool)
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Swimsuit/shorts
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- River footwear (river shoes or warm booties)
- Lightweight hiking shoes
- Personal medications (this includes an Epi-pen for bee or other allergies)



The center for whitewater rafting and
kayaking in the Columbia River Gorge.



Optional:

- Camera (video or still) the disposable waterproof cameras work great!
- Book/journal
- Lotion/salve
- Sandals for traveling
- Binoculars

Wet Planet Provides:

- All transfers from Jordon Valley and return.
- All necessary rafting equipment including wetsuit and splash jackets
- Quality expedition tents and sleeping pads
- Highly qualified guide team

Getting Here:

Jordon Valley is located on the border of Southern Oregon and Idaho. It is roughly 425 miles southeast of Portland and 70 miles southwest of Boise.

From Portland: Take I-84 east to the Oregon/Idaho border. Exit onto US-95 South which will take you directly into Jordon Valley.

From Boise: Take I-84 west to the Oregon/Idaho border. Exit onto US-95 South which will take you directly into Jordon Valley.

From Seattle: Take I-90 east to I-82 east to I-84 east to the Oregon/Idaho border. Exit onto US-95 South which will take you directly into Jordon Valley.



1.800.306.1673
wetplanetwhitewater.com