



## Trip Summary

SECTION: HELLS CANYON OF THE SNAKE RIVER (HELLS CANYON DAM TO DUG BAR)

DIFFICULTY: CLASS III - IV; BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED

AGES: 7 YEARS OLD AND UP

SEASON: JUNE - SEPTEMBER

LENGTH: 4 DAYS

PRICE: ADULT \$1295 / YOUTH \$1036

Enjoy an unforgettable 4-day adventure through the majestic Hells Canyon and relax into “river time.” As the Snake River turns north on its run to the Columbia River, it enters Hells Canyon, the deepest river gorge in North America. You’ll float from Hells Canyon Dam to the historic Dug Bar before returning to Joseph, OR on the 4th day. With a depth of over 7,900 feet, Hells Canyon frames the mountainous border of Oregon and Idaho. This “wild and scenic” designated section of river is the heart of the massive Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. A Snake River whitewater rafting trip in Hells Canyon combines the awesome thrill of class III and IV whitewater with incredible scenery, adventure, wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities. Near 70-degree water, perfect for swimming and paddling, rounds out this 4-day Snake River rafting vacation as a must-do trip for adventurers around the world. Our Hells Canyon trips are operated by our partner Winding Waters River Expeditions.



## 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 lodging location of your choice (some suggestions: <http://www.wallowacountychamber.com/list/category/lodging-joseph-1692>). Meet at 6pm at the Winding Waters' Boathouse for a pre-trip meeting, located at 204 East Wallowa Avenue (1 block behind Mount Joseph Family Food grocery store).

**Day 1, Launch Day:** Departure at 7:30am. Travel to Hells Canyon Dam through the beautiful Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Stop at Scotty's Market near the Dam and purchase an Oregon fishing license if needed. Meet your guide crew at the Dam. Launch by 11am following a brief risk management discussion. Lunch will be served riverside. Encounter rapids such as Wild Sheep and Granite on this first day with time to relax, fish, explore archeological sites and take in the breathtaking views. Plan to be in camp by 4pm today. Expect an evening beginning with a delicious meal, followed by good conversation, campfire, games and music. Feel free to bring a musical instrument.

**Day 2, River Day:** The morning routine: hot drinks and fruit juice served by about 7am and breakfast by 8am. The guide crew will break camp and after a brief discussion of the day's plan, begin the day's float by 10am. Today's rapids include Bernard, Water Spout, and Rush Creek. Visit ancient pictograph sites, not so ancient homestead cabins, and jump from Sturgeon Rock. Lunch will again be served riverside today with camp arrival around 4pm. Expect another wonderful evening beginning with a delicious meal followed up with good conversation, campfire, games and music.

**Day 3, River Day:** Morning routine. 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 historic Kirkwood Ranch, laughing and playing in the river. Lunch will again be served riverside with camp arrival being around 4pm. 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. Expect another wonderful evening beginning with a delicious meal followed up with good conversation, campfire, games and music.

**Day 4, River/Take-out Day:** Morning routine. Enter the lower canyon, where the canyon walls appear to crowd in, rising as far as the eye can see. The landscape changes every minute as our perspective changes. Big horn sheep, bald and golden eagles are often spotted in these tight canyons. Lunch will be served riverside at historic Dug Bar, our take-out point for the trip. Learn why the Nez Perce chose this location to cross the Snake River when fleeing the Wallowa Mountain region while soaking up the last bit of river tranquility before your departure. Scenic flights to the Joseph area with the region's best bush pilot depart between 1 and 2pm if conditions are favorable. Otherwise, enjoy a scenic jet boat ride to Asotin, ID, where the Winding Waters van will meet and deliver you back to Joseph (generally by 5pm).



## Packing List

Appropriate clothing on a multi-day river trip is important for both comfort and risk management. While on the river, we could experience warm sunny days, cold rainy days, or anything in between. We need to be prepared for all possibilities. When planning for your trip, try to use the “layering system”. By bringing clothing that can be worn under or on top of others, in layers, you will have the flexibility to adjust to a variety of weather conditions. Make sure that you have warm layers made of synthetic materials (not cotton), such as polypropylene, capilene, or wool. Cotton does not keep you warm when it is wet!

While we provide all group camping equipment and meals, you will need to provide clothing and personal gear for off the river and at camp. 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!**

**For river travel, we will provide you with river clothing: wet suit, booties, paddle jacket; helmet and PFD (personal flotation device)**

- Warm sleeping bag (can be rented from us for \$25, just let us know if you need one)
- Sleeping pad
- One 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 layers (top & bottom)
- Fleece or pile top & bottom for camp (top can be pullover or jacket)
- Swimsuit
- One pair lightweight hiking shoes (for off river in good weather)
- Toilet articles (biodegradable soap)
- Wool or polypro/capilene/fleece socks (stay away from cotton)
- Shade hat/visor (baseball cap)
- Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing
- Warm hat and gloves for camp (spring and fall trips)
- 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/small towel, etc.

**Optional Items:** Binoculars, diary, sketchbook, a good paperback book, small daypack or fanny pack for hikes, camera, 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, group camping equipment, and meals are provided!**



## Getting There

Our Hells Canyon trip begins and ends (our van will be at the take-out to take us back) at the Winding Waters Boathouse in Joseph, OR. The Boathouse is located at 204 East Wallowa Avenue (1 block behind Mount Joseph Family Food grocery store).

### From Portland

Take I-84 East towards The Dalles, stay on I-84 for 260 miles. Take exit 261 for OR- 82 towards La Grande/ Elgin. Take a right onto Island Ave/ OR-82. Turn left onto N McAlister Rd/ OR-82 for 17.7 miles. Turn right onto Albany St/ OR-82 for 44.2 miles. Turn right onto N River St/ OR-82. Turn slight left onto S River St/ OR-82 for 6 miles. Turn left onto E Wallowa Ave. The Boathouse is 1 block behind Mount Joseph Family Foods grocery store. Allow about 6 hours drive time.

### From Boise

Take I-84 West for 165 miles, entering Oregon. Take exit 261 for OR- 82 towards La Grande/ Elgin. Take a right onto Island Ave/ OR-82. Turn left onto N McAlister Rd/ OR-82 for 17.7 miles. Turn right onto Albany St/ OR-82 for 44.2 miles. Turn right onto N River St/ OR-82. Turn slight left onto S River St/ OR-82 for 6 miles. Turn left onto E Wallowa Ave. The Boathouse is 1 block behind Mount Joseph Family Foods grocery store. Allow about 4.5 hours drive time.

### From Seattle

Take I-90 East out of Seattle towards Bellevue/Spokane, stay on I-90 for 108.7 miles. Take exit 110 for I-82 East towards Yakima for 143.3 miles. Merge onto I-84 East/Old Oregon Trl/Old Oregon Trail Hwy No 6 (left exit) for 82.7 miles. Take exit 261 for OR- 82 towards La Grande/ Elgin. Take a right onto Island Ave/ OR-82. Turn left onto N McAlister Rd/ OR-82 for 17.7 miles. Turn right onto Albany St/ OR-82 for 44.2 miles. Turn right onto N River St/ OR-82. Turn slight left onto S River St/ OR-82 for 6 miles. Turn left onto E Wallowa Ave. The Boathouse is 1 block behind Mount Joseph Family Foods grocery store. Allow about 7 hours drive time.

### Vehicle Shuttle

While you are on the river, you may wish to have your vehicle shuttled to the take-out point by our shuttle service. We will return to the Boathouse after the trip, but if you would like to leave directly from the take-out, this is a good option for you. This is a licensed and appropriately insured shuttle service. The shuttle fee is between \$150 and \$175 per vehicle. You will pay the shuttle fee directly to the shuttle service at the start of the trip, but we will take care of facilitating and arranging the service if desired.