



Idaho Middle Fork of the Salmon River Rafting

7 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969


MT+SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Idaho Middle Fork of the Salmon River Rafting

Join our expert river guides on this epic backcountry adventure, frequently cited as the world's best river trip! Crest more than 100 unforgettable rapids rafting 100 miles down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. Deep in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness this sparkling clear waterway was one of America's first designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. The days are filled with a variety of exciting activities from whitewater rafting to swimming, fly fishing, relaxing in natural hot springs, cooling off under refreshing waterfalls, and many optional hikes to stunning views of the canyon. Choose to dig in and actively participate on a guide-led paddle boat or sit back and take in the scenery on the oar boat-no experience necessary! At the end of each day, pull into camp to feast on delicious food cooked by your guides and enjoy an evening of fun and camaraderie. Enjoy the best Middle Fork of the Salmon River rafting trip in beautiful Northern Idaho.

Details

Arrive:	Stanley, Idaho
Depart:	Salmon, Idaho
Duration:	7 Days
Group Size:	7-20 Guests
Minimum Age:	7 Years Old
Activity Level:	

Testimonials

"This was a wonderful experience. The river and surrounding wilderness were beautiful. Life was made simpler - no connection with the only task to enjoy the river and each other each day. Guides were a big part of making that possible - they worked incredibly hard, yet made everything look easy. They were a joy to be with and super knowledgeable. They kept us well fed, comfortable, entertained, and safe. The group was an unexpected bonus - it was fun to get to know everyone and the experience of rafting brought us together. It was a trip of a lifetime."

Chris W.

"The Rafting the Middle Fork of the Salmon River 7 day trip was all that I hoped for and

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☎ 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek has operated small-group rafting adventures on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River for over 17 years.

REASON #02

Professional river guides follow Leave No Trace policies to maintain a pristine environment and will WOW you with their wilderness cooking skills.

REASON #03

Our team carries the heavy load, sets up your campsite, and cooks amazing hot meals each day, so you can relax and have fun!

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Exciting whitewater rafting on Class II-IV rapids, paddling 10-19 miles per day, with short hiking excursions on the river's scenic banks.



LODGING

A comfortable hotel in Stanley, followed by MT Sobek's deluxe riverside camps, with meals served around the campfire beneath the stars.



CLIMATE

Summer daytime temperatures range between 60-90°F, and evenings between 40-60°F. June trips are cooler. Salmon River water temperatures average 58-65°F.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Kevin —a.k.a. "Thirsty"—has been guiding since he was 17 years old and has been an integral part of MT Sobek's Arctic rivers program for decades. His laid-back manner puts everyone at ease, and he has a wealth of knowledge about Arctic rivers. Although he normally spends his winter months in Colorado's Telluride ski area, he has climbed Denali three times, reaching the summit in 2000. Thirsty is a legend in the MT Sobek circle and endears himself to travelers with his expertise, calm demeanor, and sense of humor.

Kevin McDermott

Andy was born and raised in the great outdoors of Montana. At the young age of 15, he launched his first trip down the Salmon River in Idaho and has never looked back! He spends his summers guiding down the Salmon before heading over to the Colorado River in springtime and fall to guide through the Grand Canyon. Internationally, he has led trips in Nepal, Ethiopia's Blue Nile River, and Madagascar's Mania River. In the off season, Andy works as a ski patroller at Montana Snowbowl and skis with his dog Dani every chance he can get.

Andy Ambelang

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN STANLEY, IDAHO

Arrive in the quaint mountain town of Stanley, Idaho by 4pm today. Stanley is located 2 hours north of Sun Valley and 3 hours east of Boise, and is spectacularly set along the banks of the Salmon River at the base of the Sawtooth Mountains. Meet your guides on the back lawn of the Mountain Village Resort for a 6pm welcome orientation meeting followed by a casual picnic dinner. Back to your hotel to pack up your provided waterproof river bags for the early start the next morning.

Meals: D

DAY 2

JOURNEY TO THE PUT-IN AT BOUNDARY CREEK

Ride the bus to Boundary Creek in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and meet your team of river guides. Under their expert captainship you'll climb aboard the oar boat or raft, and set off to encounter the first of the Middle Fork's rapids: Sulphur Slide, Velvet Falls, the Chutes, and Powerhouse. In late afternoon, arrive at one of the Middle Fork's beautiful campgrounds with breathtaking views, natural hot springs, or trails to explore. Every night, you'll enjoy appetizers and a delicious meal prepared by the guides, followed by hot drinks and a campfire.

NOTE: Depending on water levels, extreme high or low water levels may require that we change the put-in location from Boundary Creek to Indian Creek, located 26 miles further down the river. The Indian Creek put-in is accessible only by air. Therefore, in the event that we need to put in at Indian Creek, MT Sobek will arrange internal flights from Stanley to the Indian Creek Airstrip on day-2, for an additional fee. High water can typically occur in early to mid-June, while low water can occur at any point in July or August.

Activity: 6 hours/15 miles rafting Class II to Class IV rapids

Meals: L, D

DAY 3

GET STARTED WITH PISTOL CREEK RAPID

After breakfast, Class III rapid Pistol Creek provides an exciting jump-start to the day. After lunch, water permitting, inflatable "ducky" kayaks are available for thrill-seekers looking to paddle through the rapids on their own (available on all low-water trips). Make a stop at the Indian Creek Guard Station on the river's left bank to learn a bit about the history of the area, then it's back into the boats to traverse Pongo rapid and coast into camp around 5pm. You've traveled about 15 miles downriver today.

Activity: 6 hours/15 miles rafting Class II to Class IV rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

EXPLORE SUNFLOWER/LOON CREEK HOT SPRINGS

Marble Falls and Ski Jump rapids start off the day. The calm water that follows makes this a good day to fly-fish or take a refreshing swim. You may also stop at the hot springs at Sunflower or Loon Creek for a relaxing soak while keeping an eye out for mountain goats and bighorn sheep. After lunch, take a short hike to one of the cliffs along the river that bear Sheepeater pictographs. Enjoy few a more rapids before pulling into camp after about 15 miles on the river.

Activity: 6 hours/15 miles rafting Class II to Class IV rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

RIDE THE RIVER TO TAPPAN FALLS

The 15-20 miles you travel today offer some of the Middle Fork's most thrilling rapids, including Tappan I, Tappan Falls, New Tappan, and Aparajo. Look for bighorn sheep grazing along the shore as you paddle by, as well as bald eagles, osprey, herons, river otters, and black bears. You can also see shallow circular depressions in the ground on the riverbanks: the sites of Sheepeater pit dwellings. In the afternoon pass by Kaufman's Cave, where the Scottish prospector Clarence Kaufman lived for four years.

Activity: 6 hours/15 miles rafting Class II to Class IV rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

COAST INTO THE IMPASSABLE CANYON

Today brings you into the Impassable Canyon, home to truly spectacular scenery: reddish-gray granite cliffs looming over the water, and sharp rock strata folds - the striking evidence of the canyon's geologically tumultuous past. Get ready to experience some serious whitewater through Driftwood, Haystack, Bernard Creek, Earthquake Jack Creek, and Goalpost rapids. After lunch, make the steep hike to Veil Falls, then back on the river, pass through Weber, Redside and Cliffside rapids and view the 1900s homestead of Earl Parrot. Back at camp, enjoy a special last-night dinner with champagne.

Activity: 6 hours/15 miles rafting Class II to Class IV rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

DEPART FROM SALMON, IDAHO

We cap off our adventure by rafting 10 miles of the biggest rapids of the trip: Foreplay, Rubber, Rubber II, and Hancock. After a thrilling morning, reach the confluence of the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon River. Leave your boats behind and board a bus to Salmon for a late-afternoon arrival at the Stagecoach Inn. If you opted to drive to Stanley at the start of the trip, your car and keys will be waiting at the hotel in Salmon. A shuttle service will provide transfers to the local regional airport for any scheduled flights back to Boise. Salmon is also 3 hours west of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the gateway to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks if you are looking to extend your adventure in the region.

Activity: 3 hours/10 miles rafting Class II to Class IV rapids

Meals: B, L

Dates

Jun 4 - 10, 2024

Jun 13 - 19, 2024

Jun 22 - 28, 2024

Jun 30 - Jul 6, 2024

Jul 8 - 14, 2024

Jul 24 - 30, 2024

Aug 1 - 7, 2024

Aug 9 - 15, 2024

Aug 17 - 23, 2024

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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➤ Rafting & Kayaking with MT Sobek

At MT Sobek, we take you to premier wilderness rivers and beautiful island locations to experience some of the most breathtaking rafting and kayaking on the planet. In addition to our world-class guides who offer entertaining experiences, you'll enjoy comfortable camping and delicious meals. Here are the key things that set us apart:

- **Expert Guides** ~ Our professional guides are the best in the business. From the first safety briefing to the final high five, you'll be led by experienced guides who have made trip leading their profession.
- **Small Groups** ~ We are proud of our commitment to small group sizes, which don't exceed 20 guests. Our guide to client ratio on river trips is 1:4.
- **Special Permits** ~ With special permits, we are able to gain access to less-traveled regions, far off the beaten path, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
- **Comfortable Camping** ~ After a day of thrills on the river, take it easy as guides cook up tasty meals at your comfortable camp. Enjoy creature comforts in the wilderness!
- **Range of Trip Levels** ~ Our rafting and kayaking trips range from easy to moderate-strenuous, so there is something to suit every level.
- **Sterling Safety Record** ~ We have a sterling safety record on our rafting and kayaking trips and all guests are required to attend mandatory briefings.



Sobek Expeditions was founded in 1973 by Richard Bangs (*left*) and John Yost. Named after the Egyptian River God, Sobek ran more than 40 first descents on some of the world's most famous rivers, including the Bio Bio and the Omo. In 2022, Richard Bangs was named one of the 100 Greatest Explorers of the Last 100 Years by explorersweb.com! Sobek Expeditions will celebrate 50 years of intrepid rafting in 2023.

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➤ A Day on the River

Many guests ask us “what’s a typical day on the river like?” Other than being super fun, here’s what you can expect. On Day 1, you’ll either meet your group and guide in town or on the riverbank, depending on your itinerary. After introductions and a thorough safety briefing, you’ll receive your personal floatation device and step into your raft or kayak. The first stretch of the river is usually gentle and you’ll arrive at camp in the late afternoon. Once you’ve found your tent and settled in, enjoy games and drinks by the river while your guides prepare a delicious dinner. The evening winds down with stories and laughs around the camp fire.

In the morning, awake to the soothing sounds of the river and savor a warm breakfast before setting out for an exhilarating day of rafting and kayaking—led by your expert guiding team. Along the way you’ll have plenty of rest stops and time to explore historic or natural sites along the river’s edge. Then it’s back in the raft for epic rapids and more fun on the water!

River Rafting Terminology



Oar Boat

Classic inflatable raft, equipped with two long oars rowed forward-facing by the guide. Accommodates gear and 2-3 passengers. Perfect for relaxing.



Inflatable Kayak

“Duckies” are your chance to get intimate with the river. Paddle or sit at river level with a double-bladed paddle and be in charge of your own destiny!



Paddle Boat

Up to 6 passengers sit on the perimeter of the raft with legs inside and paddle under the direction of the guide, who sits in the stern of the raft.



Stand-Up Paddleboard

Balance on these surprisingly stable craft, also known as SUP, and propel yourself downstream with a single-bladed paddle.



Gear Boat

Also called the sweep boat, the gear boat carries all the camp necessities, plus all our waste—ensuring that we leave the river as pristine as we found it.



Portage

When rivers become un-navigable, the gear has to be taken out and carried to the next navigable stretch. This is known as portage.

River Rafting Classification

Class I-II Rapids

Sit back and enjoy the scenery. Experience placid river conditions with interspersed wave trains and enjoyable splashes.

Class III-IV Rapids

Things are getting exciting! Begin to see more frequent irregular waves. This level requires a good response to guide commands and efficient team paddling.

Class V Rapids

The highest level of rafting difficulty, likely involving long, continuous rapids. Successful navigation requires great physical fitness and precise paddling.

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