



Oregon Lower Owyhee Private River Rafting

5 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969


MT + SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Oregon Lower Owyhee Private River Rafting

Join us on this remote and scenic river, where deep gorges reveal Oregon's Grand Canyon with a perfect blend of exciting whitewater, varied scenery, hiking, hot springs, and relaxation. The Owyhee River's whitewater is as diverse as the flora and fauna that adorns the remote canyon hillsides. Its close proximity to the Malheur Bird Refuge lends this trip to some of the most diverse birding. Raft through dramatic multi-colored canyons, where sheer rock faces, up to 1,000 feet high, tower above the river. Hike to remote hot springs, Pruitt's Castle, homestead cabins, the Chalk Basin, and take in views of Native American petroglyphs over 8,000 years old. Explore 65 miles of the pristine Owyhee Canyonlands on this early spring trip.

Details

Arrive: Rome, Oregon
Depart: Rome, Oregon
Duration: 5 Days
Group Size: 7-12 Guests
Minimum Age: 15 Years Old
Activity Level: 

Testimonials

"I've taken six MT Sobek trips and they have all exceeded my expectations. The staff, the food, the logistics and the communications have always been exceptional. Thank you for being my "go to" adventure travel company!"

Margaret I.

"I have traveled extensively around the world. The experience with MT Sobek was by far the best I have ever had. Thank you for such excellence."

Marianne W.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

 1-800-974-0300

 info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

Our highly skilled river guides are industry leaders with an average of 30 years' experience each.

REASON #02

MT Sobek is a permitted outfitter that follows Leave No Trace principles, and provides all food and camp accommodations along the way.

REASON #03

Exploring remote destinations, such as the Owyhee Canyonlands, has been the cornerstone of our river heritage since 1969.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Scenic canyon rafting, covering 4 to 15 miles per day, with fun whitewater stretches. Also includes riverside hikes to vista points, homesteads, hot springs, and ancient sites.



LODGING

Comfortable riverside camping accommodations with tents and sleeping bags provided.



CLIMATE

Expect moderately cool days in April and May, with temperatures from the 50s to 70s. Later departures may reach the 80s.

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.

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

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

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Itinerary

DAY 1

JOURNEY TO ROME, OREGON & RAFT THE LOWER OWYHEE

Meet your guide and crew in the Oregon's southeastern high desert for a safety orientation in Rome, where your adventure down the Lower Owyhee River begins. Enjoy 10 miles of calm water as you pass through open pastures — home to wild horses. As you enter the first set of splashy rapids at Sweetwater Canyon, you will experience the first dramatic landscape change with higher rock walls. Enjoy a welcome dinner on the riverside tonight.

Activity: 6 hours/10 miles rafting Class III rapids

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

RAFT THE GRAND CANYON OF OREGON

Wake to breakfast in the canyon before pushing off for our first rapids of the day and an optional hike to Pruitt's Castle. The whitewater begins to get bigger and faster as we raft through the rugged badlands, with rapids such as Bulls Eye (Class III). You will spend the day in awe as the canyon narrows and walls rise famously giving the Owyhee the title Grand Canyon of Oregon. Stop for refreshing spring water at Weeping Wall Springs before settling into another vista-filled camp.

Activity: 6 hours/10 miles rafting Class III rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

HIKE SCENIC TRAILS & SOAK IN HOT SPRINGS

Set off from camp this morning with more action packed whitewater, including Read-It-and-Weep (Class III) and Artillery Rapid (Class III). Stop for a quick hot spring soak river side before exploring Lambert Dome. The panoramic views of the Owyhee Canyonlands from the summit are breathtaking!

Activity: Riverside hiking with 500' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

RAFT THRILLING RAPIDS & SPOT GOLDEN EAGLES

Today you'll enjoy fun rapids, unbelievable views, and an abundance of wildlife — keep an eye out for Golden Eagles among other birds of prey. As the canyon begins to narrow, you'll enjoy some fantastic Class III (possibly Class IV) whitewater. Rapids include Whistling Bird, Nuisance, and Montgomery, the longest and most technical rapid of Iron Point Canyon in the Lower Owyhee. Enjoy a final farewell evening around the campfire as you enjoy the endless stars.

Activity: 6 hours/10 miles rafting Class III rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

TAKE OUT AT LESLIE GULCH & RETURN TO ROME, OREGON

After breakfast, sit back for a leisurely float as the river exits the beautiful high-reaching canyon and opens into desert plains. At the lake, a motor boat will tow the rafts to Leslie Gulch (Mile 65), where your shuttle awaits for the return trip to Rome, Oregon. Depending on weather, water and road conditions the group may take out at Birch Creek (Mile 54).

Meals: B, L

Dates

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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