



# North Santiam River

Trip Guide

1/2 and 1 Day Trips



Oregon River Experiences LLC

office: 503-563-1500

toll-free: 800-827-1358

fax: 888-544-4165

email: [info@oregonriver.com](mailto:info@oregonriver.com)

web site: [www.oregonriver.com](http://www.oregonriver.com)

## The North Santiam River

Near both Portland and Salem, the beautiful North Santiam River offers easy access to whitewater fun. Our North Santiam trips combine lively rapids with enchanting cascade mountain scenery. This beautiful stream provides one of the state's loveliest yet least known raft tours. Flowing from its source high in the Cascades near Mount Jefferson, the North Santiam runs swift and cool through a lovely forested valley.

During spring snowmelt the North Santiam sports many class III to III+ rapids, including Spencer's Hole, Carnivore, and Mill City Falls. During the summer months the North Santiam offers a more relaxing pace, mostly class II+ rapids, and sunny skies. In the fall the water typically rises again, and the class III whitewater returns.

Spring and summer are great times to run the North Santiam, but fall is a particularly nice time to float these waters. The chance for a sunny day remains high, and fall colors and soft light add to the day's beauty. Plus we're usually treated to a second season of high flows, as the operators of Detroit dam increase the flow from this upstream reservoir (to prepare storage capacity for the coming winter rains). Guests on fall trips may also be treated to the sight of shoals of migrating salmon.

### Weather

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average daytime high temp.	67	74	80	81	75
Average nighttime low temp.	44	49	51	51	48
Average monthly rainfall	2.90"	2.20"	0.80"	1.30"	2.20"

### Itinerary

Full day trips and morning half day trips both meet at 9:30 AM\*, and afternoon half day trips meet at 1:00 PM\*. We meet at North Santiam State Park.

Your river trip will end at North Santiam State Park or at one of several points upstream (particulars depend on trip length as well as water level). So after we meet your vehicle will either remain at the Park or you will drive a bit further upstream, following our guides, to the day's designated take out spot. Once your vehicle is parked you will board an O.R.E. van for the 10 to 15 minute ride to the launch point.

Once we arrive at our launch site our guides will conduct a safety orientation. We'll then all board rafts and be on our way downstream.

Day trips include a stop for a riverside lunch between noon and 1 PM.

We typically arrive at our take-out point around 12:30 PM (1/2 day morning trips), or around 4 PM (1/2 day afternoon trips and full day trips).\*\*

\* Please plan your drive carefully so as to arrive at our meeting place on time. Our guides will attempt to wait for you if you are running late, but circumstances typically do not allow them to wait more than 20 minutes. If you miss your intended trip we will most likely not be able to provide a transfer to an alternate trip, and we are unable to provide a refund for missed trips.

\*\* Many factors influence our timetable, including water levels, winds, and the needs and preferences of our guests. Please consider these times approximate.

### **How to get there**

From Interstate 5 just south of Salem, take exit #253 and follow highway 22 east (toward Detroit Lake). After about 25 miles take a sharp right onto Santiam Park Rd. (If you find yourself on the outskirts of Mill City you've gone about 4 miles too far). Follow Santiam Park Rd to where it ends at North Santiam State Park. Look for us in the main parking lot.

### **What to bring and what to wear**

Please come to the river prepared for all possible weather conditions. The weather in the river canyons of the Northwest is often different from that in surrounding areas, so you won't really know how it will be until you get there. At that time, you may decide that some of the items listed here are not needed; but you need to have them along just in case! So please pay close attention to the following information and checklists, and help to insure your enjoyment of the day by bringing along the proper clothing.

Spring (and cool summer) trips: We recommend that guests on April and May trips wear a wetsuit while on the river. Guests on early to mid-June trips may want to consider wearing a wetsuit as well. Wetsuits may be rented directly from O.R.E. or you can bring your own instead.

Summer trips: Wetsuits are typically not needed. But be sure to bring along a sweater or jacket just in case the weather is cooler than expected.

O.R.E. rents wetsuit/splash jacket sets (\$5 per day) in sizes to accommodate persons from 4'3" and 85 pounds to 6'6" and 250+ pounds. Also included are wetsuit shoes (men's sizes 2 to 14). Our wetsuits are a 1/8" thick, one-piece "Farmer John" style which fully cover the legs and torso but which leave the arms free. The splash jacket helps to protect your arms and torso from the cold water, and may be worn with a sweater or jacket underneath if needed for extra warmth.

Advance reservations are required for wetsuits sets. To place a reservation for a wetsuit please call our office at least 24 hours prior to your trip. (503-563-1500 or 800-827-1358)

Clothing tips: The best clothing is that which retains your body heat while wet, or one that dries quickly. Modern high-tech synthetic fabrics like polypropylene and polyester fleece do both, and are readily available at stores like REI and L.L. Bean. But if you don't want to spend a lot on a rafting wardrobe look for wool clothes, which provide some warmth even when wet. Thrift stores and military surplus stores are good places to find inexpensive wool clothes. During the spring you should avoid wearing cotton clothing while on the river. When wet, cotton sucks warmth from your body at an amazing rate.

### **Gear checklist for Spring Trips (and cool summer days)**

To wear            *(clothing should be of synthetic or wool fabric – no cotton)*

- ✓ Swimsuit or shorts
- ✓ T-shirt
- ✓ Sunglasses with a strap
- ✓ Baseball cap or wide brim hat
- ✓ Sweater or jacket
- ✓ Wetsuit and wetsuit shoes (both can be rented from O.R.E.) *or* long underwear tops and bottoms plus rain jacket and rain pants, plus shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops)

*Splash jackets are provided by O.R.E.*

To bring with you on the river:

- ✓ Water bottle or canteen
- ✓ Sunscreen

To leave in your car:

- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Complete change of clothing

## **Gear checklist for Summer\* trips** (\*Typcially mid-June through August)

### To wear

- ✓ Swimsuit or shorts
- ✓ T-shirt
- ✓ Sunglasses with a strap
- ✓ Baseball cap or wide brim hat
- ✓ Sweater or jacket
- ✓ Athletic shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops)

*Splash jackets are provided by O.R.E.*

### To bring with you on the river:

- ✓ Water bottle or canteen
- ✓ Sunscreen

### To leave in your car:

- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Complete change of clothing

## **Additional information**

### Your trip includes the following

- ✓ The services of our professional guides and staff.
- ✓ Shuttle service to and from our meeting place.
- ✓ A hearty, freshly prepared picnic lunch at the riverside on 1 day trips. (Special dietary needs can be accommodated with advance notice.)
- ✓ Use of professional quality self-bailing rafts and top-notch river running equipment, including U.S. Coast Guard Approved lifejackets.
- ✓ Waterproof river bags for your personal gear.

### Gratuities

Guests sometimes ask whether it is appropriate to tip their guide. Tipping is optional, but if your guide did a great job then feel free to thank him or her with a gratuity. The amount is up to you, but tips between 8% and 20% of trip cost are customary.