

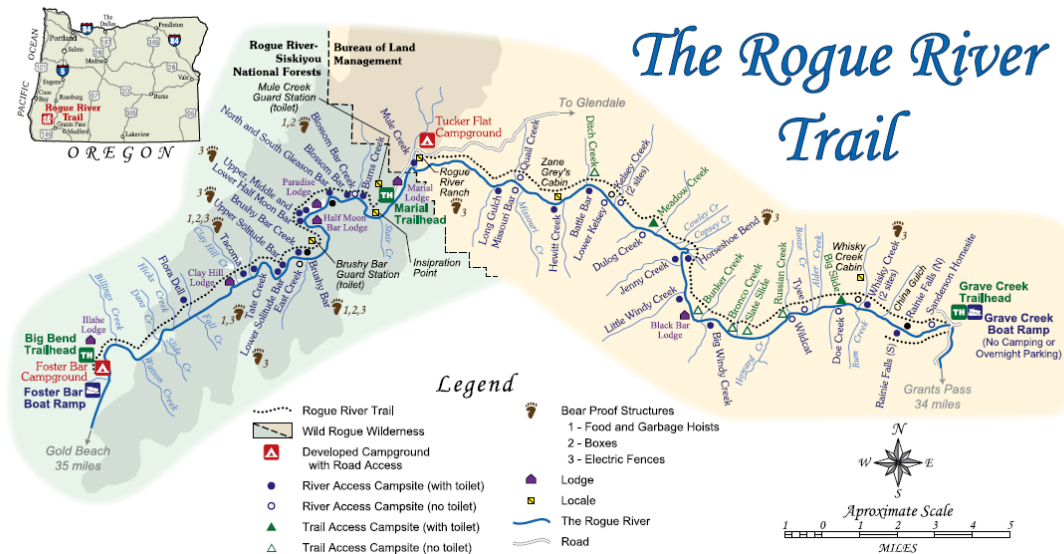


## The Rogue River Trail

### Raft-supported Hiking

*Wilderness Lodge Accommodations*

From its headwaters near Crater Lake in southwest Oregon, the Rogue River flows west some 200 miles before it meets the Pacific Ocean at the town of Gold Beach. Our hike through the river's lower canyon begins at Grave Creek (not far from Grants Pass), and ends 40 miles later at Foster Bar (roughly 35 miles upstream from the coast). We'll hike the entire length of the historic Rogue River trail, through a pristine wilderness well known for its scenic beauty. The Rogue River canyon is an enchanting blend of lush forests, fern grottos, beautiful sandy beaches, sparkling waterfalls, lovely side streams, cool clear swimming holes, and abundant wildlife.



## Natural History

Geologic forces in the Rogue River country have created a wonderland of beautifully sculpted canyons and polished rock formations. Surrounding the river are lush forests and a diverse mix of plant communities that provide homes for a wide variety of wildlife. Among the many tree and shrub species found along the river are the California bay, with its richly scented leaves, Pacific madrone, with its striking red bark, and Azalea, which sports fragrant white springtime blossoms. Osprey, bald eagles, water ouzels, heron, and a variety of songbirds are seen. Raccoons, river otters, deer, mink, black bear, and other mammals are here, too. Steelhead, chinook and coho salmon either live in the river year-round or migrate upriver to spawn, and trout are native to the larger tributaries such as Big Windy and Missouri Creeks.

## Human History

The Rogue River canyon is rich in history. Although several Indian tribes lived along the river for many years, few signs remain of their time here. But numerous historic sites do remain from the trapping and mining days that followed. Time permitting, we may stop at one or more cabins built by the miners, trappers, and early settlers who moved to the river canyon beginning around 1850.

## Weather

The weather in the Rogue River canyon is usually very pleasant. Warm or hot days are likely, especially June through September, so May and September tend to be the best months for hiking. The river water itself is cool in the Spring, and warms by early July to the mid 60's. Here's some climate data for the nearby town of Grants Pass. Temperatures in the river canyon are generally a few degrees cooler.

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average daytime high temp.	75	82	90	89	84
Average nighttime low temp.	44	50	53	53	47
Average monthly rainfall	1.37"	0.76"	0.28"	0.32"	0.75"

## For More Information

A trail guide, maps and additional information is available for download at <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/maps-publications.php> . For in-depth reading we recommend the following books:

*Illabe: The Story of Settlement in the Rogue River Canyon*, by Kay Atwood (1978). Local History.

*The Rogue: A River to Run*, by Arman and Wooldridge (Wildwood Press, 1982). Personal history from the Rogue's pioneer river runner.

*Hip Pocket Naturalist: A Guide to Oregon's Rogue River Basin*, by Jackman and Bernstein (Magnifica Press, 1989). Natural History.

# Trip Itinerary

**First day:** We meet at 8:30 AM at the Galice Resort in Galice, Oregon. (Please have breakfast before our meeting time and arrive in your hiking clothes.) After a brief orientation you will pack your things into our river bags, and park your vehicles at Galice. We will then travel by van to the trailhead (a 15 minute drive), and begin the hike to our first night's lodge.

**Days 2 and 3:** Our days begin with freshly brewed coffee by 7 AM, and breakfast by 8 AM. After breakfast we'll pack our bags, load the boats and hit the trail.

This is a raft-supported hiking trip. Our rafts will carry most of your personal gear, as well as all food and group supplies. You will need to bring a day pack, but you will need to carry only those few items you'll need along the trail during the day.

**Day 4:** We typically arrive at trail's end between 2:00 and 3:30 PM. Once we've unpacked you'll board a van for the ride back to Galice. The ride takes about two hours, on scenic Bear Camp Road through the Siskiyou National Forest. We arrive back in Galice between 4:30 and 6 PM.

## Sample mileages

Day 1: Grave Creek trailhead to Black Bar Lodge, a 9.6 mile hike.

Day 2: Black Bar Lodge to Marial Lodge, a 14.5 mile hike. Optionally, can raft final 6.5 miles of the day (Winkle Bar to Marial Lodge) which reduces the day's hike to 8 miles.

Day 3: Marial Lodge to Paradise Lodge, a 4.2 mile hike. Optional side hikes: Marial Lodge to the Rogue River Ranch, and Paradise Lodge to canyon overlook.

Day 4: Paradise Lodge to trail's end near Illahe, a 11.4 mile hike. Optionally, can raft final 4.5 miles instead (Flora Dell Creek to trail's end), which reduces the day's hike to 6.9 miles.

## Trail Conditions

The Rogue River Trail provides for a delightful, exceptionally beautiful wilderness hike. But the trail can present challenges and difficulties as well as delights.

- ✓ In general the elevations encountered are low (starting with 689 feet at the trailhead), but the trail climbs and drops multiple times, and sections of the trail are rocky. Total elevation gains and drops on the trail's more challenging days are in the 1,000 foot range.
- ✓ The trail is of moderate difficulty overall, but participants may find certain sections of the trail more challenging. Hikers should be prepared for conditions such as including loose gravel, washouts, and down trees.
- ✓ While some sections of the trail are relatively level and tucked into the forest, other sections, while reasonably safe, are narrow and 50 to several hundred feet or more above the river. Hikers who are particularly afraid of heights may find these sections of trail to be difficult.
- ✓ Poison oak grows in places along the trail, and ticks may be present. For protection from both we recommend you consider hiking in long pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

# Physical Conditioning

We strongly recommend that you prepare yourself physically for the hike. In particular we suggest that you take daily walks over uneven terrain where possible. (To be ready for this hike you should be capable of hiking 10 miles in a day at a moderate pace.)



## Pre-Trip Details

### Where and When to Meet

We will meet at 8:30 AM on the day your trip begins, at the Galice Resort Cafe. The Resort is situated along the banks of the river not far from the town of Grants Pass. Galice is roughly 400 miles north of San Francisco, California, and 250 miles south of Portland, Oregon.

## Getting To and From the River

### ✓ If you Drive

To get to Galice, take Interstate 5 to the Merlin exit (exit # 61), five miles north of Grants Pass, then follow the signs to Merlin. This will put you on the main road, which passes through Merlin and continues to Galice, about 15 miles west of I-5. The Galice Resort is on the right-hand side, between the road and the river. There's no "Galice Resort" sign – look for the café. The address is 11744 Galice Rd, Merlin, OR 97532. Galice is roughly a 40 minute drive from Grants Pass.

### ✓ If you Fly

The closest commercial airport is Medford, Oregon. It is served by Alaska, United, Delta, and Allegiant airlines. Plan your flight to arrive the day before your hike begins.

Car rentals are available at Medford. Also, the Galice Resort offers shuttle service from the airport to Grants Pass or to the resort (which is our meeting place). Shuttles are \$525 round trip, per van, so your ultimate cost depends on the number of people (1 to 14) who share the ride. For more information or reservations contact the Galice Resort at 541-476-3818.

## Trip Shuttles

Your trip fare includes transportation from Galice to the trailhead, and from trail's end back to Galice at the end of our journey. However, if you're planning to drive up or down the Coast after your river trip you may wish to leave directly from trail's end. When we meet in Galice our guides can assist you in arranging to have your car shuttled. Galice Resort conducts these shuttles. They charge \$115.00 (higher if the main shuttle route is not open and an alternate route is required).

## Pre and Post-trip Accommodations

Rustic cabins and a lodge are available at the Galice Resort. Phone 541-476-3818. Also nearby is Morrison's Lodge (800-826-1963).

Camping is available nearby at Indian Mary Park and also at Almeda Bar Recreation Area, both within 5 miles of Galice. Reservations for both can be made through at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com).

## What to Bring

Most of the time the weather in the Rogue River canyon is warm and pleasant. But cool wet weather is a possibility, too. So please pay close attention to selecting your clothes and gear for your hike. Hopefully, you'll never need most of the cool-weather gear we recommend that you bring. But please do bring it, just in case!



## **What to wear**

### ✓ On cool or rainy days

Appropriate clothing for these conditions is clothing that dries quickly, and keeps you warm even when the garment is wet. Modern high-tech synthetic fabrics such as polypropylene and polyester fleece do both. (Wool provides warmth when wet, but does not dry quickly and is often less comfortable, although wool/synthetic blends can be a good choice.)

Think in terms of layers of clothing for changeable and cool weather. As conditions change you can add or subtract layers as needed. The first layer in cool weather should be long underwear made of synthetic materials such as polypropylene which provide warmth and wick moisture away from your skin. The middle layer should consist of polyester fleece (or wool), and will provide further warmth. The outer layer consists of a rain jacket and rain pants, or (as a second choice) a poncho. Rain gear made of modern waterproof, breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex are best. But for a less expensive option coated nylon will work, too.

A surprisingly large percentage of heat loss occurs from our heads. For this reason a wool or synthetic hat will go a long way towards keeping you warm.

### ✓ On warm or hot days

Shorts and a T-shirt may be worn, as well as a hat to keep the sun out of your eyes. But you may wish to wear a long-sleeved cotton shirt and cotton slacks, in order to ward off sunburn and brushes with poison oak.

### ✓ On your feet

Different hikers require different degrees of support from their footgear. For most people we recommend light to mid weight hiking boots. Waterproof or water resistant boots are a plus on the Rogue trail. Whatever boots you wear, make sure that they're well broken in!

## **Where to find it**

Check with local sporting goods stores. If they cater to outdoor sports (hiking, backpacking, etc.) rather than team sports, they should have most of the items you need. Gear is also available through mail order and online, for instance by contacting REI (800-426-4840, or [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)) or L.L. Bean (800-341-4341, or [www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)).

## **How to pack it**

Pack your gear in a manner appropriate for your journey to Galice. When we meet we will supply you with a watertight river bag, into which you will pack your clothing. This bag is roughly 14" in diameter and 24" tall. Bags are transported from lodge to lodge by raft. Generally, they will not be accessible during the day. For gear that you wish to have with you on the trail, please bring along a daypack.

The river bags and boxes we provide are watertight under most conditions, even when submerged. But for extra security we recommend that you consider wrapping your clothing in heavy-duty plastic garbage bags for extra protection. We also recommend that you pack your camera, binoculars, reading material and similar items in large zip-lock bags.

## Equipment Checklist

### Clothing

- \_\_\_\_\_ hiking boots (make sure they're well broken in!)
- \_\_\_\_\_ shoes or sandals to wear in the raft
- \_\_\_\_\_ wool or synthetic "ski" hat — for cold/rainy days
- \_\_\_\_\_ wide-brimmed hat or baseball cap — for sunny days
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2-3 pair hiking socks (wool or synthetic recommended)
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof rain jacket and rain pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Polypropylene or similar long underwear tops and bottoms
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 warm sweater or jacket, polyester fleece or wool
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pair long pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 pair shorts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 long-sleeved shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 short-sleeved shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ socks and underwear

### Additional Items

- \_\_\_\_\_ daypack
- \_\_\_\_\_ water bottle, canteen or camelback (2 quart total capacity recommended)
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof sunscreen, lip balm
- \_\_\_\_\_ sunglasses
- \_\_\_\_\_ personal toiletries
- \_\_\_\_\_ small flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries (some lodges turn power off at 10 PM)

### Optional

- \_\_\_\_\_ trekking poles or walking staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ swim suit
- \_\_\_\_\_ casual shoes to wear when at the lodge

- \_\_\_\_\_ binoculars
- \_\_\_\_\_ camera
- \_\_\_\_\_ reading material
- \_\_\_\_\_ pen and journal or notebook
- \_\_\_\_\_ compact fishing gear
- \_\_\_\_\_ compact personal first aid kit (we carry a group kit, but you may wish to bring your own band aids, moleskin, or etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ spare glasses, sunglasses
- \_\_\_\_\_ insect repellent
- \_\_\_\_\_ second warm jacket, especially for early spring hikes
- \_\_\_\_\_ beer or soft drinks (up to 2 six-packs per person), wine or liquor—in unbreakable containers. (Coffee, tea, and juice are provided, as is wine with some dinners). By the way, consumption of alcohol is prohibited during the day, but is okay once we arrive at a lodge each night.

*Please do not bring: pets, guns, or valuable jewelry*

## **Additional Information**

### **Included in your trip package**

- ✓ The services of our professional guides.
- ✓ Transportation to the trailhead from Galice, and from trail's end back to Galice.
- ✓ All meals, from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last. Breakfasts and dinners are provided by the lodges, and lunches are prepared by ORE guides.
- ✓ Waterproof river bag for your personal gear.
- ✓ All government fees.
- ✓ Please note:
  - ✓ Trip prices assume double occupancy.
  - ✓ Guides will be on the river and will meet you at lunch and at camp or lodge. A guide can be assigned to accompany you on the trail if you wish, however this service is not included in our standard trip prices and must be arranged in advance.



## **Fishing**

Fishing on the Rogue is generally only fair during spring and summer, but conditions improve in the fall. If you would like to fish you'll need an Oregon fishing license, which may be purchased at Oregon sporting goods stores, or at the Galice Resort.

## **Gratuities**

Our guests sometimes ask whether it is appropriate to tip the guides and the lodge staff. If your guides did a great job then feel free to thank them with a gratuity. Gratuities for your guides are customarily presented to the Lead Guide, and will be shared equally among all guides on your trip. Tips for lodge staff are customarily left in a tip jar in the dining area.

## **Nearby attractions**

While in the area you may want to visit Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument, or the southern Oregon coast. You may also want to visit the nearby towns of Jacksonville and Ashland. Jacksonville, a National Historic Landmark, hosts the Britt Music Festival on weekends in July and August. The Britt Festival features classical, jazz, and bluegrass music under the stars. For information contact the Festival at 800-882-7488. Ashland is site of the renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Because Shakespeare Festival performances often sell out, we recommend that you call well in advance for tickets and information (541-482-4331).

## **Cancellations and Travel Insurance**

The size of our trips is strictly regulated by law, and your reservation means we cannot sell the spaces to others. So we strictly adhere to the cancellation and refund policies we explain in our reservation materials. For this reason we recommend that you consider the purchase of travel insurance, which will (among other benefits) reimburse you if you must cancel your trip due to illness.

## **Emergencies**

It may be difficult for family and friends to reach you while you are on the trail. In case of emergency they should contact the local Bureau of Land Management office (Grants Pass) at 541-618-2200 or the Forest Service office (Gold Beach) at 541-247-3600. They should also call the O.R.E. office at 800-827-1358.

### **Oregon River Experiences**

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