



# McKenzie River

Trip Guide

2 Day Trips



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## The McKenzie River

The McKenzie River is one of western Oregon's most beautiful streams as well as one of the region's most popular whitewater rafting trips. Flowing through the McKenzie Valley from its headwaters at high in the cascades at Clear Lake, the McKenzie is a swift, spirited river. Float with the McKenzie's lively current and you may feel as if you're flying over the riverbed — the water is that clear.

Thick fir forests, mild yet enjoyable whitewater, and easy accessibility are a few of the river's other charms. We offer trips on two sections of the river. Boat either and you'll see the McKenzie at its best.

Most of our McKenzie trips begin at Paradise Campground. For the next 12 miles we will encounter numerous class II rapids. They're all relatively mild, although the McKenzie's steep and swift flow creates rapid that are more thrilling than their rating would suggest.

Besides lively whitewater, a few of the McKenzie's other high-lights are the river's extraordinarily clear water, the beautiful forest scenery encountered, and the excellent fishing available here.

### Weather

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average daytime high temp.	72	79	86	86	79
Average nighttime low temp.	40	46	48	47	43
Average monthly rainfall	3.50"	2.60"	0.80"	1.40"	2.90"

### Itinerary

We meet at 10:00 AM\* on the day your trip begins at Forest Glen Boat Landing just outside the town of Blue River.

Logistics vary with group size, water level and time of year. In some cases we will drop your car off at camp before proceeding to the launch point. In other cases your car will remain at Forest Glen until the end of the first day of rafting. In either case, we're typically off the water on day one between 3 and 4 PM. On the second day of your McKenzie River trip we will break camp then drive all cars to the take out point, so that your car will be awaiting you when you get off the river. We're typically off the water on the last day of the trip by around 3 PM.\*\*

\* 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

Take Oregon Highway 126 east from Interstate 5 in Eugene, about 35 miles to Blue River. Forest Glen Boat Landing is across the highway from a medical clinic, just outside the town of Blue River. (Stay on the main highway. Do not turn off the highway into town.)

## Boat Options

Guided oar raft 

Our 14 to 18 foot-long guided oar rafts are the most stable of river boats. They're ideal for young children and anyone who wants to hang on while the guide rows the rapids. And they're a great boat to choose if relaxation and enjoying the scenery are your primary interests.

Paddle raft 

Paddle rafts are fast and exciting. Each paddle crew consists of 4 to 7 guests plus a guide. Each crew member gets a canoe type paddle and works as a team under the direction of the guide. For those who want to combine excitement with group involvement, a paddle raft is the boat of choice.

### A few details about boat options

✓ Paddle rafts are the standard boat for McKenzie River trips, but guided oar rafts are available by advance request.

✓ You are welcome to switch between boat types, but because of the need for training and practice prior to substantial rapids, certain restrictions will apply.

## Additional Information

### Your trip fare includes the following

- ✓ The services of our professional river guides.
- ✓ Shuttle Service
- ✓ All meals, from lunch on the first day through lunch on the second day. Our menu is delicious, varied, and hearty. Meals are freshly prepared by our guides from the highest quality ingredients. Special dietary needs can be accommodated with advance notice.
- ✓ Durable, professional quality rafts and river running equipment, including U.S. Coast Guard Approved lifejackets.
- ✓ Waterproof river bags for your personal gear.
- ✓ Cups, plates, eating utensils, and camp chairs.

### Accommodations (before and after your trip)

Just downstream of Blue River is the Eagle Rock Lodge (888-773-4333, [www.nimrod.com](http://www.nimrod.com)). A short drive upstream is Belknap Hot Springs Resort (541-822-3512). Additional lodges and B&Bs are nearby, and numerous motels and hotels are available in Eugene.

### Camping

We camp in lovely and convenient car-accessible Forest Service campsites along the McKenzie River. (Your camp and personal gear can stay in your car - it need not be loaded into a boat on the Umpqua.) Our guides establish a central kitchen and social area, and trip members select spots in the surrounding area to pitch a tent.

### Gratuities

Our guests sometimes ask whether it is appropriate to tip the guides. Tipping is optional, but if your guides did a great job then feel free to thank them with a gratuity. The amount is up to you, but tips in the range of 8% to 20% of trip cost are typical. Gratuities are customarily presented to the Lead Guide, and will be shared equally among all guides on your trip.

### 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 (amongst other benefits) reimburse you if you must cancel your trip due to illness.

## What to Bring

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. In addition the river water is cool year-round. 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: For both safety and comfort we strongly recommend that guests on April and May trips wear a wetsuit while on the river. We recommend that guests on early June trips consider wearing a wetsuit as well. Wetsuits may be rented directly from O.R.E. or you can bring your own instead or rent one elsewhere.

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.

In camp: You will want a change of shoes as well as comfortable clothing for lounging about or hiking.

### **Rental Equipment**

O.R.E. offers camping equipment for rent to those who do not own this gear (or do not wish to transport it from home). High quality, two-person backpacking style tents are available for \$16 per trip. Sleep kits (synthetic-fill sleeping bag, cotton liner, self-inflating sleep pad, and ground cloth) are also available for \$16 per person per trip. Reservations and advance payment are required. To place a reservation for a tent or sleep kit please call our office at 1-800-827-1358.

## Equipment 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

### For Summer\* trips    (*\*Typcially late-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.*

### For All Trips

For Camp

- ✓ Extra shoes and change of clothing
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries
- ✓ Tent

- ✓ Sleeping bag
- ✓ Foam sleeping pad or air mattress
- ✓ Tarp (to place beneath your tent, or as a ground cloth for sleeping under the stars)

*Optional*

- ✓ Swimsuit or shorts
- ✓ T-shirt
- ✓ binoculars
- ✓ camera
- ✓ reading material
- ✓ pen and journal or notebook
- ✓ fishing gear
- ✓ spare glasses, sunglasses
- ✓ insect repellent

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

**Oregon River Experiences**

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