



North Umpqua River

Trip Guide

1 Day Trips



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The North Umpqua River

The North Umpqua is our favorite southern Oregon one-day whitewater raft trip. Flowing through a gorgeous, thickly forested, steep-walled canyon, the Umpqua offers sparkling clear water and numerous enjoyable rapids.

Of all the rivers we run the North Umpqua sports the greatest number of rapids per mile. The Umpqua's rapids are not the largest you can find, but this river wins the "most action in a day of boating" award. Our one day trips run the exciting 12 miles from Boulder Flat put-in to Gravel Bin take-out, encountering such drops as Boulder Hole, Cardiac Arrest, Weird Weir, African Queen, and Pinball.

The North Umpqua is renowned for its outstanding steelhead fishing. If you would like to try your hand at fly fishing, bring your gear and an Oregon fishing license. Fishing is permitted from shore only.

Weather

	April	May	June	July	Aug.
Average daytime high temp.	62	69	76	83	83
Average nighttime low temp.	37	41	46	48	48
Average monthly rainfall	4.60"	3.00"	1.75"	0.60"	1.00"

Itinerary

We meet at 10:00 AM* on the day your trip begins at the Gravel Bin boat ramp, which is approximately 40 miles east of Roseburg on Highway 138. You'll find the boat ramp about 3/4 mile upstream from Steamboat Creek, roughly midway between highway mileposts 39 and 40.

Your vehicle will remain at Gravel Bin, where the raft trip will end later in the day. Once everyone has arrived you will board an O.R.E. van for the 20 minute ride up 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.

Trip includes a stop for a riverside lunch, and we typically arrive at our take-out point around 4 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.

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! 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: We recommend that guests on our early-June trips plan to wear a wetsuit while on the river. 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 (**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.

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.
(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.

Nearby Attractions

While in the area consider adding a hike on the Umpqua River Trail to your itinerary. Or visit a few of the area's numerous waterfalls, including Toketee Falls (highway 138, milepost 59), or Watson Falls (milepost 61) which is the third highest falls in Oregon. Another enjoyable side trip is a visit to Umpqua Hot Springs. For information about these recreational opportunities contact the Umpqua National Forest at 541-672-6601.

Slightly further afield - but still easily within reach - is world-famous Crater Lake National Park. (It is approximately 50 miles between our meeting place near Steamboat and Crater Lake.) For Crater Lake information contact the Park at 541-594-2211.

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