



# Lower Clackamas River

Trip Guide

1/2 Day Trips



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## The Clackamas River

Oregon River Experiences is proud to offer an experience that is the closest white water rafting you can do to downtown Portland. The scenic Lower Clackamas is our best offering for those new to white water rafting.

The Clackamas is without question one of Portland's best rafting adventures. Surprisingly fun class II/II+ whitewater and only 45 minutes from downtown make this section of the river a great attraction for those with not enough time to experience the thrilling upper Clackamas. The lush mountain scenery dripping walls, towering cliffs and cool water add to the river's charm.

The Clackamas is one of Oregon's finest raft trips, and it offers the closest whitewater to Portland. That's an unbeatable combination.

With the rapids in between nice calm sections, there is plenty of time for the opportunity to jump out and float the lazy pools. Float through the historic Milo McIver State Park, once the site of Oregon's very own Woodstock type festival.

The Clackamas River was named for the Clackamas Indians, a Chinook tribe who once lived along the river. In 1988, Congress designated 47 miles of the Clackamas River as a Wild and Scenic River, in recognition of the river's outstanding scenery, fishery, and recreational values.

### Itinerary

#### Half Day Trips

Morning half day trips meet at 9:15 AM\*. We meet at the Upper Boat Ramp of Milo McIver State Park. **YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE A DAY USE PASS OR HAVE AN ANNUAL STATE PARKS PASS. THERE IS A KISOK/STATION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PARK.**

Milo McIver State Park, Estacada, OR 97023

Look for us in a O.R.E. van in the parking lot. After a brief orientation and getting geared up guides will conduct a safety orientation. We'll then all board the rafts and be on our way downstream.

We typically arrive at our take-out point around 12:15 PM\*\*. In most cases our trips end where your car has been parked. If water levels dictate a different ending spot for the raft trip, then you will be transported to your car once the rafts are out of the water and loaded on our trailer (typically a 10-minute process).

\* Please plan your drive carefully 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 Portland, Washington, and the Northern Willamette Valley

We meet at the Milo McIver State Park, which is roughly a 45 min drive from downtown Portland. To reach from Portland, take Highway HWY 99 S to the 212/224 E ramp. Head east to the 212-224 junction, then turn right to follow OR-224. Continue along OR-224 to the town of Carver and turn right to cross the bridge. Make a left after the bridge onto S Springwater Rd. Follow Springwater for 10 miles and then turn left into Milo McIver State Park. Follow signs to the UPPER BOAT RAMP. You will keep making right turns at the forks, following signs.

### From Mount Hood

Follow highway 26 west to the town of Sandy. Turn left onto highway 211, follow 211 for 6 miles to highway 224, then turn left onto 224. Follow 224 through the town of Estacada and then beyond Estacada make a right onto HWY 211. Drive 1.2 miles and turn right onto S Hayden Rd. Drive 1 mile and turn right onto S Springwater Rd. Go 1.5 miles on Springwater and then turn right into Milo McIver State Park. Follow signs to the UPPER BOAT RAMP. You will keep making right turns at the forks, following signs.

Important Note: Please plan your drive carefully 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 not able to provide a refund for missed trips.

### **Essential Eligibility Criteria for River Trips:**

The following are the physical and mental eligibility criteria for all participants on any OutRecX LLC, (Oregon River Experiences) river trip.

1. Ability to remain seated and balanced while in a whitewater craft.

2. Wear a Type V Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device (maximum chest size of 56 inches). Wearing leg straps may be required to ensure proper fit. Where required, properly wear a helmet, required when using inflatable kayaks.
3. Ability to independently board and disembark a boat four to ten times each day. This may require stepping into the boat, and then maneuvering your body over and across tubes and fixed objects into a seated position.
4. Ability to independently navigate shoreline terrain, including safely maneuvering around and across boulders, rocks, and slippery and uneven surfaces, under low branches, and around vegetation. This includes the ability to maintain your balance near precipitous ledges or cliffs.
5. Ability to independently swim in whitewater or swift currents while wearing a personal floatation device. This includes being an active participant in your own rescue, including having the ability to (a) keep your airway passages sealed while underwater, and regain control of your breathing when being submitted to repeated submersion under waves or currents; (b) orient yourself to new “in-river” surroundings; (c) reposition yourself in the water to different swimming positions; (d) swim aggressively to a boat or to shore in whitewater; (e) receive a rescue rope, paddle, or human assistance, and possibly let go of the same; (f) get out from under an overturned boat.
6. Ability to follow both verbal and non-verbal instructions given by guides in all situations, including during stressful or dangerous situations, and to effectively communicate with guides and other guests.
7. Ability to manage all personal care independently, or with the assistance of a friend or family member. Including carrying personal drybags and gear to your campsite each day (only for multiday trips)
8. If taking prescription medications, have the ability to maintain proper dosage by medicating independently, or with the assistance of a friend or family member.
9. Ability to remain adequately fed, hydrated, and properly dressed so as to avoid environmental injuries such as hypothermia, heat related illness, and sunburn.

The above criteria, if not met, will disqualify a person from participating in a river trip with OutRecX LLC, (Oregon River Experiences). The criteria exist for your own safety and that of all trip participants. None of the criteria are meant to discriminate on the basis of any physical or mental disability, and are applied uniformly to all potential trip participants, irrespective of the presence or absence of any disability. OutRecX LLC, (Oregon River Experiences) is committed to making reasonable modifications to any trip for any persons with a disability, so long as they do not fundamentally alter the nature of the trip. OutRecX LLC Guides have absolute discretion in determining guests’ fitness for a particular trip.

## 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, Clackamas River water is usually quite cool, even on a hot day. 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 it is essential 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.

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)

On your feet: The preferred footwear of clients and O.R.E. guides is from **Astral Shoes**, due to high quality grip, durability and they look good off the river as well. *Check the attached sheet for a special offer from Astral.*

For footwear while on the river we recommend nylon, canvas running or tennis shoes, hard soled wetsuit boots, or sports sandals such as Tevas.

For extra comfort you may want to wear nylon, polypropylene socks or neoprene wetsuit socks. They work well as a first layer when it is cooler.

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 others. If you don't want to spend a lot on a rafting wardrobe look for wool clothes, which provide some warmth even when wet.

## **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. (as are lifejackets and helmets)*

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
- ✓ Athletic shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops)

*Splash jackets are provided by O.R.E. should conditions warrant extra protection from cool water*

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.
- ✓ Digital photographs are taken of your raft.
- ✓ 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

Regional attractions are too numerous to mention but include all that the city of Portland has to offer, as well as the trails and sights of Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. For Portland information contact the Portland Visitor's Bureau at 503-222-2223. For more about Mount Hood and the Gorge contact Mt. Hood National Forest headquarters at 503-667-0511.