



# Rogue River

Trip Guide

Current Adventures Wilderness Lodge 4/4.5 day trip



Oregon River Experiences

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The Rogue River is born near Crater Lake in the Cascade mountain range, then flows southwest to its meeting with the Pacific ocean near the town of Gold Beach. We float the most spectacular 38 miles of the river, where it cuts through the rugged coastal mountains of southern Oregon, not far from the town of Grants Pass.

When congress first passed legislation to protect America's wild rivers, the Rogue was among the first to receive protection. And no wonder. The Rogue River canyon is an enchanting blend of lush forests, fern grottos, beautiful sandy beaches, sparkling waterfalls, lovely side streams, and cool clear swimming holes. It's wild country and wildlife is everywhere: perhaps more wildlife than you're likely to see on a river trip anywhere outside Alaska.

The Rogue's rapids are mostly class III in difficulty: exciting and challenging, but not too threatening for our guests who choose to try their hand at inflatable kayaks or our row-yourself rafts. (Rapids are rated I through VI. Class I indicates the smallest possible rapid, while VI indicates steep, turbulent, highly dangerous rapids and waterfalls.)

Our experienced kayak instructors and raft guides have been sharing the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Canyon with up and coming whitewater paddlers for 15 years or more, and will certainly help you get the most from your kayaking adventure! Kayaking the Rogue River is an experience you will never forget! Rainey Falls and the fish ladder, Black Bar and Blossom Bar, wild Salmon jumping in the river, and green water boiling into a froth in Mule Creek Canyon and Coffee Pot are just a few of the fabulous memories (and stories) you'll bring back from this "must do" kayak trip.

The Rogue is a river for all seasons. Summer trips promise hot, sunny weather and warm water for swimming. Spring trips are sensational, with multitudes of wildflowers. Fall trips reveal gorgeous colors, warm days and cool crisp evenings. And the whitewater is exciting, any time of year.

A great family trip, the Rogue is one of our nation's finest river journeys.



## 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. 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 Info:** For in-depth reading we recommend the following books:

*Illah: 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 river 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 boat launch a few miles downstream. (Depending upon trip length and water level, we begin our river trip at either Almeda Bar, Argo Bar, or Grave Creek boat ramp.) Once we arrive at our launch site, you'll meet the rest of our guide crew, and they'll conduct a short safety and orientation briefing, which will include instruction on paddle and rowing techniques as needed. We're normally on our way downstream by mid-morning.

**Lodging is based on double occupancy of rooms.**

## **OPTIONAL ADD-ON NIGHT:**

You have the option of adding on lodging and meals for the night before the trip launches. O.R.E. will provide dinner and breakfast while staying at the Galice resort. Allow yourself to relax before getting on the river or maybe you even want to sneak in a quick run on the day trip section of the Rogue, before heading off for a wild & scenic trip downriver. Cost is \$210 per person.

Days on the river: Each day begin with freshly brewed coffee around 7 AM, and breakfast by 8 AM. At the lodges, its best if you can have your bag mostly packed before breakfast. After breakfast head back to your rom and finish getting ready for the day, the guides will let you know what to do with your bag. After breakfast we'll pack our bags, load the boats and begin our journey downstream.

We're on the river an average of four to six hours per day. Along the way we stop for a riverside picnic lunch. We may also stop to swim, to explore historic sites, to scout rapids, or hike up scenic side streams. We usually arrive at the lodge by mid to late afternoon. After getting the bags unloaded and getting your room, take a shower, relax, or explore the grounds of each unique lodge. Power is available at lodges/rooms until 9:00-10:00 PM. Dinners are usually served between 6:30-7:00 PM at the lodges.

Last day: We typically arrive at Foster Bar, our take-out point, between 1:30 and 3 PM. Your car will be waiting at the take-out. Once we've unpacked your gear, feel free to say good-bye to the guides and head on your way home or to your next adventure. The guides will finish de-rigging and then head back home. The normal route out takes about two hours, on scenic Bear Camp Road through the Siskiyou National Forest. You may also continue on to the coast or head north.



**Trip highlights:** Our first day on the river begins with mild rapids which are ideal for a warm up, especially for those behind the oars or paddling an inflatable kayak. Once past Grave Creek boat ramp we encounter our first major rapids, Grave Creek rapids and Grave Creek falls. Not long after we come to the biggest rapid on the river: class V Rainie Falls. No one will raft the falls themselves, and most people will walk around the rapids altogether. But water levels permitting we may invite members of the group to challenge a class III+ side channel, the "Fish Ladder". While at Rainie we'll keep an eye out for Salmon, jumping the falls: a spectacular sight.

The next days provide the most exciting whitewater of the our journey. We encounter numerous class III rapids, including Wildcat, Horseshoe Bend, and Black Bar Falls. Two spectacular class IV rapids — Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar — are the whitewater highlights of the trip. (Please note that as a safety precaution our guests in inflatable kayaks will not be permitted to boat through the first section of Blossom Bar rapids, and those in row-yourself rafts may be similarly restricted.)

In addition to the rapids, the Rogue offers other attractions. Time and conditions permitting we may hike sections of the Rogue River Trail, stop to explore the swimming holes at Howard Creek or Big Windy Creek, pay a visit to the historic Rogue River Ranch, or stop for a picnic lunch at the waterfalls of beautiful Flora Dell.

# Boat Options

We offer four different boat types on the Rogue: guided oar rafts, "row-your-own" oar rafts, paddle rafts, and inflatable kayaks.

## 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.

## Row-your-own cataraft

"Row-your-own" catarafts are small and lively. They're the boat to choose if you're looking for excitement, freedom and a sense of accomplishment combined with a high degree of comfort. (1 to 3 guests per cataraft. O.R.E. guides provide instruction and supervision but are not present in the boat with you.)

## 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.

## Inflatable kayaks

Inflatable kayaks are small, highly maneuverable one-person craft that are sporty yet also surprisingly stable. We bring along 2 to 4 inflatable kayaks to be shared by the group.

### A few important details about boat options

\*\*\*Paddle rafts are available only when a minimum of six adults want to paddle.

\*\*\*Inflatable kayaks are available on a shared basis, and may be reserved for exclusive use by special arrangement only.

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

\*\*\*Paddle raft, inflatable kayak, and cataraft availability is subject to water level limitations.

# Pre-Trip Details

## 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.

### **MULTIDAY TRIPS ONLY:FURTHER INFO ABOUT EXPECTATIONS FOR TRIP PARTICIPANTS**

The following paragraphs are meant to further inform all potential participants of the expectations for all participants in order to promote a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone on a trip. There may be requirements, whether physical or mental, that are not specifically applied "essential eligibility criteria", but that help our guests understand the reality of being on a wilderness river trip.

Our primary goal is to minimize the risks associated with adventure trips in a wilderness environment. The trip involves physical exertion and exposure to the elements, including cold water and the potential for heat, sun, wind, rain and snow. We have experience accommodating people with a wide range of physical disabilities and/or health conditions. However, individuals who are overweight, lack conditioning, or have other physical limitations or ailments that interfere with the realistic encounters on a wilderness river can endanger themselves, other guests, and the guides. Please consult your doctor if you have medical or health conditions that could impact your ability to participate in this outdoor adventure.

It is very important that each trip participant take an active role in their own safety. You will likely encounter wilderness conditions that you are unfamiliar with, and those conditions may change rapidly. It is critical to pay attention at all times, to be aware of your surroundings, and to avoid taking unnecessary risks. Even a non-life threatening injury in a wilderness setting can become a major emergency for you, and can endanger the entire group. Swimming alone or hiking alone is discouraged. Excessive alcohol consumption or illicit drug use is not tolerated. Using common sense, and following both the explicit instruction and the lead of your guides can go a long way towards keeping yourself and the group safe. Some obvious things to avoid in camp and on shore (by way of example) are: walking around without shoes in camp, approaching wild animals, not paying attention to what is above or around your tent site that could harm you, not paying attention to hazards such as poison ivy and rattlesnakes, and walking near precipitous ledges.

River trips, particularly those involving whitewater, are inherently risky. While the risk of a trip is part of what makes it an exciting adventure, you must be entirely respectful of the risk that such a trip poses. It is important that you are confident in your swimming ability, and your ability to stay calm in the event you become a non-voluntary swimmer.



Your odds of becoming a non-voluntary swimmer change with the classification of a rapid, boat selection and environmental factors. A swim in whitewater is much more difficult and physically draining than swimming in flat water. Swimming in cold water can cause a gasping effect on your respiratory system. This can be overcome by focusing on your breathing and calming yourself down. Swimming in cold water will also much more quickly sap your energy and decrease muscle function than swimming in warmer water. While our guides are highly trained and will do their absolute best to rescue you, a successful rescue is greatly hampered by a swimmer who is unprepared for a swim in whitewater, who fails to actively participate in their own rescue, and who is not able to follow directions while under stress. You will receive a detailed orientation talk at the start of your river trip.

Due to the physical nature of this trip, we highly recommend that you engage in regular exercise for at least three months prior to departure to ensure preparedness. No gym membership required! Simple exercises like push-ups, sit-ups and squats go a long way to improving core fitness. Start with these exercises and do three sets of ten repetitions each, three to four times per week. Aerobic training is also easy to accomplish without expensive equipment. Take 30 – 40 minutes two to three times a week and go for a brisk walk, easy jog or bike ride around town. If you have access to a pool, lake or the ocean, swimming is obviously an ideal choice for aerobic exercise. It provides a full-body workout and is training that is useful in the event of an involuntary swim in a whitewater rapid. It is important to push yourself in the months leading up to your trip by increasing your strength training repetitions and the pace of your aerobic training. Check with your doctor prior to beginning any exercise program to be sure you are medically safe to participate. Starting an exercise program that is more strenuous than you are ready for may result in injury or risk exacerbating existing health conditions. Getting in shape will certainly add to your enjoyment of the trip.

## **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.

## **OPTIONAL ADD-ON NIGHT:**

We will meet at 3:30 PM on the day before 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. The lead guide will then show you up to the lodge and your room.



## **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 shuttle transportation of your personal vehicle from Galice to our ending location at Foster Bar. When we meet in Galice our guides will assist you in arranging to have your car shuttled. Galice Resort conducts these shuttles, (if the main shuttle road over the mountain is not open and an alternate route is required, an additional fee of \$50 per vehicle will required).

## **Accommodations** (after your trip)

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 can occur on any trip. It can be quite chilly when it's overcast, breezy or rainy, especially when you're in a raft. Please pay close attention to selecting your clothes and gear for your river adventure. 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 less comfortable. Wool is often less expensive, however, especially when purchased from Thrift or Military Surplus stores, and 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(s) should consist of polyester fleece (or wool), and will provide further warmth. The outer layer consists of a rain jacket and rain pants. Rain gear made of modern water- proof, breathable fabrics such as Goretex are best. But for a less expensive option coated nylon will work, too.

Wetsuits are generally not needed (although for spring trips they can substitute for a middle clothing layer). But they do make inflatable kayaking more comfortable in cool weather, and for this reason O.R.E. provides wetsuits on a shared basis for kayakers. If you'd like to bring your own suit,

look for an 1/8" thick "farmer john" style (which can be worn in conjunction with a sweater and raincoat). Thicker, full-body scuba style suits are warm but they're less comfortable, and their bulk makes rowing and paddling more difficult.



On warm or hot days: Synthetic fabric shorts and bathing suits are worn, as well as a hat to keep the sun out of your eyes. Cotton shirts may be worn to keep cool and to ward off sunburn. But cotton clothing is recommended for hot weather only. Wet cotton will lower your body temperature. This is great for keeping cool during a heat wave, but cotton provides no warmth when wet the fabric gets wet.

On your feet:

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

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.

In camp and at the lodge: You may want a change of shoes as well as comfortable clothing for lounging about or hiking. Cotton clothing may be worn on shore in dry weather. But in order to be prepared for rainy weather we recommend that you have camp clothing available made of synthetic or fabrics.

**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. We'll also provide you with a second, larger river bag (roughly 16" in diameter and 33"

tall), which you will share with one other person. Into this second bag will go your tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and other bulky items. These bags will be transported from camp to camp or lodge by raft but generally will not be accessible during the day. For items that you want to keep handy during the day bring a small daypack or dry-bag. Items that you want to keep handy during the day but which absolutely must stay dry (camera, binoculars, a book, etc.) go best in a 50 caliber military surplus ammo box. O.R.E. provides these boxes on a shared basis. If you would like your own, they are available at most surplus and some outdoor stores. (Note: boxes cannot be carried in paddle rafts or inflatable kayaks.)

The river bags and boxes we provide are watertight under most conditions, even when submerged. But for extra security we recommend that you wrap your sleeping bag and 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** *Please do not bring pets, guns, or valuable jewelry*

### ✓ River Gear

- \_\_\_\_\_ swimsuit or shorts and T-shirt (avoid cotton shorts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ tennis shoes or sport sandals (or hard-soled wetsuit boots for spring trips)
- \_\_\_\_\_ wool or synthetic "ski" hat — for cold/rainy days
- \_\_\_\_\_ wide-brimmed hat (preferably with chin-strap), or baseball cap — for sunny days
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pair socks (wool or synthetic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof rain jacket and rain pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Polypropylene or similar long underwear tops and bottoms
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 warm sweater or jacket, polyester fleece or wool
- \_\_\_\_\_ water bottle or canteen
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof sunscreen and lip balm
- \_\_\_\_\_ sunglasses, with strap

### ✓ Extra River Clothing, Camp Clothing

- \_\_\_\_\_ camp shoes (or lightweight hiking boots)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pair long pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 pair shorts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 long-sleeved shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 short-sleeved shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ socks and underwear

### ✓ Camping Gear

- \_\_\_\_\_ personal toiletries, including small towel, biodegradable soap, dry-skin lotion, prescription medicines
- \_\_\_\_\_ small flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries

### ✓ Optional Items

- \_\_\_\_\_ gloves (especially if you'll be rowing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ binoculars
- \_\_\_\_\_ camera
- \_\_\_\_\_ reading material
- \_\_\_\_\_ pen and journal or notebook
- \_\_\_\_\_ compact fishing gear
- \_\_\_\_\_ spare glasses, sunglasses
- \_\_\_\_\_ insect repellent
- \_\_\_\_\_ small daypack, ammo box, or small dry bag
- \_\_\_\_\_ beer or soft drinks (up to 2 six-packs per person), wine or liquor—in unbreakable containers. (We provide coffee, tea, and juice; also wine with some dinners).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Consumption of alcohol is prohibited during the day but okay once we arrive in camp.
- \_\_\_\_\_ People sensitive to the sun may want to bring lightweight cotton clothes (such as a surgeon's outfit) for sun protection on midsummer trips.

## **Additional Information**

### **Your trip fare includes the following**

- Lodging fees
- The services of our professional river guides and Current Adventures kayaking instructors.
- Transportation to the boat launch from Galice, and from the take out point back to Galice.
- All meals, from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last. Our menu is delicious, varied, and hearty. Meals are freshly prepared by our guides from the highest quality ingredients. Juice and water are available at each meal. Coffee, tea, and cocoa are available at dinner and breakfast, and complementary wine is served with some dinners. 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 and boxes for your personal gear.
- Cups, plates, and eating utensils.

### **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.

### **Lodging**

The 3 wilderness lodges Black Bar, Marial & Paradise are truly a unique feature of the Rogue River. Each offers its own hidden secrets upon the sprawling grounds and hidden trails through the woods along the river. With dinners usually served either family style or buffet the welcoming environment invites you to talk with others and enjoy the endless amounts of fresh hot food flowing from the kitchens. Each lodge has electricity during specific hrs. Usually power is off from 9:00 PM-7:30 AM. Lodging is based on double occupancy of rooms.

### **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.

Kayak instructors are encouraged to be tipped separately from the raft guides.

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 (amongst 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 river. 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 503-563-1500.

