



# The Owyhee River

*4 & 5 day trips*



**Oregon River Experiences**

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The Owyhee River rises high in the desert mountains of northern Nevada and southern Idaho, then flows 400 miles to its confluence with the Snake River on the Oregon-Idaho border. We boat the most pristine section of the lower Owyhee, a National Wild and Scenic River, as it flows through the remote high desert of southeastern Oregon.

The Owyhee River country is a little-visited land of exceptional beauty. Multicolored rock pillars, secret alcoves, petroglyphs, natural hot springs, and thrilling rapids await your discovery. Here you'll feast your eyes on unique scenery that's a match for the more widely known grandeur of river canyons in the Southwest.

The Owyhee'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 class VI indicates steep, turbulent, highly dangerous rapids and waterfalls.)

Owyhee country is authentic wilderness. Boatable only in the Spring, when upstream snowmelt fills the canyon with the sound of rushing water, the Owyhee is the most remote, secluded, pristine river we run. With only one town along its 400 mile length (Rome, Oregon, population less than 100), and few other signs of civilization, the Owyhee may in fact be the most isolated, pristine river in the contiguous U.S.. This is a very special place: rare and wild, isolated and pure.

### **Natural History**

Our Owyhee trip takes us through a wonderland of multicolored canyons, valleys, and badlands. As we travel downstream the river cuts through successive layers of rock, beginning with the youngest. The effect is a trip backwards in time, to the tune of 100,000 years per river mile.

Like many desert regions, the Owyhee country may seem empty of life at first -- but this is a rich and varied ecosystem. Pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, coyotes and wild burros inhabit the rimrock (although they are seen infrequently). Golden eagles and over one hundred other species of birds soar above: the Owyhee is located along the Pacific Flyway, which makes this a bird watcher's paradise. And when conditions are right, the spring wildflower bloom is spectacular.

### **Human History**

Evidence of human occupation of the Owyhee region dates back nearly 12,000 years. When Europeans first came to the Owyhee they found the Northern Paiutes living a nomadic life here. Food was scarce for the Paiute, and they often travelled great distances in search of what little the desert offered. Early settlers came here to mine silver and graze livestock. Today, these are still the primary economic activities.

## Weather

The weather in the Owyhee River canyon is quite variable -- more variable than on any other river we run. Little rain falls, and warm days are likely. But cool or cold days are a possibility, too.

	April	May	June
Average daytime high temperature	63	73	82
Average nighttime low temperature	30	38	46
Average monthly rainfall	0.75"	1.00"	1.00"

## For More Information

For more information about the Owyhee contact our office to request our natural and human history pamphlet. A map, Owyhee National Wild River Boating Guide (published by the BLM) is available from the rangers prior to your trip, or contact the BLM at 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918, 541-473-3144.

## Trip Itinerary

### First day

We meet at 3:30 PM Mountain Time (2:30 PM Pacific Time) at the Basque Station Motel in Jordan Valley, Oregon. Our Lead Guide will meet you in the Motel parking lot. Look for a vehicle sporting the O.R.E. logo. After a brief orientation you will pack your things into our river bags and park your vehicles next to the motel.

We will then go by van to the launch site at Rome and camp there for the night. We will have an introduction to the trip and dinner. The next morning we will have breakfast then launch downriver.

### Days on the river

Each day begin with freshly brewed coffee by 7 AM, and breakfast by 8 AM. 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 five 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 to hike up scenic side canyons. We usually arrive in camp by mid to late afternoon, and while the guides prepare hors d'oeuvres and dinner you'll have time to hike, swim, fish, read, or nap.

### Last day

Over the course of five days we journey 55 miles on the river. We run the last five to ten river miles on our last morning, then after lunch we float ten miles across Lake Owyhee to our takeout at Leslie Gulch, or take out above

the reservoir at the historic Birch Creek Ranch. Our choice of take-out point is determined by water, weather and road conditions. (For the reservoir we tie the boats together, attach an outboard motor to our gear boat, then relax and enjoy the passing scenery.)

We arrive at Birch Creek Ranch at about 3 PM, or at Leslie Gulch at about 4:30 PM. Once we've unpacked our gear and de-rigged the boats, we'll board a van for the ride back to Jordan Valley. We arrive back in town about 5:30 PM (via Birch Creek) or about 7:30 PM (via Leslie Gulch).

### **Trip highlights**

Our first day on the river begins with calm water and mild rapids, which are ideal for a warm up, especially for those behind the oars or paddling an inflatable kayak. After five miles in the open countryside we enter the first of a series of scenic gorges. Highlights of our first day on the water include Upset rapid and Bullseye rapid. The following morning we'll stop at Weeping Wall Springs, a lovely desert oasis, to refill our water jugs with refreshing spring water. We'll run Artillery rapid, stop at a hot springs, and camp at or near Chalk Basin.

Chalk Basin is a strikingly beautiful fairyland of colorful, eroded rock pinnacles and canyons. On our second afternoon or third morning we'll hike to the top of a dome overlooking the river (weather permitting), for a breathtaking panoramic view of this pristine wilderness.

The scenery just keeps getting better as we head downstream. Over the next two days we'll float through gorgeous Green Dragon Canyon where 1,000 foot walls dwarf our boats. And we'll encounter our most challenging rapids: Whistling Bird, Squeeze, and Montgomery. We'll take a soak in the river's best hot springs. And we'll stop to view petroglyphs in a lovely, wide-open valley by the name of "Hole in the Ground".

Our last day on the water features more beautiful and varied scenery. The last day's whitewater is mild, and this is a good time for those who have yet to experience rowing or paddling to give it a try.

## **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. (1 to 5 guests plus guide per oar raft; your guide does all the rowing.)



## Row-your-own cataract

"Row-your-own" cataracts 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 cataract. O.R.E. guides provide instruction and supervision but are not present in the boat with you.)



We outfit you and a boat partner with one of our custom designed craft, rigged with frame and oars. We provide coaching and encouragement, and while your guides lead the way you float "follow the leader" style down the river. You trade off rowing with your boat partner and have ample time to relax, take pictures, or take in the passing scenery. Oregon River Experiences pioneered row-your-own river vacations. This is the ultimate "hands-on" rafting adventure.

Prior rafting experience is highly recommended for those considering this boat option. We also recommend either prior rowing experience or a moderately high level of physical fitness. However you do not need to be a daredevil or an athlete to pilot your own cataract under our supervision.

## 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 kayak

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 7:30 AM Mountain Time (6:30 AM Pacific Time) at the



Basque Station Motel in Jordan Valley, Oregon. The Basque, currently the only Motel in town, is on the main road and easy to find. Jordan Valley is 43 miles east of Burns Junction, approximately 425 miles southeast of Portland, Oregon, and 85 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho.

### **Getting To and From the River**

✓ If you Drive

From Portland follow I-84 to the Oregon-Idaho border. Just past the border turn south onto US-95 and follow it to Jordan Valley. Or drive to Bend, take US-20 to Burns, OR-78 to Burns Junction, and US-95 to Jordan Valley. From California take US-97 or US-395 to US-20, US-20 east to Burns, OR-78 to Burns Junction, and US-95 to Jordan Valley.

✓ If you Fly

The closest commercial airport is Boise, Idaho. It is serviced by Alaska, United, Delta, and Southwest Airlines. Plan your flight to arrive the day before your river trip begins. There is no public transportation available from Boise to Jordan Valley, but car rentals are available at Boise's airport.

### **Trip Shuttles**

Your trip fare includes transportation from Jordan Valley to our put-in at Rome, and from our take-out at Leslie Gulch or Birch Creek Ranch back to Jordan Valley at trip's end. If you'd rather have your car waiting for you at take-out please give us a call and we will assist you in arranging for shuttle service.

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

There is currently only one motel in Jordan Valley: The Basque Station Hotel (and Texaco Station), which is where we meet. They can be reached at (541) 586-9244. There are two trailer parks in Jordan Valley, which provide showers, a laundry, and hookups for RVs. Also there is a small BLM campground next to the river in Rome.

### **A Note About River Levels**

The Owyhee is a natural, free-flowing desert river. As such its water level is subject to sudden fluctuations. We will contact you if it appears that the river will be either too high or too low for safe and enjoyable boating. (Overly high flows are rare; overly low flows somewhat less so.) Please call us if you plan to be away from home during the week prior to your trip so that we may discuss the river's current flow with you, and to discuss how we may reach you at the last-minute if there are water level concerns.

## **What to Bring**

The weather in the Owyhee River canyon is often warm and wonder-fully

pleasant. But the weather here is also quite variable: we may experience both warm sun and a cold storm in the space of several hours. Cool or even cold weather as well as wet weather can occur on any trip. So please pay close attention to the proper selection of clothes and gear for your river vacation. Hopefully you'll never need most of the cool-weather gear that we strongly recommend you bring. But it is vital that you do bring these items just in case!

All of your personal camping gear is provided for your trip. Our standard trip fare includes use of 3-person tent (for 2 people), sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner and "paco" river style sleeping pad. (Deluxe kits available, includes cot & bigger tent).

## **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.

If you have enough of the other sorts of clothing we recommend then a wetsuit is generally not needed. However, wetsuits *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: 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.

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.  
In camp: 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 wool fabrics.

### **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 Jordan Valley. 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 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.)

Because of the Owyhee's variable weather we want to be sure you are able to bring everything you need to stay dry and warm. The bags we provide permit you to bring quite a bit of gear (more than you might suspect based on the dimensions stated). But we will have extra bags along for use as needed.

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.

## Rental Equipment

Deluxe sleep kits (includes cot) & deluxe tents (larger tent holds 2 cots) available.

## Equipment Checklist

### ✓ River Gear

- \_\_\_\_\_ swimsuit or shorts and T-shirt (avoid cotton shorts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ tennis shoes, sport sandals, or hard-soled wetsuit boots
- \_\_\_\_\_ wool or synthetic "ski" hat — for cool/rainy days
- \_\_\_\_\_ wide-brimmed hat (preferably with chin-strap), or baseball cap — for sunny days
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 pair socks (wool or synthetic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ waterproof rain jacket and rain pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Polypropylene (or etc.) long underwear tops & bottoms (heavy-weight suggested)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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

### ✓ Camp Gear

- \_\_\_\_\_ small tarp (to place beneath your tent, or as a ground-cloth for sleeping under the stars)
- \_\_\_\_\_ personal toiletries, including small towel, biodegradable soap, dry-skin lotion, prescription medicines
- \_\_\_\_\_ small flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries

### ✓ Optional Items

- \_\_\_\_\_ a second warm polyester fleece or wool sweater or jacket (highly

- recommended)
- \_\_\_\_\_ gloves (especially if you'll be rowing or kayaking)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ binoculars
  - \_\_\_\_\_ camera
  - \_\_\_\_\_ insect repellent
  - \_\_\_\_\_ reading material
  - \_\_\_\_\_ pen and journal or notebook
  - \_\_\_\_\_ compact fishing gear
  - \_\_\_\_\_ spare glasses, sunglasses
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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

## **Additional Information**

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

- The services of our professional river guides.
- Transportation to the boat launch from Jordan Valley, and from the take out point back to Jordan Valley at the end of the journey.
- 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.
- 3-person tent (for 2 people), sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner and "paco" river style sleeping pad. (Deluxe kits available, includes cot & bigger tent).
- Waterproof river bags and boxes for your personal gear.
- Cups, plates, and eating utensils.
- Camp chairs.

### **Fishing**

Fishing on the Owyhee (trout and smallmouth bass) is only fair during high

water but improves as the water warms and clears. If you would like to fish you'll need an Oregon fishing license, which may be purchased at most Oregon sporting goods stores.

### **Camping**

We select beautiful beaches for our camp sites. Our guides establish a central kitchen and social area, and trip members select spots in the surrounding area to pitch a tent or roll out a sleeping bag. O.R.E. will set up a portable toilet at each camp, which will be located with privacy and convenience in mind. O.R.E. practices minimum impact camping, and the crew will instruct you on the simple steps we follow to protect the river environment.

### **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.

### **Nearby attractions**

If you'd like to do some additional camping, hiking, and exploring while you're in the area, consider visiting Leslie Gulch, Jordan Craters, or Succor Creek State Recreation Area. For more information contact the Bureau of Land Management at 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918, 541-473-3144, and request a map of the region (\$4.00): the Vale District Recreation Guide.

### **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 (Vale, Oregon) at 541-473-6210. They should also call the O.R.E. office at 503-563-1500.

# Owyhee River

