

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Meet Morrison's Rogue River Lodge, introductions, trip orientation and Welcome dinner

Our trip begins today when we meet at Morrison's Rogue River Lodge in Merlin, OR at 5:00 p.m. If you're flying in, plan to fly in no later than 2:00 p.m. for a pre-arranged shuttle to our lodging. If you're driving, you can plan to leave your vehicles at the lodge. At 5:00 p.m. we'll gather for introductions before meeting with our river guides for an orientation, where you can have any last minute questions answered and receive your waterproof gear bags. Following the orientation we'll have dinner together at the lodge. (D)

DAY 2

Put in at Grave Creek, hike and/or raft to Black Bar Lodge

We will meet the guide early and drive to our starting point, Grave Creek, where we will go through a safety orientation. Today and most days you can choose whether you want to spend the entire day hiking, the entire day rafting, or switch between the two at lunch.

If you decide to raft you will get fitted with PFDs and choose a raft (paddle or oar-powered). We can't promise you can always have your boat of choice but we'll make sure we have a good mix of boats with plenty of time in the craft of your choice. The river starts gently but soon becomes more exciting as we encounter our first rapids. About noon we enter the wild & scenic section of the Wild Rogue River at a rapid called Grave Creek. After lunch the afternoon is filled with several Class II and III rapids.

If you hike, the total length of the hike is 9.6 miles to Black Bar Lodge. Many historic sites along the way are one of the highlights of the trip and the guide will share stories of their history along the way. We'll meet up with the rafting group for a sumptuous riverside lunch and you can decide at that point whether to raft or continue hiking. We'll all arrive at the lodge around 4:30 p.m.

Regardless of whether we arrive at the Lodge on foot or by raft, we'll have time to clean up as the guides prepare hors d'oeuvres as well as complimentary regional wine, beer, and sodas for you to enjoy before dinner. Dinner is about 7:00 p.m. and afterwards you can play cards, read your book, or go outside and gaze at the stars. Generators shut down at 10:00 p.m. and the stargazing gets even better after that. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Hike and/or Raft from Black Bar Lodge to Marial Lodge

The generators will come on at 7:00 a.m. and a hearty breakfast is available by 8:00 a.m. Today's hike to Marial Lodge is about 15 miles, again along a gentle trail that passes old homesteads as it presents ever changing vistas of the river below. We'll meet the rafters about halfway through for lunch again, and you can decide how to spend the rest of the day. For the rafters, the river alternates between quieter water and bouncy exciting Class II and III rapids. In late afternoon we'll pull over for a stop at the Rogue River Ranch. The Ranch, a museum and interpretive center, is a vivid example of early pioneer history and a fascinating place to visit. Regardless of what combination you choose, we'll spend tonight at Marial Lodge. After relaxing time, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner, you'll have the option for a lovely hike down a trail that leads to a spectacular waterfall. This lodge has power available all night. (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Hike and/or Raft from Marial Lodge to Half Moon Lodge

Today you'll need to choose between hiking and rafting as there is no opportunity for a swap at lunch. It's a shorter day with a more casual pace and more time in the afternoon to soak in the peace and quiet of the area. The hike is about 5 miles to Half Moon Lodge and since it is relatively short, anyone who was not on the rafting trip in the afternoon yesterday can start with a hike back to the Rogue River ranch before continuing downstream. For the rafters it is short and intense day, with the most exciting rapids of the trip: Mule Creek Canyon, Blossom Bar, and Devils Staircase are all Class IV and absolutely spectacular. Regardless of which way you go, we'll arrive early afternoon and have some extra time today just to relax. Of course you also can always choose to hike back up the trail for a chance to see the river from a different perspective. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Hike and/or raft from Half Moon Lodge to Foster Bar takeout, return to Morrison's

We'll be ending our trip today at Foster Bar in mid-afternoon. If you choose to hike, we'll be starting a bit earlier today for our 6.5 mile hike to Flora Del, where we'll have lunch and meet up with the rafters. For the rafters, the remainder of the trip is Class II and III rapids which, after yesterday, will feel like a piece of cake! After lunch we all get in the rafts for one final and exciting stretch of river to the take out. We'll be met by our vans for the 2-hour drive on a winding and scenic road back over the mountains. We'll be back at Morrison's Lodge about 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. and have time to clean up before gathering for our final farewell dinner. Tonight we'll share memories and laughter, as we toast the peace of the river and the fun we've had. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Depart for the airport or other adventures

You are free to leave anytime today. If you are returning to the airport today we'll have 2-3 shuttles taking you back to the airport so you can depart who are leaving at similar times. If you've driven, Medford is only 20 miles from Ashland and its year round Shakespeare Festival if that's of interest. You may also want to continue your adventure with a visit to Crater Lake National Park or Redwoods National Park. (B)