

We are thrilled you have chosen to raft the Deschutes with River Drifters! Please plan ahead and bring a sense of adventure and discovery to ensure a wonderful trip.

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

**Difficulty:** Class II and III

**Length:** 50+ miles/3 days

**Meeting Location:** River Drifters Office,  
600 Timber Lane, Maupin, Oregon 97037

**Getting Here:** Maupin is about 100 miles from Portland and 90 miles from Bend. Please see our website ([riverdrifters.net](http://riverdrifters.net)) for a detailed map and directions.



### DAY 1:

Check-in time is **9am** at the River Drifters Office in Maupin, Oregon. You'll change into river clothes, pack your personal items into a waterproof dry bag (provided by River Drifters), use the restroom, etc. We sell many commonly forgotten items, such as sunglasses straps, sunscreen and lip balm. After packing is complete, we will shuttle the group to the boat launch site (roughly an hour drive). We usually put in the river by 11am.

Our guides will give a safety talk and provide instructions for the basic paddle strokes you will need for your trip. After a couple of hours on the river, the group will stop for a lunch of sandwiches, fresh fruits and veggies, cookies and lemonade.



Then it's back on the water under we reach camp around 4:30pm – 5pm. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided at or shortly after arrival to camp. You'll set up your tent, go for a hike, relax by the river or toss the Frisbee until dinner is served about 7pm.

**Note, you are responsible for arriving at our Maupin office by 9am on the day your trip begins. If for some reason you think you are going to be late, please call our office at 1-800-972-0430.**

### DAY 2:

You'll wake up to coffee brewing by 8am while your guides are busy making a healthy and hardy breakfast. After breakfast, the group will break down camp and hit the water by about 10am. The group will stop around 1pm for lunch, and possibly a hike or a swim. Camp and dinner routine is the same as Day 1.

### DAY 3:

Breakfast is served about 8am. The group will break down camp and hit the water by about 10am. You'll reach the take-out by early afternoon, where River Drifters guides will be waiting with lunch and our shuttle van. Expect to return to the River Drifters office by 3pm. You'll return your wetsuit, PFD, dry bag and any other River Drifters gear before changing and heading home.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The Deschutes River Scenic Waterway offers spectacular basalt cliffs, bighorn sheep, wild trout and steelhead fishing, vibrant night skies and, of course, spectacular rapids.

The Deschutes is one of Oregon's most popular rivers because it's accessible to beginners, families and experienced boaters alike. You don't need previous rafting experience to fully enjoy this classic Oregon river trip. Our experienced guides will teach you the basic skills and paddle strokes needed to have a safe and fun trip.

### DAILY ROUTINE

A typical day on the water includes five to eight hours of rafting, a lunch break, swimming breaks and wildlife viewing. Evenings are a great time to go hiking, toss the Frisbee, read a book, take a nap or relax by the water. Keep in mind that every trip is different, as the weather, water flow, campsites and group dynamics all influence the trip pace and itinerary.

### GUIDES

Our guides are accomplished in outdoor skills, trained in first aid, CPR and river rescue, and knowledgeable about the natural and cultural history of the area. They are fun, interesting people who have a passion for rivers and people. If you have questions about rafting, camping, cooking in the outdoors or anything else, ask and they will likely be happy to help.

### MEALS

All meals are prepped by our guides and include a wide variety of fresh meats, cheeses, grains, fruits and vegetables. We provide plenty of snacks and water throughout the trip. Please let us know within two weeks of your trip if you have special dietary needs. We will do our best to accommodate you.

### WEATHER

Many people joke that in Eastern Oregon, "If you don't like the weather, wait 10 minutes." The weather changes often and sometimes dramatically. During the summertime, the weather in Eastern Oregon is very warm and mostly dry. However, you must be prepared for rain and wind in every season. Below is a chart of average temperatures and rainfall in Eastern Oregon during the rafting season.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Avg Temp Day	70°F	77°F	86°F	87°F	82°F
Avg Temp Night	46°F	53°F	59°F	55°F	50°F
Rainfall	1"	.75"	.5"	.15"	.25"

**Prior to packing for your trip, we recommend that you check the forecast at: [riverdrifters.net/deschutes/](http://riverdrifters.net/deschutes/).**

### SANITATION

There are many campsites along the Deschutes with developed toilet facilities. All rafts are required to carry an approved portable toilet, which serves as a back-up when developed toilets are not available. We practice Leave No Trace ethics (Int.org), meaning we pack out all trash and use only biodegradable soap for washing dishes. If you have any questions about personal sanitation, please don't hesitate to ask your guide.

### FISHING

The Deschutes River is well known among anglers for its wild trout and steelhead. Regulations allow fishing only from riverbanks or while wading in the water. For trout, the season is year round on the Lower Deschutes. If you'd like to bring your fishing rod and give it a go, please purchase a fishing license prior to arriving at the River Drifters office. For more information about fishing on the Deschutes, see [deschutesangler.com](http://deschutesangler.com).

### GEAR

Your safety and comfort is our top priority. River Drifters handles all trip logistics, provides all necessary provisions and rafting gear, and makes sure that you have professional, experienced and well-trained guides. If you have any questions about the gear list, please call our office at 1-800-972-0430.



## GEAR LIST

### RIVER DRIFTERS PROVIDES:

- Rafting and safety gear, including wetsuits, PFDs and first aid kit.
- All on-river meals.
- Camp chairs.
- Waterproof dry bags for your personal gear (16" diameter x 33" tall).
- Professional, well-trained guides.



### GUESTS ARE EXPECTED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

#### CLOTHING

- Two pair of quick-drying shorts and two t-shirts (wool or synthetic are best, but cotton is OK for camp).
- Long-sleeved synthetic shirt and hat for sun protection.
- Swimsuit.
- Old pair of tennis shoes, neoprene booties with soles or sandals (closed-toed, such as Keen, are recommended).
- Camp shoes – lightweight tennis shoes, Crocs, sandals, etc.
- Long pants, either nylon or fleece depending on preference.
- A fleece vest, sweater or jacket.
- Wool or synthetic long underwear top and bottom.
- Rain coat and pants.
- Two pair of underwear.
- Two pair of wool or synthetic socks.
- Beanie and lightweight gloves (in spring and fall).
- Change of clothes for drive home

#### Gear Check

- Keep in mind that you'll need just two sets of clothing: one for the river and one for camp.
- Pack clothing that you don't mind getting wet, dirty or even lost (the river sometimes has a mind of its own).
- As there is no cell service on the river, we encourage guests to leave their cell phones and smartphones in their cars to avoid water damage or loss.

#### GEAR

- Sleeping bag (with waterproof stuff sack) and sleeping pad.
- Tent.
- Sunglasses and/or prescription eyeglasses or contacts (pluss spare sets).
- Sunglass strap for both sunglasses and prescription eyeglasses (we sell these in our shop).
- Flashlight, spare bulb and spare batteries.
- Personal water bottle with strap or carabineer for attaching to boat.

**Note, tent and sleeping bag/pad rentals are available through our shop.**

#### PERSONAL ITEMS

- Waterproof sunscreen and lip balm (with a SPF of 20 or greater).
- Small towel.
- Personal toiletries (bring only what you need).
- Personal medications, feminine hygiene supplies, etc.

#### OPTIONAL

- Bike gloves to protect hands while paddling.
- Small zip lock bags for organizing gear.
- Fishing equipment and license.
- Book/journal/pen.
- Waterproof camera.
- Small daypack.
- Dramamine (if prone to car sickness).
- Insect repellent.
- Personal snacks. (We will bring plenty.)

### USE THE LAYERING SYSTEM

Loose, quick-drying, durable clothing is ideal for river trips. Bring clothes that can be worn under or on top of other clothes (i.e., can be layered).

**Base Layer** – Long underwear (tops and bottoms) made of either wool or synthetic materials such as polyester wick moisture away from the skin and are quick to dry. Long underwear is an essential first layer for both the river and camp.

**Middle Layer** – Fleece, which is also made of synthetic materials, or a heavyweight wool shirt or sweater both made an excellent middle layer in wet and/or cool weather. Both are great insulators and are quick to dry.

**Outer Layer** – We recommend that guests bring a rain jacket and pants, even if there is absolutely no rain being forecasted. That's because rain gear makes a great windbreaker and insulator in cooler weather and at night. Coated nylon or breathable fabrics (like Gore-Tex) are best. We will provide you with a splash jacket for on-river protection from wind and cold water.

### WETSUITS

Wetsuits are recommended for spring and fall trips, and for people interested in spending time in inflatable kayaks. River Drifters provides guest with 2.3 mil "farmer John" style wetsuits, which can be combined with a splash jacket to provide full-body coverage. If you are a cold person, you can choose to wear synthetic or wool long underwear underneath your wetsuit.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Can I bring alcohol?***

River Drifters does not furnish, sell or give away alcohol of any kind during our trips. If desired, you may bring your own alcohol in non-glass containers and we will transport it to camp for you. Please drink in moderation. We reserve the right to.... Note, we do not allow alcohol on any youth trips.

### ***Is tipping appropriate?***

Our guides work very hard throughout the season to ensure that guests have a safe and enjoyable trip. As such, tips are very much appreciated by our guides. Tips normally range from 10% of the trip cost. How much you tip should depend on your satisfaction with your trip and your financial means. Most people tip the lead guide, who will split the money equally among the crew.

### ***Is this trip appropriate for kids?***

A Deschutes River multi-day trip is perfect for the whole family. We allow kids as young as four years old to join Deschutes multi-day day trips. A child's maturity level would be a greater factor than their age. Please call us to discuss your situation.

### COTTON

Cotton should NOT be worn on the river during wet or cooler weather because it's slow to dry and will lower your body temperature. There is a wide range of affordable shirts and pants made of synthetic materials. We recommend you avoid cotton.

### FOOTWEAR

We recommend that guests bring an old pair of tennis shoes, neoprene booties with soles or sandals (Teva or Chaco-type are recommended) for use on the river. Closed-toed shoes offer the most foot protection while on the river, and can be worn with wool or neoprene socks to provide warmth. You'll also want a second pair of comfortable shoes to wear around camp.

### DRY BAGS

When you arrive at the River Drifters office on the morning of your trip, you will receive a dry bag for all personal items. When fully packed, the dry bag measures about 16 inches in diameter by 33 inches in height (roughly the size of a garbage bag). ALL of your personal items, including your sleeping bag and pad, must fit inside this one dry bag. Separate dry bags can be used for tents.

Dry bags will NOT be accessible during the day, so we recommend that you bring a personal waterproof day pack for items such as sunscreen, rain gear, cameras, snacks and a warm layer.

### ***Do you have lodging recommendations?***

#### ***We recommend the following:***

- Riverrun Lodge (877) 335-8867
- Imperial Lodge (541) 395-2404
- The Oasis Resort (541) 395-2611
- Deschutes Motel (541) 395-2626

#### ***Local Camping:***

- Maupin City Park: (541) 395-2252
- Riverview Campground: (541) 395-2611
- There is camping along the Deschutes River, available on a first come, first serve basis.
- You may also choose to stay in Hood River, which is about an hour from our Maupin office.

For an updated list of local accommodations, please visit: [www.riverdrifters.net/deschutes/camping-lodging.htm](http://www.riverdrifters.net/deschutes/camping-lodging.htm)

***Have other questions?*** Please feel free to contact our office. Once on the river, our experienced and knowledgeable guides will be happy to answer any questions you have. We welcome suggestions about how we can make your next experience on the river and even better one.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS We Have **MOVED!**

If lost or running late, please call  
1.800.972.0430

### Approximate Travel Times to Our Maupin Office

From Portland/Vancouver area: 2 hours

From Tri-Cities: 2 hours, 15 minutes

From Bend: 1.5 – 2 hours

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM THE PORTLAND/VANCOUVER AREA

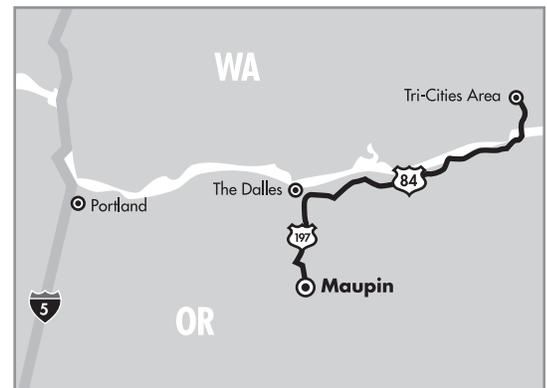
Take I-84 E toward The Dalles. Follow I-84 E for about 80 miles. In The Dalles, take exit 87 to US-197 S toward Dufur/Bend. Drive about 40 miles until you reach Maupin. The River Drifters office is located at **600 Timber Lane**, next to the **Deschutes Motel**.

**Alternate Route:** If you're coming from south of Portland, drive on US-26 E. Travel through Government Camp. After you enter the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, turn left onto OR-216 E toward Maupin. Drive about 30 miles before turning right onto US-197 S. **Just before you enter town, the River Drifters Office is located on the RIGHT-hand side of the road next to the Deschutes Motel.**



### DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM THE TRI-CITIES AREA

Drive on I-82 E and take exit 179 onto I-84 W. Once you reach The Dalles, take exit 87 going south on Hwy. 197 S toward Dufur/Bend. Drive about 40 miles towards Maupin. **Just before you enter town, the River Drifters Office is located on the RIGHT-hand side of the road next to the Deschutes Motel.**



### DIRECTIONS FROM CENTRAL OREGON

Take US-97 N. Travel through Madras and veer right (immediately after McDonalds), staying on US-97. Drive about 25 miles until you reach US-197 N. Veer left and travel about 22 miles to Maupin. Follow the highway across the bridge and up the hill, **through downtown and up the hill again. Just after you exit town, the River Drifters Office is located on the LEFT-hand side of the road next to the Deschutes Motel.**

