Deschutes River Itinerary
HALF-DAY TRIP

TRIP AT A GLANCE

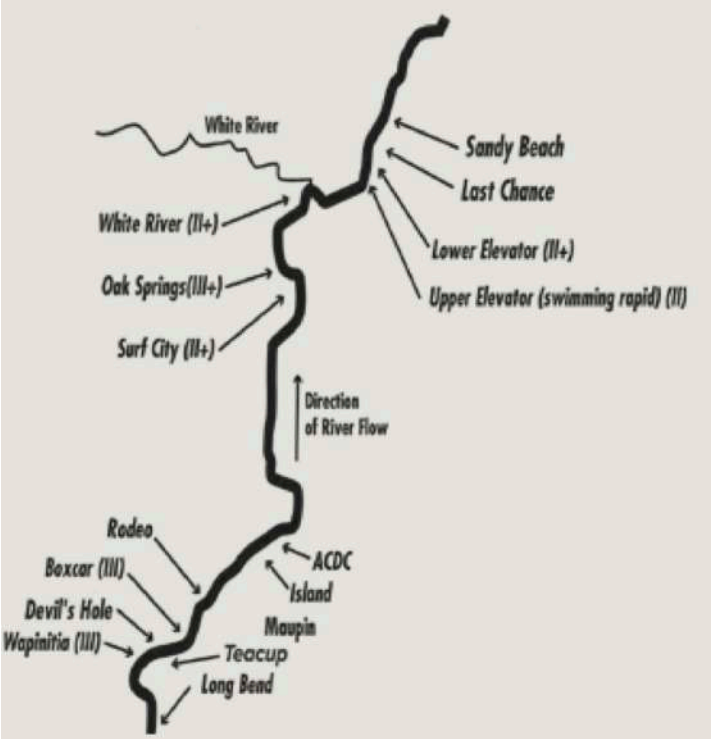
Difficulty:
Class II and III+ | Family & Beginner Friendly

Length:
12 Miles / Half Day

Meeting Location:
River Drifters Deschutes River Outpost
600 Timber Lane, Maupin, OR 97037

Meet Time:
9:15AM | 1:15PM

Getting Here:
Maupin is about 100 miles by car from the Portland/ Vancouver Area and about 90 miles from Bend. All our rafting trips start on time so please plan accordingly. Plan your travel ahead of time by checking estimated drive times, as well as Oregon Trip Check for current delays and road closures



HALF DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

CHECK-IN
9:15AM | 1:15AM

RETURN
1:00PM | 5:00PM

Please keep in mind that every trip is different, as the weather, water flow, and group dynamics all influence the trip pace. Start times may vary depending on the day's events. We appreciate your flexibility to compensate for any unforeseen changes to the itinerary.

We are thrilled you have chosen to raft the Deschutes River with River Drifters! Below you will find addional information and details about your upcoming rafting trip. Please plan ahead and bring a sense of adventure and discovery to ensure a wonderful trip.

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ABOUT THE DESCHUTES RIVER

The Deschutes River Scenic Waterway winds through a picturesque desert canyon on the east side of the Cascade Mountain Range. The river offers spectacular basalt cliffs and scenery, diverse wildlife, exciting history, & of course, spectacular whitewater. The Lower Deschutes section also offers plenty of sunshine and fun for beginners, families, and experienced boaters alike, making it one of the most frequently rafted rivers in Oregon. Throughout the rafting trip there are numerous opportunities to float in the river, ride the bull through rapids, and surf the raft in waves.

The 12 miles of the half day trip on the Deschutes Rivers contains numerous exciting class II-II+ rapids, as well as memorable & thrilling class III-III+ rapids. Soon after launching onto the river, you're sure to get wet paddling through Wapinitia & Boxcar rapids (Class III). You'll float a mild section of the river before running several fast and fun back-to-back rapids, including Surf City, Oak Springs, White River Rapid & The Elevators.

TRIP DETAILS

CHECK-IN

Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the trip start time. Once you have arrived, park in the guest parking lot in front of the River Drifters office and check in with one of our guides out front. We ask that guests fill out the online registration and waivers prior to your trip to expedite the check-in process. Valuables and a change of clothes will be locked in your vehicle, and car keys are kept secured in our office during your trip. We have a retail shop to purchase any last-minute items, such as sunscreen, sunglass straps, water shoes, hats, small dry bags, water bottles, etc.

Once your group is ready to go rafting, our guides will issue out a personal flotation device (PFD) to each guest and we will load up into one of the transportation vehicles to head to the river put-in.

OUR GUIDES

Our guides are accomplished in outdoor skills and trained in first aid, CPR, and river rescue. They are environmental stewards of the outdoor areas where we work and play and are knowledgeable about the natural and cultural history of the area. They are fun, interesting people who have a passion for rivers and guiding. If you have questions about rafting or the unique features of the Deschutes River, ask and they will be happy to share what they know.

WEATHER

In the summertime the weather in Eastern Oregon is typically very warm & mostly dry. However, you must be prepared for rain & wind in every season. Below is a chart of average temperatures & rainfall in Eastern Oregon during the rafting season. Please check the weather forecast prior to your trip!

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
AVG. DAY	60°F	70°F	77°F	86°F	87°F	82°F
AVG. NIGHT	30°F	46°F	53°F	59°F	55°F	50°F
RAINFALL	.73”	1”	.75”	.5”	.15”	.25”

GEAR & CLOTHING

Clothing worn during your rafting trip on the Deschutes River is largely based on the weather and air temperatures. Regardless of the weather and air temperatures, it is highly recommended that you wear non- cotton clothing, such as synthetic or polyester materials, Gore-Tex, wool, or neoprene.

River Drifters provides all necessary rafting gear. On cooler weather trips, we have additional gear to issue out to our guests, including splash jackets and wetsuits. If you have any questions about the gear list, please call our office at 1-800-972-0430.

Recommendations Based on Temperature:
75° F or Cooler: Wetsuit, neoprene booties, & splash jacket (provided by River Drifters)
75°F - 80°F: Splash jacket with non-cotton top and bottoms or possibly wetsuit and booties
80°F or warmer: non-cotton shorts or pants and shirt and/or swimming suit

You can review our “What to Wear White Water Rafting” video on our blog here: “What to Wear White Water Rafting”

RIVER DRIFTERS PROVIDES
2-3 mil ‘Farmer John’ style wetsuits (if needed)
Splash Jackets | PFD’s | Helmets (if desired)
Shuttle to & from put-in and take-out
Professional, experienced, & well-trained guides

Guests are expected to bring the following:

- A pair of quick-drying shorts/bathing suit and a non- cotton shirt (synthetic or polyester are best). On warm days this is perfect clothing for rafting and on cooler days when we issue wetsuits and splash jackets these layers can be worn underneath.
- Long-sleeved synthetic shirt or fleece (NO cotton) for extra warmth when outdoor temperatures are colder than 80°F or for sun protection on hot days.
- Hat for sun protection.
- Old pair of tennis shoes, neoprene booties with soles, or sandals (closed-toed, such as Keen, are recommended). We recommend shoes that stay on your feet and do not fall off easily. Foot Protection are required.
- Sunglasses and/or prescription eyeglasses or contacts.
- Sunglass strap for both sunglasses and prescription eyeglasses. (We sell sunglass straps at our Outpost.)
- Change of clothes for after the trip.

Optional:

- Refillable water bottle
- Waterproof sunscreen
- Personal snacks
- Waterproof camera or GoPro (w/lanyard)
- Small drybag

Items not to bring rafting:

- Valuables including cell phones, wallets, watches, and jewelry
- Car keys
- Alcoholic beverages
- Towels and change of clothes

The above items should stay locked in your vehicle during the rafting trip. Car keys will be kept secured in our office while you are on the river.

GEAR CHECK

Loose, quick-drying, and non-cotton clothing is ideal for river trips.
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.

River Drifters reserves the right to reschedule, alter, or cancel a trip due to unfavorable water levels, weather, fire conditions, and/or an inadequate number of participants.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS TIPPING APPROPRIATE?

Our guides work very hard throughout the season to ensure that guests have an enjoyable trip. As such, tips are very much appreciated by our guides. Tips normally range from 10%-15% 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. There is no ATM on site, please bring cash for tipping. Most of our guides will also have VENMO for accepting tips.

ARE PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE RAFTING TRIP?

River Drifters has a photographer that takes pictures of the rafts going through some of the more well-known rapids, such as Wapinitia, Box Car, & Oak Springs. We try our best to capture a variety of photos of each raft, however our photographers are busy photographing all our trips leaving at different start times throughout the day so photos may vary.

IS THIS TRIP APPROPRIATE FOR KIDS?

The Deschutes River full day trip is appropriate for most kids ages 4 and older. A child's maturity level and weight should also be considered when deciding if this trip is appropriate for your child(ren). Please call us to discuss your situation.

DO YOU HAVE LODGING RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Riverrun Lodge: 541-980-7713
- Imperial Lodge: 541-395-2404
- The Oasis Resort: 541-395-2611
- Deschutes Motel: 541-395-2626
- Balch Hotel: 541-467-2277 (In Dufur, OR, approx. 15-20 minutes north of Maupin)

There are also lodging options in The Dalles, Hood River, & Government Camp area.

DO YOU HAVE CAMPING RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Maupin City Park: 541-395-2252
- Riverview Campground: 541-395-2611
- Primitive camping along the Deschutes River Access Road available on a first come, first served basis.
- Many campgrounds in Mt. Hood National Forest

DO YOU HAVE DINING RECOMMENDATIONS?

We highly recommend the following lunch & dinner spots, all of which are family-friendly:

- Imperial Bar & Grill: 541-516-1731
- Riverside Restaurant: 541-395-2438
- Deschutes Oasis Cafe: 541-395-2611

You can also ask your guide for suggestions for restaurants & must-see sites on your drive home

HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact our office at 1-800-972-0430, by email at office@riverdrifters.net, or through Live Chat on our website. Once on the river, our experienced & 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 an even better one.

Personal Responsibility & Accountability

Is it of utmost importance to us at River Drifters to provide a safe, enjoyable, and memorable rafting experience for our guests. To help us offer the best rafting experience possible we ask our guests to practice personal responsibility and accountability. This includes planning and preparing ahead of time for your trip, knowing the weather forecast and conditons, being aware of our cancellation and "no show" policies, arriving on time to our meeting location, bringing the necessary clothing and gear with you, and being courteous to fellow rafters, wildlife, and the natural environments we visit. River Drifters staff is available and happy to assist you in getting ready for your rafting trip on the Deschutes River.