

We are thrilled you have chosen to raft the Rogue River 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 I - IV : Family & Beginner Friendly

Length: 40 miles | 3-4 days

Meeting Location: The Galice Resort
 11744 Galice Road
 Merlin, OR 97532

Getting Here: We meet at the Galice Resort, a full-service facility with a lodge, cabins, restaurant, and small general store, perched quietly on the banks of the Rogue. It is located thirty minutes from downtown Grants Pass & one hour northwest of Medford, Oregon.

Medford has an airport that is served by commercial airlines. Please plan to arrive in Galice or Grants Pass the night before and to depart Galice after 5:30p.m. on the last day of your trip.

MULTIDAY TRIP

DAY 1:

Your trip leader will meet you at Galice Resort, at 9:00 a.m., on the first day of your trip. There he or she will distribute waterproof "dry" bags, answer any last minute questions, and help assure that your car is parked in the secure parking area. Following this introduction you will pack your clothes and personal items into the dry bag (be sure to keep any items you want during the day out of this dry bag, as we have separate "day" dry bags). After packing is complete, we will shuttle the group to the boat launch site. Our guides will give a safety talk and provide instructions for the basic paddle strokes you will need for your trip. Then it's time to get on the river! Fun whitewater, peaceful calms and magnificent scenery will fill your senses. After this initial stretch of river we reach Rainie Falls, a thundering drop that we skirt by walking around or running a sneak channel, depending on water levels. More phenomenal rapids and scenery awaits below Rainie Falls and an expansive lunch fuels your system for the afternoon of rafting.

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

Please keep in mind that every trip is different, as the weather, water flow and group dynamics all influence the trip pace.

SUBSEQUENT DAYS

You'll wake up to coffee brewing by 8am while your guides are busy making a healthy & hardy breakfast. After breakfast, the group will break down camp & hit the water by about 10am. We'll run rapid after exhilarating rapid, drift through idyllic calms, marvel at the rock formations, watch eagle & osprey as they circle overhead, and on and on. Depending on the day we may visit the historic Rogue River Ranch, now a living museum, or hike up to one of the many side creek waterfalls. Lunch is set up each day around noon, with more than enough delicious food to energize you for the afternoon's whitewater. In the late afternoon we again arrive at another beautiful campsite. The early evening hours provide time to fish, hike, read a book, enjoy happy hour snacks & beverages, or take a nap. Dinner is prepared & served by our guides around 7pm.



FINAL DAY

After breakfast & reloading the boats we float the final stretch of river, enjoy lunch on the banks of this magical river, & reach take-out, near the tiny town of Agness, in the early afternoon. Following a salute to a great trip, our shuttle vehicle meets us & we head over the hills back to Galice Resort. This steep and curvy drive (approximately 2-3 hours) is along the ridge tops of the Rogue River canyon & affords panoramic views of the Siskiyou Mountains. We reach Galice late in the afternoon. Note: the river take-out point at Agness is approximately thirty-five miles from the Oregon coast.

Those with travel plans that include visiting the coast may want to have their vehicles shuttled to the take-out point. The cost is \$150 - \$300 depending on shuttle route that road conditions dictate. We will be happy to arrange this car shuttle for you if you desire to have your vehicle waiting for you at take-out. Otherwise there will be a van to shuttle you back to Galice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Nestled deep in the coastal Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon, the Rogue River features unmatched natural beauty, thrilling whitewater, quiet seclusion, abundant wildlife, and rich history. It is this rare combination of characteristics that inspired Congress in 1968 to include the Rogue as part of the original Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Fifty years later the river retains the same charm. It still flows through one of the most poetic canyons on earth and serves up classic rapids, perfect for first-time river runners, families, and experienced rafters alike.

The wilderness of this river and canyon is special. Pine and oak blanket the canyon walls, rendering a tapestry of green. Giant, smooth, black boulders line the river, creating beautiful mini-canyons. Wildlife—including black bear, deer, raccoon and river otter—often roam the shore. Blue heron, bald eagles and osprey soar through the sky. Our Rogue trips feature all of this plus guides who love the river and who want to share its special character with you. Each night is either spent camping on the banks of the river enjoying a beverage and savory cuisine or relaxing in the comfort of a rustic wilderness lodge. The lodges are nestled above the river and offer cozy beds and warm showers. Our camps are sited on perfectly placed white sand and forest meadow camping areas and all personal camping gear such as sleeping bags, pads, and tents are provided.

The whitewater is always excellent on our Rogue trips. Over eighty exhilarating class III rapids and riffles are splashed throughout this Wild and Scenic canyon. Narrow chutes, big waves, intricate rock gardens, escalator drops and every other type of rapid is encountered each day. In terms of just plain fun and challenging whitewater this thirty-plus mile stretch of river is regarded as among the best in the world.

NATURAL HISTORY

Visitors to the wild Rogue are taken by this river's magnificent charm. Perhaps it stems from the Rogue's lush forests, deep green pools, sparkling waterfalls, classic rapids, and rich past dotted with natives, pioneer families and early whitewater boaters. In 1968 Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to preserve the nation's outstanding rivers. The Rogue was one of the eight original rivers protected by this act. Congress was merely validating what an exclusive group of adventurers already knew: that this is a rare treasure.



Rogue voyages are the oldest and most famous river trips in the Northwest. As early as the 1920's, Hollywood stars and presidents paid local guides to carry them through the canyon for fishing, sight seeing and whitewater thrills. The Rogue quickly developed a legendary reputation as one of the West's greatest adventures. In this era, Glen Wooldridge became one of the original river guides. Much of the river's illustrious boating history is recounted in his book, *A River to Run*. Before the 1900's, the Rogue was home to the Takelma and Tutuni tribes. These nomadic people moved from the coast to this mountain river to harvest the abundant population of salmon and steelhead. Early exploration by French trappers brought conflict, and the French began calling the



tribes “coquins,” or rogues. The river then became known as “La Riviere aux Coquins,” which was later shortened to the Rogue River. White settlement in the Rogue valley boomed after the discovery of gold in the canyon. The lower Rogue, where our trip takes place, remained wild and untamed. The lure of precious metal, though, did bring new comers. Most were hermit miners who worked along the many side creeks. Some were packers or pioneer families who made a living offering services for the miners. The gold rush put pressure on local resources and by the late 1800’s the Takelma and Tutuni were gone.

Much of the Rogue’s mysterious charm resides in its lush surroundings. The dense forest is one of the oldest, most diverse forests in the country, where ancient forces still hold sway. The entire canyon is virtually covered in green. Huge pine and fir trees mix with dramatic madrones, maple, mock orange and myriad wildflowers. The lower canyon has dozens of side creeks with fern-lined grottos and some of the most spectacular swimming holes anywhere. Side-canyon streams that we hike to such as Tate Creek and Floral Dell feature beautiful waterfalls that cascade down through verdant mini-canyons as they stairstep towards their confluence with the Rogue.



The Rogue wilderness is also home to abundant wildlife. Deer are very common, as well as black bear. River otters are often seen frolicking on the banks of the river or swimming in a rapid. A very sharp eye might even spot an elusive ring-tailed cat or lone coyote. The Rogue has long been famous for strong salmon runs, and an observer can still sight one leaping the main drop at Rainie Falls or cooling off at the mouth of a side creek. Osprey cruise the sky and bald eagles have firmly reestablished a permanent home in the canyon. In fact, on the occasional trip we may witness an osprey and bald eagle fighting mid-air over a fish pulled from the river. Interestingly, the osprey and bald eagle use different techniques to catch fish. Ospreys dive head first into the river, submersing much of their body before flying away with a fish in their beak or claws, while eagles fly inches above the water and use their talons as sharp hooks to scoop and snare the fish that swim just below the surface.



Our journey passes through or above several canyons of dark gray and green rock where the river’s unique geology is strikingly apparent. Geologists surmise the Rogue was already cutting its westerly course when the coast range was uplifted. As the mountains formed, the river continued west, dropping into new cracks in the earth. In these places, such as Mule Creek Canyon, the river narrows to a little as ten feet across. Rafting this slot is a thrill!

The narrow confines of the lower Rogue canyons create some of the best whitewater in the west. Never fierce, the Rogue is always fun. Most rapids here are boulder-choked mazes of whitewater, with large, calm pools beneath. On several stretches of our run, the rapids come one right after the other. Tyee, Wildcat and Slim Pickins rapids lead to Black Bar Falls. The adrenaline-building mile before Mule Creek Canyon leads to the famous Blossom Bar. This is paddle boating and inflatable kayaking paradise, as the Rogue offers great rapids for all skill levels.

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

The Rogue is a coastal river with mild weather almost year-round. 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 Day	70°F	77°F	89°F	90°F	80°F
Avg Night	46°F	53°F	59°F	55°F	50°F



Sanitation

There are many campsites along the Rogue River 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

Fishing on the Rogue can be good depending on the season. We will gladly carry on the gear rafts any personal fishing gear you want to bring. Oregon requires you to have a fishing license if you intend to fish during your visit. You may purchase the fishing license online at www.dfw.state.or.us or at convenience stores throughout Oregon. Anglers may land trout, salmon and steelhead. It may be necessary in many cases to release the catch.

Gear

Your 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

Group rafting gear, first aid kits, camp chairs

Personal gear including wetuits & PFD's

All on-river meals.

Waterproof dry bags for personal gear
(16" diameter x 33" tall).

Professional & Well Trained Guides

GUESTS ARE EXPECTED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

CLOTHING

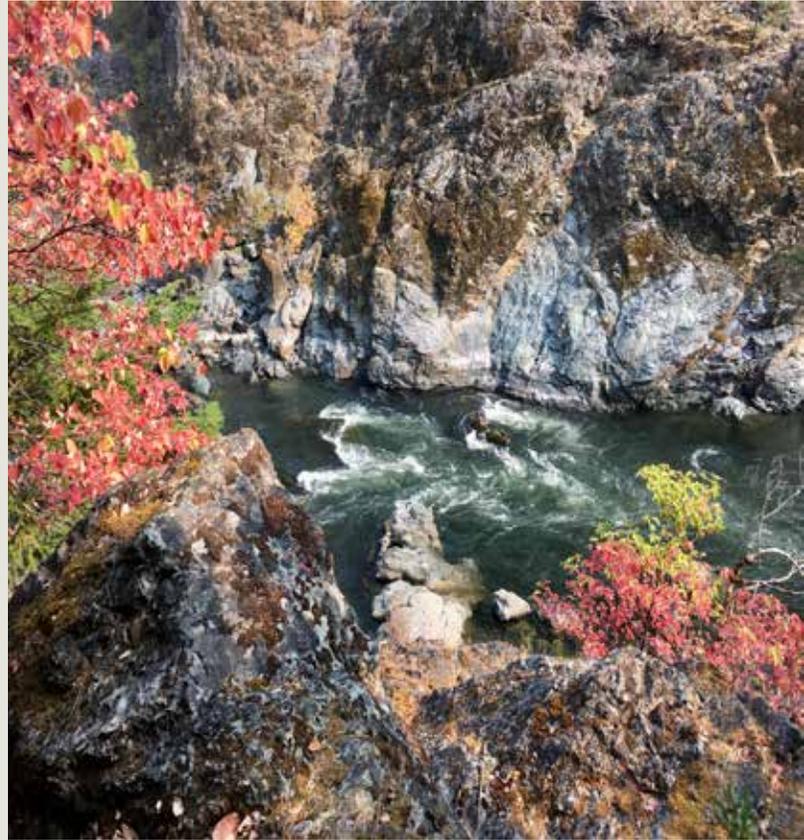
- Two pair of quick-drying shorts and two t-shirts (wool or synthetic are best, but cotton is OK for camp).
- Long-sleeved synthetic shirt and hat for sun protection.
- Swimsuit.
- Old pair of tennis shoes, neoprene booties with soles or sandals (closed-toed, such as Keen, are recommended).
- Camp shoes – 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

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.)



GEAR

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

Note, a rental sleeping package is available from our office. This package includes a tent, sleeping pad & sleeping bag.

GEAR CHECK

- Keep in mind that you'll need just two sets of clothing: one for the river & one for camp
- Wear clothing that you don't mind getting wet & dirty.
- There is minimal cell service at the outpost & on the river. We encourage our guests to leave their cell phones/smartphones in their cars to avoid water damage or loss.

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 & are quick to dry. Long underwear is an essential first layer for both the river & camp.

Middle Layer – Fleece, which is also made of synthetic materials, or a heavyweight wool shirt or sweater both make 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 guests 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. 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 an 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.

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.

Is this trip appropriate for kids?

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

Do you have and Lodging recommendations?

- Redwood Motel (Grant's Pass) : 888-535-8824
- Weasku Inn (Grant's Pass) : 541-471-8000
- The Galice Resort (our Meeting Spot) : 541-476-3818
- Rogue Regency (Medford) : 800-535-5805

There are many more hotels in the Grants Pass and Medford areas. We will be happy to provide you with more options at your request.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

If lost or running late please call
1-800-972-0430

Approximate Travel Times to The Galice Resort

From Portland/Vancouver: 4 Hours

From Sacramento: 5 Hours & 30 Minutes

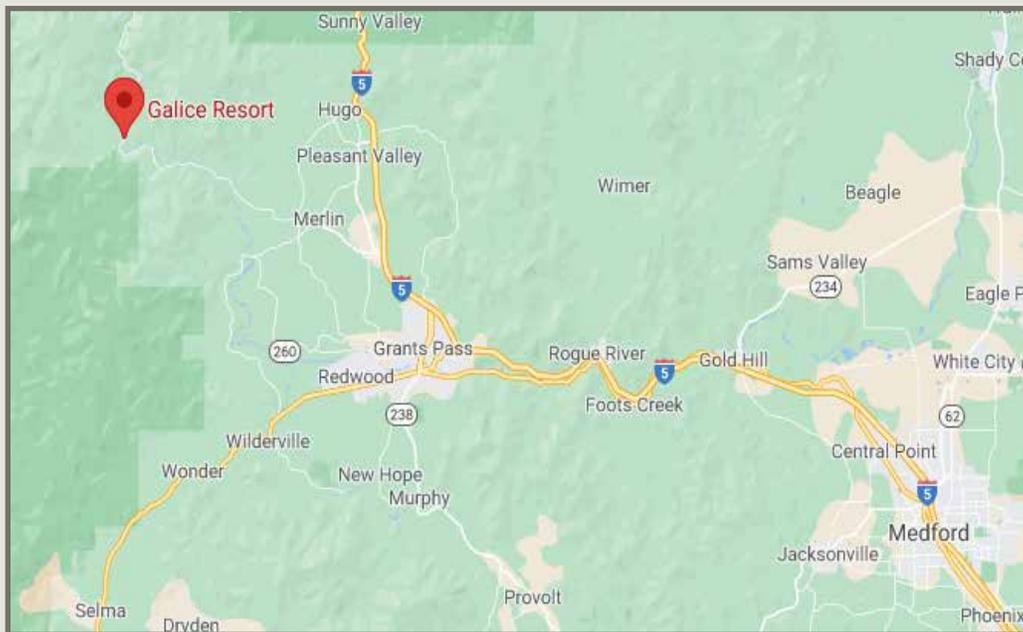
From Bend: 3 Hours & 45 Minutes

Driving Directions by Car

Take the Merlin Exit (#61) off of Interstate-5 (about 3 miles north of Grants Pass). Go west on the Merlin-Galice Road after exiting the freeway. You will pass through the town of Merlin. Continue on this road, crossing over the Hellgate Bridge and on to Galice. The Galice Resort, approximately 15 miles from the freeway, will be on your right hand side and marked by a small sign, store, and a gas pump. If you cross the Rogue a second time, you've gone about 7 miles too far. Please plan to arrive in Galice or the Grants Pass area the evening before your trip.

By Air

Medford, Oregon, has the nearest commercial airport with services by major airlines. It is located approximately one hour from our rendezvous point at Galice Resort. Please plan flights to arrive no later than the evening before your trip and to leave no earlier than 8 p.m. on the last day of your trip. We can assist in arranging shuttle transportation for you between the airport and Galice.



Have other questions? Please feel free to contact our office at 1-800-972-0430. 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.