Clackamas River Itinerary
HALF DAY TRIP

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Difficulty:
Class III-IV | Adventurous with Continuous Paddling

Length:
6 Miles / Half Day

Meeting Location:
Moore Creek Boat Access Site on HWY 224
(mile marker 35)

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

Getting Here:
Moore Creek Boat Access Site is about 40 miles by car from Portland/Vancouver area and about 60 miles from Salem. The Moore Creek Boat Access Site can be found on Google Maps. 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	RETURN
9:15AM | 1:15AM	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 Clackamas River with River Drifters! Below you will find additional information and details about your upcoming rafting trip. Please plan ahead and bring a sense of adventure and discovery to ensure a wonderful trip.

riverdrifters

ABOUT THE CLACKAMAS RIVER

The Clackamas River offers spectacular world-class whitewater rafting and kayaking, breathtaking scenery, and fun and exciting rapids, making it one of the best day trips from Portland for both locals and visitors.

Douglas fir trees tower above the clear blue water and deep pools of this designed Wild and Scenic River, which originates at Olallie Lake deep in the Cascade Mountains. Among the whitewater crowd, this river has long been loved for its numerous, tumbling class III-IV rapids and year-round accessibility.

The 6 miles of the half day trip offers continuous class III-IV whitewater, starting with Hole in the Wall rapid (III-IV) just downstream from the put-in. From there rafters will paddle through back-to-back class III rapids, including Fish Creek, Armstrong, Carter Bridge, Sling Slot, Big Eddy, Toilet Bowl, and Bob's Hole before reaching the take-out. From March-June, the spring and early summer snowmelts create high flows, thrilling rapids, and giant wave trains that are exciting for beginning and advanced rafters alike. As the water levels drop through the later summer months (July-August), the run becomes tighter, more technical, and more family friendly.

TRIP DETAILS

CHECK-IN

Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the trip start time. If you think you are going to arrive late, please call our office at 800-972-0430. (Note: there is little to NO cell reception in the Clackamas River canyon.) Guests will meet their guides at the Moore Creek Boat Access Site, which has a parking area and restrooms. For early season or cool weather trips, our guides will issue out additional gear including wetsuits, neoprene booties, and splash jackets. Valuables are kept locked in personal vehicles during the trip, and therefore we strongly recommend leaving as many valuables (wallets, money, cellphones, watches, jewelry, etc.) as possible behind at home. Moore Creek is the take-out for the trip and guest vehicles will stay parked there during the rafting trip. Once ready, the group will load up into a River Drifters shuttle and drive to the 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 Clackamas River, ask and they will be happy to share what they know.

WEATHER

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

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
AVG. DAY	67°F	73°F	80°F	81°F
AVG. NIGHT	46°F	50°F	53°F	53°F
RAINFALL	4.06”	2.87”	.94”	.94”

GEAR & CLOTHING

Clothing and gear worn during your rafting trip on the Clackamas River is largely based on the weather and air temperature. It’s important to note, the temperature of the Clackamas River rarely rises above 55°F. Typically, in the early season (March-June) wetsuits, splash jackets, and neoprene booties are required (provided by River Drifters). On warmer trips (often July & Aug), non-cotton clothing, such as wool, polyester, or another synthetic material, is perfect rafting attire. Regardless of the weather and air temperature, it is required that you wear non-cotton clothing during the rafting trip.

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.

IS THIS TRIP APPROPRIATE FOR KIDS?

To ensure everyone's enjoyment, we ask that families follow our recommendations for bringing children 8 years of age or older. A child's maturity level should also be considered when deciding if this trip is appropriate for your child(ren). Please call us to discuss your situation.

HOW DO SPRING AND SUMMER TRIPS DIFFER?

During the spring the Clackamas has higher water levels, making it more adventurous. Rapids are bigger and the trip runs at a faster pace. During the summer, water levels continue to lower, and as the season goes on, the trip becomes a family friendly trip.

DO YOU HAVE ANY LODGING RECOMMENDATIONS NEARBY?

- Mt. Hood Oregon Resort, Welches, OR
- Best Western Sandy Inn, Sandy, OR
- Red Fox Motel, Estacada, OR
- Best Western Mt. Hood Inn, Government Camp, OR
- Historic Timberline Lodge, Government Camp, OR

DO YOU HAVE CAMPING RECOMMENDATIONS NEARBY?

- Promontory Park Campground, OR HWY
- Clackamas River RV Park, OR HWY 224
- Many of the Forest Service campgrounds on HWY 224 are still temporarily closed due to the 2020 Riverside Fire. Check the Forest Service website for the most current fire recovery updates.
- Many campgrounds in Mt. Hood National Forest.

DO YOU HAVE DINING RECOMMENDATIONS NEARBY?

- Harmony Baking Company, Estacada, OR
- Fearless Brewery Co., Estacada, OR
- Sparky's Pizza, Estacada, OR

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 Clackamas River.