White Salmon River Itinerary

HALF-DAY TRIP

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Difficulty:
Class III - IV | Adventurous with Continuous Paddling & Optional Waterfall (class V)

Length:
8 Miles / Half Day

Meeting Location:
River Drifters White Salmon River Outpost
856 Highway 141, White Salmon WA 98672

Meet Time:
15 minutes prior to trip start time

Getting Here:
Husum, WA is just 80 miles by car from the Portland/ Vancouver Area and about 120 miles from the Tri-Cities area in Eastern Washington. 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 & WA DOT for current delays and road closures.

HALF-DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

CHECK-IN
15 minutes prior to trip start time

RETURN
approx. 3 hours after trip start time

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 White Salmon River with River Drifters! Below you will find 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 WHITE SALMON RIVER

The White Salmon River offers spectacular world-class whitewater rafting and kayaking, breathtaking scenery, and dramatic basalt cliffs and waterfalls, making it one of the most beautiful and adventurous river day trips in the western United States. Located just 80 miles from the Portland/Vancouver area in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, it's accessible to locals and visitors alike.

Nature lovers will appreciate the clear blue waters of this designated Wild & Scenic River fed by the glaciers of Mt. Adams. Salmon are returning to the White Salmon River after the 100-year-old Condit Dam was removed in 2011...the largest dam removed in the U.S. at the time. Thrill-seekers will love running the big and numerous rapids and 10-foot-high Husum Falls, the tallest commercially run waterfall in the U.S. Even beginners will embrace this rafting experience, as our experienced guides teach the basic skills and paddle strokes needed to have a fun and memorable trip.

Thanks to a partnership with a local landowner, our trips start (water levels permitting) almost two miles upstream of BZ Corner, which is the normal commercial put in for the trip, giving our customers an extra few miles of whitewater in a deep, craggy canyon. Triple Drop is the first rapid (Class IV) that you'll brave before heading downstream through many additional heart pumping Class III-IV rapids. As the White Salmon River passes through the town of Husum, rafters run an electrifying drop (optional & water levels permitting) over 12-foot-high Husum Falls, an experience you're likely to remember.

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 and check in at our office. We ask that guests fill out the online registration and waivers prior to your trip. Our guides will give a mandatory safety speech to the group, and issue out a PFD, helmet, wetsuit, neoprene booties, and splash jacket to each guest. Valuables and a change of clothes will be locked in your vehicle, and car keys are kept secured in our office during your trip. Once ready, the group will load into a River Drifters shuttle and drive 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 White Salmon River, ask and they will be happy to share what they know.

WEATHER

In the summertime the weather in the Columbia River Gorge is 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 the Columbia Gorge during the rafting season. Please check the weather forecast prior to your trip!

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
AVG. DAY	62°F	69°F	74°F	82°F	82°F	76°F
AVG. NIGHT	43°F	45°F	51°F	55°F	54°F	46°F
RAINFALL	3.5”	1.3”	.87”	.28”	.31”	.92”

GEAR & CLOTHING

River Drifters provides all the necessary rafting gear for your trip. Wetsuits are required for all guests on all our White Salmon River rafting trips because the water temperature rarely rises above 45°F. Splash jackets and fleeces will be offered to guests and can be layered over the wetsuit. Guests should also bring personal non-cotton clothing, such as synthetic or polyester materials, or wool that can be layered under or on top of the wetsuit. If you have any questions about the gear list please call our office at 1-800-972-0430.

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) to wear underneath the wetsuit.
- Long-sleeved synthetic shirt or fleece (NO cotton) for extra warmth when outdoor temperatures are colder than 80°F.
- 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 Triple Drop and Husum Falls. 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.

IS THIS TRIP APPROPRIATE FOR KIDS?

The White Salmon full day trip is appropriate for most kids ages 10 and older. A child's maturity level should also be considered when deciding if this trip is appropriate for your child(ren). To ensure everyone's enjoyment, we ask that families follow our recommendations for bringing children on the White Salmon River. Please call us to discuss your situation.

DO YOU HAVE LODGING RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA | 509-314-4177
- Ruby June Inn, Husum, WA | 509-493-0517
- Best Western Plus Hood River INN, Hood River, OR |541-386-2200

There are many lodging options in Hood River, OR as well as White Salmon and Bingen, WA.

DO YOU HAVE CAMPING RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Peterson Prairie Campground Trout Lake, WA | Reservable sites through Recreation.gov
- Memaloose State Park, Mosier, OR | Reservable sites online or by calling 800-452-5687
- Home Valley Campground, Home Valley, WA | 509- 427-3980 (first come, first served)
- Viento State Park, Cascade Locks, OR | Reservable sites online or by calling 800-452-5687

There are m any campgrounds in Columbia River Gorge, Mt. Hood National Forest, and Gifford Pinchot National Forest

DO YOU HAVE DINING RECOMMENDATIONS?

We highly recommend the following lunch & dinner spots, all of which are family friendly. You can also check out the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce website for more ideas.

- Everybody's Brewing, White Salmon, WA | 509-637-2774 -Solstice Wood Fired Café, Hood River, OR | 541-436- 0800
- Pfriem Family Brewers, Hood River, OR | 541-321-0490

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 White Salmon River.