



WILD GIFT  
RIVER OF NO RETURN  
September 8-14, 2019



Join us for a six-day wilderness river trip with the 2019 Wild Gift Fellows facilitated by Wild Gift alum Marty Schnure! Days will be spent on Idaho's Salmon River in a guided raft, paddleboard, or inflatable kayak. In the evenings, we will hear updates from Wild Gift fellows on their environmental ventures. **Limited spots are available for this special event so reach out to Marty and save your spot today!**

The river trip marks the culmination of Wild Gift's fellowship year. Last August, the fellows spent three weeks trekking in the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness. Over the year, they met monthly, worked with mentors, and developed their ventures. This year's class is inspiring to say the least! The river trip is a great opportunity to get to know the fellows, learn more about Wild Gift's program, and spend time on a stunning wild river.

Wild Gift works with Middle Fork River Expeditions to outfit and guide the trip. Here's MFRE's trip overview:

Idaho's Main Salmon, aka The River of No Return, is the longest undammed river in the US and also boasts the second deepest canyon. The River of No Return offers free-flowing Class III whitewater that's great for any age and experience level. Big sandy beaches perfect for camping and playing, beautiful mountain scenery, abundant wildlife, and natural hot springs are all hallmarks of the trip. You will also meet caretakers that live on the river year round and have wonderful stories to tell about living in the wilderness. Perhaps inappropriately dubbed the "River of No Return" by early river runners, the Salmon is in fact a river you'll never want to return home from.

The trip entails six days of exciting river rafting, wilderness camping, fine fishing, and visiting historic homesteads along the way. Our equipment is specially designed for wilderness whitewater rafting, and offers mild and wild boat choices (oar boats, paddle boats, inflatable kayaks and stand up paddling surf boards!). Our river guides are seasoned professionals, licensed by the state of Idaho, and First Aid Certified. They are expert river runners, magnificent cooks, great storytellers, and knowledgeable, helpful outdoors people.

**Meeting Place:** Ketchum, Idaho\* on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m.

**Return:** Off river at 10 a.m., arrive in Ketchum the evening of Sept 14.

**River Rating:** Class I-III

**River Miles:** 81 river miles

**Trip Length:** 6 days on river, 1 day travel to Corn Creek Campground

**Cost:** \$2500, includes all meals, equipment, and ground transportation in 15-passenger van to/from Ketchum, ID

*Not included: Getting to Ketchum, ID, lodging before and after the trip, travel insurance, and optional guide gratuity (10-15%+ of trip cost).*

*\*If you want to meet up with the group in Salmon versus routing through Ketchum: Please **arrive at the Stagecoach Inn in Salmon by Noon on Sept 8**. Salmon is an hour flight from Boise, which costs approximately \$220/person and can be arranged through Sawtooth Flying Service (800-798-6105). You can also fly to Missoula and drive 2 ½ hours to Salmon for the trip and then fly back to Salmon after the trip to catch your flight out of Missoula.*

Contact Marty Schnure with questions: [rivertrip@wildgift.org](mailto:rivertrip@wildgift.org) -or- 508.642.9880  
Reservations at [www.wildgift.org/rivertrip](http://www.wildgift.org/rivertrip)

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## **Sept 8**

Meet at 8:30 am in Ketchum, ID at Rotary Park across from the YMCA at the junction of Warm Springs and Saddle Road. 14 passenger van arrives 9 a.m. Pack van and on the road by 9:15 a.m. We will have a picnic lunch with wraps from WrapCity at ~12:30 p.m. in Salmon, ID, and then continue on to Corn Creek Boat Ramp and Campground, arriving around 4pm, with time to set up camp for the evening. This is the put-in for the river trip. We will grill up burgers and veggie burgers for dinner and have a pre-trip orientation afterwards. We will get acquainted, answer questions, and have a short orientation to show you how to pack the waterproof gear bags we provide for your personal gear.

## **Sept 9-13**

Upon launching our rafts at Corn Creek, 3200 feet above sea level, we journey into the pristine heart of the Frank Church Wilderness, each day brings new discoveries: exciting rapids like Salmon Falls, Big Mallard and Growler, historical sites such as Buckskin Bill's homestead and Jim Moore's place (maybe you'll find the fortune he buried in the hillside!), and the much anticipated Barth Hot Springs. Avid hikers may enjoy a challenging climb to Rabbit Point, where the beautiful views are well worth the effort of getting there. The fishing is excellent during these days, and on trips in August, warm air and water temperatures encourage frequent refreshing dips in the river. Evenings find us relaxing by the campfire, playing horseshoes and listening to the river and watching for shooting stars!

## **Sept 14**

We float for 5-6 miles this morning at Carey Creek Boat Ramp at 10am to meet our driver and van. Our whole group will drive to McCall, Idaho (2 hours) for a late lunch around 2pm, then on to Ketchum arriving early evening.

If you prefer to return directly to Boise or Salmon from McCall, you should anticipate arriving in McCall by 2-3pm for flights (~\$200) with Sawtooth Flying Service (800-798-6105) back to Boise or Salmon, arriving by 3-4pm. If you plan on flying out of Boise this day please book after 6:30pm. We recommend you stay the night in Boise and fly out the next day to avoid complications in flight connections after the trip. We recommend the Best Western Vista Inn (800) 727-5006) which is right next to the airport and has a shuttle service.

### **What's Included:**

- Ground transportation to/from Ketchum, Idaho to the river
- Meals from lunch Sept. 8 to lunch Sept. 14
- Campground fee at Corn Creek Campground the night of Sept. 8
- Expert leadership with seasoned professional river guides
- All camping equipment including 4-Person tents for 1-2 people & 3 dry bags, one for clothing, one for sleeping equipment and the other for smaller items to have access to during the day
- Rectangular sleeping bag, 2 pads (one 1" Ridgerest and one 1 ½" Therma-a rest), pillow
- Rain gear tops and bottoms
- All commissary equipment for meals and camp
- All rafting equipment, including oar boats, paddle raft, inflatable kayaks, drift and dory boats, and inflatable stand up paddling boards (when river levels permit).
- A charitable donation to Wild Gift

### **What's Not Included:**

- Transportation to/from Ketchum, Idaho
- Lodging pre and post trip. If you are in need of assistance finding options, contact Marty at Wild Gift 508.642.9880 or [rivertrip@wildgift.org](mailto:rivertrip@wildgift.org)
- Optional guides gratuity (10-15%+ of trip cost) depending on level of satisfaction
- Insurance - We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance for the trip. There are many options for insurance online such as [Travelex Insurance](#) and [Allianz Travel](#). You must sign up within 21 days of making a deposit on the trip.
- Optional flights from Boise to Salmon (\$220/person) or McCall to Boise (\$200/person)
- Optional car shuttle from Salmon to McCall (~\$300/car plus \$50 gas)

**Payments Deposit:** \$500.00 per person, required for confirmed reservation. Balance: Payable July 15, 2019.

**Cancellation Policy:** Because of the nature of river permitting, deposits are nonrefundable. If Middle Fork River Expeditions must cancel a trip due to water levels, weather conditions, wildfires or any other circumstances, your trip will be refunded or rescheduled for the same date the next September.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

### **Expert Leaders**

Middle Fork River Expeditions attracts gifted guides for whom leading trips is their passion. Middle Fork River Expeditions guides positively elevate your experience by being educators, companions, and the best of friends. Most MFRE guides have 10 or more years experience on rivers and all are First Aid Certified and licensed by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board.

### **River Craft Options**

MFRE prides itself in offering more river craft options than any other company on the river. We rotate guests into various river craft depending on your desire for the day. Most guests ride in our oar powered rafts. For the more adventurous we run a paddle raft, no experience required as your guide steers at the stern while you and other guests paddle up front. When water levels permit (usually July thru Sept only) you can try out our single inflatable kayaks or an inflatable stand up paddle board for thrill seekers.

### **Boats & Rapids**

The Middle Salmon rapids are rated 1 to 3 on a scale of 1 to 6. You'll run these rapids with the aid of experienced, professional, licensed guides. Most guests ride in our oar powered self-bailing rafts. For the more adventurous we run a paddle boat, no experience required as your boatman steers at the stern while you and your new-found friends paddle. And when water levels permit (usually in July and August only) you can try out our single or 2 man inflatable kayaks. This year we are bringing along an inflatable stand up paddle board to try around camp and in some of the flatwater sections. We will rotate in/out of all boat types throughout the trip. Of course the stand-up paddle board is optional! Please note, all participants must be able to swim, be in good physical shape and be able to self-rescue.

### **Hiking**

There is plenty of time and numerous opportunities to hike during your trip. All of the hikes can be done in your river shoes, but it is also nice to have a pair of lightweight hiking shoes available in case you get blisters on your feet from your sandals. We can visit Shoshone pictographs, miner's cabin, historic homesteads, waterfalls and hot springs on a given day. All hikes are optional and some people choose to relax on the boat underneath the shade of an umbrella and read a book.

## **Fishing**

The Main Salmon has some great fishing opportunities. Fishing is for cutthroat trout, rainbows and smallmouth bass. An Idaho State fishing license is required and may be purchased in Salmon, Idaho before the trip. Spinners or fly rods work well on the river. It is not catch and release so we can eat the fish if you wish. We ask that you clean and cook the fish you wish to eat. We have tinfoil so it's easy. Please know we bring lots of food so the fish caught will be eaten as an appetizer and not necessary to our meal planning. To get your license in advance, go to <https://id.outdoorcentral.us/>. You can also buy your license in Salmon or at the North Fork Store the morning of the trip. The North Fork Store also has beer/wine/liquor and sells lots of river items and fishing equipment.

## **Camping**

This is one of the best parts of the trip, to be lulled to sleep by the sound of the river. We provide all camping gear for you, including sleeping bag, 2 pads, pillow, 4-man tent, rain gear tops and bottoms and all camp equipment. In the evening, we set up a camp and have chairs to relax in for meals. We bring along a wilderness porta-potty and place it in a private place with stunning views. We practice Leave No Trace camping ethics, so you are sure to learn a lot about this on the trip and be able to take some of these new skills home with you.

## **Bathing and Swimming**

The Main Stem of the Salmon is a very pristine river and there is no bathing allowed in the river and all bathing must be done above the high water mark, at least 100 feet from any water source and with biodegradable soap. For a wilderness shower, we have collapsible buckets that you can fill with river water and you can lather up away from the river and have a friend gently pour it on your head. Or better yet do it at Barth Hot Spring after soaking for a while. There are some great swimming holes and rock jumps on the river that are always optional. No diving is allowed and life jackets must be worn at all times when swimming. We often find guests (and guides!) jumping into the river from the rafts and swimming along them during calm sections to cool off. As this is a free flowing snowmelt river drainage, the water temperature is cold in May/June (45-55F) for swimming, refreshing in July (65-75F), and comfortable in August (75+F).

## **Food**

We provide healthy and delicious meals, accompanied with lots of salads, fresh fruits and vegetables. We also use as much organic produce/products as is available in central Idaho. Our goal is to have you eat healthy meals so that you feel good and refreshed during the day with lots of energy for fun in this remote wilderness setting. Vegetarians, Gluten Free and Paleo diets welcome. There are also always snacks available during the day. Our past guests rave about our menu and dutch oven delights.

## **Drinks**

We offer drinking water at all times as each raft has a water cooler and electrolyte crystals are available during lunch. For evening we provide non-sugary drinks such as LaCroix and Hint. If you want sugary drinks like Coke and Diet Coke please bring them. We provide limited (1-2 glasses/guest) red and white wine in the evenings. We do not provide beer and you are free to bring some, just make sure **beer is in cans only**. For those who want more than a couple of glasses of wine at night, you can bring more wine if you wish and glass is ok. Hard liquor can be brought in glass as well. You can purchase beer/wine/liquor at The North Fork Store on the drive from Salmon to the Corn Creek Campground.

## **Weather**

Idaho weather can be variable and vigorous. So come prepared with **warm and cold weather** clothing. There is no such thing as bad weather if you bring the right clothing. Synthetics are best for layering and keeping you warm in all weather conditions. Temperature during the daytime is 70-85F and evenings

40-60F, depending on the weather. All June and Sept trips are typically cooler at night and you must bring warm gloves, ski hat and long underwear synthetic bottoms.

We Supply:

- Large rectangular Sleeping bag (rated 20F)
- 2" thick sleeping pad
- Pillow (this is a camp pillow- 10" x 12")
- Raingear (jacket and pants)
- 3 Dry Bags (1 for sleep kit, 1 for evening gear, 1 small for daytime gear)
- Kelyt Gunnison 4.1 Tents (4 person tents for 1-2 people)
- Farmer John Wetsuit
- Life Jacket
- Helmet (Only for Inflatable Kayaks, Paddle Raft and Stand Up Paddle Board)
- All Watercraft and commissary equipment, including camp chairs
- MFRE Coffee Mug - a gift for you!

You Bring:

- Towel or Sarong (good for sun and cooling off as well as easy to change clothes)
- Water Bottle with sturdy carabiner
- Personal toiletry items
- Biodegradable soap (no soaping up in the river is allowed)
- Sunscreen lotion and Chapstick
- Sunglasses with retainer
- Sun hat (baseball hat ok, but larger full brim better with chin strap is better)
- Ski hat
- Bathing suit
- Socks - 4 pair (2 cotton for camp, 2 synthetic for hiking)
- T-shirts – 3 (one cotton for evenings and one synthetic for daytime)
- Long sleeved shirts – 2 (one for evenings and one synthetic sunshirt for daytime)
- Long underwear synthetic bottoms (for evening)
- Long pants – 1 (for evening)
- Shorts – 2 (one for evenings and one synthetic for daytime)
- Underwear – assorted (cotton and synthetic)
- Rain Jacket and Rain Pants
- Jacket - Puff Ball or other medium loft (for evening)
- Lightweight Fleece or sweater (for evening)
- Fleece or other warm synthetic layer (for daytime/paddling)
- Shoes – dry shoes for camp (lightweight hiking boots or tennis shoes)
- Shoes - one pair for daytime on river (Tektra or Keens with toe coverage are good)
- Flashlight or headlamp (way better for getting into dry bags at night!)
- Warm gloves

Optional:

- Shoes- Flip flops (optional- for drying out feet at camp)
- Fishing gear (rod in sturdy hard case)
- Fishing license (only if you're fishing)
- Camera and spare battery
- Ziploc bags - handy for small items or to isolate wet articles from rest of gear
- Face wipes for cleaning face