



McKenzie River Half-Day Rafting Trip

(Paradise to Bruckart- 10 miles)

Trip Planner – Long Version

Meeting Instructions

Refer to the confirmation email for your meeting time and location. If you wish to change your meeting location please call our office ahead of time – we do not stop at all locations on every trip, so your meeting location **MUST** be prearranged. If you will be late, please let us know. We will wait 15 minutes. **Please call 541-385-5947. After Hours: 541-815-4273.**

Shilo Inn – Bend – 7:30 AM or 12:00 PM

3105 NE O.B. Riley Rd. (541) 389-9600. Just off of HWY 97 Business (Also HWY 20) on the north end of Bend next to the Riverhouse Resort. Look for an Ouzel van with Ouzel rafts near the restaurant and the main entrance.

Click [HERE](#) for Google Maps

Ray's Food Store – Sisters - 8:05 AM or 12:35 PM

635 N. Arrowleaf Trail. (541) 549-2222). On the south side of HWY 20 just west of downtown Sisters. Look for an Ouzel van with Ouzel rafts in the parking lot.

Click [HERE](#) for Google Maps

Black Butte Ranch Rec Center– 8:30 AM or 1:00 PM

8 miles west of Sisters on HWY 20. (541)595-5879. Entrance is on the south side near milepost 93. Stay right as you pass the entrance kiosk. The Rec Center will be on your left after passing the main lodge and tennis courts.

Click [HERE](#) for Google Maps

Paradise Campground – 9:30 AM or 2:00 PM

Paradise campground is well marked on the north side of HWY 126 just east of McKenzie Bridge and just west of Belknap Hot Springs and the junction with HWY 242. Follow signs to the boat ramp. For those meeting us at Paradise, transportation is provided back to Paradise after the trip.

Click [HERE](#) for Google Maps

Vehicles and Valuables

Whether parking your car at the Shilo Inn, Ray's Food Store, Black Butte Ranch or Paradise Campground, we recommend leaving valuables at home, or at the very least, locking them in your trunk, glove box or keeping them out of site. Wallets can be stored in the dry bags available on each raft along with keys – although keys can also be stored in a securely zippered pocket if you have one. Valuables may be left in our vans but we cannot guarantee the safety of your possessions. We have not had a company or guest vehicle broken into or vandalized at any of the above locations, but the possibility exists.

What to Bring on Your Trip

- Visor, Cap, or other Brimmed Hat
- Sunglasses (w/strap)
- Shorts or bathing suit. (Most women prefer to wear shorts over bikini bottoms.)
- Rafting Shoes: Sandals w/heel strap, Keens or sneakers – no bare feet, Crocs or flip flops.
- Don't wear jeans!**
- Lip Balm (with SPF protection) & Sunscreen
- Waterproof Camera
- Water Bottle (**Important!**- you will be able to refill your bottle from our water cooler.)
- Change of clothes (stays in van)
- If you are sensitive to the sun, wear long sleeve shirt and pants made from light, quick-drying materials.
- Hydro-silk or Rash Guard shirt (*optional*). These fabrics are designed for water sports activities and will protect you from the sun as well as helping to keep you warm when wet.
- Small dry bag (*optional*). All rafts have waterproof dry bags for things you want to keep accessible. Having your own dry bag eliminates the need to share with others.
- Games or activities for kids for the drive to and from the river. (*optional*)

Cold or Wet Weather

We do not cancel trips because of poor weather. It's up to you to be prepared. Check the weather and add the following clothing items as you deem necessary. In general, AVOID COTTON on cold days.

- ❑ Synthetic long underwear (tops and bottoms)
- ❑ Synthetic or neoprene socks
- ❑ Warm and/or water-shedding hat

Click [HERE](#) for the weather forecast for Blue River, OR. Ouzel Outfitters will supply paddle jackets and pants for those who are unprepared but these do not replace the need for appropriate clothing. To learn about how to dress for a river trip and to purchase appropriate clothing please visit Cascade Outfitters at www.cascadeoutfitters.com **or call: 800-223-7238**. Don't hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

Environmental Concerns

Whether you are on the river for a day or half a day, you will be exposed to the elements. Exposure to the sun is our most common concern, but cold days are also possible at any time of year. The water temperature is cold year-round, so even on the warmest days, having a lightweight synthetic shirt can increase your comfort level. Pay special attention to the clothing suggestions in your trip planner and [CHECK THE WEATHER](#) before your trip. The McKenzie River is fairly benign when it comes to troublesome insects and plants. Poison oak is present in some areas along the shore but we spend very little time in non-developed areas. Yellow jackets (bees) will create an occasional annoyance at lunch. They like to hang out around the serving table at lunch so if you're sensitive to bee stings, have a friend or one of the guides prepare your lunch for you.

How Strenuous is the Trip

Our half-day trips on the McKenzie River are paddle rafting trips. Oar rafts and inflatable kayaks are not available. In a [paddle raft](#), each participant is expected to assist with paddling. Paddling is intermittent, requiring short bursts of moderate to strong paddling and some sustained easy to moderate paddling. Paddling involves a good deal of twisting and turning and it is also necessary to brace firmly with your legs. If you are concerned about the level of activity, don't hesitate to contact us.

Assumption of Risk & Guest Responsibility

Whitewater rafting is an outdoor activity that requires moderate physical exertion and exposure to the elements. There are risks associated with whitewater rafting and trip-related activities that are impossible to eliminate. While we take all reasonable steps to minimize the risks associated with the activity, it is vitally important for our guests to understand what is required of them and to appreciate and assume the risks of participation. Guests are expected to be prepared for their trip, to follow all instructions provided by Ouzel guides and staff and to act responsibly. Each participant is required to sign an [Assumption of Risk Form](#) prior to departure. **Only parents or legal guardians can sign for minor children.** Please let us know ahead of time if there will be minors on your trip who will **NOT** be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Feel free to review our [full participation requirements](#) and please don't hesitate to call or [email](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

Trip Itinerary

The day begins when we meet you at your scheduled meeting location. You will be asked to read and sign an Assumption of Risk Form at this time and to pay your trip fare if needed. Once we are all gathered at the boat ramp at Paradise Campground, we'll get everyone fitted for life jackets and discuss safety for the trip. After dividing into paddle crews, we'll board the rafts for 2 to 3 hours of splashy fun. This 10-mile section of the McKenzie is active and splashy with almost continuous class I & II rapids. We'll make a short optional stop at McKenzie Bridge Campground before reaching our take-out at Bruckart Landing. Here, you will have time to change clothes before the van ride back.

Order T-Shirts & Water Bottles!

Take home the perfect souvenir of your Ouzel rafting experience. Call to order t-shirts at least 24 hours prior to your trip and we'll deliver them to you at the river. T-shirts are \$15 and water bottles are \$10 if ordered in advance. [Click here to see this year's t-shirt](#). Call 800-788-7238 or email your order at info@oregonrafting.com

Splitting up Groups

We use [12' and 14' self-bailing paddle rafts](#) on our trips. Each raft will seat up to seven participants and one guide. Groups larger than seven will be split into separate rafts while groups with less than seven will likely share a raft with other guests. While it is extremely rare that we must split up groups of less than seven, we will make every effort to let you know when you make your reservation. Please keep in mind that overloading rafts reduces the level of safety and this is our guides' number one priority.

Insufficient Bookings

Trips with insufficient bookings may be canceled and full refunds offered. For half & one-day trips we will inform you of the possibility of cancellation at least 3 days in advance. Since half & one-day trips tend to fill up at the last minute, cancellation due to insufficient bookings is not common.

Cancellation & Payment Policy

For all half-day trips, the full trip fare is due at the time of making your reservation. Credit card guarantees are required if you wish to pay by cash, check or credit card at the meeting location. Guides cannot make change at the river so please bring the exact amount due. Fares are fully refundable up to 30 days prior to your trip. After 30 days prior to your trip there is a \$10/person cancellation fee. No refunds are given for cancellations received within 48 hours prior to your trip. If your reservation has been secured with a credit card guarantee, your card will be charged the amount due according to this cancellation policy. Click [here](#) to read our full cancellation policy. If we have arranged a special payment plan or cancellation policy for your group, please refer to your invoice for details.

Gratuities for Guides

If you have enjoyed your trip and feel that your guides have done an outstanding job, please feel free to offer a gratuity. The amount is up to you but guests will typically offer between 10% and 20% of their trip fare. The guide staff shares gratuities. Click [HERE](#) to meet our guide staff.

Get Photos from Your Trip

West Coast Action Photos takes photos of most rafts on most trips at Desserts Rapid (we call it Natural Selection Rapid). Click [HERE](#) to find your photos.

The Idyllic McKenzie River

The beautiful forested McKenzie River is a post-card perfect Oregon mountain stream. Born high in the Cascade Mountains, its crystal clear waters wind their way through narrow gorges and over stunning waterfalls before settling down to a swift but easily-rafted mountain river. With plenty of opportunities for mountain biking, rafting, fishing, hiking to waterfalls and riverside dining the [McKenzie River](#) is the perfect playground for a [few hours](#) or a [whole day](#). Visit our [Area Links Page](#) to find accommodations, maps, area activities and much more! See the [McKenzie River Photo Gallery](#).

Ouzel Outfitters

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Thanks again for choosing Ouzel Outfitters. We look forward to hosting you for a memorable rafting adventure. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.