



Deschutes River 3-Day Rafting Trip

(Warm Springs to Maupin City Park – 45 Miles)

Trip Planner

Thank you for choosing Ouzel Outfitters. This trip planner contains detailed information designed to help you prepare for your trip. To provide you with the best possible experience we need to collect certain details about each person in your group. *The Guest Registration Form* can be accessed online. Use the link in your original confirmation email to sign in or establish your reservation account. If you already have an account, you can also sign in by clicking "[My Reservations](#)" from any page at www.OregonRafting.com. Information may also be provided by phone.

Meeting Location & Time

When: 9:00 am (Pacific Time)

Where: Warm Springs Boat Ramp. The boat ramp is hard to miss. It's right alongside HWY 26 on the east side of the bridge over the Deschutes River. There are vault toilets but no running water. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE. Orientation and packing takes about one hour. If we have not heard from you the trip will depart when ready. If you are lost or will be late please let us know. **Office: 541-385-5947.** Warm Springs Boat Ramp on [GoogleMaps](#)

Services

Last minute purchases and fuel are available at either Warm Springs (a few miles west of the boat ramp) or in Madras (14 miles east of the boat ramp). For an expanded list of links to lodging options, things to do in the area, weather reports, maps and more, visit our [Area Information Page](#).

Approximate Driving Times to Warm Springs Boat Ramp

From Bend – 1 hour, 15 minutes

From Madras – 15 minutes

From Portland – 2 hours

From Tri-Cities, WA – 3 hrs, 30 minutes

From Eugene – 3 hours

Local Accommodations

[Mecca Flat:](#) (one mile from Launch Site): Tent camping, pit toilets. No services.

[The Cove Palisades State Park:](#) Tent camping, RV sites; limited services.

[Inn At Cross Keys Station:](#) (Madras) 541-475-5800. **Best!** Great reviews from past guests.

[Oasis Café:](#) (Maupin) Cabins, Café, Store. 541-395-2611

[The Shilo Inn:](#) (Bend) 800-222-2244

Resorts in the Area: There is a wide variety of both pre- and post-trip lodging options in the area. We are happy to assist you with finding the lodging that works best with your itinerary.

Transportation & Shuttle Information

During the trip your vehicle will be shuttled (included in the price) to our take-out in Maupin. **Please bring an extra set of keys** and make sure you have enough fuel to travel 100 miles. Your vehicle will not be left at the boat ramp overnight. However, we recommend **NOT** leaving valuables in your vehicle. While we have not had problems at these locations in the past, we cannot completely guarantee the safety and security of your vehicle or valuables during the time your vehicle is unattended. Please let us know ahead of time how many vehicles will need to be shuttled. We will need to know make, model, color and plate.

Trip Itinerary

Orientation & Packing

Our day begins at 9:00 am at the Warm Springs Boat Ramp. You should have eaten breakfast before this time. Once everyone is assembled the trip leader will begin the group orientation.

Packing Your Overnight Bag

The overnight dry bag provides 3.8 cu. ft. of storage. When closed the dry bag is 16 inches in diameter and 33 inches tall. Your sleeping bag will already be packed in the dry bag. Most guests find it useful to separate clothes and belongings into smaller bags for easier packing and better organization. Small, collapsible duffels, laundry bags and even pillowcases work well. Large or rigid duffel bags are difficult to work into and out of the dry bag. Pack toiletries and liquid items in a Ziploc or waterproof container in case they leak inside your bag.

Your overnight dry bag will not be accessible during the day, but additional shared dry bags and waterproof boxes will be available on the rafts for belongings such as sunscreen, cameras and extra clothing that you'll want to keep handy. Your trip leader will help you decide what to keep out. If you have special photography equipment or unusual items please call our office for packing suggestions. Many guests find that owning their own small dry bag for day-use is convenient and avoids having to share a communal day-bag with others guests.

Getting Ready to Launch

Your overnight bags will be collected along with any other items that need to be stowed on our equipment rafts - this includes personal beverages and other items that are not needed during the day. Your overnight bag will not be accessible until you reach camp. The orientation continues as we discuss safety, the environment and what to expect on the trip.

Day 1

Once the orientation is complete, we'll launch for our first day of mostly mild floating through some of the best bird-watching habitat on the river. It is also not uncommon to see otter, mink, deer, and coyote on the banks. We'll ride the waves of Trout Creek Rapid after a mid-day riverside lunch, then arrive at camp in the afternoon, where the guides will provide and assist with camp gear and begin preparing a delicious dinner while you have time to relax, hike, fish or perhaps enjoy a game of bocce or horseshoes.

Day 2

Coffee is on at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served around 8:00 am and we try to be on the water by 10:00 a.m. We'll begin our day with the most challenging section of whitewater on the trip – Class III+ Whitehorse Rapids. We'll pass through the scenic depths of the Mutton Mountains, and make camp in the afternoon where we'll enjoy another gourmet dinner and have more time to share stories of the day, hike, play games, or just relax next to the river.

Day 3

After breakfast, we'll break camp for a final day on the river. At Buckskin Mary Rapid, you'll have the option to body surf the waves. Near our takeout at Maupin City Park, photographers capture the thrill of our runs through Wapinitia and Boxcar Rapids. You can view and purchase these photos later online. See the photo information below later for links.

Weather Conditions

The weather is usually warm and sunny from June to mid-September with daytime temperatures between 85 and 100 degrees. Nights are cool but typically not cold. Spring and fall weather can be variable and brief thundershowers are always possible during summer afternoons. Water temperatures are cool year-round averaging in the mid-50s to low 60s. On hot days, swimming is refreshing. Follow the packing lists below and make sure to check the weather before you go. The trick is to be well prepared, but not to over pack. Don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions. [Check Deschutes River Weather.](#)

What to Wear on the River

Typical Warm Summer Days

- Hat (for sun protection)
- Sunglasses (w/strap)
- Water Bottle (**Important!**) See below for how to purchase an Ouzel water bottle.
- T-Shirt & shorts (or swimsuit/board shorts)
- Rafting Shoes: Sandals w/heel strap or sneakers (no flip flops)
- Lip Balm (with SPF) & Sunscreen (spray sunscreen runs out quickly)
- If you are sensitive to the sun, you might consider wearing pants and a long-sleeve shirt made from a lightweight, quick-drying material.
- Hydro Silk, Under Armour and other manufacturers make clothing designed for water sports. These stretchy fabrics are designed to keep you warm when wet, cool on hot days and help avoid chafing from life jackets. A small investment here can add substantially to your overall comfort over the course of a trip. Check any major or local sporting goods or outdoor apparel.

Cold Weather Clothing Suggestions

- [Check the weather before your trip!](#)
- Footwear. On colder trips we recommend having neoprene socks or booties. Booties have a built-in sole. Neoprene socks are designed to be worn with a sandal or sneaker.
- Neoprene gloves (optional)
- Warm/water-shedding hat
- Good quality rain top and pants. Fabrics that are waterproof and breathable work best.
- Extra polypropylene or fleece tops and bottoms (non-cotton). Wear these in layers under your rain gear or the splash gear we provide. Have a second set for camp.
- Avoid Cotton!**

Ouzel will provide splash jackets & pants for use on cooler days, but this does not replace the need for good quality, non-cotton layers underneath. Dressing in layers allows for easy adjustment to changing conditions.

What to Pack for Camp

- Long and short sleeve shirts and shorts/pants for camp (think comfort - cotton is okay)
- Sweater, fleece pullover or light jacket (for chilly evenings and mornings in camp)
- Socks and underwear
- Warm hat (optional but nice for chilly mornings)
- Sneakers or light hikers (sneakers pack well and are more than adequate for hiking)
- Light rain jacket (just in case)
- Small Towel & Toiletries (no need for a large bath towel)
- Insect Repellent
- Flashlight or headlamp

You should plan to have a completely separate (and dry) change of clothes and footwear for camp.

Optional Items to Consider

- Cameras can be packed in our communal (or your personal) day-use bag. We recommend having a padded case and (because bags can leak) a ziplock or other moisture barrier.
- Your favorite beverage—we'll keep your drinks on ice if needed. Please avoid glass.
- Travel-sized pillow. If you pack efficiently a regular size pillow might fit in your dry bag. A pillow case stuffed with extra clothes also works.
- Personal amenities such as a journal, book, deck of cards, Frisbee, etc. Think about easily-packed games or activities you or your family enjoy.
- Small personal dry bag for day use. (9.5" X 18" is a good size for two people)
- Kayaking gloves. If you plan to spend a lot of time kayaking, past guests have recommended gloves to keep hands from blistering. Cycling gloves work great.

Recommendations for Kids and Sensitive Adults

Exposure to varying temperatures and weather extremes during the course of a river trip can affect kids (and certain older or sensitive adults) more severely than others. Dehydration, hypothermia and general discomfort is far more likely in our very youngest and oldest guests. We recommend paying special attention to footwear, base-layer clothing and additional sun/rain protection.

- Good footwear means shoes that have a sturdy sole, protect the toes, are firmly attached with straps that can be tightened and do not hinder swimming.
- Head, hands and feet. On cold days, keeping hands, feet and the head warm goes a long way toward increasing comfort. Consider neoprene socks and gloves and an insulated hat.
- Hydration. The number one source of discomfort during a typically sunny day on the river is dehydration. Kids must be encouraged to drink plenty of water (not sodas or sweet juices) – this is also the case for older adults. Bring plenty of sunscreen and apply often. Prepare to cover up if you're sensitive to the sun and don't underestimate the effects of glare and reflection of sunlight on the water.
- Personalized snacks. Planning the itinerary for a given day on the river is an inexact science. Many factors can slow us down, lengthening the time between meals. Snacks are important to keep guests (especially kids) fueled and happy. The snacks we carry are limited in variety, so for "picky eaters" we recommend bringing snacks that will be welcomed.

What Ouzel Outfitters will Provide

- Tent (Sleeps two) *Family-sized tents are available on request and sleep four or more.*
- Sleeping Bag & Pad
- Beverages include: Water, Lemonade, Iced Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Tea and an assortment of wines served with dinner (we plan for 2 glasses of wine per adult per evening). Consumption of alcohol is not allowed while on the river.
- Splash Jackets & Pants (for cooler days on the river)
- Small library with books and information about the area
- All meals from lunch the first day to lunch on the last. Healthy snacks are always available.
- All group camp gear including area tarps (for rain), campfires (when allowed), tables & chairs, toilets, hand-washing stations, etc.

Order T-Shirts & Water Bottles!

Take home the perfect souvenir from your rafting experience with Ouzel. Call to order t-shirts or water bottles 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 our t-shirts and water bottles.](#) Call 541-385-5947 or email us your order at info@oregonrafting.com.

Camping Equipment

Tents: Our tents are Alps brand outfitter model tents designed for durability. They are spacious for two (7ft x 8ft on average). Family-sized tents that accommodate up to four are available upon request. Please indicate your request for a family-sized tent on the Guest Registration Form.

Sleeping Bags: Our sleeping bags are 3-4 lb, 40 degree bags with a flannel or polypro lining. Sleeping bags are professionally cleaned by commercial launderers after each and every trip. Our bags are of standard length (75" to 80") and will sleep a 6'0 person comfortably. If you feel that you need a larger bag it may be advisable to bring your own. Please call us for options. If you wish to bring your own sleeping bag, please indicate this on the Guest Registration Form.

Pads: The pads we use are called "Paco" pads. These pads are used by river rafters and guides all over the world for their comfort and durability. They are 1-1/2" poly foam in a heavy duty PVC shell. They are waterproof, do not roll up and are carried flat on our equipment rafts. If you feel you need additional padding you are welcome to bring an additional pad to use with the Paco pad that we provide. If the extra pad you bring cannot get wet, it will need to be packed in your overnight dry bag. If you bring a small air mattress make sure you have a pump and patch kit.

Setting up Tents: The campsites we select most often have a variety of options for tent sites. We find that most guests enjoy selecting their own site and setting up our easy-to-set-up tents on their own. Our guides will be happy to teach you how to set up your tent at the first campsite and are always available for “troubleshooting” during the trip. If you find that setting up your tent is difficult and don’t mind the guides selecting your site, feel free to let your trip leader know that you would like your tent set up for you each night. We will be happy to accommodate your request.

Toilet Facilities

On the Deschutes River most campsites are within a short walk of a permanent composting outhouse. When outhouses are not available we will provide a portable toilet set up in a private location. Sanitation is of great concern to us in camp, and we always provide a hand washing system to accompany the toilet facilities located on the river. During the day, potty stops are common, so don’t be afraid to ask. Urinating in the river or wet sand is the norm and we will select locations that offer privacy.

Hygiene Information

Safety on a river trip doesn’t just mean wearing your life jacket and never diving headfirst into the river, it also includes washing your hands! We are very careful when it comes to contaminants on a trip. Our food coolers are sorted and drained daily and ice is carefully managed. Our dish washing and kitchen cleaning systems include a sanitizing bleach solution and hand washing stations are always set up convenient to the kitchen and toilet. Please help us keep everyone healthy by washing your hands prior to each meal and after using the toilet. For women expecting their period during the trip, bring extra ziplock bags to pack your daily supplies. Supplies should be disposed of in the trash bags we supply and not in the outhouses or portable toilets.

Meals & Dietary Restrictions

Our menus are designed to be flexible in order to accommodate vegetarians and other dietary restrictions. Since our meals are largely made from scratch, it is usually possible for us to prepare portions on the side. When appropriate or necessary, dishes and utensils are not used to prepare or serve more than one dish. While we will know your dietary restrictions in advance, it is ESSENTIAL that you remind the guides of your needs PRIOR to meal preparation. Here is a breakdown of what we are able to provide:

Vegetarians/Vegans – Plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables (including avocado, bell peppers, etc.) will be supplemented with Hummus, Tofu, Boca Burgers, Eggplant, Portabella mushrooms and other protein sources. Meals that have ingredients containing animal products and/or dairy products will have portions that can be prepared on the side.

Nut Allergies – It is crucial for you to let us know the severity of your nut allergy. If necessary we will make every effort to eliminate or reduce products with nut oils or extracts, but it is vitally important to check with the guides prior to meals so that we can take appropriate precautions during preparation.

Wheat/Gluten Allergies – While we cannot guarantee your favorite brand we will endeavor to have plenty of gluten free options. This includes breads, tortillas, pastas, snacks and other items.

Non-Dairy – While we cannot guarantee your favorite brand, we can provide soymilk or other non-dairy options and/or prepare dairy-free portions where possible.

Guest Registration Form - Please record any dietary allergies or restrictions on the Guest Registration Form. We purchase food for our trips the day before departure and do not have the ability to significantly adjust menus or add alternate dishes once food has been purchased. Please keep in mind that “preferences” are different than “restrictions”. We can’t possibly tailor the menu for each and every guest according to preferences, but we will make every effort to accommodate food allergies and medically-related restrictions. Don’t hesitate to call or email if you have questions or concerns about the menu for your trip. Download a [Sample Menu](#) here.

Raft Types

Oar-Assisted Paddle Rafts, Inflatable Kayaks. [Get a description of our raft types.](#)

How Strenuous is the Trip

Our two and three-day Deschutes trips involve oar-assisted paddle rafts and inflatable kayaks. Oar rafts are only available on a limited number of trips. In a paddle raft, all participants are expected to assist with paddling. Paddling is intermittent and only moderately strenuous. Optional inflatable kayaks require more upper body strength, coordination and endurance. Camping involves sleeping on the ground (we provide pads) and negotiating rocky or uneven terrain while hiking and in and around camp. The only lifting required is for your overnight dry bag (and guides are always ready to help). Days on the river can be long, and so preparing for extended exposure to the elements is vitally important. [Read our General Participation Requirements](#)

Assumption of Risk & Guest Responsibility

Whitewater rafting is an outdoor activity that requires moderate physical exertion and exposure to the elements in an unpredictable environment. There are risks associated with whitewater rafting and trip-related activities that are impossible to eliminate. The presence of this risk is part of what constitutes (by definition) an “adventure sport”. Whitewater rafting is an adventure sport. While we take reasonable steps to minimize the risks associated with the activity, it is vitally important for our guests to appreciate and assume the risks of participation, and to understand what is required of them. Guests are expected to be prepared for their trip, to follow all instructions provided by Ouzel guides 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. Don’t hesitate to call or [email](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

Environmental Concerns

Whether you are on the river for a day or three days, 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. Pay special attention to the clothing suggestions in your trip planner and [CHECK THE WEATHER](#) before your trip. The Deschutes River is home to a few pesky plants and insects. Poison oak is common, so keep on the lookout. Our guides will help you identify it if you’re not sure what to look for. While most guests never encounter them, scorpions, rattle snakes and black widow spiders are present in the Deschutes River Canyon. It is important while on shore to watch where you put your hands and feet. Ticks are present in the spring and early summer - check yourself after hiking through grass or brush. Mosquitoes, when present, are not abundant, but we recommend bringing insect repellent. Skunks, kangaroo rats and other rodents are present but generally keep out of sight. Yellow jackets (wasps/bees) become more problematic over the course of the summer and like to congregate where food is being served. If bees are present, check your cup or soda can before drinking and if you are sensitive to stings have a friend or guide fetch your meal from the serving table.

Fishing on the Deschutes

The Deschutes River is world famous for its trout and steelhead fishery. The Deschutes Redband Trout, a species similar to rainbow trout, is highly regarded for its enthusiastic strike and acrobatic fight and draws fly fishermen from around the world to the banks of the river. In the spring and fall, the Deschutes offers one of the best opportunities around to hook a steelhead on a fly rod. The river also holds Chinook salmon and provides one of the last strongholds for the threatened Bull Trout. During the summer rafting season, trout fishing can be challenging, but rewarding for the patient angler. A light- to mid-weight rod and flies or lures are recommended for trout. It is your responsibility to possess the appropriate license(s) and to be aware of Deschutes River fishing regulations before angling on the river. Keep in mind that while kids under 14 do not need a license to fish for trout, an adult who is assisting a child to fish must have the appropriate license. Find out more about license fees and regulations at the [Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

Photos

Professional photos of every raft are taken on the last day of the trip at Wapinitia and Boxcar Rapid. These photos can be viewed and ordered online at Imperial’s [Photo Reflect Website](#). Photos are organized by date, the name of the rapid and the time. Click on the date (last day of trip) and look for a folder labeled “Ouzel”. Our trips usually run through Wapinitia and Boxcar rapids between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Don’t hesitate to call or email us if you are having difficulties finding your photos.

Gratuities for Guides

If you have enjoyed your trip and feel that your guides have done an outstanding job, it is customary to thank them with a gratuity. The amount is up to you, but a gratuity of between 15% and 20% of your trip fare is typical for Ouzel guests. The guides will appreciate any expression of thanks you care to offer. [Meet Ouzel Guides](#).

More about the Deschutes River

The Deschutes River begins its journey in the Cascade Mountains of Central Oregon creating a diverse and scenic river way as it travels north through the high desert sunshine of Central Oregon to its final destination in the Columbia River Gorge. As the life-blood of Central Oregon recreation, the Deschutes offers everything from fly fishing to scenic hiking and mountain biking, flat-water canoeing, wildlife viewing and whitewater rafting through alpine forests, desert flatlands and rocky gorges. Whitewater rafting is at its best on the last 100 miles of its northward journey, offering a variety of well-defined sections delivering moderate, but big and splashy rapids with numerous options for trips. With dependable water flows and constant summer sunshine, the Deschutes is the most popularly rafted river in Oregon, especially in and around the town of Maupin where many thousands of people enjoy one-day trips every summer.

The Lower Deschutes was designated an Oregon Scenic Waterway in 1970 and a Federal Wild and Scenic River in 1988. Within this canyon, you will experience an incredible geologic and cultural history, a diverse community of fish, wildlife and vegetation, and an abundance of recreational opportunities.

Geologic evidence indicates that the region has alternately been covered by shallow seas and reshaped by volcanic episodes. Vast numbers of lava flows have layered the area forming what is known as the Central Oregon Plateau. The river has carved through sedimentary and igneous rock ranging in age from more than 65 million years old to as young as 1,300 years old. The vast majority of these rocks are volcanic in origin. Most of the dark colored cliff walls consist of basalt from the large scale Columbia basin basalt flows (14 to 17 million years ago) and younger more localized Deschutes and Dalles formation (6 to 10 million years ago). The Deschutes canyon formed 1 to 4 million years ago through a series of volcanic, tectonic and erosional processes. The legendary Missoula floods as well as periodic flooding also influenced the current appearance of the canyon during glacial periods. The combination of these events scoured and gouged the land, revealing the pages that time has written during the last 65 million years.

For thousands of years Indian people of the Central Oregon area have had a tie to the land that has kept their spirituality intact. The early inhabitants were mobile foragers, hunting herds of large mammals that grazed the vast tundra grasslands. Eventually, as the Indian people began to set up permanent villages, their economy diversified. They seasonally harvested salmon, waterfowl, culturally important plants, and constructed more permanent dwellings. By 1855, increasing pressure from white settlers resulted in a treaty in which the Indian people of the Deschutes and John Day Basins ceded much of their homelands. The lands now known as the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon were reserved for their exclusive use. Members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs retain the right to fish seasonally along the Deschutes River as part of their cultural heritage. Today, tribal members can be seen dip-net fishing below Sherars Falls for large fall Chinook and steelhead.

White explorers saw the Deschutes River for the first time on October 22, 1805. Lewis and Clark stopped at the mouth of the river while exploring the Columbia. They referred to this tributary of the Columbia River by its Indian name "Towornehiooks." The first white men to actually explore the Deschutes River were trappers from the Hudson Bay Company twenty years later. In 1825, a group of trappers lead by Peter Skene Ogden ascended the Deschutes from the Columbia River and gave the river the name that is used today. They referred to the river as the Riviere Des Chutes, which is French for "river of the falls." Although the area was not settled until years later, hundreds of settlers crossed the river on the Oregon Trail as they traveled west to the Willamette Valley to homestead or headed east to supply miners or graze livestock. View the [Deschutes River Photo Gallery](#) or go to the [River Info Links Page](#) to view accommodations, maps, activities and much more!

Ouzel Outfitters

PO Box 817 Bend, OR 97709 / Phone: 541-385-5947

Fax: 541-385-0461 / info@oregonrafting.com / www.OregonRafting.com