



North Umpqua River 2-Day Rafting Trip

(Boulder Flat to Susan Creek – 20 to 25 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: 10:00 am (Pacific Time)

Where: The Gravel Bin Boat Launch is located about 40 miles east of Roseburg on HWY 138 between mile markers 39 and 40. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE. If you need additional directions or will be late to the orientation, please let us know. Orientation and packing takes approximately 30 minutes. If we have not heard from you the trip will depart Gravel Bin when ready. If you are lost or will be late please use the following phone numbers to let us know. Please leave messages at each number. **Ouzel: 541-385-5947; Ouzel After Hours: 541-815-4273.** Please note that cell service is generally non-existent in this area.

Find Gravel Bin Boat Ramp on [Google Maps](#)

Explore all the places and stops associated with our trip on [Google Maps](#)

Local Accommodations

Camping

There are many Forest Service campsites along the river in this area. Most campsites are first come-first serve and while all have toilets, some do not have running water. Horseshoe Bend offers full service facilities and RV sites, while Island Campground (closest to Gravel Bin) offers only toilets. For more information about camping visit the [North Umpqua Ranger District](#) online or call (541) 496-3532. Group sites can be reserved at Horseshoe Bend (Deer Creek) and near Steamboat through www.recreation.gov

Lodging

[Steamboat Lodge:](#) Best! A famous country Inn located near our meeting location. Excellent dining. Lodge and cottages. ½ mile from our meeting location. Call 1-800-840-8825.

[Diamond Lake Resort:](#) Cabins & motel. 50 minutes east of our meeting location. (541) 793-3333.

[Best Western Garden Villa Inn:](#) Roseburg. 45 minutes west of our meeting location. 800-528-1234

[IdleYld Lodge:](#) B&B - Great Reviews. 15 minutes west of our meeting location. 541-496-0088.

[Last Resort Campground and RV Park:](#) Camping, RV's and Cabins. 10 minutes. (541) 498-2500

Transportation Information

Vehicle Security

Your vehicle will be parked at both the camp site and at Gravel Bin Boat Ramp during the trip. While the Gravel Bin parking lot is visible from the HWY and the campsites usually have vigilant camp hosts, unfortunately, theft from vehicles is not unknown along this stretch of the Umpqua River (it's been 10 years since we've had an incident). We highly recommend leaving valuables at home or at the very least, locking them in your trunk, glove box or keeping them out of sight. Wallets and keys can be stored in the dry bags available on each raft or left in our van.

Driving Times to Gravel Bin

From Bend - 2.75 hrs; From Crater Lake Lodge - 1.5 hrs; From Diamond Lake - 1 hr; From Roseburg - 50 m; From Eugene - 2 hrs; From Portland - 3.75 hrs; From Grants Pass - 2 hrs.

Camping Trips on the Umpqua

An overnight trip on the Umpqua is different from a typical multi-day river trip. On a typical multi-day trip we launch on the first day carrying with us all of the equipment and food needed for the entire trip. We do this because there is no road access on these trips and everything we need has to be unloaded and reloaded each day from our large equipment rafts. On the North Umpqua, however, Hwy 138 follows the river. While you rarely notice the road from the river, all of the campsites are accessible by vehicle. On overnight trips we pre-select and reserve the best riverside campsite available and use it as a "base camp" for both days of rafting. As a result, each day may involve short drives in your vehicle and/or in our van. The times you will be required to drive your vehicle include getting it to our campsite on the first day and positioning it at the take-out for ease of departure on the second day. We provide the majority of transportation in our 15 passenger vans. There are no long drives on the Umpqua. Our itinerary is often dictated by the availability of campsites, seasonal closures and hazards in the river. The following itinerary lays out the most common scenario for your trips. Please keep in mind, however, that it is common for us to adjust the itinerary. For example, later in the summer we will often start the second day with an easy but scenic hike to Watson Falls before getting on the river. The exact itinerary for your particular trip will be clearly presented by the head guide at the orientation. We should know the exact itinerary at least a week before your trip, so feel free to call our office for the details.

Trip Itinerary *(Most trips before July 15th)*

Orientation: Our day begins at 10:00 am at the Gravel Bin Launch site where you will meet your head guide and fellow rafters. Your head guide will provide an orientation that covers the itinerary for the whole trip and how to prepare for the first day. We ask your patience if the itinerary is slightly different from what follows. You'll have time to change clothes and get ready for rafting. Vehicles should be locked and all valuables hidden or brought with you on the river.

Day 1 : Once everyone is properly attired we'll discuss safety, divide into paddle crews and begin our 12-mile run from Gravel Bin to Susan Creek. This section offers fun class III+ action including Steamboat Falls, Burial, Bathtub, Island and other rapids. At lower flows it may be necessary to walk around Bathtub Rapid. A riverside lunch is provided. At the end of the day, we'll reach our take-out at Susan Creek. For those willing and able, the guides might ask for help carrying the rafts up the steep trail to the parking lot.

Once the day is complete, we provide transportation back to Gravel Bin. From here you will follow a guide to our pre-selected campsite just a few minutes away. Once at camp, the guides will provide and assist you with all of your camping equipment, making sure you are settled in and comfortable. They will prepare appetizers followed by a delicious dinner. An evening campfire provides an opportunity to tell tales from the day's adventure.

Day 2: In the morning, coffee will be on by 7:00 am and a hot breakfast will be served at 8:00 am. We'll start packing up at 9:00 am. By 10:00 am, all of your personal belongings should be back in your car and you should be dressed and ready for the river. From the campsite, you'll drive back to Gravel Bin where your vehicle will be left during the day. From here we provide transportation upriver to our put-in at Boulder Flat for a 14-mile run ending at Gravel Bin. The rafting on this day is exciting class III to IV, with Boulder Drop, Cardiac Arrest, Amazon Queen and the infamous Pinball Rapids waiting to be negotiated. We'll typically arrive at Gravel Bin before 5:00 pm. After a quick change of clothes and traditional Ouzel Toast, you're on your way.

After July 15th

After July 15th a short section of the river below Gravel Bin is closed for Steelhead spawning. When this closure takes effect we will typically run the upper section (with Pinball Rapid) first. The second day will include a shorter day on the river with a short and scenic hike to one of the many waterfalls in the area. The closure only eliminates one or two significant rapids.

Weather Conditions

The topography around the North Umpqua River forces moist air currents rising from the Pacific Ocean to drop their burden of water before cresting the Cascades. Prior to warm, dry weather settling in by mid-July, wet weather and cooler conditions are not uncommon. The occasional deluge can be quite chilly if one is not adequately prepared. While we provide some rafting gear to make you more comfortable on and off the river, being adequately equipped with the appropriate clothing will insure that your trip is both comfortable and enjoyable. Please read through the following lists, and carefully plan for "cooler days" on the river. A good **non-cotton** base-layer will add substantially to your comfort. Don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions. [Check the North Umpqua River weather.](#)

What to Pack for Wearing on the River

On Warm Days

- Hat (for sun – must fit under helmet)
- Sunglasses (w/strap)
- Shorts (board shorts are great – avoid cotton)
- Rafting Shoes: Sandals w/heel strap or sneakers (no crocs, flip flops or bare feet)
- Lip Balm (with SPF) & Sunscreen
- Water Bottle (**Important!**) See below for how to purchase an Ouzel water bottle.
- On all Umpqua trips we recommend a long or short-sleeve top made from synthetic fabrics (rashguard, hydrosilk, polypro, etc.). These non-cotton fabrics are insulating and stretchy and designed for water sports, keeping you warm when wet.

On Colder or Rainy Days Add a Second Layer:

- Polypropylene long johns (not cotton) –tops and bottoms (light to mid-weight)
- Neoprene gloves and neoprene socks or booties
- Warm hat (needs to fit under helmet)

Ouzel will supply helmets, splash jackets & pants for everyone as well as wetsuits when conditions warrant, but this does not eliminate the need for you to be prepared with appropriate non-cotton, base-layer clothing. Dressing in layers of synthetic fabrics 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 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)
- Rain jacket (just in case)
- Small Towel & Toiletries (no need for a large bath towel)
- Insect Repellent
- Flashlight or headlamp

*It is wise to assume that every article of clothing you wear on the river will be soaked by the time you reach camp in the afternoon. You should be prepared to change into a completely dry set of clothes (including socks & shoes). **Note:** since we are essentially car camping, there is no space limitation other than what will fit in your car.*

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.
- Pillow and/or extra pad. It's car camping, so think comfort!
- 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)
- Small first aid kit with Band-Aids, ibuprofen, etc... All trips have major and minor first aid kits readily available, but it can be handy to have your own "ouch pouch".

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.
- Helmets: We require them for all guests on the North Umpqua River.
- Splash Jackets & Pants and/or wetsuits (for cooler days on the river)
- 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) and can accommodate more in a pinch. Special family-sized tents that accommodate four or more are available upon request. Please indicate your request for a family-sized tent on the online Guest Registration Form.

Sleeping Bags: Our sleeping bags are 3-4lb, 40 degree bags with a cotton flannel lining. Sleeping bags are professionally cleaned by a commercial launderer after each and every trip. Our bags are of standard length (78" 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.

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. If you feel you need additional padding you are welcome to bring an additional pad to use with the Paco pad. If you bring an air mattress make sure you have a pump and patch kit.

Setting up Tents: The riverside campsites we select most often have a variety of options for tent sites. We find that most guests enjoy selecting their own personal 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 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 during the orientation that you would like your tent set up for you. We will be happy to accommodate your request.

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.

Toilet Facilities

On the North Umpqua the campsites we use all have outhouses- some with running water. 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.

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 a supply of ziplock baggies, small paper bags, tissue and other supplies to build a "day kit". Used supplies should be disposed of in the trash bags we supply and not in the outhouses.

How Strenuous is the Trip

Our two-day North Umpqua trips are [paddle rafting](#) trips. Oar rafts and inflatable kayaks are not available. Rapids on the North Umpqua are challenging and each participant is expected to have the ability to paddle effectively. This requires moderate upper body strength and a little bit of endurance. Paddling is intermittent with short bursts of moderate to strong paddling in the rapids. There are a lot of rapids, but the overall effect is a moderate upper-body workout. Participants should be able to effectively brace themselves in the raft. Later in the summer it may also be necessary to portage a rapid. This means a short "hike" that involves negotiating uneven, rocky and often slippery terrain. The North Umpqua is not recommended for non-swimmers. 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 From](#) 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 two days, you will be exposed to the elements. Exposure to the sun is always a concern, but cooler days are normal any time of year. The water temperature is cool to cold during the rafting season, so even on the warmest days having a lightweight synthetic top can make a lot of difference. Pay special attention to the clothing suggestions and [CHECK THE WEATHER](#) before you trip.

The North Umpqua River is fairly benign when it comes to troublesome insects and plants. 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. Yellow jackets (bees) will create an occasional annoyance at lunch. They like to hang out around the lunch table. If you're sensitive to bee stings, have a friend or one of the guides prepare your lunch for you. Mosquitoes can sometimes be an annoyance on two-day trips when in camp - we recommend bringing insect repellent.

Raft Types

Paddle Rafts. [Get a description of our raft types.](#)

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 share their gratuities and will appreciate any expression of thanks you care to offer. [Meet some of our incredible guides.](#)

More about the North Umpqua River

Set amidst the wilderness areas and national forests of the Southern Oregon Cascades, the North Umpqua River is one of the most beautiful rivers in the Northwest. Towering Douglas fir forests line this steep and rugged canyon, shading the crystal clear water as it leaps and cascades through steep gorges and boulder-strewn rapids. With 25 significant rapids and numerous smaller ones in a little over 20 miles the Umpqua delivers one of the most fun and enjoyable paddle rafting experiences in the Northwest. In between rapids marvel at the majestic moss and lichen hung forests – and keep an eye out for the American Dipper—also known as the water Ouzel!

With no major airports or large tourist cities nearby, the Umpqua River is off the beaten track. For those seeking relaxation and inspiration in the outdoors, this area is a rewarding playground.

People have ever been drawn to the sound of water and the thunder of waterfalls. Numerous hiking and mountain biking trails and more than 25 scenic waterfalls in the Umpqua National forest provide fantastic trail experiences. For a grander view, close by Crater Lake National Park, formed by the collapse of Mt. Mazama, holds the deepest lake in America. And for fisherman, the combination of a large (and mostly native) summer steelhead run, fly-angling only restrictions and an idyllic setting has made the North Umpqua a popular fishing destination for fisherman from around the world.

Area Attractions

[Crater Lake National Park](#) - At 1,932 feet, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States, and arguably the most spectacular. Set within the collapsed caldera of ancient Mount Mazama, Crater Lake offers a striking view into the Cascade Mountain's explosive past. Drive the Rim Loop, visit Crater Lake Lodge, walk through the Pumice Desert, and take a boat tour to Wizard Island.

[Wildlife Safari](#) - Take a driving tour through the savannas of SW Oregon to see lions, tigers, bears, and more. Located in Winston, 10 miles SW of Roseburg, off Hwy 42.

[Diamond Lake](#) - In the Umpqua National Forest, this alpine lake offers boating, fishing, camping and resort facilities. Located just off Hwy. 138, five miles north of Crater Lake National Park.

[Mount Thielsen](#) - Known as the "Lightning Rod of the Cascades", a very difficult hike to the summit of this glacially-eroded horn affords incredible views of the surrounding terrain. Trail head located on Hwy. 138, about two miles north of its junction with Hwy 230.

[Umpqua Valley Vineyard Tours](#) - Known for its variety of high quality wines, the valley is cool enough to produce Burgundian wines such as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, yet warm enough for growing Bordeaux varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Gewurtztraminer and Reisling are a notable addition to the list.

[View our River Info Links Page](#) to find more attractions, accommodation, maps and much more.

Ouzel Outfitters

PO Box 817 Bend, OR 97709 / Toll Free: 800-788-7238

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