

Trip Logistics and Itinerary

3 days, 2 nights on the Snake River in Hells Canyon

Trip Starts: Minam, OR

Trip Ends: Minam, OR

Put-in: Hells Canyon Dam, OR

Take-out: Pittsburg Landing, ID

Trip length: 32 miles

Class III-IV rapids

Each Trip varies slightly with size of group, interests of guests, etc. This is a “typical” trip itinerary that will vary.

Day before Launch:

Stop at Minam on your way to your motel in Wallowa or Enterprise to pick up your dry bag and go over the morning itinerary.

Day 1:

If staying in Wallowa at the Mingo Motel we will pick you up at 6:15 am. If staying in Enterprise we will pick you up at the Ponderosa Motel in our shuttle van at 6:45 am. Travel to Hells Canyon Dam Launch site (3hr drive from Minam) with a bathroom break at the Hells Canyon Overlook. Meet your guides, go over basic safety talk, and load into rafts between 10 and 11 am. Lunch will be served riverside. Enjoy awe inspiring geology while you look for wildlife. Make a short hike to the Barton Cabin. Run some of the biggest whitewater of the trip, first up Wild Sheep Rapid and Granite Rapid. Hike to ancient Nez Perce Pictographs and a side hike up Granite Creek. Arrive to camp already set between 3-4pm. Evening camp time: swim, hike, play games, relax! Approximately 7 pm dinner.

Day 2:

Coffee is ready by 6 am. Leisurely breakfast between 7 and 8 am. Pack up camp and send the gear boat downstream. Launch on the river by 10 am. Visit the historic McGaffee Cabin. Today’s fun rapids will include Bernard, Waterspout, and Rush Creek. Enjoy a side hike up Sluice Creek or a leisurely stop at the Sheep Creek cabin. Arrive at camp between 3 and 4 pm to enjoy another evening riverside. Each evening will be a similar routine to the first.

Day 3:

Repeat morning routine of coffee, breakfast, camp breakdown. Today we get to hike to Suicide Point and view Bonneville Flood deposits from a view point, stop at the historic Kirkwood Ranch, run more rapids and enjoy another great day in Hells Canyon. We will arrive to our take-out at Pittsburg Landing shortly after lunch. We will shuttle everyone back to Minam (6 hour drive) or if you had your vehicle shuttled to Pittsburg Landing, you can begin your travels.

Shuttle Logistics:

Transportation from Minam to the put-in and from the take-out to Minam are included in your trip cost. If you would like your car shuttled to the take out at Pittsburg Landing (near Whitebird, ID) you will need to arrange that before the trip begins and cost is \$220 per vehicle. A second shuttle option is to have your vehicle shuttled to Clarkston, WA and cost is \$165 per vehicle. Clarkston is about a 3 hour drive from Pittsburg Landing and you would ride in our shuttle van from the take-out to CLarkston. Otherwise we will shuttle you back to Minam where your vehicle awaits.