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Editor’s Note

Planning Your Rogue Trip

Thank you for choosing Indigo Creek Outfitters as your Rogue River rafting outfitter. The following pages provide details you may find helpful as you plan your trip. Please don’t hesitate to call or email anytime. We are local to the Rogue Valley and love sharing our backyard with locals and visitors alike. We’ll look forward to your adventure!

Julie Volpert
Outfitter - Reservations
Call or text: (541) 282-4535
julie@indigocreekoutfitters.com

Meet [some of] the Indigo Crew

Will Volpert
Outfitter - Operations

Heather Wells
Trip Support - Office

Yann Crist-Evans
Guide - W&S Rogue

Jill Lovrin
Guide - W&S Rogue

Originally from Inverness Park, California, Will has called Southern Oregon “home” since 2004. His family has other outfitting businesses on the Kern River in Southern California and and the Middle Fork of the Salmon in Idaho.

Heather is our Rafting Center manager and provides operational support to our crews packing for multi-day trips. A Rogue Valley native, she is currently attending school at Southern Oregon University, pursuing a degree in Outdoor Adventure Leadership.

Yann grew up in Boulder, Colorado and at an early age discovered a backyard playground of mountains and rivers. He’s worked as a guide throughout the west on big rivers, small creeks, half-day stretches and week-long multi-day trips.

Jill has lived in the Rogue Valley for 10 years and works as a teacher in Medford. Summer break gives her the opportunity to explore local rivers and work with us on the Wild & Scenic Rogue.
Trip Meeting Location: Galice Resort

Here we go!

8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. (please see reservation email)
Galice Resort, 11744 Galice Rd, Merlin, OR 97532

In the morning of your trip, our lead guide will meet you and other guests at the Galice Resort & General Store. Most of our trips meet at 9:00 a.m. however specialty kayak instruction courses in August meet at 8:00 a.m. We’ll answer questions about the trip, give out waterproof bags for personal gear and then shuttle everyone to our put-in site by van. It’s encouraged that you arrive early to grab breakfast and any last minute items you may need. Galice has a restaurant as well as a retail store for last-minute items (water bottles, fishing licenses, etc.).

Look for an Indigo Creek Outfitters van or truck in the parking area at Galice Resort. We will provide you with a large dry bag for you to pack your items. Additionally, you’ll receive a smaller dry “day bag” that can be accessible throughout the day. The large dry bag will be stored in our “camp boat” and will be downstream of the group, so it’s important to not pack anything you may need during the day in this bag. We will move vehicles to the overnight parking area and our van will transport the group to our launch location, just a few miles down the road.

Transportation to and from Medford International (MFR)

Many of our guests fly into the Medford International Airport. If your Rogue River trip is part of a larger itinerary, it may make the most sense to rent a car and drive to Galice Resort. If you only need transportation to and from the airport, please arrange a shuttle with Galice Resort. Uber is now available in Southern Oregon as well.

Where to Stay Before Your Trip
We recommend that you stay at our meeting place, the Galice Resort, the night before your trip departs. This makes meeting easier on the morning of your trip. Galice’s phone number is (541) 476-3818. Their website for reservations is www.galice.com. Galice has rustic cabins and rooms in the Galice House available. Please contact the Galice Resort as soon as possible to make lodging reservations. Be sure to let them know that you are joining Indigo Creek Outfitters. If Galice is full, there are a number of lodging alternatives in Merlin and Grants Pass, Oregon.

Where to Stay After Your Trip
If you are flying out of Medford International Airport the day after your trip, we recommend staying at the Rogue Regency Inn, located in Medford, Oregon. They are located just a few minutes from the airport and provide an airport shuttle service.

To add days to your Southern Oregon visit, you may consider spending a couple nights in or near Ashland, Oregon. Home of the famous Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland is a fun town with excellent restaurants and entertainment.

Meet the crew - Phil Finkel
Phil has over 30 years guiding experience on the Rogue River, and he enjoys backcountry and cross-country skiing throughout northern California.

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On your trip we’ll float about 40 miles and run some outstanding whitewater. Typically, we’ll have breakfast around 8:00 a.m. each day and try to be on the water by 10:00 a.m. We raft about six hours every day with a break for lunch early in the afternoon. Quite often we stop for a hike or to visit a historic site after lunch. When we arrive at camp you’ll have time to relax, swim or sit back with a good book.

Our boats are rugged inflatable rafts 12 to 18 feet in length that carry gear and passengers. On nearly all of our trips, we bring along inflatable kayaks. These stable, easy to use boats let you run rapids on your own. Oar boats carry the majority of our gear and also provide a comfortable place to kick back and relax as your guide rows the boat downstream.

Paddle boats are more participatory and passengers will have a paddle to help move the boat downstream. A guide in the back controls the raft with oars while giving instruction to the crew.

Inflatable kayaks are the most active way to head downstream is in an inflatable kayak. These boats are fast, super maneuverable, and an absolute blast to run through rapids.

“The guides were true professionals, with the utmost care for safety while still making sure that everyone on the trip had a blast.”

Safety on your trip is our primary concern and probably yours as well. You will be traveling in a remote area and doing something that is quite a bit different from your everyday routine. The primary elements for a safe, healthy trip are to always wear a personal flotation device on the water, be diligent about hand washing and to follow the directions of our guides.

There are lodges and access points along the river in the unlikely event that an evacuation is needed. Our guides are trained in First Aid and river rescue techniques.

Team Indigo is comprised of guides, drivers, and a customer/trip support crew who love what they do. We strive to provide exceptional customer service, to run polished and expectation-shattering adventures, and love – absolutely love – sharing our amazing neighborhood rivers. As your host, our varied backgrounds and experiences, personalities, stories, and aspirations will form the backbone of your visit to our wild rivers.

Our Rogue trips are long enough to begin to forget what time and day of the week it is. We affectionately refer to this feeling as “river time.” So much of our lives are run by the calendar and time of day that it’s nice to enjoy the experience of time not mattering. To that end, you might want to leave your watch in your vehicle for the duration of your trip.

Safety on the River

Inflatable kayaks, aka “Duckies,” following the “mother duck” raft around the corner at the famous Horseshoe Bend Rapid.
We will be traveling through a wilderness area that is home to many creatures. It is very common over the course of our trips to see bear, deer, bald eagles, and other wildlife. For the most part, these animals are harmless and not interested in what we are doing. We do take precautions to keep human and wildlife interactions to a minimum and these will be discussed by our guides before your trip and at camp.

Aside from mammals, the Rogue River is well known for its legendary Steelhead and salmon runs. These fish enjoy the river when temperatures cool down and we are more likely to see them in the winter, spring, and fall seasons. During the summer you may spot trout or the invasive species of Northern Pike Minnow.

River attire should be casual and comfortable. Please limit your personal gear but bring warm, functional clothing in the event weather is inclement. The Rogue canyon is usually warm, however rain and cold weather can occur at any time. Rain gear is essential on all trips. A light change of clothing and a wool or fleece pullover are usually sufficient for camp.

Each guest is provided with two waterproof bags for personal gear. One large bag holds your overnight clothing and sleeping bag while the smaller “day bag” will hold items you may need throughout the day. The overnight bag carried on our supply boat and is not accessible during the day.

The Packing FOR YOUR ROGUE TRIP

The large dry bag measures 16” in diameter and 25” tall when closure is rolled to maximum volume. We also provide a smaller dry bag that you have access to throughout the day. Please limit your personal items to these bags. If you have additional items we can probably accommodate them, but please contact our office so we know ahead of time.

Optional items might include a paperback book, sketchpad, field glasses, fishing equipment (rods in protective, aluminum cases) and camera. Remember that the Rogue can experience changeable weather throughout the season. Our experience has shown that wool or fleece clothing provides the best all weather comfort.

Minimalist Packing List

- Rain jacket
- Wool or fleece jacket
- Pillow
- Shirt and pants for camp
- Sunscreen
- Baseball type cap
- Sunglasses with strap
- Tennis shoes for camp
- Swimsuit and shorts
- Insect repellent
- Toiletries
- Personal medication
- Towel
- Water bottle
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Water shoes (no flip flops)

You may not use all of the gear on your packing list, but we strongly recommend that you bring it all.

Where the WILD THINGS ARE

Meet the crew - Scott Rion

Indigo Creek guide, Scott Rion, has worked on the Rogue River for over 25 years. He continues to carve out time to join a handful of trips each season and we’re lucky to have him.

Howard Creek

This stunning tributary has an easily accessible swimming hole that is a popular stop on most trips.

Bald Eagle

Black-Tailed Deer

American Black Bear

Cascades Frog
THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN WAKING UP TO FRESH BREWED COFFEE AND THE SOUND OF THE RIVER

There’s no beating the quiet and peacefulness of morning on the river. Long before the sun begins to heat up the river canyon we’ll have a big pot of coffee ready for you. Our guides drink coffee—lot of it—and if you are a coffee drinker you’ll appreciate our “cowboy” coffee. If you prefer tea there will be a variety of teas available. Have a cup or two or three while our crew prepares breakfast.

During breakfast, an Indigo Creek guide will describe the day ahead and give you an overview of what to expect. While we’re doing the dishes and packing up the kitchen you can start packing your bag and getting ready for a day on the river. Put some sunscreen on, fill up your water bottle and maybe grab one more cup of coffee. Our guides are packing up the boats and we’ll be on the water shortly...

Arriving at Camp

Our camps on the Rogue River are a far cry from “roughing it.” In fact, with cozy, spacious tents and delicious food, it may feel more like a traveling bed and breakfast than a traditional camping experience.

Each day, a large supply boat goes downstream ahead of our group to set-up camp. When we arrive, tents and the rest of camp are completely set-up. We bring chairs, tables, and a kitchen to make camp feel more like home.

We arrive at camp around 4:00 p.m. Your tent will have been set-up and our camping area will have been converted to a home-away-from-home, including a dining table, chairs, and kitchen. A bathroom is easily accessed and is located in a private area a short walk from camp.

Don’t Forget Your “Sunnies”

Indigo Creek guide, Corby Fuhriman, enjoying a warm and sunny day on the river.

Camp Toilets aka “Groovers”

Camp toilets (Groovers) are either a BLM three-sided pit toilet with seat and lid, or our own heavy duty porta potties with seats that seal tightly for transport. Our crew sets them up in private places away from our camping and eating areas. We place a paddle next to the hand-wash setup down the trail away from the toilet to alert others that the toilet is in use. A hand-wash system is always available at both the toilet and in the kitchen area.

Home for the Night

The Indigo Creek camp boat sets the entire camp up before the group arrives. Night one at Meadow Creek.
There’s an amazing thing that happens when you push off onto a multi-day river trip. It’s a sense of relief, of freedom, of being able to finally relax. There is always a build up of anticipation, of what to expect, but then suddenly, magically, you are rounding the bend and embarking on a new adventure. As the road and signs of civilization disappear you will discover that life on the river is simple – be curious, look around, and discover a world without the distractions of modern day life.

Perhaps the best part of a river trip is that you get to experience a wonderful place with people who mean the most to you. Whether you are traveling with friends or family or both, you will find that relationships are strengthened under stars, in wilderness, and on rivers with whitewater and challenge.

What’s the weather like?
In Southern Oregon we like to say that “if you don’t like the weather, wait ten minutes.” In other words, weather can change really quickly and you should be prepared for sun, rain, hot, and cold weather throughout your trip. Mornings can be cool (down to 50 degrees) and afternoons can be hot (100 degrees), so having a variety of clothing will help you be comfortable.

Average Highs / Lows (F)
April: 64 / 40
May: 72 / 45
June: 80 / 50
July: 89 / 55
August: 89 / 54
September: 82 / 47
October: 69 / 41

How much water is there?
The Rogue River is dam-controlled by the William Jess Dam, which forms Lost Creek Lake. This is a large dam that creates a storage capacity of 315,000 acre feet and supplies the Rogue River with an adequate flow for rafting year round. There are numerous tributaries to the Rogue River downstream of the dam that can also add a substantial amount of water to the river. Thus, if there are rain or snow melt events the river can rise and fall regardless of the outflow from William Jess Dam.

In the United States, most rivers are measured in “Cubic Feet Per Second,” or in river guide lingo “CFS.” Our guides have run the Rogue when flows in Agness have ranged from 800 CFS to 90,000 CFS.

Folks travel from all over the world to experience the Wild & Scenic stretch of the Rogue River. Here in Southern Oregon, we consider this our backyard - how lucky are we?

The Rogue River is one of the eight founding rivers of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
October 2, 1968

Grateful for “Wild & Scenic”

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Tasty food in a beautiful setting
Dining with a view

We take a lot of pride in eating well on the river. Our menu features healthy, fresh, and delicious options with a twist of outdoor flair.

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch on the last day. Evenings feature three courses, house wines and beer, and coffee or tea if desired.

Our guides are fantastic chefs who enjoy the creative approach needed to deliver tasty dishes in an outdoor environment. Our innovative menu choices and concepts are subtly adjusted each year to reflect emerging trends in the United States restaurant industry.

We’ll gladly accommodate reasonable dietary restrictions with advanced notice.

“...gourmet meals served on the shores of the Rogue River.”

Yes, we serve the “World’s Best Cheese”

In 2019, Rogue Creamery’s “Rogue Blue” won the title of the “World’s Best Cheese.” We couldn’t agree more and have been serving it since 2017.

Local Providers
When possible, we seek out local providers for many of the ingredients on our menu. Not only does it help our friends and neighbors within our community, but it also makes sense: our region is known for Farm to Fork, high quality culinary experiences.

Examples include:
Rogue Creamery, Pallet Wine Company, Harry & David, Caldera Brewing, Rising Sun Farms... etc.

Dietary Accommodations
With advance notice we are happy to accommodate most dietary requests. At the time of your reservation we try to collect as much information as possible to make your trip perfect for you. This includes food preferences, requests, and allergies. We also ask participants to fill out a participant information form, which includes dietary information.

Including, but not limited, to:

- Gluten Free
- Dairy Free
- Nut Free
- Soy Free
- Vegetarian
- Vegan
- Pescatarian
- Special Allergies
- And more...
There’s something special about having knowledge and familiarity with a place that is foreign to so many. Perhaps it brings pride to know that what you are about to show them will knock their socks off. Or perhaps it’s understanding the emotion or character of a place that leads to a feeling of connectivity between human and creek. Whatever it is, East Creek brings this feeling out to many of our guides. It’s perhaps the most overlooked, least visited, and most perfect tributary on the entire Rogue. With stairs to the former “General’s Cabin” at the mouth of the creek, the untrained adventurer might write the creek off with the arrogant thought that human civilization has etched its way up the creek’s canyon walls. The thought could not be further from truth.

Moving up the creek, one quickly discovers a remarkable slot canyon. The juxtaposition of creek and river is astonishing. On a hot summer day, anywhere else you would be breaking a sweat. The cool pools of East Creek are refreshing. The vibrant bright greens are stunning. The croaking frogs and swimming tadpoles help clarify the pristine and untouched character of the creek.

East Creek is a little-known gem on the Rogue River. Many groups don’t even notice the creek as they drift by. And that’s perfectly fine with us. We’ll be spending time here, enjoying one of the Rogue River’s most unique and special places. And we hope to share it with you, too.

Historic Homesteads
Numerous historic homesteads dot the banks of the Rogue River. Whisky Creek Cabin, Zane Grey’s, and the Rogue River Ranch are just a few of the popular stops we make on many of our trips. Historic river side lodges are a unique addition to the river corridor. Often these started as small enterprises and have grown into well run commercial lodges that are always a treat to visit.

If you are interested in visiting one of these lodges please let our office know prior to your trip.

The Rogue River Trail
Paralleling the river, the Rogue River Trail is highly accessible and offers a great perspective of the river canyon. From the Grave Creek trailhead to Illahe, the trail covers over 40 miles and winds its way along the rivers north bank. Highlights on the trail include Whisky Creek, Ketley Creek, and Mule Creek Canyon.

If at any point during your trip you would like to explore the trail, simply let one of our guides know and we can arrange to incorporate a hike into your trip itinerary. For instance, you might hike in the morning after breakfast and meet the rest of the group for lunch along the river. Out and backs are also easily accommodated in the afternoons and evenings at camp. Our guides know the trail well, so whether you are looking for a quick jaunt or an extended hike, we can point you in the right direction.

If you plan to hike a lot, you might consider bringing a small backpack and an extra water bottle.

Zane Grey’s “Heart Rock Tree”
Beneath a large Oak Tree on a property formerly homesteaded by the famous author, Zane Grey, lay hundreds of heart-shaped rocks. Their origins come from travelers to the Rogue River who add to their collection over time. Some of them are perfectly shaped hearts, while some highlight the river guide’s artistic liberty.
The Wild & Scenic Rogue River
SOUTHERN OREGON

Map designed by Indigo Creek guide, Yann Crist-Evans

INDIGO CREEK • (541) 282-4535 • info@indigocreekoutfitters.com
Reservation Details

Trip participants should understand that river trips involve known and unknown risks. Indigo Creek Outfitters assumes no responsibility for injuries, death, or loss/damage to client’s property while on the river. All clients must sign a Release and Waiver Agreement expressly acknowledging these points. Indigo Creek Outfitters assumes no responsibility for vehicles and/or the contents of vehicles parked during the trip. Because of the risks associated with river trips, including personal injury, death, property loss or damage or financial loss in the event of trip cancellation, we urge all trip participants to supplement their own insurance with travel insurance (see page 21).

Responsibility

To protect the canyon, we carry out all trash, separate recyclables, and use no soap in the river. Guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact of our group’s trip.

Leave No Trace

Your Health

Our Rogue River trips are relaxing, but they are a dramatic change in routine for most people. To participate, you should be in good health. You may also need to perform certain physical activities. These include basic swimming, hiking in rugged or uneven terrain, climbing in and out of rafts, and assisting in your rescue, if that becomes necessary. Please let us know when you fill out your participant information form if you have any health or dietary restrictions.

Beverages

We provide limited house wine and beer on our trips. You are welcome to supplement our supply with your own beverages. Except for wine, please consider canned or plastic bottles as these are easier to pack than glass.

For safety reasons, we do not allow the consumption of alcohol while on the river. In addition to beer and wine, we provide soft drinks, juice, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and water. If you have a special request, please simply let our office know prior to your trip.

Age Limits

The minimum age on our Rogue River trips is six years old. This age limit is in place for the safety of your child, the safety of our other guests and our guides.

Gratuities

Guests sometimes ask whether gratuities are appropriate. If you enjoyed your trip, please feel free to leave a tip with the lead guide at the end of the trip. Typically, tips range between 8-15% of the trip fare. Gratuities will be shared among all the guides.

Photography

If you are going to be in a beautiful place, you might as well bring a nice camera. Every Indigo Creek trip has a Nikon DSLR accompanying the trip that our guides are trained to use. You are also welcome to use it if you’d like. Many of our guests bring their own cameras as well. Inexpensive waterproof cameras work great. If you are bringing a nice DSLR, it needs to be transported in a waterproof, durable, hard case. We use the Pelican Case brand for our own cameras and they work well.

Performance

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to weather or water conditions or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for expenses other than refunding all or part of fees paid to Indigo Creek Outfitters. The determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details. Guides and other on-river personnel are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or credits.
There is magic on this planet.

IT’S IN THE WATER

Inflatable kayakers take in the beauty of Paradise Creek on the third day of their four-day trip.

Cancellations

If you must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under stringent federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. We incur substantial expenses before each trip departs and, in the event of late cancellations cannot recover costs, nor can we make refunds. If you must cancel at the last minute and do not have travel insurance; try to find a friend to take your place.

Indigo Creek Outfitters requires a non-refundable deposit of $200 per person to confirm a reservation. The balance of the trip fee is due no later than 60 days prior to departure. If the balance is not paid within our terms, the reservation is assumed to be canceled and the deposit forfeited.

Cancellation notice received by our office more than 60 days prior to the trip will result in a refund of fees paid less the non-refundable portion. Within 60 days there are no refunds.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you supplement personal insurance with travel insurance. Policies that include accident, cancellation, and baggage protection are available through our website, as well as most travel agents. Cancellation initiated by you may result in substantial loss of fees paid. Available insurance protects against the loss of deposits in the event you must cancel because of unforeseen circumstances.

For Travel Insurance information, please contact Julie Volpert at (541) 282-4535 or via email at julie@indigocreekoutfitters.com.

Inflatable kayakers take in the beauty of Paradise Creek on the third day of their four-day trip.

Special Use Permits

We operate under Special Use Permits from the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Oregon State Marine Board licenses our activities. Our permit and license are your assurance that Indigo Creek Outfitters is legally outfitting on the river. Our operations and facilities are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. Because the Rogue is in the mountain west and summer weather is usually dry, the managing agencies sometimes ban open fires during the summer. In this case, we use propane stoves for cooking and are unable to light a campfire at night.

OUR GUIDES WERE TERRIFIC. FUN, SKILLED BOATMEN, HARD WORKING AND COMMITTED TO THEIR GUESTS HAVING AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.
Thank you for choosing Indigo Creek

We are a family-run whitewater rafting company based in Phoenix, Oregon and we believe that being outside is simply good for the soul. Time on the river captures extraordinary moments of authenticity and our trips provide a platform for experiences that create lasting memories.

2020 is our tenth year in business and we humbly invite you to join us on an exceptional Southern Oregon outdoor adventure. Today our founding values reverberate louder than ever: our team is driven to go above and beyond your expectations, to provide acclaimed customer service and - most importantly - our focus is to run the absolute best family-friendly rafting trips.

In ten years and thousands of river miles, we’ve discovered that it might be whitewater and thrill that attracts customers to our business, but it’s the people – family, old friends, new friends, and our hard working guides – that draw our guests back for another trip. The same is true for us – we love being outside and spending time on the river and it’s sharing these special places with others that makes it worthwhile. The last nine years have proven that we truly do have the best customers on earth.

Our family thanks you for choosing Indigo Creek Outfitters.

Will and Julie Volpert, Owner-Outfitters
(541) 282-4535 • info@indigocreekoutfitters.com