



SWS Mountain Guides
110 Alpine St.
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1. What is the difficulty level of the hike, and what kind of physical shape should I be in to participate?

The trail is considered a moderate hike. You can expect elevation gains and drops of around 1,000 feet each day. The terrain varies, with sections of flat trail as well as climbs uphill and descents. The trail generally follows the river but occasionally heads deeper into the forest before reconnecting with the river again. Hikers should be in good physical condition and able to hike around 10 miles each day. Our trip is raft supported, so you will also have the opportunity to hop in a raft for part or all of any given day.

2. How do the rafting and hiking components of the trip work together?

Our trip is raft supported, meaning that you don't need to carry your overnight gear, or heavy packs. We will have all our overnight gear put on a raft and sent down river each day where we'll meet up with it when we arrive at our camp location for that evening. We also will have another raft that will be in the general location of where we're hiking, that we'll meet up with for lunch, or if someone wants to hop in a raft for part of the day.

3. What's included in the trip cost? Are meals, permits, and accommodations provided?

We provide comfortable overnight gear (tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pads), your raft guides, and trail guides, all on-river meals while on the trip starting with lunch on day 1 and ending with lunch on the last day, 1 night lodging at Paradise Lodge, transportation from Galice to the trail start (Graves Creek boat ramp), and transportation back to Galice at the end of the trip.

4. How is gear transported between campsites? Do you need to carry your own gear?

You will only need to carry what you'll want for a day of hiking (an extra layer or two, sunscreen, water, small snacks, bug repellent). All other gear will be transported by raft. We'll stop along the river to meet up with one of our rafts to enjoy a scenic riverside lunch, and be able to refill water, or even hop in the boat for part of the day.

5. What kind of camping accommodations are provided for the two nights along the river?

We provide comfortable tents with enough space to spread out, comfortable sleeping pads, and sleeping bags. We'll prepare delicious freshly cooked meals by the riverside and enjoy them under a covered dining area. Our camps may feel more like a traveling bed and breakfast than a traditional camp. It's far from roughing it!

6. What should I expect during the night at Paradise Lodge? What's included with our stay there?

Paradise Lodge is well known for its remote location and comfortable accommodations. A riverside deck, a large dining room, and even a bar awaits you at Paradise Lodge. It's comfortable, warm, and welcoming. It's like a remote, comfortable hotel in the middle of a wilderness. You'll have a hotel style room with a shower, bathroom, and bed to sleep in. It's by far the most comfortable and luxurious lodges along the Rogue River Trail.



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7. What kind of food will be served during the trip, and are dietary restrictions accommodated?

With our raft support, you'd be amazed at what we can take down river with us. You can expect delicious freshly prepared food throughout the trip. Our evening dinners 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.

8. How much experience do I need with rafting or hiking? Is prior experience necessary?

No prior experience is needed, however good physical fitness is required. In our 4-day trip, we will cover just over 40 miles of trail (about 10 miles each day). While none of the trail is overly steep, it does have areas of uphill and downhill each day, with some areas with exposure to steep drop-offs. With our approach using raft support, we can accommodate most fitness levels.

9. What is the group size for this trip, and what is the guide-to-participant ratio?

The Rogue River is one of the most protected rivers in the U.S. While this is wonderful for the wilderness and the river itself, we do limit our group sizes because of these protections. We have a maximum group size of 18 guests, and to provide the most personal experience, we maintain small guide-to-guest ratios. Our trips include both raft and trail guides, with a maximum of 6 guests per trail guide and at least 2 boat guides (increasing to 3 or more raft guides for groups larger than 12 guests).

10. What kind of wildlife might we encounter along the Rogue River Trail?

This is where the Rogue River truly shines! Think prehistoric times without the dinosaurs. We generally see an abundance of wildlife on the Rogue. Because of our trip timing, it's not uncommon to see Bald Eagles, Osprey, Turtles, Heron, Bear, Deer, Otters, and so much more!

11. What equipment and gear should I bring with me, and what will be provided by the guides?

We provide a full packing list for our guests, but essentially, we provide everything other than your personal clothes, headlamp, and a toothbrush.

12. What will the weather be like in late September and early October, and how should I prepare for it?

Weather in late September can be variable. We've seen everything from 80+ degrees to cooler temperatures with some rain. Generally, mornings are cooler (in the low 50's to upper 40's) and afternoons are extremely pleasant (mid to upper 70's or lower 80's). We timed our trips to be around these cooler temperatures, but early enough to have a better chance of good weather. Cooler temperatures also bring about seasonal changes in colors within the canyon and draw out tons of wildlife.



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13. How do we get to the starting point of the hike, and what's the transportation like after the trip ends?

Our trip meets in Galice, OR. It's a small community that has a rich history in traveling the lower Rogue River section. You'll leave your vehicle here, and we'll transport you by vehicle to the beginning of the trail (about 15 minutes down river). We'll end the hike portion of the trip near Foster Bar, OR, where we'll hop in our private transportation and be brought back to Galice where we'll say our 'until next time'.

14. Will there be opportunities for swimming or fishing along the way?

Absolutely! Our trip was designed with this in mind! The Rogue River is renowned for its amazing Steelhead and Salmon season. You're welcome to swim at lunch (maybe even soak under a waterfall near the trail), and fish in the mornings, or evenings at camp. Our camp locations along the river have great areas for swimming and fishing, so definitely take advantage of them if you'd like to!

15. Are there any age restrictions or requirements for participants?

We recommend that participants be at least 16 years old because of the hiking distance and terrain. Generally, kids are in much better shape than we are as adults, but we've found that with participants younger than this, it's hard for parents/guardians to relax and enjoy themselves. It's your vacation, and we want you to be able to fully enjoy it. We may be able to welcome younger hikers on a private basis. Please contact us directly if you'd like to learn more about how we can help.