



## **Salmon River High Adventure Base (French Creek Campground)**

This is a privately owned campsite up the Salmon River from Riggins, Idaho. It's a coveted location during bustling summer months. It includes parking, tent camping sites, restrooms, access to cliff jumping, sandy river beach and a beautiful mountain creek. Located on the edge of the largest wilderness in the Lower 48, the views and starry nights are unparalleled.

We proudly offer this incredible experience to large groups at budget rates! This is not a glamping experience, but rather a high energy, fun, social environment where we handle the river adventure, transportation and food logistics so you can enjoy the experience!

While the location is prime, the campsite is primitive. This makes it great! Make sure your group is prepared with tents and proper weather attire.

### **Provided Gear:**

**CAMPING CHAIRS**

**EATING UTENSILS** - All eating utensils, plates, and bowls will be provided.

**PROPANE FIRE PIT** - Campfires are not allowed at this location.

**DRINKING WATER** - We provide drinking water, but we recommend groups bring a few water jugs in case of the rare pump failure.

**TOILETS** - There are Forest Service-style pit toilets on site.

#### **OTHER:**

Safety and First Aid Equipment

Oar boats, paddle boats, and inflatable kayaks.

US Coast Guard approved whitewater PFD.

# Packing List - The following items are the responsibility of participants:

**TENTS** - There are sites for tent camping at the base camp. Car camping/vans/small campers work fine.

**SLEEPING BAGS** - Lightweight, compact, fiberfill preferred. Down-filled is okay but must be dry. 32 - 40 degree sleeping bags work great for mid June through August. 0 to 32 degrees bags are best during other months.

**SLEEPING PAD**

**SMALL TRAVEL PILLOW**

**RAIN SUIT** - Two-piece, jacket AND pants. We recommend PVC, EVA or PEVA rainwear, which is basically the rubbery plastic material. It's waterproof and warm. Thin plastic ponchos are good backups, but might not be durable for multiple days. 95% of the time it's hot and sunny but good rain gear can turn rafting in the rain into a positive experience.

**Pro Tip:**

Used Gore-Tex will lose its waterproofing ability. Check older gear before trusting it.

**FOOTWEAR** - You will need two pairs of shoes. 1. Sturdy water shoes. Sneakers offer the most protection and work well when used with wool, polypro, or neoprene socks for insulation. Most prefer Chacos or Tevas for being sturdy and quick drying. 2. Comfortable camp shoes that can be used on potentially rocky hikes. 3. Thin, worn out shoes? Pack spares.

**Flip flops, crocs, cowboy boots, etc are not allowed on the river.**

**Footwear is mandatory at all times on the river, in camp, and on the beach (sharp rocks).**

**Pro Tip:**

Most guides will wear Chacos or Tevas while on the river and have more comfortable shoes for evenings in camp.

**CLOTHING** - Small day-bags are provided and may help hold extra layers, although these are small. Remember, all items left at camp will be inaccessible during the day.

- 2-3 swimsuits.

- 3 pairs of shorts, shirts & underwear for camp.

- 2-3 quick drying shirts. (Long or short sleeve)

- Fleece jacket.
- Puffy jacket - good for chilly mornings.
- Long pants for sun protection and cold mornings
- 3 pairs of wool socks.
- Cotton hoodies and jeans are bulky and hard to dry. Leave them behind.

**Pro Tip:**

Warm Days - Quick-dry t-shirt, nylon swimming trunks, and sandals.

Cold Days - Trade t-shirt for polypro top, add fleece top and rain suit for the worst conditions.

Remember, layering is key. All items left at camp will be inaccessible during the day.

**WATER BOTTLES** - Bring 2 sturdy water bottles. 100+ degree weather is not uncommon! Staying hydrated is crucial.

**HAT** - Bring a hat for sun protection. Add a retainer in case of wind or water fight.

**SUNGLASSES AND EYEGLASSES** - Retainers like croakies or chums will be your best friend.

**SUNSCREEN AND LIP BALM** - Expect long hours in the sun. Bring plenty and re-apply during the day.

**INSECT REPELLANT** - (Small amount) This is a dry desert climate with very little stationary water. Mosquitos are rare but other bugs may occasionally be present.

**FLASHLIGHT OR HEADLAMP** - Extra Batteries

**PERSONAL TOILETRIES** - Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, small towel, etc.

**TOWEL** - Bring but leave at camp or in vehicle.

**SOAP** - (Optional) Biodegradable soap does extensive damage to rivers before it degrades. It is not allowed in the Salmon River or any side tributaries. You may use soap away from the river if needed.

**MEDICINE** - If you need to bring any medicine critical to your health {e.g. insulin, epinephrine}, please divide it into two containers, each with adequate quantity to complete the trip. A guide or leader will carry the extra medicine container on a separate boat. Cool storage is available.

**PHONE** - There is no cell service, wifi, or electrical grid along the river, it's great! It's amazing to watch people connect and laugh more than they have in years. Most phones are kept packed away at camp.

At SHRAB camp, you are a 1 hour drive from cell service in Riggins. We carry satellite communication for emergencies. Family members can reach out to our office if needed during your trip. We can relay messages that are checked daily by trip leaders.

**Pro Tip:**

We recommend waterproof phone dry bags for photos if you want your phone accessible. We sell these at our store in Riggins. Your phone might be waterproof but they all sink!

**CAMERA** - Padded, waterproof camera cases are essential for expensive cameras. Provide your cases, and the guides will accommodate your individual needs. If you bring a disposable camera, use a waterproof marker to identify it, they tend to look alike.

**SNACKS AND CANDY** - bring what you prefer. Meals are provided, but afternoon snacks hit the spot, especially with the high level of activity.

**FISHING** - You will need an Idaho fishing license if you will be fishing. Trout and bass can be caught here.

**CASH** - gratuities, etc. Gratuities are always a personal matter, however, we are often asked what is common. Here are the industry guidelines - The guides work extremely hard, so if you find they were a highlight of your experience then it is common that they receive 10% – 20% of a party's total fare. If you do not feel that strongly, please follow your heart as they do very much appreciate your generosity. Common practice is to give it to the trip leader at the end to be distributed evenly among the guides.

**LEAVE BEHIND:**

- Unnecessary electronic devices (game devices for kids, etc).
- Laptops.
- Carabiners - great for rock climbing, but create a hazard on the rafts.
- Fireworks - absolutely not! Highly illegal in this area prone to wildfires.
- Firewood - No fires allowed at this camp, we have propane fires for firesides and s'mores.
- Glass containers.
- Jewelry.

**Rules & Policies:**

- No open fires, fireworks, etc at this location. We have propane fires and stoves available.
- Cliff Jumping is only allowed at designated locations. ABSOLUTELY NO FLIPS OR DIVING! You may be an expert but this puts pressure on the group to try things they shouldn't. You are hours from the nearest hospital at this location.
- PFDs - Life Jackets must be worn at all times on or in the river.
- Kayaks - Helmets required and must follow guides' commands or lose privileges.
- Shoes on at all times on the river and at camp.

- Keep bags and tents zipped. Avoid tall grass off of the paths. We've never had issues with rattlesnakes but they are present.
- Buddy system! Do not wander off alone. Tell us where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Youth Trips - No alcohol allowed, including for adults.
- Charter Trips - You may bring your own beverages. We urge caution to avoid the river and steep trail at night. We do not allow drinking while floating the river.
- Illegal drugs, including marijuana are strictly prohibited here. We won't tolerate any of this!
- Leave No Trace - Pack out trash and leave the beaches as you found them.

## Optional Group Gear:

- Large Canopy/Tent - Can be helpful for team meetings if rain is in the forecast.
- Camping Chairs - We have many chairs, but you are welcome to bring your own if you want a softer seat.
- Games - We have a variety of games but you are welcome to bring more! Football, frisbee, spikeball, cards, etc!
- Water Jugs - Can spare you the walk to fill up water bottles.
- Toilet Paper - Provided at camp but the restrooms along the road may be running low.
- Extra Clothing Layers - Not uncommon for someone to come unprepared.
- Snacks - Food is provided! But you can never go wrong here.
- Extra sunscreen - Sunburns are too common!
- Garbage Bags - We have them but convenient to have at your campsite. All trash must be packed out.
- First Aid Kit - The guides have first aid supplies but if your group drives or hikes to another location, it will be good to have.

## Weather:

Summer on the Salmon River is usually sunny and hot! Perfect for a river adventure, but the occasional rainstorm can bring chilly mornings. Days are often in the 90's, nights in the 50's with the rare chance of lower temps. [NWS Weather Forecast](#) for the campsite.

## Food:

### Day 0

Meals typically start at lunch on day 1. Coordinate with us ahead of time for dinner/breakfast if your group is coming in early for the 4 day, 3 night experience.

### Day 1

Lunch: River Wraps

Appetizer: Veggie Trays & Dips

Dinner: Fire Charred Canyon Burgers, River Beans, Salad.

Dessert: Cookies

### **Day 2**

Breakfast: Pancakes, Hash Browns, Sausage

Lunch: River Wraps, Fruit

Appetizer: Chips and Salsa/Guac

Dinner: Fajitas - *Fiesta Night!*

Dessert: S'mores

### **Day 3**

Breakfast: French Toast, Eggs, Sausage

Lunch: River dogs, Macaroni Salad, Watermelon

Charter Trips - we may break out a few culinary surprises!

## **Waivers:**

Food allergies and other requests are communicated on the waiver.

**How to sign your waiver:** Go to Trip Preparation [www.adventureidahorafting.com/planning](http://www.adventureidahorafting.com/planning) and search for your trip by start date only.

## **Driving Directions:**

Most groups leave in the morning, aiming to reach Riggins, Idaho around 9am MT. Ensure your vehicle's fuel tank is full, as this is your last opportunity to refuel before reaching SRHAB. Riggins also marks the last point where you will have reliable cell phone service, so make any necessary calls or messages here. Prepare your maps, as you will be navigating to the camp without cell service. (T-Mobile? Get ready in McCall/New Meadows or Grangeville, as there is no service in Riggins.)

Coming from out of state? Groups with longer travel times can arrive at the camp the night before. Reach out for scheduling.

From Riggins, your route will follow the Big Salmon Road for 45 minutes. This road runs parallel to the Salmon River (NOT the Little Salmon), heading upstream. It's important to stay on this road, following the flow of the river. SRHAB is located at the confluence of French Creek and the Salmon River, there is a narrow double track road angling up into the camp, then pull outs with a French Creek History sign. If you cross a small bridge over a creek and immediately hit a crossroads, you've gone 100 yds too far. This is the only crossroads on the Big Salmon Rd, and has a sign pointing up a dirt road to McCall.

2WD vehicles can easily make the drive to the camp. Average clearance vehicles can make it up the final

50 yard road into the camp without a problem. Low clearance vehicles may have to park in the turnouts near the camp and walk 100 yards.

[Map for finding the campground](#)

## Itinerary

Each day you will explore a new section of rapids! All activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and river levels. There is plenty of time for camp games, meetings, and an overall good time!

### Day 0:

Some groups will come in the day before rafting begins, mainly if they are traveling from out of state. Reach out for scheduling and coordinating food with us if needed.

### Day 1:

Arrive between 10 and 10:30am. The camp is about 45 min from Riggins, Idaho.

\*We operate everything on mountain time. The river is the PT/MT boundary, phones and other GPS devices will alternate timezones near the river.\*

At 11am, we will hold an orientation and get everyone ready for rafting. Everyone will drive upriver to the end of the road, buses won't go the final 4 miles up the road.

Car shuttle, lunch, and safety orientation. Then the rafting trip begins!

The group floats down to camp at French Creek, arriving around 3-5pm. Time for cliff jumping, beach games, fishing all while dinner is being prepared.

### Day 2:

Wake up, eat breakfast, and board the rafts down at the beach.

Rafting from French Creek to Riggins. This is a big 20 mile day with a mix of rapids and calm sections for water activities.

Stop for lunch and restrooms.

Complete the float to Riggins, Idaho. Stop at Adventure Idaho to tie up the boats for the night.

Ride the bus/vans back upriver to camp at the end of the day. Dinner and open time for group activities.

### Day 3:

Breakfast at camp and packing up.

Everyone packs up in the morning and drives down to Riggins. Meet on the back deck at Adventure Idaho in the morning, as drivers take cars down to the take-out at Lucille. We will bring all the drivers back to Riggins. This is a short 25 min shuttle - we can work with the needs of your group.

Everyone floats the final, and most exciting rapids.

We end with lunch on the back deck overlooking the river at Adventure Idaho. The group heads back home from here around 1-3pm.

Groups can spend an extra night camping at Heaven's Gate Overlook in the Seven Devil Mountains (45 min from Riggins). Backpacking the Seven Devil's is also an option to extend your trip.

## **Physical Requirements:**

The trail to the river at SRHAB camp is steep and narrow. You must be coordinated and physically fit to ascend and descend the trail - 150 vertical feet. You also must be able to swim with a PFD on and walk on rocky shorelines.

Group members not interested in rafting can stay at camp or watch from the road. Minors must have an adult accompany them. Opting out of the rapids and joining the group for the mellow sections are options.

[Essential Physical Requirements can be found on our site.](#)

## **French Creek History:**

French Creek's name originates from a group of eight French placer miners who worked the area in 1867; A notable incident in the area's development was the misdirection of materials intended for the construction of a bridge over the Salmon River, as reported in the "Warren Times Newspaper" in 1891. This mix-up led to a year's delay in the bridge's construction.

By 1892, the State Bridge across the Salmon River at French Creek was completed (near the jumping rock), only to be destroyed in a windstorm in 1901, disrupting the flow of traffic that connected various communities and significant locations such as Meadows, Burgdorf, Warren, Scott Ranch, Florence, and Mount Idaho.

The 1930s saw the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) embarking on road construction projects in north-central Idaho, including the road from Riggins to French Creek. This road was vital for local homesteaders, miners, and the Riggins Hot Springs resort, providing access even during winter. Notably, members of a National Geographic Expedition in 1935 witnessed CCCs blasting rock from cliffs along the Salmon River and stayed at the French Creek CCC camp.

WWII brought the shutdown of the CCC as resources were diverted to the war effort. The road was never completed leaving 80 river miles upriver a roadless, remote wilderness. Today, it remains a 10 hour drive around the largest wilderness in the lower 48 to reach the next river access ramp, near Salmon, Idaho. At French Creek, the CCC lodges and buildings have gone the way of history, most likely burning down decades ago. Foundations, a stone oven and other relics can still be found. The Boy Scouts of America purchased the property and operated out of the site for recent decades. It is now leased to Adventure Idaho to carry the torch for this area's wild and untamed nature.