



LOCHSA RIVER

The Lochsa River is one of the world's greatest whitewater trips and was one of the original six rivers designated "Wild and Scenic" by the United States Congress in 1968 as part of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The river is surrounded by National Forest lands, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and flows through a dramatic canyon of thick cedar, fir and pine forests. ROW offers trips from one to three days and all of our trips are based out of River Dance Lodge. At the Lodge you may stay in handcrafted log cabins, glamping tents or camp in our camping area. Dining is available at the Syringa Café where you'll find great food, a delicious wine list, microbrews on tap and a friendly, hospitable staff. The Lodge is an ideal base for other exploration of the area including the Lewis and Clark Trail, Selway Falls, and an extensive trail system in the nearby National Forest lands.

When to go: Our Lochsa season starts in early May and goes until the water gets too low for rafting, which can be anytime from the early to mid-July. When choosing your trip, keep in mind that the river is more demanding in mid-May and the beginning of June when the water is high. During late June and July the water lowers, exposing more rocks and making it a more technical run. Since the river is not dammed, water flows depend strictly on snow pack. During higher water, we use only 16' paddle-assisted oar-rafts. These carry six paddlers and a guide who sits in the back and has two 10-foot oars for added control. As water levels drop, we use smaller 13' rafts that don't use the rear-mounted oars and the guide uses a paddle like everyone else. All rafts are self-bailing. (Starting in July we also offer gentle floats on the Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers.)

Whitewater: The Lochsa is an incredibly beautiful river for those seeking a thrilling whitewater experience. There are over 40 major rapids rated class III to IV+ and even class V at certain water levels. With names such as Grim Reaper, Lochsa Falls, Bloody Mary and Ten Pin Alley, you can be sure they're wild. Due to the nature of the river, and the fact that this is a paddle-raft trip, participants must be in good physical condition and be comfortable in and around the water. Few other rivers in the world offer such exhilarating rafting. Veterans of the Gauley River in West Virginia will love the Lochsa and discover a powerful, punchy river with huge waves and holes. While California's Tuolumne offers 17 miles of great whitewater, the Lochsa sports over 40 miles! While these other rivers are also fantastic, we believe the Lochsa offers a pinnacle experience in the world of whitewater. Choose from the following lengths of trip.

3-Day Trips: We raft about 60 miles of the Lochsa. Generally, on 3-day trips, we begin near the headwaters of the Lochsa, where Crooked and White Sand creeks meet. These trips begin on gentle waters, allowing us to practice our paddling skills and learn the ways of the river. The next two days are filled with one exploding rapid after another. When the water gets lower, we begin our 3-day trips at the same place as our 2-day trips. Then, on the 3rd day, we repeat the 2nd day since this section has the wildest rapids. People love it. Mile for mile, the Lochsa is unequalled for whitewater excitement.

Whitewater is only one of the many attractions of the Lochsa. Our camps are set amidst cedar forests in a deep, thickly forested canyon. We may enjoy sightings of eagles and osprey as well as numerous other birds. Moss-covered rocks, star-lit nights and evening campfires are but a few of the reasons we strongly encourage you to join us for a 3-day trip in this enchanting land.

2-Day Trips: cover the same section of river as the last 2 days of the 3-day trip, and include one night camping on the ROW Island. This is a great 2-day getaway featuring 40 miles of fun-filled and action-packed whitewater!

The Lochsa parallels Highway 12, allowing us to transport your gear between camps in our van. It is also the reason we can offer 2- and 3-day trips at a lower price than other trips of comparable length. You may also choose a lodge-based 2- or 3-day trip where you stay at River Dance Lodge instead of camping on the river.

1-Day Trips: These trips cover 20 miles of river and feature the popular "Goat Range". The trip is subject to a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of 30. Singles and small groups will be placed with others. Weekends are the most popular

times for our Lochsa trips so, if possible, plan your trip during the week. You'll enjoy price savings by doing so! Please contact our office for more details on pricing and group incentives.

Super 1-Day Trips: This trip is available for groups of 12-30 and covers about 30 miles of rapid excitement in one day! These trips are only offered until mid-June. If the cubic feet per second (CFS) reads higher than 14,000 or lower than 6,000 we modify this trip and float the thrilling whitewater of the "Goat Range" twice in one day.

Since the Lochsa is challenging and the water is cold, ROW provides wetsuits, wetsuit jackets, wetsuit booties, a fleece sweater, splash jacket, fleece hat and helmet for your comfort and safety. The wetsuits are Farmer John style, meaning that they have long legs but no sleeves. During hot weather the Farmer John is worn alone. Wool socks can be worn under the booties. Please use our gear checklist to be sure you pack all you need.

Fishing: It is possible to fish while at camp in the evenings and early mornings. We encourage catch and release fishing. The fishing is generally good. Bring a fly rod or lightweight spinning outfit. Rods should be protected in a case. You should obtain an Idaho fishing license before the trip. Hip boots and waders are not appropriate for this trip.

Trips on the Lochsa meet at either 8:00 AM or 9:00 AM Pacific Time. Since we operate two trips per day, your exact meeting time will depend on the combination of trips we have for that day. We will advise you on your invoice of your meeting time. Super 1-Day trips meet at 8:00 AM Pacific Time. Check the board outside the ROW store at The River Dance Lodge the night before to double-check your meeting time. You can leave your car at the River Dance Lodge for the duration of the trip.

Meeting Point: ROW's outpost is located at the River Dance Lodge in Syringa, Idaho, on the banks of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River and, just six miles downstream from the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. Syringa is 92 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho and 129 miles west of Missoula, Montana on U.S. Highway 12. We are a 2-hour drive from Lewiston, 2.5 hours from Missoula, 4 hours from Spokane, about 5 hours from Boise and 7-8 hours from Portland or Seattle. If you plan to fly, the closest airport is in Lewiston, with service on Horizon Air. The closest major airports are Missoula and Spokane. At the airport, you will need to rent a car to drive to the River Dance Lodge.

Accommodations: We offer both camping in luxury wall tents – called "Glamping" and lodging in handcrafted log cabins at the River Dance Lodge. **There are eight log cabins** at the River Dance Lodge, each with a private hot tub on the expansive front deck. Each cabin has a "theme" and is decorated with unique, character-filled furnishings and local artwork. The cabins have a comfortable living room with dining table and chairs, a gas fireplace and sitting area. There is a small kitchen area and counter with a microwave, coffeemaker, dishes and under-counter refrigerator. Each is stocked with tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, creamer, salt and pepper.

Four of the cabins are "small" with one main floor queen bedroom and a loft area with two single beds that can be moved together to form a king-size bed if desired. There is a full bath on the main floor, and a futon that will sleep one or two people, thus the cabin accommodates a total of 4 to 6 people. We also have two duplex cabins, each with two "large" units. Each unit has two queen bedrooms on the main level that share a full bath. There is also a futon in the main floor living area that will sleep one or two people. Upstairs is a loft area with a queen bed, a trundle bed that sleeps two singles and a separate bathroom with shower. Because each duplex unit will sleep from 6-10 they are perfect for families and larger groups. The entire building could be rented and is ideal for a group of 12-16 or as many as 20. For maximum comfort we recommend no more than 8 in each duplex unit.

There are three glamping tents available at the River Dance Lodge – these are perfect for guests who like the idea of being outdoors, but also want some creature comforts. Each tent is furnished with a king-sized bed (that can be separated into twins if preferred), chairs, a small table and wood stove. The deck extends behind the tent to create a back porch area that has an antique claw foot bathtub heated by a propane burner. There is also a small sink and counter outside.

Dining is available in the Syringa Café where you'll find homemade huckleberry pies, healthy salads, fine Northwest Cuisine served family style, a delicious variety of wine, microbrews and friendly, hospitable staff. Next to the cozy fireplace you'll find the Lodge library and game collection. Reservations are required for meals at the café.

Photos: During certain times of year ROW is pleased to offer photographs of your trip. These are available for sale at the end of the day.

Reading List: The Lochsa River follows part of the course of the Lewis & Clark Trail. You might enjoy reading about this historic journey in Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose. Other fun books to read are The Lolo Trail: A History and a Guide to the Trail of Lewis and Clark by Ralph S. Space, The Lochsa Story: Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains by Bud Moore, and Caulked Boots and other Northwest Writings by Bert Russell.

Other Outdoor Vacation Options at the River Dance Lodge.

- **Whitewater Rush Package:** Upgrade your Lochsa rafting trip to include two nights in a cabin at the River Dance Lodge and meals at the Syringa Café.
- **Selway & Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers:** If some of your group are not ready for the Lochsa, they might enjoy our trips on the lower Selway, sister river of the Lochsa, or the Middle Fork of the Clearwater. Call our office for details on these fun 1-day trips that are available on weekdays only in June, and every day in July and August.
- **All Inclusive Packages** – ROW conducts 4-day/ 3-night and 5-day/4 night all inclusive vacations at the River Dance Lodge good for singles, couples and families with kids of all ages.
- **Fishing** – Use the River Dance Lodge as your base for fantastic fishing in the Lochsa, Selway and Clearwater Rivers. ROW also offers guided fly-fishing trips on the lower Selway and Clearwater Rivers.

NOTE: The Lochsa is a challenging class III-IV+ whitewater river that at certain water levels also has class V rapids. While we welcome first-time rafters we would advise that it is only appropriate for those people who know how to swim and are very comfortable in water. From May 11 to June 10 (the period most likely to have extreme high water conditions), we recommend that all participants have previous whitewater experience. Children should be at least 15 years of age and 17 during the high water period. If you are not sure that the Lochsa is an appropriate river for you, please call our office and we'll be happy to discuss it with you. We do offer trips on milder rivers, so if you decide not to raft the Lochsa there are other options.