



Tarkio Kayak Adventures on the Main Salmon

July 7th – 15th

Sandy beaches, warm water, fun rapids, and great playspots epitomize the Main Salmon. You will spend seven days and six nights improving your kayak skills as you enjoy a trip down the 'Wild and Scenic' section of the Main Salmon. This class II-III section flows for 76 miles through the second deepest canyon in the United States and is bordered by the Frank Church and Gospel Hump Wilderness Areas.

Your instructors on the Main Salmon will be renowned experts and will assist you in a 3:1 student-to-instructor ratio. Whether you need to work on basic skills or master advanced techniques, the personalized instruction on the Salmon will allow you to take your kayaking skills to the next level. This clinic is raft-supported which means that after a day of kayaking you paddle to camp, change clothes, and relax on beautiful beach while a delicious meal is prepared. The combination of expert instruction and a classic wilderness river trip makes for one of the best weeks of paddling anywhere.

Clinic: Kayak clinics on the Main Salmon are held in July when the water is warm and the weather beautiful. The following itinerary gives a general outline of what you can expect on the Main Salmon. Skill Level: What kind of kayaker do you need to be to enjoy the Main Salmon? If you are comfortable in a kayak and can make basic maneuvers (ferries, eddy-turns, peel-outs) in class II water, you will have a great time on the Main Salmon. A 'river' roll is not necessary and it is something that can be perfected during the trip. The great thing about the whitewater on the Main Salmon is that there is something for all levels of paddlers. Experienced kayakers paddle play boats and work on advanced maneuvers while beginning boaters work on basic

skills. Each day you will paddle in a small group (usually 2 or 3) accompanied by an instructor. You will work on skills according to your experience and interests. Please call or email if you have questions about your skill level and enjoying the Main Salmon.

Sample Itinerary Below

Sample itinerary *Please note: Daily itineraries, campsites, rapids and miles traveled per day vary with the Forest Service's campsite assignment for each group.

Day 1 Depart from Missoula, MT (Holiday Inn Parkside parking lot) by bus at 10:00am. We will have a bagged lunch on the way to the Main Salmon. Then get a short, mellow afternoon paddle in and get an idea of everyone's skill and comfort level. We will meet the rafts and our personal dry-bags at Corn Creek where we will have appetizers, eat dinner and camp for the evening.

Day 2 Have breakfast, optional yoga. Break into paddling groups and begin the journey down the Main Salmon. Paddle six to eight miles and run Killum and Gunbarrel rapids Stop for lunch, take a short side hike to see pictographs at Legend Creek. Paddle some more exciting miles and enjoy Rainer, Lantz, and Devil's Teeth Rapids. Work on skills and tune up your roll. Check-out nesting Golden Eagles at Little Squaw Creek. Camp at Chukar Beach.

Day 3 Yoga, breakfast, chalk talk, and 11:00 launch. Enter the 'Black Canyon', a beautiful area of exposed granite cliffs on the Idaho Batholith. Great waves abound! Work on your surfing skills! Rapids: Salmon Falls, Hancock, Sabe Creek. Stop for a soak in Barth Hot Springs. Camp at Magpie Creek.

Day 4 Spend another half-day in the amazing 'Black Canyon'. More time is spent working out the subtle techniques of wave surfing, stern squirts, and hole riding. Take a beautiful side hike up Elk Creek. Camp on the sandy beach at Ludwig Bar.

Day 5 Continue to work on paddling techniques based on your individual needs. Opportunities abound for stroke work, roll tune-ups, and hand roll practice. Rapids: Bailey's, Five Mile, Split Rock, Big Mallard, Elkhorn, Growler. A big whitewater day!! Camp and evening festivities at Rhett Creek. (Or warm showers, lodging, dinner and breakfast at Mackay Bar Lodge).

Day 6 A day to put some river miles under your belt. Enjoy the paddle amidst the beautiful scenery of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Rapids: Ludwig, Jackson Bar, Five Mile, Boise Bar. Camp at Basin Creek.

Day 7 Leave camp early and paddle to the take-out at Carey Creek. Take-out in the afternoon and relax on the drive back to Missoula. Arrive

in Missoula check into hotel rooms, shower and enjoy a group dinner and celebrate a wonderful trip on the Salmon!

*all participants should book return flights for the morning of July 15th.

