

UPPER KLAMATH RIVER (HELLS CORNER)

Class: 4+, 11-23 miles, 1-2 days, May-October
Location: Meeting in Weed (CA), shuttle into Oregon, rivers flows back into CA.

The Upper Klamath River is one of the best Class 4 whitewater rivers for the summer and relatively uncrowded due to its location. It is well worth the trip. The river warms up with nearly 6 miles of Class 3 rapids before tackling the big stuff. The gradient changes, and the next 6 miles offers some wild whitewater with the Class 4+ Caldera (100 yards) and Hells Corner (600 yards) being the highlights. The rapids are long and the water big. On a 2 day trip, we usually camp at the Oregon/California border and go back up stream the 2nd day to re-run some of the best rapids, therefore you get 23 stomping miles.

Consistent all summer flows on the Upper Klamath River come from the J.C. Boyle Power House located over the border in Oregon. The area was inhabited by the Indians and some historic remains from old mines and ranches can be visited. The wild life is abundant with blue herons, bald & golden eagles, ospreys, Canada Geese, deer and the caves along route are home to the protected Townsend's Big Eared Bats.

Great camping is to be had in the rugged high desert volcanic rock canyon carved by the Upper Klamath River. Overnight clients can try their hand at catching wild trout, swim in the usually warm waters or just relax discussing the days run after setting up camp. Sip wine and cold beer and sample appetizers while your guides barbecue chicken or tri-tip steak. You awaken next morning to the aroma of coffee brewing and breakfast sizzling, before our ride back upstream to the old Frain Ranch site above the Class 4+ Caldera rapid. We run the 6 mile stretch back down to camp and then continue downstream to our take-out at Copco Lake. Below the State-line, the canyon opens up and the river mellows, allowing you to try your hand at guiding the rafts or body-surfing.

Other recreation opportunities abound within the Klamath & Shasta National Forests, Lake Shasta and Lassen National Park. Our meeting place in Weed is 11 miles north of Mt. Shasta City. Within a short distance there is a plentiful camping, accommodations, hot springs and Ashland (65 miles north) also offers excellent accommodations and the opportunity for some culture at its famed Shakespeare Festival which runs all summer.

Airport pick-up is usually available from Redding (frequent flights with United) or from Weed (private or charter flights). Interstate 5 has been much improved with most sections allowing 65 miles per hour.

Distances/Times for travel:

5.75 hrs N. of San Francisco (286 miles), 4.75 hrs N. of Sacramento (240 miles),
4.5 hrs N. of Reno (227 miles), 1.25 hrs N. of Redding (71 miles) and to the north,
Yreka is 29 miles, Ashland is 65 miles and Medford is 82 miles.

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