



THE  
MIDDLE  
FORK  
OF  
THE  
SALMON  
RIVER  
*IDAHO*

*MIDDLE FORK  
RIVER EXPEDITIONS*

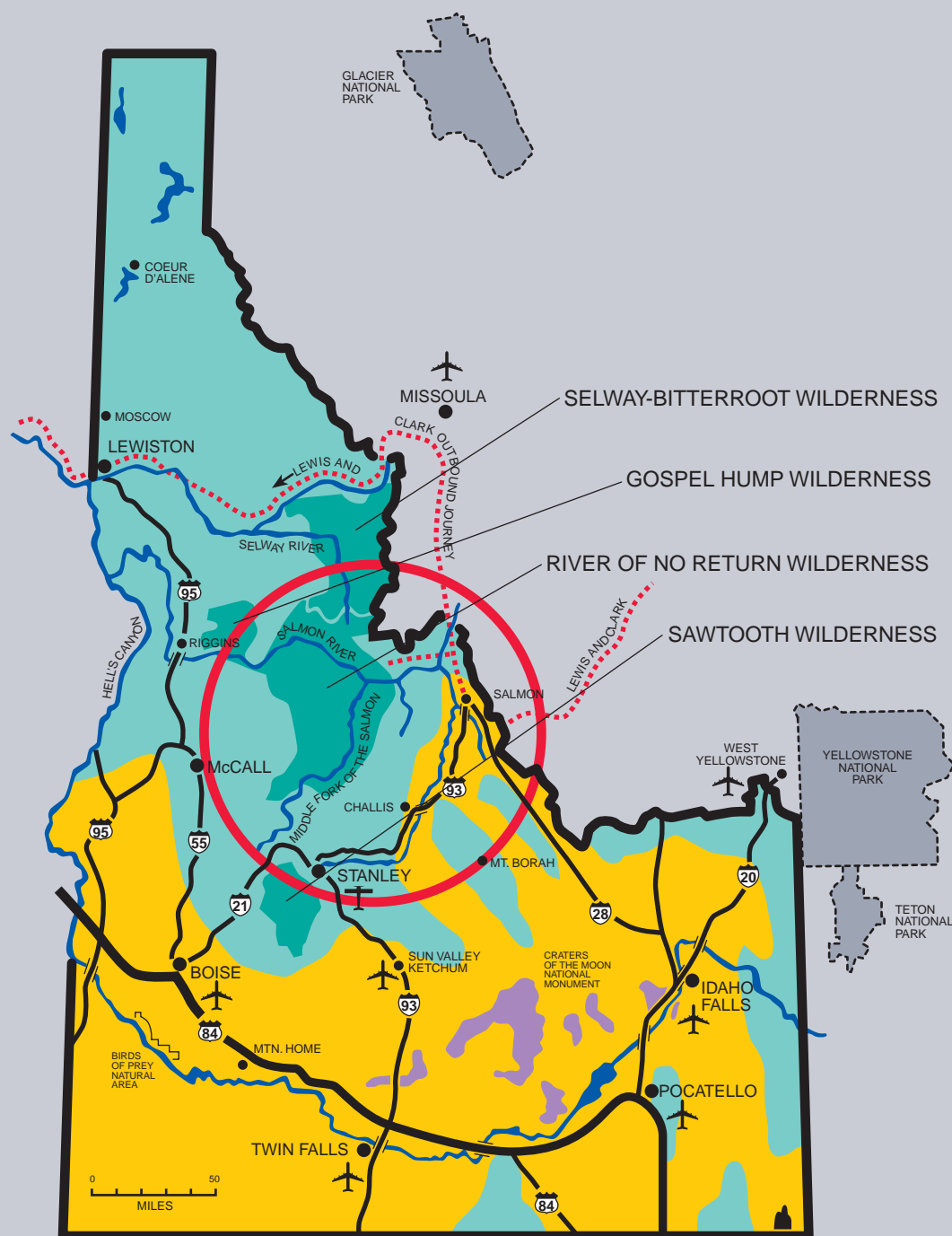


## Travel to Stanley

Commercial air service is available to Boise from all major cities. Stanley is easily reached by car or air taxi from Boise, Hailey (Sun Valley), or West Yellowstone.

Stanley is 130 road miles from Boise, 61 miles from Sun Valley and 305 miles from West Yellowstone.

- MIXED FOREST
- SEMI-ARID GRASSLAND
- WILDERNESS AREA
- LEWIS & CLARK OUTBOUND ROUTE





# THE RIVER RUNS WILD AND FREE

*Raft Idaho's Legendary  
Middle Fork-Salmon  
River Experience  
Spectacular Wilderness.*

The river beckons. Escape to an unhurried atmosphere of natural beauty. Explore a part of primitive America as it once was and still is. This is country that offers you both adventure and solitude. Discover lasting friendships around warm campfires. Come to the Idaho wilderness for a vacation you won't find anywhere else in the world: a raft trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.



# IT ALL STARTS IN STANLEY, IDAHO

Your river adventure begins in a high mountain meadow in the old west town of Stanley, Idaho, population 69. This area was discovered in 1822 by an expedition of trappers from the Hudson's Bay Company and visited later by mountain men and prospectors looking for the mother lode. It remains today a picturesque frontier town of

*From cascading whitewater to soul healing riverside campfire, your vacation on the Middle Fork of the Salmon has something for everyone. An old miners' cabin and Indian pictographs stir the imagination. Spectacular waterfalls and scenic mountain lakes are your reward for exploring the Sawtooth Mountains and the Stanley Basin -- before or after your river trip.*

dirt streets and log buildings dating to the turn of the century. Here, the imposing Sawtooth Mountains spiral skyward, casting their wild and jutting shadows across Stanley Basin and Sawtooth Valley.

Surrounded by 360 degree picture-book scenery, you'll find a variety of natural and man-made wonders. Here is the perfect place to begin and end your Middle Fork vacation.

Commercial air service is available through Boise or Hailey, connecting to Stanley via rental car or air taxi to the town's convenient airstrip.

And if you're looking for nightlife, get out your dancing shoes. Every night of the week you can hear cowboy boots and tennis shoes clattering, pounding and shuffling across the dance floor as people do the "Stanley Stomp." Folks sure know how to have fun in Stanley!

## *There's more... Sights and Sidetrips*

A Middle fork vacation provides much more than the excitement of the river. It offers you a land rich in history. Come and live the experience of another time, another place.

Redfish Lake, five miles from Stanley, has long been renowned for its spectacular beauty and as a mecca for water sports. Enjoy fine fishing, water skiing, even wind surfing. In addition,

a charming rustic resort lodge at the lake offers homestyle dining.

Ever see a ghost? You can when you visit the old ghost town of Custer. A designated historic site with museum and abandoned gold dredge to explore, you can still see the original blacksmith shop, saloon, and bawdy house.

Just over the hill from Stanley lies world-famous Sun Valley, with championship golf and tennis, boutiques and fine European cuisine.

Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, Jackson Hole and the Tetons, Hell's Canyon – They're all in this neck of the woods and would make a great stop either before or after your Middle Fork vacation.

## *Begin Your Adventure at Road's End*

When a raft trip begins on the Middle Fork it can truly be said that "the road ends here." Rafting the river is the best access to this magnificent wilderness retreat as the Middle Fork cuts a deep swath through the mountainous terrain.

Beginning at the crisp-aired elevation of 5,700 feet, the Middle Fork of the Salmon rushes and tumbles for more than 100 miles through the heart of the famed Idaho wilderness. The rafts push off at Boundary Creek, 40 miles northwest of Stanley. Here begins your white-water adventure.

# EXPLORE THE WILDERNESS

The Middle Fork is surrounded by the largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states, the 2.4 million-acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Brushing shoulders to the north and northwest are the Selway-Bitterroot and Gospel Hump wilderness areas, encompassing more than 3.7 million acres – America’s finest unspoiled treasure.

It’s not unusual to spot mule deer and bighorn sheep in this vast wilderness. And if you have a keen eye, you might even sight a shy bob-cat or the shaggy recluse of the river, the mountain goat. Playful river otter will amuse you as they bob up and down in the river’s riffles. Birds, too, abound. Overhead majestic eagles soar, and belted kingfishers, western tanagers and mountain bluebirds line the riverbanks.

In summer, the alpine meadows come ablaze with a stunning carpet of wildflowers. Indian paintbrush, elephant heads, lupine and shooting stars burst forth to cover nature’s finest canvas.

The Middle Fork truly defies classification. It cannot be called an alpine, nor a semi-arid or desert river as it drops 2,700 feet in elevation during the 100 mile trip. It’s all of these – and more – rolled into one twisting free flowing river that plunges through the Idaho wilderness, rushing to the sea.

On the river’s upper end, the forest is thick with Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. Downriver, majestic ponderosa pines tower to staggering heights. Other principal species include quaking aspen, narrowleaf cottonwood and Englemann spruce. As the river loses elevation, the landscape changes. Mountain mahogany, bitterbrush and sagebrush appear, and suddenly you find yourself in a high desert environment.

If geology’s your passion, Impassable Canyon will surely impress you. Not only is the canyon a half mile deeper than the Grand Canyon, but its steep and craggy granite walls make it virtually impassable – except by raft.

## *Wild and Free...Forever!*

Congress has designated the Middle Fork as a “Wild and Scenic River,” ensuring that it will remain forever as it is now – clean, wild and free. No dams, roads or pollution. The Middle Fork offers only the best of Mother Nature’s work.

Power boats are not allowed on this river because of its wild and scenic designation. The U.S. Forest Service issues a limited number of use permits to assure that the river and the campsites along its banks will not be overcrowded and overused. Nothing is allowed to spoil the land – or your experience.





*"A lot of state, this Idaho, that I didn't know about."*

*—Ernest Hemingway, 1939*

The Middle Fork carves its path through the Boise, Challis, Payette and Salmon national forests. With an average drop of 27 feet per mile and more than 100 rapids, the Middle Fork boasts the finest combination of thrilling whitewater, extraordinary scenery, varied history and abundant wildlife of any river in America.

Middle Fork rapids are rated 1 to 4 on a scale of 1 to 6. You'll ride these rapids with the aid of experienced, professional, licensed guides. In your state-of-the-art whitewater raft, you'll float Velvet Falls, Pistol Creek, Haystack, Redside and Rubber rapids. When water level permits you can enjoy our paddle raft or single inflatable kayaks. You will come to understand why the Middle Fork attracts adventure enthusiasts from around the globe – there's no finer all-around whitewater wilderness experience to be found.



*As the river eases you away from everyday problems, enjoy the abundant wildlife and fragrant wildflowers. Settle in. Join the group in fun activities or explore your surroundings in solitude. You will be surprised that all this relaxation makes you so hungry. Go ahead. Have a second helping.*



# LIVE THE RIVER'S RICH HISTORY

Fishing? It's blue ribbon and just one more feature that's made the Middle Fork famous! Fisherman, both fly and spin cast, have long savored the memory of landing a Middle Fork trout.

Middle Fork fish are natives – there isn't a planter in the bunch. Chinook salmon and steelhead return from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in the river and its tributaries, (making the longest up-stream trip in the lower 48). The westslope cutthroat trout is a special strain that has adapted to the unique habitat of the Middle Fork. Known locally as "redsides" because of the brilliant red slashes on their lower jaw, the cutthroat spawn primarily in the river's tributaries and migrate seasonally each year. They winter in the warmer waters of the Main Salmon or the lower reaches of Impassable Canyon, and

each year as the water warms in spring they move back up the length of the Middle Fork. Dolly Varden and rainbow trout also inhabit the river in great numbers.

Nothing fights like a Middle Fork rainbow, and cutthroat the size of a grown man's forearm are often conquered after a lengthy and exhilarating battle. You should see that fly rod bend!

The river's management plan dictates a "catch-and-release" policy, where live bait and barbed hooks are not allowed. This ensures that the Middle Fork remains a blue-ribbon fishery where fish are liable to jump at just about anything thrown to them.

## *"River Time"*

Slow yourself down to river trip speed. Adjust to "river time." You awaken to the sun, the river's melodic sound, and mule deer nibbling the dew-covered grass not more than 20 feet away from you. Poking your head slowly outside the tent, the deer looks at you, startled, then glides across the meadow.

The scent of coffee fills the air, rich and full. Smoke curls its way from the campfire where several guides begin

the early morning breakfast feast. Eggs, bacon, pancakes, fresh fruit – here in the wilderness? You bet!

After breakfast, you walk upstream, sit on a rock at river's edge, and daydream for awhile, enjoying the solitude. There's no rush here, no traffic jams or phones or big city hassles. Most days you have the leisure of a late morning departure. Enjoy the unhurried pace.

Just before lunch, your raft pulls to the riverbank and you investigate an old mining claim. After your guide relates the mine's colorful story, you scramble down the trail to scout the rapid around the bend. Back in the boat you cheer the boatman's skill as he maneuvers you safely through the rapids, and feel a camaraderie with your new-found friends.

You turn around and watch the paddle boat shooting the rapid. Everyone wields a paddle and a smile, with the guide steering at the stern. It looks like fun. Later, as you wade through a second deli sandwich at lunch, you decide you'll give it a try tomorrow.

At this night's campground, your guides serve a gourmet meal from the heavy, black Dutch ovens. You can't

*Between stretches of whitewater, get out your fishing gear. Middle Fork trout aren't bashful. Another hot springs soak will ease your weary fishing arm. Idyllic vistas, new understandings, cherished memories and more are yours when you explore the magnificent Idaho wilderness.*

believe your appetite! Food is fresh, plentiful, and superb. Three-course meals bring mouth-watering fare the likes of crisp salads, fresh vegetables, juicy steaks, and home-baked desserts. After dinner, while some are recording the scenery and each other's antics on camera, you steal away from the group, hike up the creek and tie into a gigantic cutthroat that nearly wears out your arm.

Later you enjoy a soak at the hot springs and make a faraway world even more distant. Back at the inviting campfire, you and your friends alternate songs and tall tales into the night.

When you bed down this evening, sleep comes as a gift at the end of a full day. Tonight, you decide to lie

outside the tent; above you, the twinkling, heavens hold stars brighter than you've ever seen. As you doze off, the crickets chirp, the river sings, and you wonder "Why haven't I done this sooner?"

Come with us and discover the majesty of Idaho's unspoiled wilderness and the beauty and rich history of the middle Fork of the Salmon River. A chance to get reacquainted with yourself, your family, and an opportunity to make new friends in the great Idaho outdoors – that's all part of the middle Fork experience. Here is the vacation of your life just waiting to happen. Join us!

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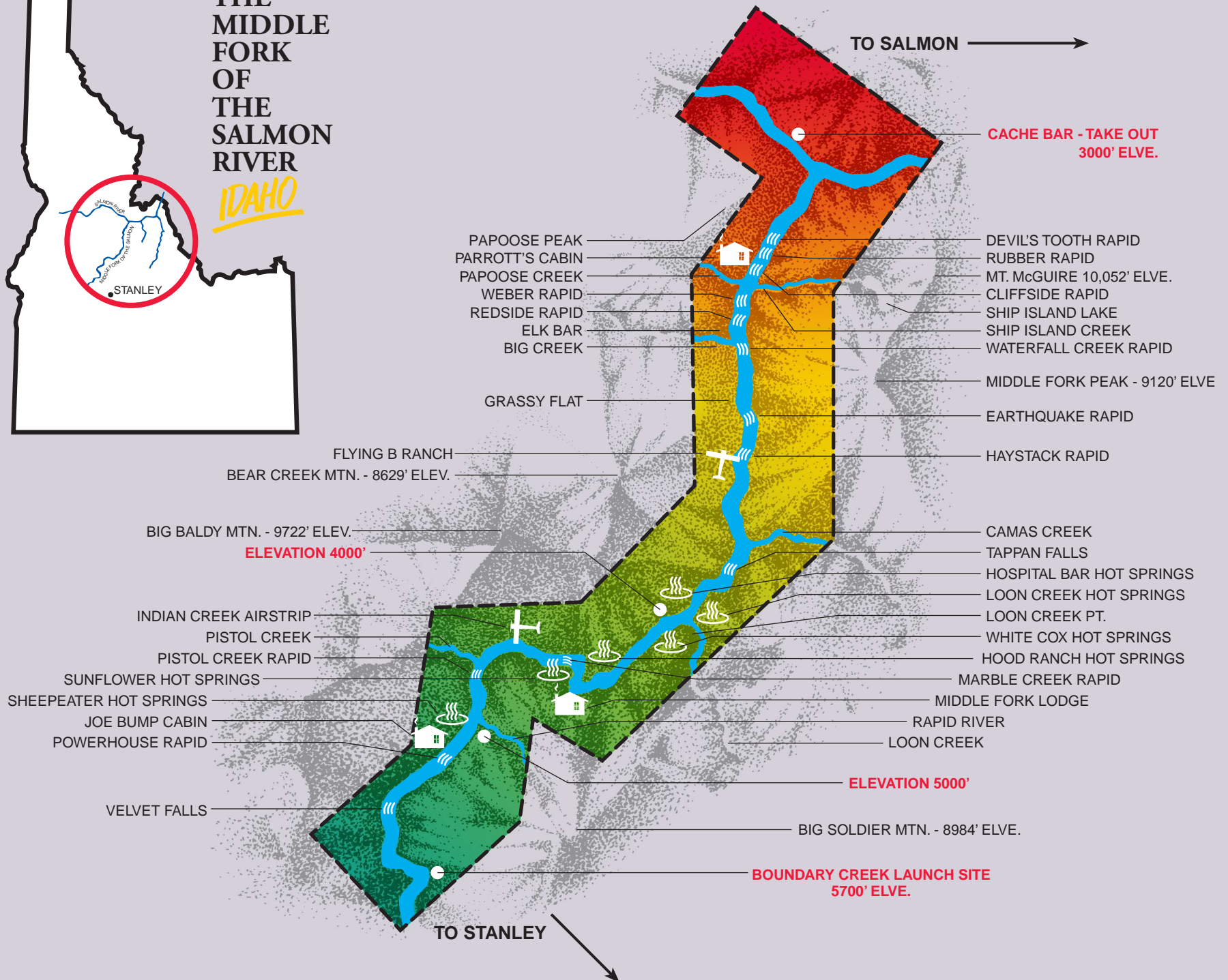
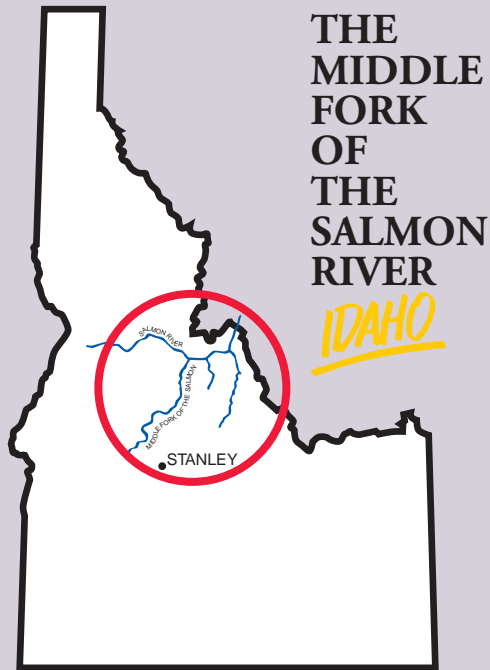
## **MIDDLE FORK RIVER EXPEDITIONS**

Owners: Pat and Jean Ridle

PO Box 199

Stanley, Idaho 83278

1-800-801-5146



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## *Middle Fork River Expeditions*

With Middle Fork River Expeditions you'll enjoy the best river running the West has to offer. We are bonded and licensed recreation professionals, known for our friendly, personalized service. We provided a first-class adventure with true western hospitality. Share our warm campfire and riverside feasts. You are welcome here. We provide more unabashed fun than anyone!

Enjoy gourmet cuisine, blue ribbon fishing, oar & paddle boats and inflatable kayaks, ancient Indian caves, hot springs, mountain scenery, and good jokes -- all in an unspoiled wilderness setting on a free-flowing "Wild and Scenic River."

We promise an adventure to exceed your expectations, one that you will remember long after you return to your daily routine. Escape and share our thrills, our laughs, our quiet moments. Find your way to this special place -- the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho.

*Join us for the time of your life!*

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