



4-DAY MARIAS RIVER TOUR

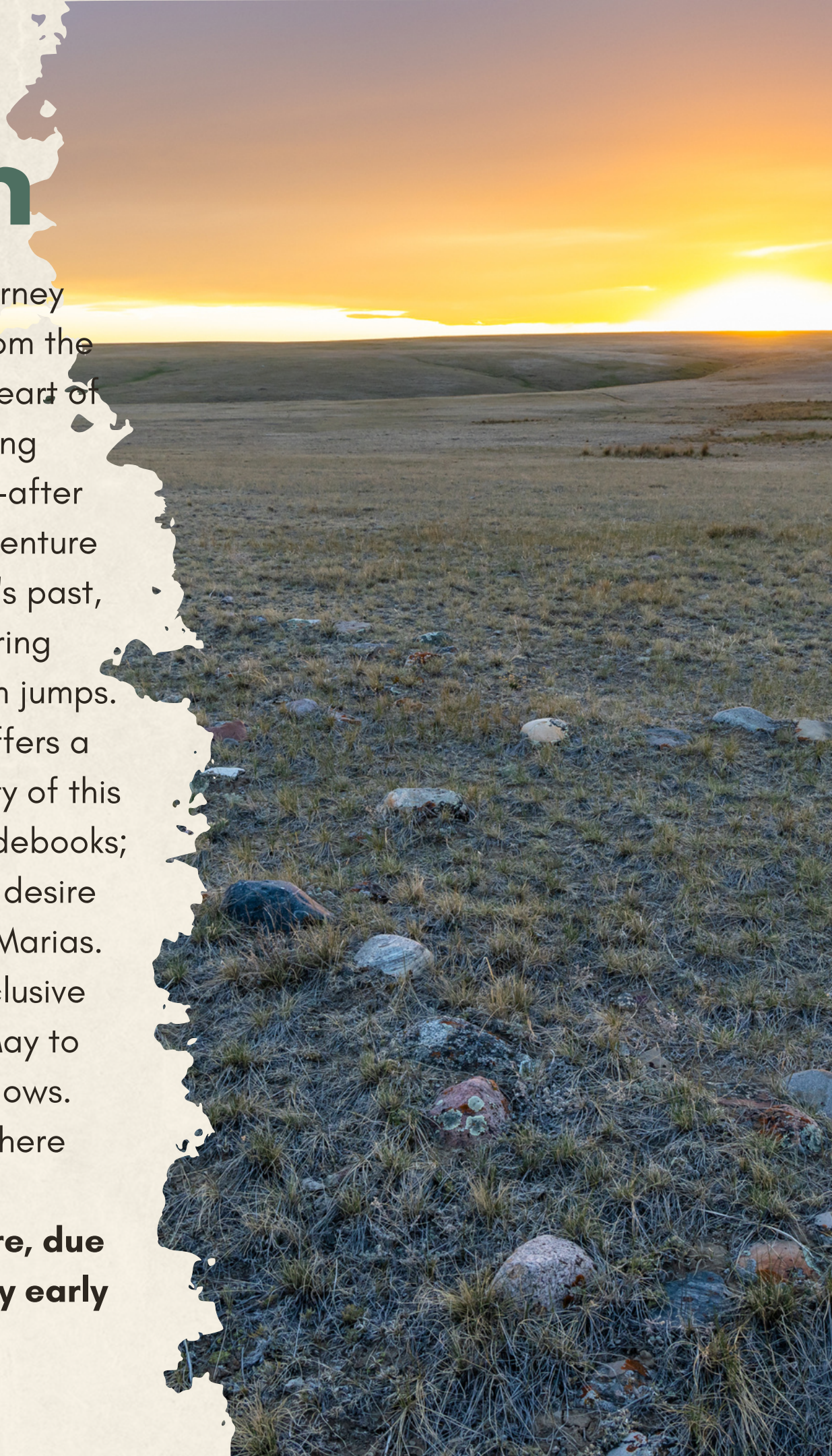
62 River Miles



Trip description

Embark on an off-the-beaten-path journey along Montana's Marias River, away from the usual crowds. This hidden gem in the heart of the state's plains was once a rich hunting ground for Plains Indians and a sought-after trapping area. Join us for a unique adventure where history unfolds—discuss the river's past, hear traditional stories, explore tepee ring villages, and stand below ancient bison jumps. Ideal for adventurous spirits, this trip offers a chance to discover the untamed beauty of this ancient land. There are no trails or guidebooks; instead, our adventure is fueled by the desire to explore the untamed beauty of the Marias. Limited to returning customers, this exclusive expedition takes place at the end of May to early June, aligning with optimal river flows. Experience the magic of the Marias, where every moment is a step into the past.

Return Customers ONLY. Furthermore, due to the river flows this is a end of May early June trip.



DAY BY DAY



Awaken to the morning serenade of a birders' paradise. Amid the pristine surroundings of the Marias, wildlife sightings are plentiful. Your day unfolds with a scenic 20-mile canoe journey, pausing for a delightful lunch on one of the numerous islands. Upon reaching camp, embark on an extended hike to discover a vast tepee ring village adorned with traditional medicine wheels and ceremonial spots. Immerse yourself in the natural wonders and cultural history of this untamed terrain.



Relish a relaxed final morning on the river. Anticipate our river exit between 12:30-1:30. En route to Fort Benton, we'll make a stop at Decision Point. Plan to reach your vehicles by 3:00-4:00, concluding our memorable journey



Fuel up with morning coffee and a hearty breakfast before embarking on a day of canoeing. Navigate the waters while delving into Meriwether Lewis's journals and sharing tales of old homestead history. The highlight of the day includes exploring a traditional Pishkun. As the day winds down at camp, savor your last night surrounded by both new and old friends in the tranquil wilderness.



Begin with a 45-minute drive to the Hwy 223 Bridge put-in location. After a brief safety briefing, dive into a canoe adventure exploring Blackfoot Indian History, Corp. of Discovery history, wildlife, and more. Get ready for a day of discovery on the water.

Day 1

Start time: 8:00

Where: 1856 Hwy 387, Fort Benton MT



Embark on our Marias canoe trip starting at 8:00 from our storefront location. We'll load up and travel to the Hwy 223 bridge. Before setting out, a brief safety and paddling instruction session awaits. On today's 12-15 mile journey, immerse yourself in the beauty of abundant birds and wildlife. Venture into uncharted territory, exploring both familiar and new hikes that captivate our attention. As evening descends at camp, join us on a hike to a large sprawling tepee village, where we will soak in the rich history of the area, talk about Plains Indian traditions and take a step back into the unique history of the area.

Expect a riverside camp with campfire stories, food curated for the occasion and libations.



**Lunch
Dinner**

Accommodations

Canvas Wall Tents
Cots



Difficulty

Moderate

Canoe Distance

12- 20 Miles



Canoe Time

4-6 hours

camp options

Unmapped



Highlights

Tepee ring village
Lewis and Clark Camp

Day 2

Start time: 6:30-8:00

Rise and shine to the sun and birdsong. Coffee awaits by 6:30, followed by a hearty breakfast at 8:00—essential fuel for a day filled with hiking and canoeing.

Our morning kicks off with an exploration of the breathtaking "White Cliffs," where we delve into the river's geology, flora, and fauna. With luck, we might discover traditional food sources to harvest. After our invigorating hike, embark on a longer canoe journey to the next camp, keeping a keen eye out for wildlife and birds. This stretch of the river is home to sage grouse, curlews, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, birds of prey, Bullock's orioles, coyotes, porcupines, pronghorns, deer, and occasionally, a moose.

Expect to get to camp around 4:00-6:00 to enjoy an evening of libations, hiking, exploring, campfire tales and so much more.



Meals

Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

Accommodations

Canvas Wall Tents
Cots



Difficulty

Moderate

Canoe Distance

19-24 Miles



Canoe Time

4-7 hours

camp options

Unmapped



Highlights

Cliff hikes
Lewis campsite

Day 3

Start time: 6:30-8:00

Savor another delightful morning awakening to the gentle sound of the flowing river and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee. Coffee will be served at 6:30, followed by breakfast at 8:00. To break up the extended canoe day, we'll pause for a couple of short hikes along the way, including during our riverside lunch. Choose between camping or visiting one of our cherished bison jumps, where layers of bones reveal the river's gradual erosion. Step out of the canoe onto rocks and bones from the bygone era when bison roamed the plains.

This is going to be our last night together. We will tell stories of the area and look forward to hearing yours as well. Enjoy your last night under the stars being serenaded by coyotes in the distance, water nearby and the rustle of cottonwood trees all around.



Meals

Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

Accommodations

Canvas Wall Tents
Cots



Difficulty

Difficult

Canoe Distance

20-25 miles



Canoe Time

4-7 hours

camp options

Uncharted



Highlights

Puschkin jumps
homesteads
exploratory hikes

Day 4

Start time: 6:30-8:00 AM

End Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

End Location: 1856 Hwy 387 Fort Benton

Indulge in your final morning on the river, starting with coffee at 6:30 and a delightful riverside breakfast at 8:00. Today's travel distance is weather and river flow-dependent. We may conclude our journey on private property approximately 7 miles from Loma, or directly at Loma.

Either way, enjoy lunch at the takeout point before we drive to Decision Point, where the Marias meets the Missouri. Our return to the storefront location is anticipated between 3:00-4:00.

When back in Fort Benton we will have a designated spot for you to unpack from your trip and return all of our gear. After all of our gear is returned it is the final moments to say good



Meals

Breakfast
Lunch

Accommodations

No Accommodations Provided
tonight



Difficulty

Moderate

Canoe Distance

7-15 miles



Canoe Time

2-5 hours

Shuttle Time

1 hour



Highlights

Decision Point

What is included?

High quality service and safety

Pre-departure briefing

You'll meet your guides and fellow participants the night before the trip. At 6:15, we'll distribute your dry bags and other camping essentials. The meeting location is at the Grand Union Hotel unless otherwise arranged.

Experienced Tour Guides

All our trips maintain a minimum of two guides and a ratio of one guide to every four customers. Each excursion is led by a seasoned guide with five or more years of experience. Rest assured, our guides are well-versed in the area's history and culture.

All camping equipment

We provide everything you need, including cooking essentials, a handwashing station, tables, camp chairs, tents, cots, a camp kitchen tent, shade tent, games, canoes, canoe seatbacks, canoe paddles, and a portable toilet.

Personal dry bags and camping gear

Upon arrival at the meet-and-greet, we'll supply you with a 65-liter dry bag, a 45-liter dry bag, a camp pillow, pillowcase, coffee mug, koozie, and a homemade snack bag. These items will allow you to pack the night before your tour.

Medical kit, first aid kit, AED and Satellite phone

our Missouri River Outfitters guides undergo specialized training in first aid, CPR, and AED. We conduct mandatory training sessions for all staff. Guides always carry emergency supplies and instruct guests on location in case of an emergency.

Extras included in our services.

We bring along a river library for you to enjoy during down time. We also provide camp games, kids activities for families and local micro brews for adults to enjoy.

Accommodations

Canvas Wall tent and cots.

We prioritize comfort and quality sleep. Our roomy canvas wall tents allow you to stand comfortably, and we provide comfortable cots. Two person tents and family tents are available. If you are traveling solo, you will receive your own tent without additional charge.

Meals

3 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 3 Dinners

We believe in locally sourced, fresh ingredients. Our menu showcases the flavors of Montana, featuring locally sourced meat, legumes, dairy, eggs, and produce. Fresh vegetables and fruits are included in every meal!

Dietary accommodations

We accommodate dietary preferences and restrictions (such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, allergies, or special menus) at no extra cost. Kindly inform us of any specific allergies or dietary needs in our pre-trip questionnaire.

Water/ Ice

All our water is brought from Fort Benton, eliminating the need for filtering. Additionally, we offer ice-cold seltzer water in cans and provide ice to chill your water bottles.

Snacks

Extra fruit and snacks are available throughout the day. Guides set out snacks in the morning and remind you to fill your snack bag.

Hot water, coffee, and tea

Each morning, we provide hot water for tea and freshly brewed French press coffee. Cream, hot cocoa, sugar, and honey are also provided. If you'd like hot water in the evening, feel free to ask.

Beer and Wine

Montana Micro Brews and wine are supplied throughout the trip. You're welcome to bring your own, and we'll provide the cooler and ice.

Desserts

Homemade desserts are a delightful part of our river experience, served during both lunch and dinner. Gluten-free? We'll prepare yours from scratch!"

What is not included?

Extra's and important equipment.

All of our guests need to bring sleeping bags or let us know that you need to rent one. Furthermore, we can provide other rental items and services below.

Sleeping bag: \$20.00

Inflatable mattress (we provide cots free of charge): \$20

Battery and solar charger for CPAP: \$75

Shuttle to and from the airport: \$125 one way. Prices are based on per van not per person. If others are flying in similar times, we will pick you all up and split the cost among everyone. That also applies to the return shuttle.

Vehicle shuttles: We can shuttle your vehicle to the takeout location. Check out the map and see if it makes sense. \$100 to Judith \$250 to Kipp

Hiking Gear & Clothes

Travel Insurance

Tips for our staff- tipping is customary but not mandatory. An average tip is 10%-20% of your trip cost.





Before you go

Is it for me?

We aim to make your trip to the Upper Missouri River Breaks as memorable and carefree as possible. In this section, you'll find answers to all the questions you have about traveling with Missouri River Outfitters. Please read the following information carefully; it will assist with any inquiries about our services.

Before you go

Briefing and pre-trip meeting

All pre-trip meetings are held at the Grand Union Hotel at 6:15 pm, one night before the tour begins. These meetings last approximately 30-45 minutes. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you must contact Missouri River Outfitters by email, phone or in person at our office to make other arrangements.

Parking and luggage storage

Parking- we have long term unsecured parking at our warehouse location.

Camper or RV parking- There is ample space to park any size camper and RV for the duration of your trip. However, there are not electrical, water or sewer hookups.

Luggage and valuables- We store luggage and valuables in a locked room inside our buildings. For your comfort, wallets and keys are stored in our office safe.

Keys- We ask to collect all keys just in case we need to move vehicles.

Shuttles

Airport or Amtrak- The closest airport to Fort Benton is Great Falls and the closest train is Havre. All shuttles run from 8:00am to 5:00 pm. Please make note of that when booking your flights or train tickets. Do not book for the same day that you get off the river. **Please call or email before booking flights or train tickets**

Hotel shuttles- The morning of your trip, we will shuttle you and all your luggage from your hotel to our store front. Luggage will be stored here.

Vehicle Shuttle- If you are wanting us to take your vehicle to the takeout location. Please arrange that ahead of time.

Group Tours

Group tours are made up of different types of individuals, with varying ages and physical requirements. By agreeing to be a part of our group tours, you also accept that some people may have varying abilities.

Lost objects

Please be mindful of where you place your personal items and ensure you collect everything before departing. Remember, you are solely responsible for your belongings throughout the tour.

Physical requirements

Our trips cater to various ages and experience levels, yet some are more active. Understanding the trip's physical demands is crucial. If uncertain about suitability or the best match for your needs, please call us for guidance.

Age minimum or maximum

We don't have a specific age limit, but all participants must be capable swimmers. They should also comfortably embark and disembark from canoes. Our hikes offer turnaround points, and none are required. If you prefer to be in a boat with a guide, kindly inform us at the time of booking.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there cell phone service? Though cell phone signals are gradually improving, there's still no reliably strong signal. Feel free to bring your phones for capturing photos, but we suggest switching to airplane mode and relishing the unplugged experience. There aren't many places left without cell service, so enjoy this rare opportunity while it lasts.

Can we bring our own gear? Absolutely! Many participants bring their own sleeping bags and personal comfort items. We encourage you to bring whatever you'd like for the trip. You're not obligated to use our gear, but it's here if you need it!

What about showers? We don't provide showers, but the river is always nearby. Please bring biodegradable soap for washing off in the river. In case of colder weather, baby wipes or wet wipes serve as great alternatives.

What if I get sick on the trip? Your well-being is our priority. If an unexpected situation arises and you absolutely need to disembark, we'll facilitate that process.

How long are the hikes? Hike durations vary. Some hikes take a couple of hours, while others are shorter, around 45 minutes. Guides will brief you on hike expectations either the morning of or the night before, allowing you to prepare accordingly. Hiking is optional, and you're free to turn back at any point.

What are the bathrooms like? We provide a wag bag system—a portable toilet with a privacy tent. You'll get briefed on the field bathroom protocol. If you have any specific needs, just let our guides know. We've handled it all!

Can we bring our dog? Unfortunately, we have a strict no-dog policy, though we can recommend local pet stays or dog sitters in town or in Great Falls.

What are the sleeping arrangements? Tents typically accommodate two people or two adults and one to two children. At the meet-and-greet, we'll confirm tent assignments. If you're traveling solo, you'll have your own tent as we don't pair solo travelers for a good night's sleep.

Bathroom Breaks! – You have ample outdoor options. For urination, In this desert-like environment similar to the Grand Canyon, please use nature near the water. Discreet systems are set up if you need to defecate between camps; just inform the guides.

Do you have any recommended reads for the trip? Yes, a comprehensive guest packet with pack lists, suggested books, policies, emergency contacts, and more is sent out upon booking. It contains all the information you'll need for the trip!



**PLEASE CALL OR
EMAIL US WITH ANY
OTHER QUESTIONS**

IT'S TIME TO TRAVEL!

email- mro@mroutfitters.com
Phone- (406)671-0268