

Visit Lewis Clark Valley  
Gateway to Hells Canyon

THE NORTHWEST *Discovery* DESTINATION

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# Hells Canyon & Salmon River Canyon:

## Fun Facts, History and Recreation



# Salmon River Canyon Fun Facts

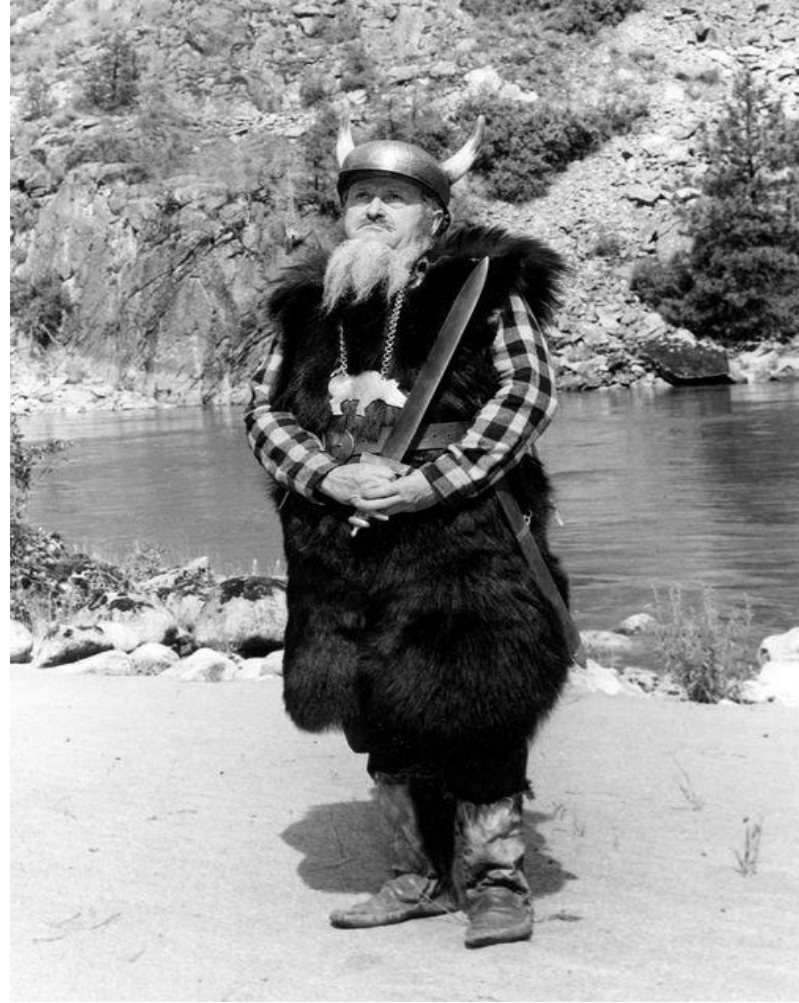
- The Main Salmon River carves the second deepest canyon in North America at nearly 7,000 feet deep.
- The Salmon begins and ends within Idaho.
- The river 432 miles long
- The river runs north for 87-miles in North Central Idaho from Riggins to the confluence at the Snake River merging with Hells Canyon.
- It is the dividing line for the two time zones in Idaho: Mountain Time to the south, Pacific Time to the north. It changes at the Time Zone bridge in Riggins.
- Jet Boat racers come from all over the world to race on the mighty Salmon River held each year in April.





# Salmon River Canyon History

- Buckskin Bill, known as one of the last Mountain Men. His home on the Salmon River, near Riggins, was turned into a museum in 1980 where remnants from a life of living off the land can be seen today.
- Polly Bemis was a Chinese American pioneer who lived in Idaho in the late 19th and early 20th century. Her story became a biographical novel and was the subject of the 1991 film *Thousand Pieces of Gold*.
- In 1987, the Polly Bemis Cabin was restored. Bemis's body was reburied on the grounds, which is located 44 miles east of Riggins in Idaho County. The cabin became a museum in 1988 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.





# Salmon River Recreation

- Jet Boat Races in April
- Rafting and Kayaking
- Jet Boat Tours
- Riverside Lodges
- Helicopter Tours
- Salmon, Steelhead, Sturgeon, Trout and Bass Fishing
- World-Class Hunting
- Wildlife Viewing
- Campgrounds
- Back Country Horse Trails
- Hiking and Running Trails





# Hells Canyon Fun Facts

- North America's deepest river gorge at nearly 8,000 feet deep - 2,000 feet deeper than the Grand Canyon!
- Cache Creek Ranch, a 1930s sheep ranch, is a stopping point for river visitors with exhibits interpreting unique aspects of the canyon's natural and cultural history.
- Nez Perce ancient petroglyphs and pictographs can be found throughout the canyon.
- The Hells Canyon National Recreation area is 652,488 acres.
- Hells Canyon was mostly referred to as Box Canyon or Snake River Canyon in the early years. The first reference to Hells Canyon appears in 1895 in PNW Marine History. *In discussing the voyage of the steamboat, Norma, the author writes; "she then bound off, swinging into midstream, and like a racehorse, shot into Hells Canyon..."*





# Hells Canyon History

- The historic Kirkwood Ranch offers a taste of canyon life in the 1930s with the original ranch house, bunk houses and other out-buildings. It was home to Idaho Senator Len B. Jordan and his wife Grace. He became the 43<sup>rd</sup> Governor of Idaho.
- The U.S. Mailboat has been delivering mail in Hells Canyon since 1919 and still runs today. You can take the tour on Wednesdays with Beamers Hells Canyon Tours.
- The Snake River National Recreation Trail winds its way along the Idaho side of the Wild and Scenic Snake River beginning near Pittsburg Landing. It's 28-mile trek and maintained by the Forest Service.
- Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce crossed from Wallawa's through Hells Canyon in the Spring of 1877 at Dug Bar. They crossed the Snake River without losing any lives or horses.



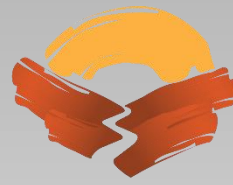


## Hells Canyon Recreation

- Jet Boat Tours and Lodges
- Hiking on the Snake River National Recreation Trail 
- Jet Boat Races in August
- Rafting and Kayaking
- Salmon, Steelhead, Sturgeon, Trout and Bass Fishing
- ATV Trails
- Campgrounds
- Wildlife Viewing
- World-Class Hunting
- Back County Horse Trails
- Nez Perce Tourism - Echoes of Our Ancestors Tour







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# Hells Canyon Video





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