WHERE TO FLOAT IN SOUTHWEST IDAHO

You won’t find a more relaxing way to take in the beauty of Southwest Idaho than a river float. Relax in an inner tube or raft, blissfully adrift and without a care in the world.

THE PAYETTE RIVER: CROUCH TO GARDEN VALLEY
If you want to get farther off the beaten path, head to Boise County on HWY 55 and head to Crouch, just an hour north of Boise. Put-in at Crouch Community Church, take in the stunning mountain views and spot wildlife along the way. The 2.5-hour float ends at the take-out at Weilmunster Park in Garden Valley, located five miles south of Crouch.

This section of the famous Middle Fork of the Payette River slows and warms to tubing conditions in mid-June. Need a raft? Rent from Idaho Whitewater Unlimited.

THE PAYETTE RIVER: BLACK CANYON TO EMMETT
While the Middle Fork of the Payette is most famous for its wild whitewater, the four-mile float from Black Canyon into Emmett offers a more relaxing, scenic trip down the river. Just take HWY 52 north of Emmett and put-in along Plaza Bridge, float for about two hours underneath the cottonwoods and take out at the bridge along Washington Avenue in Emmett.

THE BOISE RIVER: BARBER PARK TO ANN MORRISON PARK
If you’re looking for a chill float without having to sweat the logistics, look no further than the Boise River.

About 125,000 floaters ride tubes, kayaks or rafts down the six-mile stretch each year. Put-in at Barber Park, then meander through Downtown Boise and some small rapids. Stop for a picnic at the take-out located at Ann Morrison Park.

The six-mile float takes between two and three hours. A shuttle runs from Ann Morrison back to Barber Park every hour until 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

This is a quintessential Boise summertime experience — and not to be missed. Check out Idaho River Outfitters for inner tubes, kayaks and other gear!