

MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER ONE DAY TRIP INFORMATION



Meeting Time:	7:45 am
Meeting Place:	Driver's Flat Parking Area on Foresthill Rd, 8 miles from North Auburn. Parking Area is on the left just past Driver's Flat Rd.
GPS Coordinates:	38.975291, -120.954151
Return Time:	Approximately 3:00 pm
River Section:	Oxbow to Greenwood (18 miles)
Difficulty:	Class IV suitable for Adventurous beginner to advanced rafter
Age Limit:	Minimum age 14; 12 with previous rafting experience
Season:	May-October

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING WHITEWATER EXCITEMENT for your river adventure on the Middle Fork of the American River. The Middle Fork is located in a remote canyon surrounded by the beautiful Sierra Nevada Foothills, where we have been known to have sightings of wildlife, like bears, otters, eagles, deer and turtles and the occasional gold miner. It is an 18 mile stretch of beautiful, fun, exhilarating, challenging class III-IV whitewater, guaranteed to test your paddling skills. This hydro-electric dam controlled river has 18 major rapids including Double Dip, Kanaka Falls and the famous Tunnel Chute. The Tunnel Chute is a unique rapid where the gold miners blasted a tunnel diverting the river to glean gold from the dry stream bed! This rapid consists of an approximate 30 foot drop over the course of an 80 foot spillway, then a float through an 85 foot tunnel. **SWIMMING ABILITY IS REQUIRED ON ALL MIDDLE FORK TRIPS.**

Meeting Time and Place

The Middle Fork Trip meets at 7:45 am at Driver's Flat Parking Area on Foresthill Rd., between Auburn and Foresthill, CA. The turn-out where you park your car is on the left side of the road just past Driver's Flat Rd. Look for the Whitewater Excitement vans. Please be on time as we only wait a short time for late arrivals. Please check in with our staff and they will be happy to answer any questions. Once everyone has checked in, we begin your trip with a 45 minute shuttle ride to Oxbow put-in. Your car keys will be kept in a locked location while rafting.

Directions to Driver's Flat Meeting Place

From Sacramento:

- ◆ Take Hwy 80 east to Auburn.
- ◆ Exit at Auburn Ravine Rd./Foresthill Rd. Exit #121
- ◆ Turn right onto Foresthill Rd and continue 8 miles towards the town of Foresthill, crossing over the famous Foresthill Bridge.
- ◆ Turn **left** into the parking lot just past Driver's Flat Rd. **Do not drive down Driver's Flat Rd**, the parking lot is just past Driver's Flat Rd on the left side. Look for the Whitewater Excitement vans.

From Reno/North Shore Tahoe:

- ◆ Take Hwy 80 west to Auburn.
- ◆ Exit at Auburn Ravine Rd./Foresthill Rd. Exit #121
- ◆ Turn left onto Foresthill Rd, go over freeway and continue 8 miles towards the town of Foresthill, crossing over the famous Foresthill Bridge.
- ◆ Turn **left** into the parking lot just past Driver's Flat Rd. **Do not drive down Driver's Flat Rd**, the parking lot is just past Driver's Flat Rd on the left side. Look for the Whitewater Excitement vans.

RUNNING LATE/ LOST CALL 530-888-6515

Example Itinerary

Meet at Driver's Flat turn-out 7:45 am. After everyone has arrived, we will take a 45 minute shuttle ride to our put-in at Oxbow. Our staff will fit you with lifejacket (maximum chest size 56 inches), helmet, paddle, safety talk and paddling instructions. Bathrooms are available at the put-in before we get on the river.

Within a few hundred yards we will hit the first rapid of the day, "Good Morning", wakes you right up! We have a short time to get ready to meet one of the river's biggest challenges of the day, "The Tunnel Chute"! After the Tunnel Chute, we encounter some great whitewater with major rapids like Cathedral, Double Dip, Jawbone and Kanaka Falls.

After our encounter with Kanaka Falls we enjoy a more mellow section where the river flattens out, enjoying the scenic beauty and hopefully some wildlife. We will pull over and enjoy a delicious deli lunch prepared by your guide. A primitive bathroom is available if needed.

After you have enjoyed your lunch, we will get back on the river where the class 4 whitewater will begin again! The first rapid is "Chunder" (professional pictures are taken) and 8' abrupt drop which leads us to a 35-foot waterfall, "Ruck-a-Chucky Falls, that is un-runnable, which means you are asked to exit the rafts and walk to the bottom of the falls while the guides maneuver the rafts down this spectacular waterfall. Good shoes are recommended for this trip due to the sharp and slippery landscape of this area.

Once we are back in the rafts, we finish up the trip with another mile and a half of great rapids like Cleavage, Parallel Parking, Guillotine and Texas Chainsaw Mama meets 101st Airborne. As we reach the take-out, the WWE vans will be waiting to take you back to your vehicle at the Driver's Flat turn-out. We usually have you back to your vehicle by 3:30 pm. **Rafting the Middle Fork of the American River does require that you are in good physical condition, have good swimming ability and are on the adventurous side.**

What to Wear/Bring

River clothing is very casual and you should expect to get wet!

- Bathing suit/trunks, light-weight, quick drying top (rash guard works well), light weight windbreaker for cool mornings, sweatshirt for cool evenings
- River sandals (strap on the back) or old tennis shoes work great **(NO FLIP FLOPS OR BARE FEET ALLOWED)**
- Hat (optional under helmet)
- Sunglasses (suggest retaining device so they don't end up in the river)
- Waterproof sunscreen and lip protection
- Bottle of water (drinks provided at lunch and end of the trip)
- Inexpensive waterproof camera (professional pictures are taken at one of the rapids)
- Dry clothes for trip home (to be left in your car).

Prior to Memorial Day weekend, in times of high water, and unseasonably cold weather, wet suits are required. **These are provided to you free of charge from Whitewater Excitement.** Our wetsuits fit those up to 6'4" and/or 260 pounds. Other recommendations in times of cool weather: neoprene/wetsuit booties, wool socks, beanie, wool/polypro long sleeve shirt, rain/windbreaker and gloves. We do not recommend wearing cotton in cool weather as it stays wet and can keep you chilled.

Additional Helpful Trip Planning Information

Trip Payment

Prior to 30 days before your trip a 50% deposit is due to secure your reservation with the balance due 30 days prior to your trip. If booking within 30 days of your trip, full payment is required.

What We Should Know

Please let us know if you have any medical issues or special dietary needs or restrictions that we will need to consider in preparing for your trip.

Cameras/Electronic Devices

We do not recommend that you bring anything in the raft that you do not want to lose in the river! We take no responsibility for cameras, phones, sunglasses, etc... that end up in the river. If you would like to bring a camera, we suggest a disposable waterproof and/or panoramic camera.

Professional Photographs

There are several professional photo companies taking photos of each raft at the Middle Fork's famous Tunnel Chute and Chunder rapid. You can view and purchase your photos by following the "Your Photos" button at the top right of whitewaterexcitement.com home page. These companies are not affiliated with Whitewater Excitement; you will need to contact them yourself to purchase your photos. Hot Shot Imaging is one of the companies that can be reached at www.hotshotimaging.com or 530-621-0400.

Gratuities

Your guides will make every effort to see that your trip is safe, enjoyable and exciting. We are often asked if guests should tip their guides and how much. While not mandatory, if you feel your guide did a great job in giving your group a safe and exciting time, then a tip would be greatly appreciated. Tipping is entirely at your discretion, but here are some helpful suggestions: 1 Day Trips - \$5-\$10 per person; 2 Day Trips \$10-\$20 per person.

Weather

Our area can experience extreme changes in weather especially in the months of April, May and June, so please check the weather (www.weather.com) for Coloma, CA prior to your trip.

Average Area Air and Water Temperatures

	Air (Day) °F	Air (Night) °F	Water Temp. °F
May	75-79	50-54	60
June	80-86	54-60	63
July	90-100	60-65	65
August	85-95	58-68	68
September	80-90	55-60	70

Lodging

Located off Highway 80

Holiday Inn - Auburn	530-887-8787	http://www.auburnhi.com/ (ask for WWE discount)
Best Western - Auburn	530-885-8611	
Red Lion Inn	530-885-1800	http://www.redlion.com/auburn
Powers Mansion Inn B & B	530-885-1166	http://www.powersmansioninn.com/

Restaurants

Joe Caribe	530-823-5333	http://www.joe-caribe.com/
Sizzler	530-823-6773	https://www.sizzler.com/
Black Bear Diner	530-888-8432	http://blackbeardiner.com/

Important Information

Responsibility

All river trips involve some risk and we recognize that accidents and injuries can occur. We assume no responsibility for injury, damage, or loss of your belongings. All participants will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk/Liability Release Form online prior to the trip. Any minor, not being accompanied by their parent, must have this form signed by their parent prior to their trip.

Assumption of Risk forms need to be completed online prior to your rafting trips.

The river is not a place for drugs or alcohol. Drugs and/or alcohol are not allowed before or during your rafting trip. We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone under the influence of such substances and to anyone we feel will jeopardize his or her personal safety or the safety of others on the trip. There are no refunds or credits given for this reason.

Cancellation Policy

100% credit will be given to guests who give us at least 3 days notice that they will not be attending their scheduled trip. There is no credit for not showing up for your trip without notice. Cancellations must be e-mailed by the Group Organizer to our office by the above times.

The 100% credit applies if Whitewater Excitement is unable to run your trip for any reason. Reasons may include weather, water flows, wildfire and/or smoke, or any other unforeseen circumstance.

Please understand when we make a reservation for you for a specific date and trip, we are holding spaces for you and turning others away because of space limitations imposed on us by various governmental agencies. Those spaces are very difficult to fill at the last minute.

We reserve the right to cancel or modify a trip due to weather, water conditions, insufficient reservations or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases we are only responsible for the trip fees paid to

us. Guides and other on-river staff employed by Whitewater Excitement are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or credits. Such determinations can only be made by the WWE Office Staff. Trip Travel Insurance is strongly suggested to cover such cancellations. Trips depart rain or shine.

Your group will be required to read, complete, and sign an Assumption of Risk Form prior to participating in any of our rafting adventures.

Medical

Please advise us if anyone in your group has allergies, special dietary needs or restrictions, or medical conditions that we should be aware of. Women who are pregnant should NOT participate in whitewater rafting activities. Participants with heart conditions should consult with their physician prior to signing up for any rafting trip, especially our class 4 trips.

Any questions, concerns or comments please call 1-800-750-2386 or email fun@whitewaterexcitement.com