



MERCED RIVER TRIP INFORMATION



Meeting Time:	8:30 am
Meeting Place:	Midpines, CA
GPS Coordinates:	37.5525862, -119.9255202
Return Time:	Approximately 3:00 pm depending on water level
River Section:	Red Bud or Indian Flat to Railroad (16-18 miles depending on water level)
Difficulty:	Class IV suitable for Adventurous beginner to advanced rafter
Age Limit:	Minimum age 12-14 (depending on water flow & previous rafting experience)
Season:	April-June

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING WHITEWATER EXCITEMENT for your river adventure on the Merced River. This 18 mile, naturally flowing river has 24 major, class IV-IV+ rapids, like "Nightmare Island", "Grand Slam" and the giant "Ned's Gulch", that will test the paddling skills of any hardy-adventurous rafter. Springtime is the best time to experience it, when the water is really roaring. The rapids are challenging and virtually non-stop, requiring rafting crews that are either experienced or adventurous first timers; all of whom need to be in excellent physical condition and have good swimming ability. Enjoy this exciting class IV-IV+ whitewater, while being surrounded by the beautiful scenery, filled with pine trees and wild flower hillsides just outside Yosemite National Park. The water is always cold, since it was snow a couple days ago, so wetsuits are required, which we provide free of charge.

Meeting Time and Place

The Merced River Trip meets at 8:30 am in the town of Midpines just past the Mountain View Grocery Store . 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 20 minute shuttle ride to where we put in. Your car keys will be kept in a locked location while rafting.

Directions to Midpines, CA

From Sacramento:

- ◆ Take Hwy 99 South to the town of Merced
- ◆ Exit Hwy 140 East towards Mariposa/Yosemite National Park
- ◆ Follow Hwy 140 through the town of Mariposa
- ◆ Seven miles past Mariposa is the town of Midpines
- ◆ Look for the Mountain View Grocery Store on the right
- ◆ Just past the Mountain View grocery store, on the **LEFT SIDE** of Hwy 140, is our meeting area. Look for the WWE vans.

From Southern California:

- ◆ Take Hwy 99 North to the town of Merced
- ◆ Exit Hwy 140 East towards Mariposa/Yosemite National Park
- ◆ Follow Hwy 140 through the town of Mariposa
- ◆ Seven miles past Mariposa is the town of Midpines
- ◆ Look for the Mountain View Grocery Store on the right
- ◆ Just past the Mountain View grocery store, on the **LEFT SIDE** of Hwy 140, is our meeting area. Look for the WWE vans.

Example Itinerary

Meet at Whitewater Excitement meeting place at 8:30 am. After everyone has checked in with the staff and turned in their Assumption of Risk Form <http://whitewaterexcitement.com/about/info-forms/disclaimer-form/>, we will fit and put on our wet suits, then begin the trip with a 20 minute shuttle ride to where we put in. Once we have arrived at the put-in 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 getting on the river.

Water level permitting we will begin our adventure at Red Bud, where the first 3 miles are very fast paced, with rapids in quick succession and maybe continuous if during high water. This very technical section requires rafters to learn paddling skills quickly since we are hitting some of the biggest rapids right off the get go; like "Stark Reality", "Nightmare Island", and "Roadside Falls".

The Merced is a very continuously moving river with minimum calm pools and runs right along Highway 140 for most of its 18 miles.

The rapids in the middle stretch of the river, which include "Grand Slam", "Ned's Gulch", "Junk Yard" are usually more roller coaster style with big wave train action. We get a chance to catch our breath in some calmer water before stopping for a delicious deli lunch. After you have enjoyed your lunch, we get back on the river for another 6 miles down through some of the rivers best rapids like "Valley of the White Tongue", "Monster Mash", "Split Rock" and "Corner Pocket", then a casual float to the take out. The WWE vans will be waiting to take you back to your vehicle with a cold drink and snack. We usually have you back to your vehicle by 3:00 pm depending on water level.

Rafting the Merced 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)**
- Wet suit socks or booties
- 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).

Please do not bring pets, fireworks, high-pressure water guns or firearms. Due to the great risk of injury, we do not allow high-pressure water guns on our trips. We suggest you leave your valuables at home. We will keep your car keys in a locked location while you are rafting.

Wet suits are required due to the temperature of the water. **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 professional photo companies taking photos of each raft at one of the bigger rapids on the Merced. These companies are not affiliated with Whitewater Excitement; you will need to contact them yourself to purchase your photos. Picture this...Rapid Shooter Photography is one of the companies that can be reached at www.picturethisimaginehat.biz or 530-344-7238.

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.

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 Midpines, CA prior to your trip.

Average Area Air and Water Temperatures

	Air (Day) °F	Air (Night) °F	Water Temp. °F
April	65-73	36-41	50
May	73-83	42-49	55
June	82-90	48-55	60

Accommodations

Camping

KOA Midpines Campground	209-966-2201	
Indian Flat Campground	209-379-2339	http://www.indianflatrvpark.com/

BLM Camp Area - On the River - First Come First Serve!

The BLM camp area is located right on the river in a primitive setting and is about 10-15 minutes from our meeting area.

Directions to BLM Camp Area:

- ◆ From the WWE meeting area drive east on Hwy 140
- ◆ Continue down the winding section of the highway and at the bottom just before you cross the bridge, turn left at Briceburg (BLM Brick Building Field Office is on your left - Do NOT continue on Hwy 140 heading east up the Merced River).
- ◆ Cross the old suspension bridge and follow the dirt road that follows the Merced River. The first camp area is called McCabe Flat, a very nice and large area near Split Rock rapid. The second camp is a bit further down, called Railroad Flat.

Lodging

Yosemite View Lodge	209-379-2681	http://www.yosemiteresorts.us/
Best Western Mariposa	209-966-7545	

Reservations should be made in advance due to the close proximity to Yosemite National Park.

There are many restaurants in the nearby town of Mariposa from fast food to fine dining.

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 before the trip. Any minor, not being accompanied by their parent, must have this form signed by their parent prior to their trip.

Release Forms available at <http://whitewaterexcitement.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Assumption-of-Risk-Form.pdf>

Completed Assumption of Risk forms are turned into our staff at the time of 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.

Cancellations Policy

If you must cancel your reservation with us, all but a \$25.00 per person cancellation fee will be refunded to you, provided that we receive written notice of your cancellation in our office at least 31 days prior to your trip date. For cancellations made 30 days or less, the entire trip fees are non-refundable, in which case we encourage you to find substitutes for the cancelled space(s). NO trip date changes may be made within 30 days of your booked trip.

Often our trips fill up and we have a limited number of guests we can take down on any one trip, while holding your space we are turning others away. Whitewater Excitement also incurs substantial expenses prior to the trip departure.

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. Policy information can be found at www.travelinsure.com/select7 Trips depart rain or shine.

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