



## SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER GORGE RUN TRIP INFORMATION



<b>Meeting Time:</b>	10:00 am
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	Whitewater Excitement Camp 6580 Hwy 49, Lotus, CA 95651
<b>GPS Coordinates:</b>	38.817646, -120.928499 (Intermittent GPS/cell service in area)
<b>Return Time:</b>	Approximately 4:30 pm
<b>River Section:</b>	Coloma to Salmon Falls Bridge (14 miles)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Class III suitable for beginner to veteran rafters
<b>Age Limit:</b>	Minimum age 7 (12 in high water)
<b>Season:</b>	April-October

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING WHITEWATER EXCITEMENT** for your river adventure on the Gorge Run on the South Fork of the American River. This 14 mile, hydro-electric dam controlled stretch of the river has 17 major, fun, exciting class II-III rapids that will test your paddling skills. Our launching point is the historical site of Coloma, the most famous of gold mining spots, where gold was discovered in California in 1848. This trip starts out slowly, allowing plenty of time to sharpen your paddling skills and do a little swimming, before entering into the Gorge where we get into all the exciting, class III whitewater action.

## Meeting Time and Place

The Gorge Run Trip meets at 10:00 am at the WWE camp store. Please be on time as we only wait a short time for late arrivals. (If you are camping the night before your trip, arrival time for camping is 5:30 pm or after). Please check in with our staff and they will be happy to answer any questions.

### **Directions to Whitewater Excitement Camp 6580 Hwy 49, Lotus, CA 95651**

\*\*\*Please do not rely on your GPS or phone for directions as only Verizon works in our area.\*\*\*

#### **From Sacramento:**

- ◆ Take Hwy 50 east towards Placerville and South Lake Tahoe.
- ◆ Exit Ponderosa Rd (Exit #37) in Shingle Springs. This is 1 mile past the town of Cameron Park.
- ◆ Turn left on Ponderosa Rd and cross over Hwy 50.
- ◆ At the second stop light (**immediately** over the overpass), turn right on North Shingle Rd towards Coloma.
- ◆ Drive 4.5 miles and you'll come to a curve in the road, keep left, this is Lotus Rd. Drive 7 miles on Lotus Rd. Lotus Rd will dead end into Hwy 49. Turn left on Hwy 49 and drive 1.7 miles. Start slowing down at the 1.5 mile mark. Look for the **Whitewater Excitement sign** on the left. Turn left into the driveway, stay to the right and follow the signs to the **WWE parking area**.

#### **From South Lake Tahoe:**

- ◆ Take Hwy 50 west to Placerville.
- ◆ Turn right on Hwy 49 (Spring Street, sign to Coloma).
- ◆ Follow Hwy 49 to Coloma. Pass Marshall Gold State Park and you'll cross a bridge over the river. Drive 1.5 miles past the bridge to the **Whitewater Excitement sign** on the left. Turn into the driveway, stay to the right and follow the signs to the **WWE parking area**.

#### **From Auburn:**

- ◆ Exit Hwy 49 Southbound towards Placerville/Cool.
- ◆ Follow Hwy 49 down the canyon.
- ◆ At the bottom of the canyon turn right across the bridge and up to the town of Cool.
- ◆ Four miles past Cool is Pilot Hill. Drive 5.5 miles past the town of Pilot Hill and look for **Whitewater Excitement sign** on the right. Turn into the driveway, stay to the right and follow the signs to the **WWE parking area**.

**RUNNING LATE/ LOST CALL 530-888-6515**

## Example Itinerary

Meet at Whitewater Excitement camp store 10:00 am. After everyone has arrived, we begin the trip with a short shuttle ride to the 49 bridge where we 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 WWE camp and the put-in before we get on the river. Please leave all valuables in your car and we will keep your keys in a locked location at the WWE camp.

After our river safety talk and orientation, we split up into groups, assign the guides and begin our rafting adventure on the South Fork American River. The Gorge Run begins with some bouncy whitewater, where you can practice your paddling skills and do a little swimming before coming upon our first big rapid "Barking Dog", a fun way to cool off in the hot summer.

We take a break for lunch at our beautiful camp area on the river, where your guides will prepare a delicious buffet lunch for you to enjoy. Bathrooms are available for you during the break. We stop for about 45 minutes and then it's back into the rafts for the exciting part of the day: THE GORGE!

Once back in the rafts, before entering the Gorge, there is more opportunity for swimming, through "Swimmers Rapid" a fun, small wave train that leads to a huge pond to recover in. Beautiful scenery abounds all around.

The river builds slowly, then once you see the Lollipop Tree, we enter the "Gorge", where the canyon walls narrow the flow of the river creating non-stop, action-packed rapids for 6 miles, like "Satan's Cesspool" and "Hospital Bar". Don't forget to look up and smile for the professional photographers at these two rapids! There are breaks in between the big rapids for us to relax and catch our breath before plunging into the next one.

At the end of the day, as we arrive at the Salomon Falls Bridge, where we take-out, our busses will be waiting for you with cold drinks and snacks for the 30 minute shuttle ride back to the WWE camp and your car, arriving around 4:00-4:30 pm.

## 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 least 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 South Fork's Satan's Cesspool and Hospital Bar rapids. You can view and purchase your photos by following the "Your Photos" button at the top right of [whitewaterexcitement.com](http://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 <http://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: 1/2 Day Trips - \$3-\$5 per person; 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](http://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

## **Accommodations**

Whitewater Excitement has the most beautiful, private, riverside campground on the South Fork of the American River, complete with flush toilets, free hot showers, electricity in the bathrooms, volleyball court, horseshoe pits and camp hosts on site. Camping is \$15.00 per person, per night and requires a reservation. Camping is included in our 2 day trips. Our facilities are tent camping. You can bring your own equipment or see our rental options below.

Camping at the WWE Campground is GROUP camping. We have 5 main camp areas. We arrange groups by size to share the camp areas. Please feel free to make new friends. Each camping area has tables, fire pits and water. Campfires are allowed 99.9% of the time, but please be aware that we can have our fire permit pulled at a moments notice in extremely dry years.

Check-in time for our campground is any time after 5:30 pm the night before your trip. Upon arriving at the WWE Camp Area, please check-in with either our camp hosts or check the WWE Camp assignment board in front of our camp store for your assigned area. Our camp hosts are available until 10:00 pm to help you find your camping area.

Quiet Time is after 10:00 pm. Please turn music down low, or off and keep noise to a minimum for the enjoyment of everyone else camping with us. Many of our guests will be waking early for rafting the next morning.

WWE has a small camp store that is typically stocked with t-shirts, sweatshirts, sunglasses, Chums, waterproof cameras, sunscreen, ice, firewood, personal hygiene items and drinks in case you forgot something from home. We also have a larger grocery store close by.

## Suggested camping equipment to bring

- Tent and ground cloth
- Sleeping bag, pad and pillow
- Lawn/camp chairs
- Camp clothes (dry shoes, long pants, shorts, shirt, sweatshirt and/or light jacket)
- Flashlight, lantern, insect repellent
- Personal Hygiene items (towel, toothbrush and paste, soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Food and drinks, if not provided
- Campfire wood (we have limited supply in our camp store)

**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.

## Rental Options at Whitewater Excitement Campground (In addition to camping cost)

- 2-Person Dome Tent \$15.00 per night
- 4-Person Dome Tent \$25.00 per night
- Cabin Tent (includes 5 padded wooden frame beds) \$80.00 per night

## Not into camping..... Here are a few good options in the area

### Lodging

#### *Located off Highway 50*

Holiday Inn Express - El Dorado Hills	1-888-475-4329	
Quality Inn - Cameron Park	530-677-2203	
Historic Cary House Hotel- Placerville	530-622-4271	<a href="http://www.caryhouse.com/">http://www.caryhouse.com/</a>

#### *Located off Highway 80*

Holiday Inn - Auburn	530-887-8787	<a href="http://www.auburnhi.com/">http://www.auburnhi.com/</a> (ask for WWE discount)
Best Western - Auburn	530-885-8611	
Powers Mansion Inn B & B	530-885-1166	<a href="http://www.powersmansioninn.com/">http://www.powersmansioninn.com/</a>

#### *Located off Highway 49*

Coloma RV Park & Resort	530-621-2267	<a href="http://www.colomaresort.com/">http://www.colomaresort.com/</a>
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### Restaurants

American River Pizza & Grill	530-887-1969	<a href="http://www.americanriverpizza.com/">http://www.americanriverpizza.com/</a>
Coloma Club	530-626-6390	<a href="http://www.colomaclub.com">http://www.colomaclub.com</a>
Marcos Cafe	530-642-2025	

Another great resource is our Insider's Guide to the American River <http://www.american-river-rafting-guide.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 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](mailto:fun@whitewaterexcitement.com)**