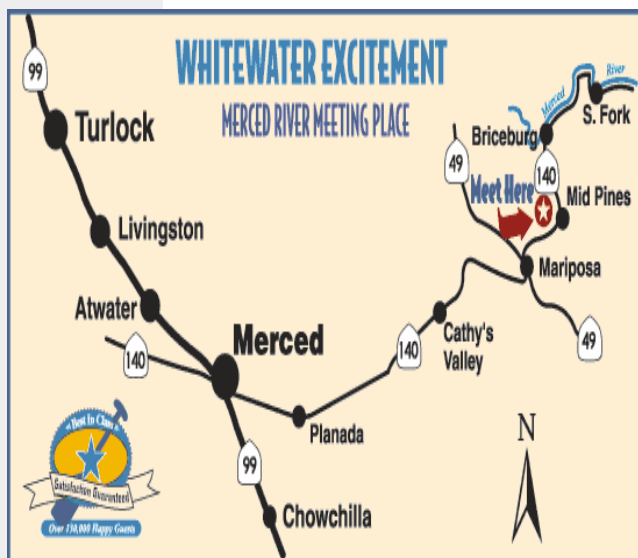


The Best in California River Rafting

Merced River – One Day Trip Information



Directions

Drive to the town of Merced on Highway 99. In Merced, take Highway 140 east toward Yosemite National Park. Follow Highway 140 through the town of Mariposa. Seven miles past the town of Mariposa, is the town of Midpines. Just past the MT. VIEW GROCERY STORE (the Grocery Store will be on your right). On the left side of Highway 140 is our MEETING AREA. Look for our WWE Vans. We'll have a Whitewater Excitement Sign posted so you can't miss it. Park in the Parking area and come to the Check-In Table and the WWE Staff will be there to help.

Merced River Highlights

Section: Red Bud or Indian Flat to Railroad
Difficulty: Class IV (Min. Age 14)
Skill Level: Adventurous Beginners
Thrill Level: Thrills and Excitement
Length: 18 Miles

Thank you for choosing Whitewater Excitement for your river adventure on the Merced River. This 18 mile, naturally controlled stretch has 30 major rapids that will test your paddling skills. Our launching point is just outside Yosemite National Park. The weather during the spring and summer can range from cool and rainy to hot and sunny. The following information will give you all the details about the trip including: directions to the meeting area with an area map, meeting time, what to bring, and information about camping. Swimming ability is required for all Merced River Trips.

Meeting Time

8:30 A.M. The Morning of your Trip.

Driving time from the SF Bay Area is 2.5-3 hours, from Southern California 5 to 6 hours. Please be on time, as we only wait 30 minutes for latecomers.

Check-In

Upon arrival at the Whitewater Excitement meeting area, please walk toward to our vans and our guide staff will check you in there.

What to Bring

River clothing is very casual and you should expect to get wet, please dress accordingly. Cotton gets wet and does not keep you warm.

List of items to bring:

Swim suit or shorts, tennis shoes or Teva Type Sandals (**NO FLIP FLOPS OR BARE FEET ALLOWED**), light wind breaker and pile or polypro sweater in case of cool weather, hat with tie, sunglasses with retaining device such as chums, lip balm, sunscreen, garbage bag for you wet clothes, some dry clothes for the trip home (to be left in your car), and a small amount of money for souvenirs, photos, and meals on the way home.

Cool Weather Pre-Cautions

In case of cool weather we recommend the following as a pre-caution for the months of April, May and anytime during the season when rain or cool weather is a possibility: In addition to the provided wet suits listed below, we recommend you having wet suit booties, wool or poly pro sweater, socks, and hat.

Wet Suits are required during the Spring (prior to Memorial Day) and during times of High Water. These are provided to you as a service of WWE. Our wet suits fit those under 6'4" and/or 260 pounds. If you or any member of your group is over this size, they will need to rent a custom suit at a local dive or surf shop. For your safety, those not having wet suits when required will not be able to participate in the trip.

Please do not bring any pets, fireworks, or firearms. Because of the great risk of injury, we do not allow any high-pressure water guns on our trips. We urge you to leave your valuables at home. If you wish to bring a camera, please make sure it is a water-proof disposable type. Professional photographers will be taking pictures at various rapids and are available for sale after the trip. These photographers are in no way associated with Whitewater Excitement.

Merced River – One Day Trip Information

Camping Options on the Merced River

Yosemite Bug Hostel - Midpines

(209) 966-6666

Here they have limited camp areas for \$17.50 per tent site. They also have cabins with bunk styled beds for \$16.00 per person per night plus tax, along with shower facilities. They even serve Breakfast!!

BLM Camp Area – On the River First Come First Serve! The BLM camp areas are located right on the river in a primitive setting, and are about 10-15 minutes from our meeting area.

Directions to the BLM CAMP AREAS:

From the WWE Meeting Area in Midpines, drive East on Highway 140. Continue down the winding section of the highway and at the bottom just before you cross the Bridge, Turn Left at Briceburg (a BLM Brick Building Field Office is on your left – Do NOT continue on Highway 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. The second camp is a bit further down the road and is called Willow Placer, a smaller area. The last camp is further down and called Railroad Flat. If you can try to camp in McCabe Flat as it is the nicer and largest area AND right by one of the largest rapids on the river, Split Rock!

Facilities

We have for your convenience at the meeting area, portable bathrooms.

Gratuities

Our guests often ask us if tipping the guides is appropriate. Although our staff is well paid for their services, if you feel that they went the extra distance to make your trip special, a tip is a great way of showing your appreciation.

Meals

You will be served our riverside buffet deli-styled lunch half way down the river. Our lunch has many fruits and veggies for the vegetarians in the group. We will also have drinks and snacks at rivers end for the bus ride back to the meet area.

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 parents before coming up to the river trip. The river is not a place for drugs or alcohol. 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 for cancellations made for this reason.

Cancellation Policy

Please read our policy and advise other trip members. If you must cancel, all but a \$50 per person cancellation fee will be refunded to you provided we received written notice from you at least 45 days before the trip. For reservations made within 45 days of the trip, all trip fees are non-refundable, in which case we encourage you to find someone to take your place. 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 WWE Office Staff. Trip Travel Insurance is strongly suggested and will cover such cancellations. Trips depart Rain or Shine.

Motels

Mariposa Lodge	(800) 341-8000
Best Western Mariposa	(800) 321-5261
Holiday Inn Mariposa	(209) 966-4288
Miners Inn Mariposa	(800) 396-9770
Yosemite Motels	(209) 742-6800

Camping

KOA Midpines	(209)966-2201
Indian Flat Campground	(209)379-2339

Places to Eat

There are many eating establishments in the nearby town of Mariposa, anything from fast food and pizza to Chinese and Fine Dining.

