SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER
CHILI BAR RUN TRIP INFORMATION



Meeting Time:	9:00 am
Meeting Place:	Whitewater Excitement Camp 6580 Hwy 49, Lotus, CA 95651
GPS Coordinates:	38.817646, -120.928499 (Intermittent GPS/cell service in area)
Return Time:	Approximately 2:30 pm
River Section:	Chili Bar to Whitewater Excitement Camp (10 miles)
Difficulty:	Class III suitable for beginner to veteran rafters
Age Limit:	Minimum age 7 (12 in high water)
Season:	April-October

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING WHITEWATER EXCITEMENT for your river adventure on the Chili Bar Run on the South Fork of the American River. This 10 mile, hydro-electric dam controlled stretch of the river has 10 major, fun, exciting class II-III rapids that will test your paddling skills. Our launching point is the Nugget in historical Coloma, the most famous of gold mining spots, where gold was discovered in California in 1848. This trip starts out with a bang, only giving you a short time to sharpen your paddling skills, before we hit the first big class 3 rapid, "Meatgrinder", shortly after we put in to the river!

Meeting Time and Place

The Chili Bar Run Trip meets at 9:00 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 your 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 530-642-2546

Example Itinerary

Meet at Whitewater Excitement camp store 9:00 am. After everyone has checked in with our staff and turned in their Assumption of Risk Form http://whitewaterexcitement.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Assumption-of-Risk-Form.pdf we will take a 25 minute shuttle ride along scenic Gold Country Highway 49, driving past Coloma State Park, where gold was first discovered in 1848 and started the California Gold Rush. Once arriving at the Nugget, where we put in to the river, 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. Please leave all valuables in your car and we will keep your keys in a locked location at the WWE camp.

Just downstream is our first class 3 rapid, "Meatgrinder", the longest on the river (not the biggest, though). This American river rafting trip is packed with rapids that will challenge and thrill you. After running the famous "Troublemaker" rapid, the river mellows as we pull over at the James Marshall Gold Discovery site for lunch. Your guides will prepare a delicious riverside buffet lunch for you while you relax and bask in the sunshine. You can even make a visit to the original site of gold discovery in California, which is only a short walk from the lunch area, prior to departing back onto the river.

We now head into a more mellow section of the river for about an hour, before hitting the last rapid of the day, "Barking Dog". We will end our trip at the WWE camp around 2:30 pm, where there are bathrooms and changing areas and places to sit around and talk about the rapids of the day. We will have cold drinks and snacks waiting for you as you get ready to head for home after a great day river rafting. Your guides will be there to thank you for coming and give you photo coupons to use if you choose to purchase photos at Hot Shot Imaging http://www.hotshotimaging.com/

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 or 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. 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: 1/2 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) 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 $14.00 adults/$10.00 youth per person, per night and requires a reservation. Two nights of 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 repellant
- ☐ 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 4 padded cots) $60.00 per night
- Deluxe Cabin Tent (includes queen size bed, sheets, pillows and comforter) $70.00 per night
- Sleeping bag with liner and pad $15.00 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	http://www.caryhouse.com/
Located off Highway 80		
Holiday Inn - Auburn	530-887-8787	http://www.auburnhi.com/ (ask for WWE discount)
Best Western - Auburn	530-885-8611	
Powers Mansion Inn B & B	530-885-1166	http://www.powersmansioninn.com/
Located off Highway 49		
Villa Florentina B & B	916-778-0109	http://villaflorentina.net/
Coloma RV Park & Resort	530-621-2267	http://www.colomaresort.com/

Restaurants

Gringo's Mexican Cafe	530-295-0100	http://www.eatatgringos.com/
American River Pizza & Grill	530-887-1969	http://www.americanriverpizza.com/
Sierra Nevada House	530-626-8096	http://www.sierranevadahouse.com/

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 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 or 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