ULTIMATE SOUTH MIDDLE AMERICAN RIVER TWO DAY TRIP INFORMATION



Meeting Time:	5:30 pm or after the night before your first day of rafting
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 4:30 pm on your second day of rafting
River Section:	South Fork Whole River (21 miles) and Middle Fork (18 miles)
Difficulty:	Class III-IV suitable for adventurous beginner to veteran rafters
Age Limit:	Minimum age 12
Season:	May-October

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING WHITEWATER EXCITEMENT for your two river adventure on the South and Middle Forks of the American River. Over two days you will be rafting 39 miles of hydro-electric dam controlled water with many major, fun, exciting class III-IV 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. Your trip includes 2 nights of camping at our private riverside campground, 2 days of rafting (first day South Fork Whole River; second day Middle Fork) and 5 delicious meals. **SWIMMING ABILITY IS REQUIRED ON ALL MIDDLE FORK TRIPS.**

Meeting Time and Place

Arrival time is 5:30 pm or after at WWE campground the night before your first day of rafting. Please check in with our camp host/staff and they will be happy to answer any questions and show you to your camping area. If the camp host is helping other guests check the WWE camp board in front of the camp store for your camping area.

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

The Two day trip begins with your first night of camping at the WWE private riverside campground. Arrival time is 5:30 pm or after. Please check in with our camp host/staff and they will be happy to answer any questions and show you to your camping area. If the camp host is helping other guests, please check the WWE camp board in front of the camp store for your camping area and location. You are on your own for dinner the first night, so you are welcome to bring food in, eat on the way or we have some great restaurants in the area, if you would like to wait until after you have set up your camp.

First morning of your trip begins with breakfast around 7:15 am, then you will meet at the Whitewater Excitement camp store at 8:00 am for your first day of rafting on the South Fork Whole River. After everyone has arrived, 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 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.

Now we begin our adventure exploring all 21 miles of the South Fork, beginning quickly with our first class 3 rapid, "Meatgrinder" the longest on the river, but not the biggest! The morning is packed with rapids that will challenge and thrill you. After running the famous "Troublemaker Rapid", we will enter a more mellow

section for about an hour, where you can enjoy the scenery, swim in the river, before stopping at our riverside camp, where your guides will prepare a delicious deli lunch for you. There will be bathrooms there and places to sit around and talk about the rapids of the morning while anticipating the afternoon rapids to come on 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, arriving around 4:00-4:30 pm. Once back at camp, take a hot shower, get into some dry clothes, sit back and relax while we provide appetizers, sodas, beer and wine around 5:30 - 6:00 pm, followed by a delicious BBQ dinner. While we serve dessert, enjoy viewing a slideshow of pictures of your day on the river.

The next morning breakfast will be served around 6:15 am, then meet at the Whitewater Excitement camp store at 7:00 am. After everyone has checked in with our staff, we begin the trip with an hour and 15 minute shuttle ride to our put-in at Oxbow. Once arriving 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 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 with an abundance of breads, meats, cheeses, veggies, fruits, chips, cookies, lemonade and water. 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) an 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 the Whitewater Excitement camp providing cold drinks and snack for the ride. We usually have you back by 4:30 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 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 several rapids each day. 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 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) 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 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 5 padded wooden frame beds) $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

American River Pizza & Grill	530-887-1969	http://www.americanriverpizza.com/
Coloma Club	530-626-6390	http://www.colomaclub.com
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 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

If your reservation is cancelled for any reason, you will receive 100% credit for a future trip with us.

Credits are given for guests who give us at least a 24 hour notice that they will not be attending. 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.

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 online 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