

CLASS 4 COMBINATION TRIPS - AMERICAN AND YUBA RIVERS

Class: 4, 18-28 mile trips in 2-3 days, April-Mid June or July in big snow pack year
Location: Meeting in Auburn or Colfax, off Highway 80 between Sacramento and Truckee.
Yuba/American combo trips will normally meet at our camp near Downieville.

These three Class 4 and 5 rivers can be combined in various ways to create an exciting 2-4 day adventure, or you can spend 3 whole days on the Middle Fork American or North Yuba (see separate descriptions of these rivers). The combo trips allow you to select the best Class 4 excitement possible.

The Middle Fork American is a beautiful wilderness run that is eligible for Federal Wild & Scenic status. It is suitable for the active, fit and adventurous first-timer and is also a great choice for those seeking a step-up from the more crowded South Fork American. It flows through steep, rugged and forested canyons within the Tahoe National Forest and into the Auburn State Recreation Area. It is offered as a 17 mile trip on either 1 or 2 days. The famed 'Tunnel Chute' is encountered early in the trip and this is followed by numerous Class 3 rapids and the Class 4+ 'Kanaka'. There is a scenic 7 mile stretch of Class 2, before 'Upper Ruck-a-Chucky' and the 'Ruck-a-Chucky' portage, then the additional Class 4 rapids of 'Chunder' and 'Parallel Parking' and more Class 3 rapids.

The North Fork American or Chamberlain Falls run, as it is also known, is the most intimate and romantic run in the Sierras. This clear, free-flowing aqua jewel makes rafting an inspiration. The rivers' polished gray rocks, nearly continuous pool and drop rapids and unsurpassed backcountry scenery provide a wilderness experience you will never forget. Paddle experience and competent swimming ability are requirements for paddle raft participation. We run a 9 mile section, and the action starts quickly with 'Slaughter's Sluice' less than ½ mile from put-in. The most difficult rapid - 'Chamberlain Falls' is encountered next, and great Class 4 action continues with 'Tongue & Groove', 'Zig-Zag', 'Achilles' Heel', 'Bogus Thunder', 'Grand Slalom' and a series of three river wide ledges called 'Staircase'. Some Class 3 rapids follow and then a welcome float of Class 1-2 rapids until the take-out.

The North Fork Yuba is an uncrowded gem, with just 3 outfitters permitted to offer trips. We are one of the original companies who pioneered this river for commercial rafting in 1981. Located at the northern most end of the fabled Mother Lode highway, State Route 49, the river runs through the heavily forested Tahoe National Forest. Nearby are rustic and charming gold mining towns of Downieville and Sierra City. The Maytag run on the North Yuba is a 9 mile run, with an introductory 2 miles of Class 2-3 rapids. This section provides an ideal step-up for the Class 3 paddler or a first-time Class 4 run for the active and adventurous. After braving some Class 4 rapids, most paddlers are then ready for the highlight of the trip - the Class 5 'Maytag'. We always stop and scout the rapid, so all clients have the option of walking around. The Class 4 Son of Maytag falls is just below Maytag, with more Class 3 action from here to the take-out.

Camping will either be at our Forest Service site on the North Yuba, which has rustic facilities with no showers, but is nestled amongst the pines and firs of the Tahoe National Forest at approx. 2500 foot elevation. Camping is also available close to the North American at Rollins Lake in Colfax, which does provide more facilities with hot showers and electric hook-ups available if required. We can arrange for your group to camp at either of these locations the night prior to your trip.

Wetsuits may be required, usually at least through Memorial weekend. As the Yuba and North American are un-dammed rivers and are at their peak in the spring, early reservations are required for these rivers. Check with the office regarding costs, and to make reservations. Your height and weight are usually required. Also check the 'what to bring' list carefully for these early trips.

Lunch is served on the river each day, and usually consists of a deli-style spread with a selection of breads, meats and cheeses, or a pitta sandwich. Tomatoes, avocados, lettuce, sprouts, chips and salsa, fresh fruit, cookies, vegetables & dip are included. We can also accommodate any special dietary needs. Often a scenic hike is available during the lunch stop.

Each evening, while the guides prepare dinner, clients can set-up their camp, fish, hike or simply relax around the camp fire. Dinner will consist of appetizers of vegetables, dip, cheese and crackers, followed by barbecued chicken or tri-tip steak, baked potatoes, mixed salad or stir-fried vegetables and garlic bread. Dutch-oven baked desserts are served with whipped cream, and moderate amounts of beer and wine are available.

In the morning, while the guides prepare breakfast, personal gear can be packed. For the lucky ones staying an additional night, great fishing is to be had on all these rivers or you can simply enjoy a coffee around the camp fire. Breakfast is normally scrambled eggs with hash browns or pancakes. Bacon or sausage and fresh fruit, pastries, muffins, orange juice, milk, tea, hot chocolate and coffee are also served. On occasions, due to time restraints, a continental breakfast may be provided instead.

Professional photographers usually take photos of the action at the largest rapids and are available to view at the take-out or nearby meeting location. Most of these are now available on-line, and you can check them out via our web site at http://www.whitewatertours.com/photo_links.htm.

For trips of 3-4 days, you can include the Chili Bar run on the South Fork if you would prefer a more moderate first day, or another 9 miles of Class 4 and 10 miles of Class 5 are available on the North Yuba for even more adventure.

Other Combination trips are available. Try the Cal Salmon and Scott in the most northern part of California for great Class 4 and 5 action. Both are undammed rivers so available during snow-melt only. The Upper Klamath and Burnt Ranch Gorge can be combined during the summer, but flows on Burnt Ranch vary depending on snow pack so call in May for update on flows/releases.

Tributary Whitewater Tours is celebrating 30 years of operations. We pride ourselves on our safety record and the quality of our guides and equipment. We hope you will take an opportunity to join us on a truly great river vacation in the coming season.



Distances/Times for Travel:

2 ½ hrs/123 mi. NE of San Francisco, ¾ hr/36 mi. E. of Sacramento, 1 ¾ hrs/95 mi. SW of Reno, 1 ¾ hrs/82 mi. N. of Stockton, 3 ¼ hrs/159 mi. SE of Redding, 3 hrs/149 mi. NE of San Jose,

Tributary Whitewater Tours LLC

Business Office:
20480 Woodbury Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95949
Toll Free: 800/672-3846 or 530/346-6812

rafting@whitewatertours.com
www.whitewatertours.com



Guiding California Rivers Trips for 30 years