



Tributary Whitewater Tours



Choosing a Trip

Tributary has been operating safe and exciting rafting trips since 1978 and we pride ourselves on the excellence of our well qualified and personable employees. We have a wide range of trips, some suitable for youths from 4 years, seniors and Special Needs. We also offer some of the toughest whitewater in California, so we really have something for everyone.

Particularly for a first time trip, or if you have a larger group, err on the side of caution to ensure everyone has fun. Always consider the weakest or most timid person in your party when making your decision. Please call or email our office if you would like assistance in choosing the most suitable trip.

See Bring the Family and Family Specials on the next page for detail of trips suitable for children and young teens.



For Your Safety

Nearly everyone can participate at some level, but anyone with any medical condition, very overweight or in poor physical shape should always consult with their physician. Those with a heart condition or back problems should be particularly cautious.

Each participant must fit into one of our life-jackets with all buckles fastened and our regular lifejackets fit a torso circumference of 52 inches maximum. We have a few jackets that will fit up to 56" but they MUST be requested in advance. It is also important for us know in advance about any conditions that may affect anyone from being able to fully participate in order to ensure the enjoyment of all our guests.

There are risks involved in any outdoor activity and accidents can happen. All participants will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk or Liability Release form prior to your trip.

Location

With Tributary, you can choose from a variety of rivers located across California. From Northern California's Klamath and Smith rivers located just south of the Oregon border, or travel south to the Kaweah, located near Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada, east of Fresno. This map shows river locations and their proximity to major cities and travel destinations.



Levels of Difficulty

Class 1-2 (Easiest/Younger Children) - suitable for younger (under 8) or more timid children, seniors, special needs

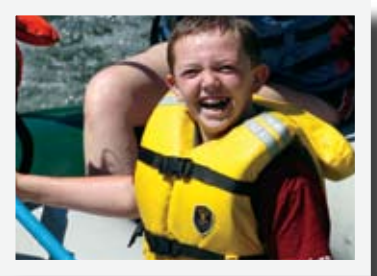
Class 2-3 (Easy/Beginner) – Suitable for first time rafters, corporate groups, families, most youth groups, all non-swimmers.

Class 4 (Intermediate/Adventurous First-timers) – Suitable for adventurous first time rafters and groups, those with previous Class 3 experience, adventure Scout groups. Good swimming ability required.

Class 4+ (Intermediate/More Difficult) – Requires previous Class 3 experience with strong swimming ability

Class 5 (Advanced/Most Difficult) – Requires previous Class 4 experience with very strong swimming ability (mandatory swim tests)

NOTE: Early in the season (April – Mid-June), water levels may be higher if we have a large snow pack, and therefore we may raise our minimum age level, change our requirements for swimming ability or switch trips to less difficult runs.



Bring the Family

There are wonderful, scenic, river rafting trips in California suitable for children as young as 4 years old and we have raft trips located close to Sacramento and Lake Tahoe, and further north in the Shasta-Trinity and Klamath National Forests. You can opt for a short half-day run, where you can bring your own picnic lunch, or a great family rafting vacation of 2 to 4 days or more. A great way to experience our multi-day trips on some of our easier runs is our Special Family Trips where on specific dates, youths raft for half-price. Child friendly meals are provided and prepared by our courteous, professional river guides. On regular trips, youths and seniors (bring the grandparents) receive a 10% discount. Group discounts are also available for groups of 6 or more. Youth groups receive big discounts and Tributary caters to many scout groups and youth groups.

There are age limit recommendations, but children's capabilities vary considerably and we will be glad to discuss this to ensure the best possible experience for the family. We suggest a minimum age of 4 years old on Class 2 rivers, 7-8 years on Class 3, 13 years on Class 4 and 16 years on Class 5.

For the younger or more timid child, see our Easiest Rivers, like the half-day, Class 2 run on the Lower Middle Fork American River or South Fork American Lotus Run. For longer trips, see the East Fork Carson River, close to South Lake Tahoe and trips on the Trinity River and Lower Klamath River, which provide both Class 2 and 3 sections of river, so these trips can be customized to accommodate the younger child.

For youths from 7-8 years and younger teens, see our Easy Rivers like the South Fork American River, located in the historic Gold Country. It provides an excellent first time trip, with options from half-day to 2+ days. Near Lake Tahoe and Reno, a fun, 1/2-day run on the Truckee River is available from mid-May through September. The Trinity River and Lower Klamath in N. California both flow throughout the summer and inflatable kayaks are available on these rivers. Include a trip to Mount Shasta or the Redwoods, and you have the complete vacation.

For adventurous teenagers, you can consider a step up to our Adventurous First Time/Intermediate rivers like the Middle Fork American River which provides Class 4 action throughout the summer on 1-3 day trips. A combination of the South Fork American and Middle Fork American also makes a great 2-3 day trip. In the spring and in some years into July, the North Fork Yuba River is a very scenic, un-crowded Class 4 trip, just an hour from Nevada City.

Our experience in running safe and fun trips on any level of whitewater is a great reason to pick us for your family or youth group trip. Often parents are more nervous about their child's first river trip than the child themselves, so it is a good idea to pick an outfitter like Tributary that has been in the business for many years. We have an excellent safety record and a low turnover of staff.

FAMILY SPECIAL TRIPS

Youths Raft for 1/2-Price!

Apart from the price, the other great thing about these rafting trips is that you can rely on having other family groups and kids around. Unlike some outfitters, we customize these trips so ONLY family groups are in the camp and on the same river trip to ensure the very best experience. Kids love to be with other kids and so do our guides.

We would love to have you join us on one of these 2-4 day trips for a safe and memorable family vacation. You do not have to be a serious camper or outdoor person to appreciate river trips. You may select a trip where we utilize developed campsites with hot showers, flush toilets and facilities close to civilization, or a family adventure in wilderness surroundings. If you do not have the time or are nervous about an extended river vacation, select any of our Class 2-3 trips for just a 1/2 or 1 day.

Call for an up to date schedule or see Family Specials on the website for current schedule and more information.

Great Trips suitable for young and old

Easiest

EASIEST - SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

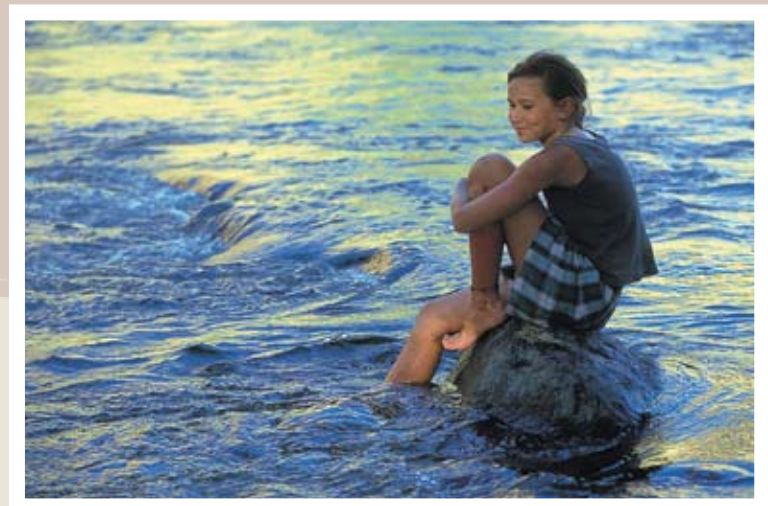
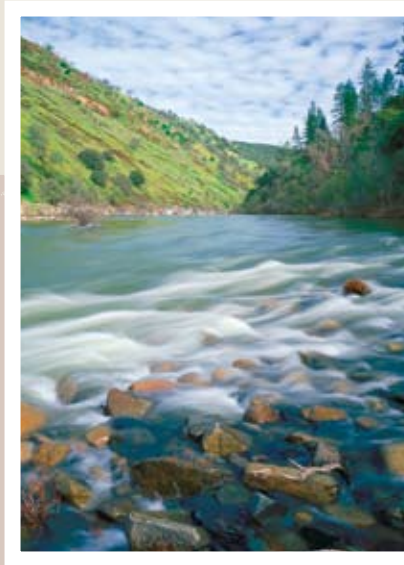
LOWER MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN
May – Sept • Class II
7 mi. (1/2 day) • Min Age: 4
meets in Auburn, CA
1 hr E of Sacramento

This is a beautiful, almost wilderness rafting trip located in the Gold Country near Auburn. It is a great choice for kids from 4 years old, the more timid child, and the grand parents. Clients can request inflatable kayaks to add adventure for teenagers and adults, so this river can happily accommodate a diverse family group.

More relaxed, mellower and much less traveled than the nearby South Fork American River. It is close to civilization, yet it is possible to feel that you are really getting away from it all. This river is a gem, flowing through the steep, rugged and forested canyons of the Auburn State Recreation Area. There are safe beach areas for picnicking and play, and side hikes up creeks into shady dells with waterfalls. Group sizes are usually small and there are very few other people, but nesting ducks, deer, heron and jumping fish are often spotted. Late in the season, the most incredible juicy blackberries are ripe for picking.

SOUTH FORK AMERICAN LOTUS RUN
May – Sept • Class II
4 mi. (1/2 day) • Min Age: 4
Location: Coloma, CA
1 hr East of Sacramento

This trip is ideal when you have a mixed group, with some of the group looking for more action and adventure. The entire group can raft on the first 4 miles of the South Fork American 'Gorge', which is easy and only contains Class 1 & 2 rapids. The trip then stops at our camp for lunch. After lunch, the more adventurous (and youths from 7-8 years) can continue on and tackle the Class 3 rapids through the 'Gorge', while the younger children, seniors and/or pregnant ladies, can play in camp, visit the nearby Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park or take some easy local hikes. Both groups meet back at camp about 3 hours later. This trip is usually only scheduled in conjunction with the regular 1 day trip on the 'Gorge', but ask about this run if you have a minimum group of 8 who want a mellow float and have only a few hours to spare.



Accessible Adventures

Easy Beginner

EAST FORK OF THE CARSON

April-July • Class II & III

7-21 miles (1/2, 1, & 2 days)

Min Age 4-9 years (depending on trip)

Meets in Markleeville, CA

1 hr. south of Tahoe, 1.5 hrs South of Reno

The East Fork Carson River is a unique fast paced, high elevation river (5500') with beautiful views of the snow capped eastern Sierras. It flows from the Alpine-like mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest into the high Nevada desert. This river is a great introduction to river rafting, but it lures veterans back year after year because of its tranquil beauty and the soothing hot springs to be found on the longer 21 mile wilderness run. Above this run, is a short, but sweet Class 3 section, with a shorter season.

On a 1/2 day trip on the East Carson River, we run a 7.5 mile upstream Class 3 section from "Cave Rock" to Hangman's Bridge. This is a swift flowing and almost continuous run, so suitable only for youths from 9 years, unlike the mellower run downstream.

On the 21 mile wilderness run, we put-in at Hangman's Bridge, 2 miles SE of Markleeville. This section of the East Fork Carson is swift, yet easy going; safe and fun for various levels of experience. Water levels permitting, we usually bring some inflatable kayaks for the more adventurous paddlers to share. The first 10 miles from Markleeville to the Nevada border, were added to the California Wild & Scenic Rivers System in 1988. The scenery is excellent, with spectacular views of the snow capped peaks of the Sierra's. The natural hot-springs, 9 miles down from the put-in, is one of the high-lights of the trip. It cascades into the river as a small waterfall and into a pool built out of river rock. There are additional pools on either bank above the river. The lower half of the run transitions into high Nevada desert with giant cottonwoods, gaggles of geese and goslings, and flocks of swallows nesting in their mud homes constructed on the underside of volcanic rock formations. The river starts to meander in horseshoe shaped curves past interesting rock formations.

The take-out, is near Gardnerville in Nevada. We serve cold drinks while the guides load equipment on to waiting shuttle vehicles, and then you will be transported back to your vehicles in Markleeville. This trip back takes approx. 3/4 hour.

The 2 day trip is the best possible trip on the East Fork Carson River and takes full advantage of the hot-springs, scenery and wilderness surroundings. A separate raft transports all the equipment down the river, so we provide large dry-bags for personal clothing and camping gear. We will stop for lunch at a suitable beach area and then on to

our camp-site, usually just above the main hot-springs. It is a beautiful spot, with giant Ponderosa pines that offer shade, junipers and a large flat grassy area. Across the river are red and orange cliff sides dotted with trees.

In the evening, you will have time to set-up camp, head down the trail to a little known small hot springs, or simply relax with a cold drink while your guides prepare your dinner. Fishing is excellent in this protected waterway for 'wild trout'. After dinner, the stars come out over the East Fork Carson River in a way city-dwellers rarely see and you can also enjoy the clean mountain air. Now is the perfect time to go down to the hot springs and relax in the warmth while watching the moon rise. You may also just enjoy the peace and quiet of the wilderness while sipping a glass of wine or a steaming mug of hot chocolate around the camp fire.

Next morning, you will wake to the aroma of coffee brewing and while the guides prepare breakfast, personal camping gear can be packed. Early risers can visit the hot springs again before breakfast, take a walk or fish. We depart from camp and maneuver the most difficult rapid on the river, a Class 2+ rapid called 'Sidewinder'. The main hot springs is located just below this on the left bank so another quick soak is possible before continuing downstream. Lunch may be taken at a site which affords a hike up fairly steep terrain to a cave.

The 1 day trip on the East Fork Carson River, we cover the same 21 miles as the 2 day trip. We pull in for lunch 9 miles down at the hot springs. This trip is a long day. For this reason, we do not recommend it for children under 7-8 years.

Accommodations & camping are available in the picturesque old town of Markleeville and the Grover Hot Springs State Historic Park is located just out of town. Enjoy the local area for a few nights before or after your trip. Alpine County is the least populated county in California, or visit South Lake Tahoe only 39 miles to the north for more recreation and sight-seeing.

NOTICE: Tributary Whitewater Tours operates under permit from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, Carson

LOWER KLAMATH RIVER

May-October • Class II-III

18-38 mi. (2-4 days) • Min Age: 5 years

Trips meet in Happy Camp, CA

3 1/2 hrs. Northwest of Redding,

7 hrs North of San Francisco

The Lower Klamath River is an ideal multi-day rafting trip for families and first timers. It is a slightly easier trip than the South Fork American River and in a more wilderness setting. It has many fun rapids such as Rattlesnake, Devil's Toe Nail, the Trench, Dragon's Tooth, Osprey, and Sasquatch Squeeze, plus large sandy beaches for camping and play. With the addition of inflatable kayaks, this rafting trip can provide more than enough excitement for the hardy and more experienced river runner. One highlight of the trip is the 3/4 mile hike up Ukonom Creek, where in a rain forest setting, the twin 20' waterfalls of Ukonom Falls cascade into a large swimming hole.

The Lower Klamath River is also known for the abundant wildlife that can be seen from its shores, its warm water, swimming, and steelhead and salmon fishing. It is the legendary home to Sasquatch, and it's not hard to imagine the "Big Foot" creature hidden in the majestic forests along the river. Among the more visible creatures are heron, osprey, eagles, black bear, deer, beaver, raccoons and otters. The 20 miles of river above Happy Camp includes two Class 3 rapids, but its main charm is the fact that the river leaves the highway for more than 8 miles, and this section is a favorite haunt of the playful river otter.

Our typical 2-4 day trips on the Lower Klamath River are run on the 22-38 miles below Happy Camp, but there are many miles both upstream

and downstream that allow for five or more days. There are 185 miles of navigable whitewater and is California's third longest river, so one of the few rivers that allows for continuous trips longer than 2 days. Its N.W. California location provides a great remote and "get-

a-way from it all" river trip. These trips are offered on selected dates as "family specials" where youths raft at 1/2 price.

Camping on the Lower Klamath River is usually wilderness style, where we carry all the gear down the river, but car (primitive) camping options are available. For most of its length, the Lower Klamath River passes through the Klamath National Forest. The Karuk ("upstream") Indian tribe inhabits much of the river typically traveled and the Karuk Traditional ceremonies are conducted at various locations on the sacred banks ("Inaam") of the Klamath River. Out of respect to the tribe, camping and stopping is at times prohibited in these areas.

NOTICE: Tributary Whitewater Tours operates under permit from the Klamath National Forest.



more easy beginner trips.....

TRUCKEE RIVER

mid-May thru September • Class II-III+
7 mi. (1/2 day) • Min Age: 7 years
Location: East of Truckee, CA
1+ hr north of South Lake Tahoe,
40 mins west of Reno, NV

This Truckee River white water rafting trip is close to Lake Tahoe and Reno. It is a fun and exciting, 7-mile guided whitewater adventure, with many Class 2-3 rapids for the first 6 miles and exciting Class 3+ rapids in the last mile. This whitewater trip should not be confused with the self-guided float out of Tahoe City. Though the river parallels Interstate 80, the road is out of sight and sound and the surroundings seem quite remote. Occasionally one might spot a beaver toiling amongst the giant cottonwoods lining the banks as the Truckee River passes through the High Sierra desert heading east towards Reno.

This rafting trip is approx. 3.5 hrs, from when you meet us to the return to your vehicle. Transportation is provided from our meeting location in Truckee, to the put-in site approx. 7 miles east of Truckee on the Little Truckee River near Boca.

Above the rapid "Bronco", it will be possible for the more timid passenger to disembark and hike from here to the take-out at Floriston. Most will opt to run the most exciting rapids on this Truckee River rafting trip and professional photographers are usually present to capture the exciting action. At the take-out point, the equipment will be loaded while refreshments are served and we then return to our meeting location in Truckee.

MAIN TRINITY RIVER

April-October • Class II-III+
6-18 mi. (1/2, 1, & 2 days) • Min Age: 6
Location: Near Weaverville, CA
1 1/2 hrs. West of Redding,
5 1/2 hrs. North of San Francisco

The Trinity River is an ideal trip for families and youth groups. With the addition of inflatable kayaks, even the experienced or more adventurous rafter will have plenty of excitement. On a multi-day Trinity River trip, we usually run a Class 2 run on the first day as a warm-up, and tackle the Class 3 "Pigeon Point" run on the 2nd day. This run has a myriad of Class 2-3 rapids like the Slot, Sailors Bar, and Fish Tail, plus the big one, Hell Hole (Class 3+) that provide a thrill for all. Oar boats are available for those who mostly want to relax and 2 different sections of Class 2 can be run to make this trip suitable for the more timid or younger rafter. The 2 day trip is offered on selected dates as family specials where youths raft at 1/2 price.

The wildlife and scenery are excellent along the Trinity River or "Hoopa", as it is called by the local Hoopa tribe. The silent river runner can often sight deer, hawks, eagles, osprey, herons, kingfishers, and the occasional bear, mink, otter and reclusive fisher. During September (usually the first or second weekend) take advantage of higher flows released for the Hoopa White Deerskin Boat Dance.

Camping is offered at vehicle accessible Shasta-Trinity National Forest campgrounds (no showers), wilderness style settings where we take all our gear in separate oar rafts, or most often at the Trinity River Adventure Park, with grassy, shady river side sites.

The Main Trinity River, is the largest tributary of the Klamath, but is a mighty river of its own, building steadily as it flows south, then west, then north. It drains all but the northern flank of the Salmon-Trinity Alps Wilderness in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The Trinity River's best whitewater stretches are downstream of the North Fork Trinity confluence where historic gold mining remnants are left behind, and the scenery is more lush and green as the river flows through the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Historically significant as a gold mining area, nearly 10,000 miners were working the Trinity River and its side creeks in 1851, when the total population of California was roughly 50,000 people. Legend has it that many Chinese miners lost their lives at a spot near the take-out named "China Slide", when the mountainside slid down & buried them.

NOTICE: Tributary operates under permit from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.



We had a great time on your 2-day family South Fork trip. My 10-year old even said he liked it better than playing computer games — which is an extremely high compliment coming from him. Erin and Steve were great guides, they thought of everything — even having a campfire complete with s'more materials on Saturday night. The camping area was right on the river and in a safe, car-free area so that our kids could run around freely. We will highly recommend your trip to our friends with children, and my husband and I plan to do one of your Class IV trips one of these days without the kids."

— All the best, M. Teruel



The South Fork is enjoyed each year by thousands.

Tributary
Whitewater Tours
(800) 672-3846
whitewatertours.com

South Fork American

Our most popular trips



SOUTH FORK OF THE AMERICAN RIVER

**April-October • Class II-III+
9 - 21 mi. (1/2 day-2 days)**

Min Age: 7-8 years

**Trips meet in Coloma, CA
1 hr. east of Sacramento**

The South Fork American River is exciting, lots of fun, and a great introduction to whitewater rafting. Countless beginners have enjoyed its many memorable rapids, but it is exciting enough to lure many back year after year. The South Fork American River is suitable for nearly everyone, including families (kids from 7-8 yrs), corporate groups and youth groups. All of the trips meet at our camp in the Coloma/Lotus area

The river flows through the green and gold foothills of California's Gold Rush Country on reliable water releases throughout the entire spring, summer and fall.

Gorge 'Lower' trips:

Our most popular **13 mile, 1 day** rafting adventure, meets mid-morning and launches at the Hwy 49 bridge. To start with, the pace is fairly gentle with some Class 2 rapids to warm up on. We pull into camp for a great lunch spread prepared by your talented river guides and then we launch again and enter the steep granite canyon known as the 'Gorge' where the rapids occur frequently. There is Fowler's Rock, the Class 3+ Satan's Cesspool, Bouncing Rock, Hospital Bar and numerous milder but fun rapids. The river trip ends at Folsom Lake where you are served refreshments and are transported back to the meeting location, by approx. 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. The "Gorge" can also be run as an afternoon **9 mile, 1/2-day express run**, which omits the first 4 miles and does not include lunch.

Chili Bar 'Upper' raft trips:

These trips meet early in the morning and we transport your group to the top of the South Fork American River near Placerville. The rafting action begins quickly with Meatgrinder rapid and continues for the next 5+ miles with Racehorse Bend, Triple Threat, the Class 3+ Troublemaker and others. The river slows after this and we usually stop at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. You can check out some of the park exhibits while your guides prepare lunch. We continue on rafting down to our camp by mid-afternoon. This "Chili Bar" trip is **also available as a 1/2-day express run**, with no stops and no lunch.

21 mile 'Whole River' raft trip:

The entire South Fork American River is usually run in 2 days, but we also offer this trip as a long 1 day option. It includes both the Chili Bar and Gorge sections of river with lunch served in between at our riverside camp. It is a particularly great run during higher spring flows.

2 day rafting trip:

The 2 day trip covers more than 21 miles and includes riverside camping and 4 meals. We meet you on the first morning after breakfast, and usually to run the lower 'Gorge' run on the first day and the upper 'Chili Bar' run on the 2nd day. This allows us to meet you a little later on the first day and allows for an earlier departure time on the second day. This may be important if you have to travel any distance to get to the river. The times are also scheduled to catch the best flows created by the release of water from the upstream dams. **This trip is offered on selected dates as a family special where youths raft at 1/2 price.**

In the evening, you will have time to set-up camp, swim, play volleyball, or simply relax with a cold drink while your guides prepare your dinner. Photographs of the rafting trip are available in camp and you can relax by the camp fire.

Next morning, you will wake to the aroma of coffee brewing and while the guides prepare breakfast, personal camping gear can be packed. We will usually depart from camp by 9:00 am for our put-in on the 'Chili Bar' run. You will be greeted with ice cold drinks back at camp, before departing from your South Fork American whitewater adventure.

To extend your stay, camping can be arranged before or after any of our South Fork American River trips, or if you think you might be ready for a step up in excitement consider the Middle Fork American River or the South Fork American/Middle Fork American Combo. In the spring you can also combine with the North Fork American River.

Professional photographer's film at several major rapids on the South Fork American River and the action shots are available to view in camp. Ask your guide for a coupon and order your South Fork American River photos before you leave Coloma, as they are not available online. See our photography link page for current information.

NOTICE: Water flows in the South Fork American River result from releases from hydroelectric facilities located upstream. Such water releases are not subject to the control of El Dorado County or commercial rafting companies operating under permit from the County of El Dorado.



The South Fork American's location and year-round guaranteed flows make it our most popular trip.

Intermediate

*For experienced paddlers
and adventurous first-timers*

INTERMEDIATE - EXPERIENCED PADDLERS AND ADVENTUROUS FIRST-TIMERS

MIDDLE FORK OF THE AMERICAN RIVER

May-October • Class III-IV

17-25 mi. (1-3 days)

Min Age: 13 years (12 w/prev exp)

Location: Near Auburn, CA

1 hr. east of Sacramento

The Middle Fork American River is one of the most reliable Class 4, all summer California whitewater rafting trips. It is a suitable raft trip for the active, fit and adventurous first-timer or a great choice for those seeking a step-up from the more crowded South Fork American River. It is a beautiful wilderness river rafting trip that is eligible for Federal Wild & Scenic status. From its headwaters in the Granite Chief Wilderness, it flows through steep, rugged and forested canyons within the Tahoe National Forest and into the Auburn State Recreation Area. This is one of our guides favorite California white water rafting runs (best for 2-3 days!), as they appreciate escaping into this pristine road-less area. This Middle Fork American Class 4 rafting adventure is close to civilization, yet it is possible to feel that you are the only people on the river.

All trips begin with an early rendezvous in Auburn after breakfast. If you are lucky enough to be scheduled for one of our multi-day wilderness camp-outs, you will transfer your overnight gear into waterproof bags. We then transport you through Foresthill to the put-in location just below Oxbow Reservoir and the dam.

The infamous "Tunnel Chute" is one of the first big rapids encountered, but clients have the option of walking around this fierce looking cataract. There are at least 10 Class 3-4 rapids in the first 6 miles, including the Class 4 'Lettuce Hole' (AKA Orange Wall) and 'Kanaka' (AKA Cartwheel). For the next 7 miles, the pace is mellower, allowing time to appreciate the solitude and beauty of the lush, forested canyon. You may get a glimpse of a black bear or other wild-life and spot trout swimming in the incredibly clean & clear Sierra mountain water (originating from the snow pack on the back side of Squaw Valley & Alpine Meadows). We stop for lunch and possible side-hikes and plenty of excitement lies ahead.

The Ruck-a-Chucky rapids start just below the entrance of Canyon Creek and the Class 4 'Chunder'. The river drops 20-30' through a sieve of huge boulders and a mandatory portage. A 2 mile gorge laced with Class 3-4 rapids such as 'Cleavage', 'Parallel Parking' and 'Catapult' follow. The take-out for 1 and 2 day trips is after 17 miles at the old Greenwood Bridge site. The

bridge was demolished in the 1954 floods by a 50' wall of water that surged down the canyon after the old Hell Hole Reservoir failed. You are served cold beverages before being transported back to your vehicle.

A Middle Fork American 1 day trip is a long but satisfying day. We normally meet at 8:30 and you should be on the road home by 5:00 pm.

A Middle Fork American 2 day trip offers the chance to enjoy the beauty of this river canyon in a more leisurely way. Many outfitters' only offer this run in combination with the South Fork American, due to the logistics of offering a wilderness camp-out. The only option on the Middle Fork American River is to take all the gear down the river by raft and set-up camp, so facilities are rustic. On the plus side, we have the choice of some incredible and truly get-away-from-it-all camps spots, and great side-hikes. Our favorite spots afford the luxury of smooth, sculptured plunge pools and cascading waterfalls. On these multi-day trips, there is time to swim, play, hike, fish (need a license!) or simply relax in seclusion. On the 2 day trip, you should be back in Auburn around 4:30 pm.

A Middle Fork American 3 day trip offers the 2 day trip above, plus we are one of the few companies that offers the option of running the little traveled section of river downstream from the Greenwood Bridge take-out. Though only Class 2 rapids are found in the 7 miles to Mammoth Bar, there is a wonderful hike up the American Canyon to some incredible waterfalls and cool and shady pools. You have to know the river to find the spot and this hidden treasure is particularly welcome in the hot summer months. Inflatable kayaks can also be provided. We usually share this part of the river with just a few kayakers and the resident wildlife. The last 2 miles from Mammoth Bar to the confluence of the North Fork American, are only suitable for very adventurous & experienced paddlers who are capable of tackling the Class 5 Murderers Bar rapid.

Combination trips with the South Fork American and/or North Fork American can be scheduled for 2 to 5 days of rafting. If you would prefer to warm up on Class 3 rapids first then the South Fork American/Middle Fork American River Combo is a great choice. This is also a good choice if you would like a multi-day trip but wilderness camping does not appeal. You can also combine any of these trips in the spring with another exciting day on the North Fork American River.

Photos are available for viewing online or in nearby Coloma if you are staying in the area after your trip.

SOUTH FORK - MIDDLE COMBO

May-October • Class III-IV

30-38 mi. (2-4 days) • Min Age: 12 years

Location: Coloma then Auburn, CA

1 hr. east of Sacramento

The combo trip of the South Fork American and Middle Fork American is an ideal rafting trip for those wanting to warm up on some Class 3 rapids for 1-2 days before stepping up to the more exciting Class 4 action on the Middle Fork American. Both rivers flow through the foothills of California's Gold Rush Country

The South Fork American River is a fun Class 3 run, with memorable rapids like Bouncing Rock, Satan's Cesspool and Hospital Bar. It serves as a great introduction to rafting, though it is exciting enough to lure many back year after year. On the combo trip with the Middle Fork American River, you can select 1-2 days of Class 4 to follow your South Fork American River trip. The itinerary for the 2 day combo follows.

On the first day, we follow the same itinerary as the first day of our South Fork American 2 day trip. We meet you after breakfast at Rivers Bend Resort in Coloma/Lotus. We usually run the 13 miles of the South Fork American "Gorge", but at times of higher water, the full 21 mile trip may be offered. Lunch is taken on the river, and we should be back in camp by 5:00 pm. You will be served dinner and spend the night at our South Fork American camp.

On the second day, an early departure from camp is required due to the length of the Middle Fork American River run and the shuttle to the river. Personal gear is packed and we serve a quick continental breakfast with fresh fruit, pastries, muffins and beverages. We caravan from Coloma to Auburn, and from here we transport you to the put-in. We follow the itinerary of our Middle Fork American River 1 day trip or the Middle Fork American River 2 day trip if you are doing a 3 day combo. Either way, you will enjoy some great Class 4 whitewater starting with "Tunnel Chute". See the Middle Fork American River description for full details. At the end of your trip, you will be served cold drinks and we transport you out of this spectacular canyon to your vehicle. You should be back in Auburn by 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

Photos for your Middle Fork American River trip are available online and information can be found at our photo links page. Make sure you order photos of the South Fork American before leaving Coloma as those photos are not available to view online.

For trips of 3-5 days, you can include the Chili Bar run on the South Fork American, another 7 miles on the Middle Fork American River, or in the spring, 9 miles of Class 4 on the North Fork American River.

NOTICE: Water flows in the South Fork American River result from releases from hydroelectric facilities located upstream. Such water releases are not subject to the control of El Dorado County or commercial rafting companies operating under permit from the County of El Dorado.

UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER

April-mid June depending on snow pack
Class III-IV • 14-34 mi. (1-3 days)
Min Age: 10-14 years
Location: Sims Flat near Dunsmuir, CA
3/4 hrs. North of Redding,
5 hrs. Northeast of San Francisco

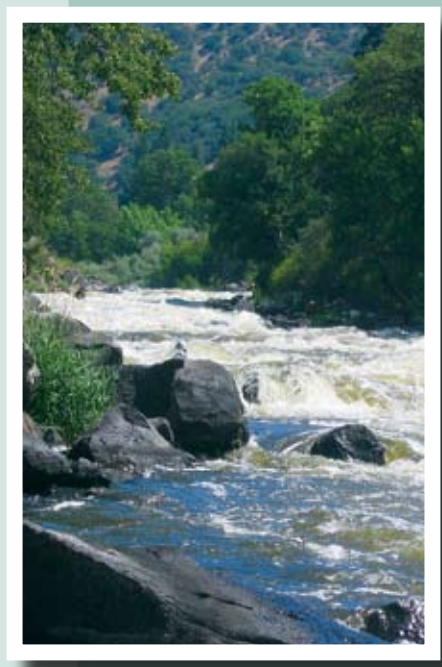
This spring time run is pure fun, with nearly continuous whitewater (50 plus rapids in 30+ miles of river). It passes through beautiful canyons in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, with majestic views of Mount Shasta and Castle Crags, and hardly any rafting traffic! Less than an hour north of Redding, the "Upper Sac" is the handiest whitewater in the northern California mountains.

The river features beautiful side creek waterfalls, abundant bird life and one of the best trout fisheries in California. We highly recommend this run for active first timers and Class III-IV veterans. The most popular run is the 14 miles from Sims Flat to Dog Creek near Lake Shasta, which is rafted on the 1 day trip. It has consistent Class 3-4 rapids. On our 2 day trips we raft upstream of Sims Flat. Though less scenic at the beginning as the river passes through Dunsmuir, there are spectacular views upstream of Mt. Shasta and on the right, the granite peaks of Castle Crags. Numerous Class 3-4 rapids and the highlight of this trip is the Class 4+ rapid of Mears Creek Falls. There is the option to walk around this rapid and continue the short distance downstream to Sims Flat while the rafts are maneuvered through or around the triple drops.

On overnight trips, camping is usually at the Forest Service campground of Sims Flat. However, for more facilities, arrangements can be made at private sites in Dunsmuir, or at the 4,000 acre Castle Crags State Park. This park lies at the base of 6544 foot granite spires, the Pacific Crest Trail runs through it and it is further from the railroad tracks that run through the canyon.

The area has a lot to offer. The scenery is stunning and you can't beat it for fishing, biking and hiking. The quaint historic railroad town of Dunsmuir has the beautiful waterfalls of Hedge Creek and Mossbrae, caves and soda springs. There is boating and caverns at Lake Shasta to the south and of course the majestic 14,162 foot Mount Shasta looms just to the north. Accommodations and restaurants are plentiful in Dunsmuir and Mt. Shasta.

Tributary operates under permit from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Intermediate-Advanced

*previous paddling
experience recommended*

INTERMEDIATE – ADVANCED • PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE RECOMMENDED

NORTH FORK OF THE AMERICAN RIVER

April-June depending on snowpack
Class IV • 9-13 mi. (1/2 day – 1 day) or
18-26 mi. (2 days) • Min Age: 13 years
Location: Colfax, CA
20 mins East of Auburn
1 hr East of Sacramento

The North Fork American (Chamberlain Falls run), is the most intimate and romantic river trip in the Sierras and makes rafting an inspiration. This clear, free-flowing aqua jewel is free flowing from snowmelt in the Granite Chief Wilderness. The rivers polished gray rocks, nearly continuous pool and drop rapids and unsurpassed backcountry scenery provide a wilderness rafting experience you will never forget. Paddle experience and competent swimming ability are requirements, particularly important at times of higher water, when eddies are scarce and large holes must be negotiated.

The challenge starts right from the beginning, with three Class 3 & 4 rapids in less than a mile. Firstly, we negotiate a Class III-IV gorge, starting with Beginners Luck, and then a series of boulder slalom rapids called Slaughter Sluice before crashing over the Class 4+ Chamberlain Falls. In short order comes more Class 3-4 rapids like Tongue & Groove, Zig-Zag, Achilles Heel, Bogus Thunder, Grand Slalom, Devils Staircase and Nose Stand. After this we will take a breather and have lunch. A picturesque side hike up Indian Creek to the falls may be scheduled. The second half of the trip is mellower, with frequent Class 2-3 rapids in a tranquil, peaceful canyon and you get the opportunity to admire the surroundings.

For 2 day trips on the North Fork American, combine this great run with a day on the South American, Middle Fork American or with another incredible spring run on the North Fork Yuba (Class 4 or 5)

Other Options: A Double run may be possible for a fit, active and experienced group. On the first trip we will lunch at Shirttail Canyon and take-out at this point. The second run will continue down the 9 mile run to the regular take-out at Ponderosa. **Express runs** are also possible, and you can skip the lunch and side hike, and blast down the whole thing with no stops. An **extended run** can be made for another 4 miles to Lake Clementine, and though this section of the North Fork American is only Class 2, the great scenery continues in this remote canyon. This last section is also a wonderful run on its own for small rafts and inflatable kayaks.

Tributary operates under permit from California State Parks, Auburn State Recreation Area.



photo by: picturethismagazine.biz



NORTH FORK OF THE YUBA RIVER

April-mid July depending on snow pack
Class IV & V • 9-28 mi. (1-3 days)
Min Age: 13 or 16 depending on trip
Location: Goodyears Bar, CA
1 hr. North of Nevada City (40 mi.), 2 hrs.
Northeast of Sacramento

Our favorite spring river, the North Fork Yuba sparkles and romps through a beautiful canyon in the Tahoe National Forest. Sections of the Yuba are ideal for active first timers, and there are stretches for experienced rafters looking for Class V thrills. With over thirty-five miles of runnable river and a variety of Class IV-Class V whitewater thrills, trips from one to four days are available. The river is fed by the snow-melt waters from the surrounding 8000' peaks during the months of April into July. This river also offers exciting rafting in smaller boats at lower flows.

The Class 4 Maytag section of the North Fork Yuba River is the most popular stretch and is a great spring or early summer run. It is suitable for the active and adventurous first-timer when flows are not too high. There is an introductory 2 miles of Class 2-3 rapids, followed by Class 3 and 4 action including "Ramshorn" and the double drops of "Two Pair". Six miles into the trip is the highlight - the Class 5 "Maytag" rapid. We stop above this rapid and scout it, so all clients have the option of walking around. The Class 4 "Son of Maytag" falls follows quickly, with more Class 3 action to the take-out.

For a 2 day Class 4 trip, we combine the 'Maytag' run with the 'Bullards Bar' wilderness section of the North Yuba downstream, or with the

North Fork American, another great spring run. We have a great private camp near Indian Valley at the take out of the 'Maytag' run. It is nestled in the pines of the Tahoe National Forest and though facilities are rustic, it is spacious and secluded.

For a 2 day Class 4/5 trip, we combine the 'Maytag' run with an upstream Class 5 run including 'Moss Canyon' and/or 'Rossasco Ravine'. This is one of the most adventurous trips we offer for active first time rafters, but it does require that clients are in good physical shape with strong swimming ability.

For a 1 day Class 5 trip, we offer the 10 mile Moss Canyon/Rossasco Ravine section of the North Fork Yuba. Clients must have solid previous Class 4 or Class 5 experience.

Despite its proximity to the Bay Area, the North Fork Yuba is an uncrowded gem, with just three outfitters permitted to offer trips. We're one of the original companies who pioneered this river for commercial rafting in 1981. It is located at the northern most end of the fabled Mother Lode highway, State Route 49. Nearby are rustic and charming gold mining towns of Downieville and Sierra City. The area offers good selection of restaurants, interesting shops, cozy motels and saloons, historic landmarks, and plentiful camping.

"The North Fork of the Yuba River is a classic. The combination of unimpeded flow, excellent rapids, beautiful scenery, plentiful camping and the quaint little town of Downieville all add up to a super river." (Guide to the Best Whitewater in the State of California; by Lars Holbek & Chuck Stanley.)

Tributary Whitewater Tours operates under permit from the Tahoe National Forest.



UPPER KLAMATH RIVER

Hell's Corner Gorge

May-October • Class IV+

11-23 mi. (1-2 days) • Min Age: 13 years

Trips meet in Weed, CA

1 1/2 hrs. North of Redding,

5 3/4 hrs. North of San Francisco

The Upper Klamath River is one of the best Class 4 summer whitewater rivers and the only 'big water' summer run with the longest rapids in the west. It is relatively uncrowded due to its location and definitely worth the trip. The river warms up with nearly 6 miles of Class 3 rapids before tackling the big stuff. The gradient changes, and the next 6 miles offers some wild whitewater with the Class 4+ Caldera (100 yards) and Hells Corner (600 yards) being the highlights.

Consistent all summer flows on the Upper Klamath River come from the J.C. Boyle Power House located over the border in Oregon. This river has real Old West character, with remnants of pioneer cabins and stage coach lines, rapids like Branding Iron, Ambush and Ol' Bushwhacker, Indian caves with petroglyphs and abundant wildlife. Deer, great blue heron and osprey are everywhere. Bald eagles and other rare bird species are often sighted. The caves in the rugged volcanic rock canyon are home to the federally protected Townsend's Big Eared Bats.

On a 1 day Upper Klamath trip, we run the 17 miles down to Copco, often stopping for lunch at Frain Ranch, just above Caldera rapid. The 11 miles down to the Oregon/California border provides plenty

of action. Below the State-line, the canyon opens up and the river mellows, allowing you to try your hand at guiding the rafts or body-surfing.

On a 2 day Upper Klamath trip, great camping is to be had in the rugged high desert volcanic rock canyon, with expansive mountain meadows, surrounded by towering Ponderosa pines and other tall conifers. Overnight clients can try their hand at catching wild trout, swim in the usually warm waters or just relax discussing the days run after setting up camp. We re-run a 6 mile stretch containing the best Class 4 whitewater, therefore you get 23 action packed miles. The 2nd day put-in is at the old Frain Ranch site above the Class 4+ Caldera rapid. We raft back down to Oregon/California border, and then continue downstream to our take-out at Copco.

Other recreation opportunities abound within the Klamath & Shasta National Forests, Lake Shasta and Lassen National Park. Our meeting place in Weed is 11 miles north of Mt. Shasta City. Within a short distance there is a plentiful camping, accommodations, hot springs and Ashland (65 miles north) also offers excellent accommodations and the opportunity for some culture at its famed Shakespeare Festival which runs all summer.

Airport pick-up is usually available from Redding (frequent flights with United) or from Weed (private or charter flights).

Tributary operates under permit from the Bureau of Land Management, Klamath Falls Resource Area.

KAWEAH RIVER

April-July • Class IV+

9 mi. (1 day) • Min Age: 14 years

Location: Three Rivers, CA

Near Sequoia National Park,

3-1/2 hrs. NW of Los Angeles,

4.5 hrs. SE of San Francisco

The Kaweah River flows from its 12,000+' elevation headwaters in the Sequoia National Park, and has some of the finest white water rafting in Central and Southern California. It is one of America's steepest rivers, dropping at 85 feet per mile in its first few miles. The Kaweah River is suitable for the intermediate and expert rafter, who is hardy, adventurous, in good physical condition and has good swimming ability. Previous paddling experience is preferred due to the non-stop action.

The access used for put-in is just below the entrance of the East Fork Kaweah River and is almost a mile further upstream than the put-in used by most outfitters. This gives an additional 3 rapids. 'Gateway Rapid' is a 250 yard Class 4+ boulder slalom, followed by a Class 4 ten foot drop called 'The Chute', and then 'Osterizer', another Class 4+ rapid. Many more wild rapids follow like 'Willows', 'Bumper', 'Powerhouse', 'Suicide Falls' and others. After a calm stretch through the town of Three Rivers and a stop for lunch, the pace picks up again as we take on the "Slickies," (a unique river feature you'll always remember) which is a polished granite slalom that surfs one way, then another, while swirling around. The two biggest drops, Upper Slicky and Lower Slicky, are about a hundred yards apart.

During the early season high flows, there are some rapids that may require portaging, but the Kaweah River is free-flowing, so the season depends on the snow-pack. The scenery is good, and though there are private residences and the highway alongside for much of the run, they are not obtrusive.

With southern California close-by, the Kaweah River offers a great opportunity to combine a whitewater adventure with an excursion to the majestic trees and mountains of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. The town of Three Rivers, founded as an idealist colony in the 1880's, features a fine array of eateries and galleries and is strung out along the Kaweah River. There are also campgrounds and numerous accommodations in Three Rivers, and other options are in the nearby Sequoia National Park.

Advanced

Our Most Challenging Trips

CALIFORNIA SALMON and SCOTT RIVER

April-early July • Class IV-V
8-26 mi (2-3 days) • Min Age: 16 years
Location: Near Somes Bar, CA
1 hr North of Willow Creek
6 1/2 hrs. North of SF

The magnificent California Salmon and Scott rivers are natural wild and scenic river tributaries of the mighty Klamath which tumble swiftly out of the Marble Mountains and the Salmon-Trinity Alps Wilderness areas.

There are numerous Class IV and substantial Class V rapids on these runs. On 2 and 3-day trips, the first day is usually a 'warm-up' run on the lower section of the Cal. Salmon, with plenty of Class 4 and 4+ action at Butler Creek Ledge, Double Hole and the Gaping Maw. Often this run is extended to include the Ikes on the Klamath River, which can be huge during spring run-off. Big Ike is likened to Crystal rapid in the Grand Canyon and can be a powerful Class 5 rapid at flows above 12,000 c.f.s. The more difficult run on the Cal. Salmon starts soon after the put-in at Nordheimer with four class 4 and 4+ drops in less than 2 miles. After a brief break, you then have to negotiate the tough passages of Cascade, Achilles Heel, Whirling Dervish, Last Chance and Freight Train.

The Scott can be run as a 2nd or 3rd day in combination with the Cal. Salmon. As the Scott is located on the drier east slopes of the Salmon-Trinity Alps, the Scott has a shorter season than the neighboring Cal. Salmon. This trip involves a drive between the two rivers of approx. 1-1/4 hrs, ending up near Scott Bar on Hwy 96. Rapids are almost continuous, with sharp, boulder-choked drops and include Boulder Creek Falls, Canyon Creek, White House, Tompkins Creek and Schuler Gulch.

There are plenty of unique rapids on both these rivers, and the superb beauty and grace is accentuated by the rugged carved granite, the deep woods of the Klamath National Forest, and the incredible waterfalls that tumble into the canyons.

Wildlife is plentiful, but easily hidden in this rugged terrain, although geese and eagles are often seen. The Salmon and Scott are two of California's top spring rivers and despite the driving distance to this remote area, "close to nowhere," many avid river runners gladly make the trek to northwestern California. They don't come away disappointed.

These rivers are recommended for experienced clients who are in good physical condition, and capable swimmers. Charter transportation may be available from the Sacramento area.

Tributary Whitewater Tours operates under permit issued by the Klamath National Forest.



Tributary has 30 years of experience on Burnt Ranch Gorge, let us share that experience with you on an unforgettable trip.

BURNT RANCH GORGE of the TRINITY RIVER

**Class V • 10-18 mi. (1-2 days) • June-Sept
depending on snow pack • Min Age: 16**
Location: Burnt Ranch, near Willow Creek, CA
**1 3/4 hrs. West of Redding, 1-1/4 hrs. East
of Eureka, 5.5 hrs. North of SF**

Burnt Ranch Gorge is a classic pool and drop river and one of the few Class 5 rivers available in the summer months. The action on Burnt Ranch is swift and intense, with the Trinity River dropping 200 feet in two miles and five Class 4-4+ rapids in the first 2.5 miles. Rapids like China Slide, Pearly Gates, Tight Squeeze and Jaws have 8'-10' drops and chutes just barely wide enough for the raft to slip through. Then two Class 5 rapids (Upper Burnt Ranch and Middle Burnt Ranch Falls) must be negotiated before any escape is possible.

Just after Middle Burnt Ranch Falls a steep trail heads up the canyon leading to Burnt Ranch Campground and the highway. On some 2 day trips, the gear is left at rivers edge and you hike out to camp. Right after this trail, the most difficult rapids in the canyon are encountered, and the Class 5 rapids of Lower Burnt Ranch Falls, Hennessy Falls, Origami, Table Rock and Gray's Fall await. The few miles of Class 2 following, allow a welcome chance to swim the rapids and relax before the take-out at Hawkins Bar.

The Trinity River circles the southern boundary of the Salmon-Trinity Alps, and suddenly changes from mellower Class 2-3 whitewater, as the river cuts through this remote, formidable, sheer gorge. The riverbed is nearly blocked by a maze of boulders and there are countless falls, holes and waves to negotiate. Only paddle boats are used because of the narrow and intricate passages and all participants must be experienced, physically fit and competent swimmers. Paddlers are required to show their abilities to handle the pace, and the rafting trip starts a few miles upstream of Burnt Ranch Gorge where a Class 5 paddlers test is conducted primarily in the river. At a minimum, participants must be able to swim under the raft from one side to the other, climb back in the boat unassisted and swim across a swift current. Once in Burnt Ranch Gorge, the guides and clients will scout all the major rapids so rugged footwear is required.

For suitably qualified paddlers (previous Class 5 experience usually required), the full run from Cedar Flat to Hawkins Bar is possible in 1 day and on 2-day trips the Gorge may be run twice.

Airport pick-up can be arranged from Redding (frequent flights with United), or from Weaverville (private or charter flights).

NOTICE: Tributary operates under permit from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

More Options

Whitewater Guide School + More



SMITH RIVER

March-May • Class III-V
up to 50 mi. (2-4 days) •

Min Age: 14 years

Location: East of Jedediah Smith State
Park near Crescent City, CA

1.5 hrs N of Eureka,

6.5 hours N of San Francisco

The Smith River, a National Wild and Scenic River, drains the western slopes of the jagged Siskiyou Mountains in the far northwestern corner of California. It is the only free flowing, river system in California and these densely forested canyons lie within the Six Rivers National Forest and are designated a National Recreation Area. It is easy to spend up to five days rafting while enjoying this wonderful area. A unique river that few people get to see due to its remoteness and short season but it attracts those lucky few back, again and again.

The North Fork Smith is a beautiful, pristine thirteen mile wilderness run, with dozens of Class III and IV rapids, and incredibly clear, clean water. There is unique plant life with lacy Port Orford cedar, orchids, pitcher plants, azaleas and wild flowers, many of them endangered species. Weather permitting, the night is spent camping in the North Fork canyon where the run continues down from the confluence of the North and Middle Forks onto the Main Smith for another eight miles. Though Highway 199 follows the river for most of this section, the scenery is still beautiful. After six miles of action packed Class III rapids the river enters the narrow, steep walled Oregon Hole Gorge, an optional Class V section.

The South Fork Smith offers nearly 12 miles of exhilarating Class III pool and drop whitewater and the mile long South Fork Gorge, another optional Class V section. Though not as pristine as the untouched North Fork Smith, the South Fork still provides excellent scenery with Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar and some redwoods. The wildlife you might see are the black tailed deer, otter, bald eagles, and black bear. The coastal rains encourage the growth of moss and ferns which cover the walls of the gorge, along with ash, alder, maple and myrtle.

The Middle Fork Smith can provide an additional eight miles of Class III-IV whitewater on its upper reaches. However, man has left his mark on this section and the concrete ruins of bridges and roadway destroyed in the floods of 1964 are evident. Camping is possible among the old growth redwoods in Jedediah Smith State Park, or at several Forest Service campgrounds along the Middle Fork Smith east of Gasquet.

Tributary operates under permit from the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forest.



MIDDLE FORK OF THE EEL RIVER

April-early June depending

on snow pack and rain • Class II-IV

30 mi. (2-3 days) • Min Age: 13 years

Location: Northeast of Willits, CA

3 hrs. North of Bay Area

The Middle Fork Eel is one of the best long, true wilderness runs in California. Its limited and fairly unpredictable season prevents it from being more popular, as do the more difficult rapids at the end of the run. Commercial trips are few, and usually only available by special charter for a group. Suitably qualified private weekend boaters enjoy the isolation and beauty of this run, thus weekday trips will more likely ensure almost total seclusion. The first 23 miles provide Class II rapids through a broad valley. The rolling hills support pine, fir, and other wildflowers. Deer, otters, and even bear frequent the river corridor where large sandy beaches are available for relaxed lunch stops and camping.

The river suddenly changes before its confluence with the Main Eel and it drops into a seven mile gorge where Class III and IV rapids provide plenty of excitement. Coal Mine Falls (Class V) is either portaged or run very carefully. Personal gear should be kept to a minimum, but cold weather rain gear and sneakers should always be included as water levels dictate portages around this rapid. The run can be extended for 46 miles after the confluence with the Main Eel.

WHITewater RAFTING GUIDE SCHOOL

May & June • Class III-V

6 days • Min Age: 17 years

(18 years for employment)

Location: American River

Our Guide School is primarily oriented toward college students and others interested in summer employment as California whitewater rafting paddle guides on Class 2-3 rivers. Exceptional graduates may have the opportunity to guide more advanced whitewater in their first season.

Participants should be safety conscious, team oriented, hard working, responsible, personable, fit, hardy, concerned for the environment and ready for a challenge. Emphasis is placed on river navigation; reading whitewater; raft equipment rigging, handling & maintenance; river safety techniques & philosophy; personal rescue equipment & signals; safety orientations; camp / kitchen operations and most importantly, environmental conservation. Students with natural history or environmental science education are especially welcome. We also appreciate any entertainment talents.

The majority of the rafting instruction will be in paddleboats, but students will also have the opportunity to experience oar boats and handling skills. Upon completion, students will be prepared to apply for summer jobs with Tributary or any other river outfit. In order to maximize on-river time, certification in First-Aid and C.P.R. are not included, but they are mandatory requirements for commercial California river rafting guides. Participants are highly recommended to obtain their certifications prior to the rafting school.

See Guide School page on web site for more detail, cost and current season dates available.



ANY QUESTIONS?

Our friendly staff is anxious to answer any questions you may have about river trips. Please contact us at any time.

Tributary Whitewater Tours LLC

Business Office only:

20480 Woodbury Drive

Grass Valley, CA. 95949

800-672-3846 or 800-6-RAFTING

530-346-6812

www.whitewatertours.com

e-mail: rafting@whitewatertours.com

RESERVATIONS

Select your trip and choose your dates. See CHOOSING A TRIP on page 2. or call for assistance if any doubts.

We recommend you call or email to confirm availability. It is best to plan your trip well in advance (especially for weekends and holidays) and some rivers may be booked months in advance. However, if you wish to schedule a trip on short notice, call us as we can often times accept late reservations as space allows.

You may reserve online, by mail or by phone with our friendly reservation personnel.

If trip is more than 30 days ahead, we can usually hold your trip for up to 10 days, or you can confirm immediately with a deposit. For each person, the deposit is \$40 for 1/2-day or \$50 for EACH day of trip ie. \$100 for a 2 day trip.

Full payment is due 30 days prior to the trip. Payments made within 30 days require a cashier's check, money order, or credit card. All payments are due ahead of the trip. We regret that we are unable to take cash on the day.

Upon receipt of initial payment, we will send you a confirmation packet explaining everything you need to know including what to bring and where to meet.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

We understand that things can happen to change your plans, and we will always do our best to accommodate your changes with little or no penalty. However, the policy listed below is the most stringent that we require, and much will depend on the river and the timing of your cancellation or re-schedule. We may have turned people away as most rivers have a permit limit on the number of people.

If you find it necessary to cancel your trip more than 30 days prior to departure, you will receive a refund minus a \$15 processing fee per person for each day of scheduled trip. Any refunds can take 4-5 weeks to process particularly in peak season.

Cancellations after 30 days prior to scheduled departure are non refundable!

Tributary reserves the right to make changes in itinerary (if necessary) due to weather conditions, water fluctuations, insufficient reservations, or other circumstances beyond our control, but if Tributary must cancel a trip because of factors within our control, a full refund will be made. Our liability is limited to the amount paid, and not additional costs incurred.

TRIPS INCLUDE

- **Shuttles from meeting spot and back when required.**
- **An experienced guide in each raft.**
- **Wholesome meals (no meals on half-day trips).**
- **All necessary river equipment.**
- **Complete safety and paddle briefing.**
- **After trip beverages.**
- **Riverside camp sites on multi-day trips (may be available on shorter trips).**

GUIDES

Tributary guides are highly trained, warm and friendly individuals chosen for their ability to make your trip safe, fun and unforgettable. Because Tributary runs some of the most difficult rivers in the West, you can be sure your guide is a skilled, licensed professional.

We are often asked if it is appropriate to tip the guide. Though our staff is well compensated for their time, a gratuity is most appreciated. It is a great way to say thanks, especially if you received outstanding service.

Discounts

ADULT GROUPS

- Groups of 6-11 **5% discount**
- Groups of 12-17 **10% discount** (plus 1 free for previous year group leaders)
- Groups of 18-24 **15% discount** (plus 2 free for previous year group leaders)
- Groups of 25-30 **20% discount**
- Groups of 31+ **25% discount** (assuming group has own bus & driver)

YOUTHS/SENIORS/SPECIAL NEEDS

- 10% discount (youths under 18, seniors 62 and over).
- 15% discount with any group of 6-17.
- 20%-30% Additional 5% discount off adult group rates above
- 50% discount on selected Family Special trip dates (youths only)

OFF SEASON

Before May on all rivers, and on the American in May (exc. Memorial weekend) and after Labor Day Sunday - weekday rates apply on the weekend and get a 10% discount on weekday trips

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFILIATION

A 10% discount is available for members of environmental organizations

*Combine discounts, usually up to a maximum of 15%
If you book more than one trip a season, extra savings on your return visit.
See reduced rates on the price schedule for some Sun and Fri Departures.*

MEALS

Though we cannot officially claim them as being "gourmet", they always consist of plentiful, fresh and wholesome ingredients. We will cater to special requirements on request, including vegetarian diets. Meals are supplied from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last day of any trip. There are no meals on half-day trips.

Lunch usually consists of a deli-style spread with a selection of breads, meats, cheeses, fresh produce (tomatoes, lettuce, sprouts, avocados and onions), chips, salsa, and cookies.

Dinners will commence with appetizers. Our main entrees are barbecued chicken, marinated tri-tip steak and baked potatoes or Dutch oven lasagnas. Plentiful side dishes of mixed salad, vegetables in season and garlic bread are served, but leave room for our Dutch oven baked or other delectable desserts. Beer and wine will be available and also soft drinks and hot beverages.

Breakfast may be eggs & hash browns, or pancakes, with sausage or bacon served with fresh fruit, pastries, muffins, juice, milk, tea, hot coffee and cocoa.

EQUIPMENT

Tributary provides all the necessary river equipment; top quality Coast Guard approved life jackets, helmets for some Class III trips and all Class IV and Class V trips, waterproof bags and boxes, paddles and self-bailing rafts. During periods of low water, smaller rafts may be available, offering more excitement in smaller waves.

For 1/2-day or one day trips during the summer, all you probably need is a swim suit, sturdy foot wear and sun block. However, we will provide a detailed list of things to bring with you. Camping equipment may be rented from us for any overnight trips.

WET SUITS, PADDLE JACKETS

Wetsuits are often required for spring rafting on Class IV or Class V rivers before Memorial Day, or on any river when water levels are high or weather inclement. This is a garment designed to keep you warm in cold water and can be rented inexpensively from local shops or from us for the duration of the trip. To ensure availability and proper fit, reservations are required in advance.

PADDLES VS. OARS

We use paddle boats on most of our trips. A paddle boat crew consists of four to eight paddlers and an experienced guide. Following instructions of the guide, the crew maneuvers the raft using basic forward and back strokes to turn and propel the raft. Paddling is easy, fun, and requires no previous experience. There is a wonderful sense of accomplishment in being part of a finely tuned crew that is navigating the river together! On some difficult trips, we use a combination of oars (controlled by the guide) and paddles. Under some circumstances, we can provide an oar boat where the guide does all the work (though this option is not available on some rivers).

INFLATABLE KAYAKING & SMALL RAFTS

Reserve an I.K. for an additional \$20 per day on Class II-Class III rivers. Requests for smaller rafts on Class III rivers (i.e. five or fewer clients per raft) will be charged an additional \$20 per person.

PHOTOS/VIDEO TAPING

Many photographs depicted in this brochure appear courtesy of Hot Shot Imaging (formerly Rapid Shooters) and Truckee River Photos. On most rivers professional photographers shoot at various locations and proofs are available for viewing soon after the trip. Some of these are also available online and can be accessed via our web site. Video taping may also be available upon request. We will do our best to ensure memories of your trip are captured.

TRANSPORTATION

Comfortable motor coaches are available from Southern California to the American River most weekends from approx. \$75 per person. Group transportation from any location for any of our trips can be arranged and pick-up at Sacramento and Redding airports (for clients visiting Northern California rivers) may be possible. Please call to discuss.

TRIP/TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance to protect yourself against any losses for any reason (cancellations, accidents, baggage etc.). Contact us or your travel agent for information.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Gift Certificates are available for any trip or for a specific dollar value. They are great for graduations, weddings, birthdays, holidays or any other events. Treat your loved ones or friends to wonderful memories!!

AFFILIATIONS

America Outdoors, California Outdoors, Friends of the River, Friends of the Trinity River, South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), the Planning and Conservation League, Protect American River Canyons, American Whitewater and the American River Conservancy.


PERMITS/GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Tributary Whitewater Tours operates under permits from the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service (Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests), California Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Nevada County and El Dorado County.

Tributary Whitewater Tours is an equal opportunity service provider. "We do not discriminate by segregation or otherwise against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap, by curtailing or refusing to furnish accommodations, facilities, services, or use privileges offered to the public generally." (Ref. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of Education Amendments and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975).

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 Printed on TSC certified recycled paper using vegetable based inks.
photos courtesy of hotshotimaging.com unless noted





TRIBUTARY WHITEWATER TOURS SCHEDULE & PRICES

20480 Woodbury Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 346-6812 or (800)-672-3846

RIVER	NORMAL SEASON	CLASS	DAYS & MILES	\$ RATE/PERSON Mo-Fr/Sat-Sun/*	COMMENTS
CLASS 1-2 RIVERS: Easiest, ideal for younger children <i>*Asterik indicates special Sunday or Fri/Sat rates, see below for explanation</i>					
Middle Fork, Lower	May-Sept.	2	half day/7	88/104/*	Kids 4+, BYO picnic, Inflatable Kayaks, Wilderness
South Fork, Lotus Run	May-Sept.	2	half day/4	65/NA	Kids 4+
East Fork Carson	May-July	2	1/21 2/21	128/148 254/284	Hot springs at lunch Wilderness camping & hot springs
CLASS 2-3 RIVERS: Easy/Beginner <i>*Asterik indicates special Sunday or Fri/Sat rates, see below for explanation</i>					
South Fork American	April-Oct.	3	half day/9 1/11 or 13 1/21 2/25 1/9-11	88/98/* 104/124/* 134/158/* 234/268 124/144	No lunch \$78 on Tues Off-season discounts: See inside for details Whole river, a bargain in whitewater ½ price on kids trips on select dates Inflatable Kayaking
Truckee	May-Sept.	2-3+	half day/7	69/79/*	Only summer whitewater near North Tahoe
Main Trinity	April-Sept.	2-3	1/9 2/18	109/129 239/249	Great family trip. ½ price on kids trips on select dates
Lower Klamath	April-Oct.	3	2/22 3/28 4/38	264/284 384/394 484/514	Great wildlife, Inflatable Kayaks, family adventure Ukonom Falls, a sight not to be missed!! ½ price on kids trips on select dates
Eel, Main, Middle	April-Mid June	3	3-4 days	398-518	Call for charter trip details.
East Carson	May-Early June	3+	half day/7.5	88/98	Continuous Class 3 rapids
CLASS 4 RIVERS: Intermediate. OK for adventurous first timers <i>*Asterik indicates special Sunday rates or Fri/Sat, see below for explanation</i>					
Middle Fork American	May-Sept.	2-4	1/17 2/17 3/25	124/154/* 274/304/** 388/418/**	A full day & Tunnel Chute rapid! \$98 Every Weds! Wilderness camping, great fishing, plunge pools More of the same, a great getaway!!
South/Middle/North American Combos	May-Sept.	3-4	2/28 3/38 4/39	268/298 384/414 514/544	Perfect for adventurous first time rafters Spend 1 day on each or customize your combo
Upper Sacramento	April-Mid June	3-4	1/14 2/23	114/134 254/274	Nearly continuous rapids & no crowds A Must Do river!! Best class III+ rapids in Caifornia
North Fork Yuba	April-Mid July	4	1/9 2/18	128/148/* 278/308	Maytag section Maytag and wilderness section
CLASS 4+ RIVERS: Intermediate/More difficult, experience recommended <i>*Asterik indicates special Sunday rates, see below for explanation</i>					
North Fork American	April-June	4	half day/9 1/9 2/18	98/118 118/138/* 268/298	Express/No lunch Off I-80 near North Tahoe, great raft/ski vacation Combo trip with Yuba, South or Middle American
North Fork Yuba	April-Mid July	4-5	2/19 3/28 5	274/304 388/418 154/164	Maytag and Moss Canyon Maytag and wilderness and Moss canyon Moss Canyon, (previous class IV experience req.)
Upper Klamath "Hell's Corner"	May-October	4+	1/11-17 2/23	158/164 318/328	Best summer class IV Whole river and the best class IV section twice!
Kaweah	May-July	4+	1/9	138/148	Close to South California & Sequoia National Park
Smith, National Recreation Area	April-May	4-5+	3/38 4/48	420/470 540/560	Wilderness plus unique plant and wildlife All three forks and wilderness camping on N. Fork
CLASS 5 RIVERS: Advanced/Most difficult. Previous Class 4 experience required					
Cal Salmon and/or Scott	April-Mid July	4-5	2/18 3/28	318/348 438/468	Must do rivers!! Three day Salmon or combo with Scott.
Trinity Burnt Ranch Gorge	June-July	5	1/10 2/10-20	194/194 344/354	Previous class IV experience a must Best summer class V whitewater!
OTHER TRIPS					
Raft Guide Schools Mexico	May 11, Jun 8 October-March	3-4 3-4	6/90 8/75	595 1295 (min)	Sunday-Friday

/* Special Sunday start rates: Deduct \$5 on half day trips, \$10 on one day trips, where indicated by asterik

** \$20 off for Friday Departure.

All prices subject to an additional charge of 3% - 5% for government river use fees

Due to Escalating Fuel and Insurance rates, a surcharge may be implemented , but a deposit secures current website rate