

# Middle Fork American River Two-Day Trip Information

**AMERICAN RIVER RECREATION**  
P.O. BOX 465, LOTUS, CA, 95651  
530-622-6802 • 800-333-7238  
WWW.ARRAFTING.COM

**Middle Fork American River – Two-Day Trip**  
**Difficulty: Class III-IV • Minimum Age: 13**  
**Season: April-October • Length: 18 miles**  
**Average Gradient: 22 feet per mile**



## Directions to Meeting Place

**From Sacramento:** Follow Interstate 80 east to Auburn. Take the Auburn Ravine-Forest Hill exit. Turn right at the traffic light, then make an immediate left at the next traffic light, onto Lincoln Way. Then turn right into the Raley's Grocery Store parking lot. Please drive around to the parking area behind Raley's and we'll meet you there. Our meeting point is approximately 30 minutes from Sacramento and 2.5 hours from San Francisco.

## Lodging Options

Located off interstate 80 in Auburn

**Golden Key:** 530-885-8611

**Travel Lodge:** 530-885-7025

**Comfort Inn:** 530-885-1800

**Holiday Inn:** 530-887-8787

**Motel 6:** 530-888-7829

**Super 8:** 530-888-8808

## Campgrounds

**Auburn Gold Country RV:** 530-885-0990

**Long Ravine Campground:** 530-346-6166

## Meeting Time and Place

Our trip begins promptly at **7:30am Saturday-Sunday, 8am Monday-Friday** in the large parking area behind the Raley's grocery store in Auburn. It is important that everyone arrive on time so as not to hold up the entire trip. Check in with our friendly staff when you arrive, they are happy to answer last minute questions. Note: Other rafting companies also meet at this location, so be sure to check in with **American River Recreation**.

## Trip Logistics

After a bus ride to put-in, we begin with a safety talk and paddling instructions. You'll meet your guides and receive your lifejackets and paddles. Once on the water, we'll take some time to practice our paddling skills so that everyone feels comfortable before beginning.

Get ready during the first 2.5 miles of the river for the most intense rapid of the trip, Tunnel Chute. This exhilarating rapid is sure to thrill even the most experienced whitewater enthusiast. Throughout the rest of the trip we alternate between big rapids and calm stretches. We serve a delicious deli-style lunch buffet about halfway through each day. Evening is spent at a wilderness riverside camp enjoying dinner followed by a night under the stars. In the morning a hearty breakfast is served. On day 2 we do a mandatory portage around Ruck-A-Chucky Falls. More exciting rapids thrill you on the way to the take-out site, where cold refreshments await. Enjoy a scenic ride back to your cars, where you arrive at about 3:30 p.m. (Be aware that a variety of factors can cause a trip to end earlier or later than planned. Take this into consideration when making your travel plans.)

## We Supply

On 2-day trips we provide trained guides, personal flotation devices, paddles, whitewater rafts, shuttle service and camping for one night. Meals include lunch and dinner the 1st day, breakfast and lunch on the 2nd, with beverages and snacks at the end of the trip. **Note:** Additional nights camping, meals, and rental tents may be added for a fee, and must be booked and paid for prior to your trip date.

## What to Bring

River attire is very casual and you should expect to get wet, so dress accordingly. Quick-dry clothing is recommended. Cotton gets wet, and does not keep you warm. Following the list below will assure you a comfortable and well-prepared trip:

- Swimsuit
- Personal water (optional)
- Old tennis shoes or river sandals (no flip-flops)
- Shorts
- Sunscreen (waterproof)
- Dry clothes (leave in car)
- Eyeglass retainers
- Dry clothes (leave in car)
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat or visor
- Sunglasses

**For cool weather** we recommend the following cool-weather clothing (as a precaution) for April and May, or anytime during the season when rain or cool weather is a possibility:

- Wetsuit
- Wool socks
- Wool sweater
- Booties
- Wool hat
- Wool gloves
- Rain jacket
- Polypro clothing
- Nylon windbreaker

## Suggested overnight gear

- Sleeping bag & pad
- Light Jacket
- Insect repellent
- Small tent & ground cloth
- Warm change of clothes
- Personal toiletries
- Flashlight
- Dry shoes
- Towel

Wetsuit with splash jacket can be rented through our office for cool weather conditions. Please call to reserve in advance. Rental fees: 1-day: \$10, 2-days: \$15.

**Please do not bring** any pets, fireworks, or firearms. Because of the great risk of injury, we do not allow the use of any high-pressure water guns on our trips. We urge you to leave your valuables at home. If you wish to bring a camera, please provide a case (preferably waterproof). However, it will not be possible to photograph during the rapids.

# Middle Fork American River Trip Information

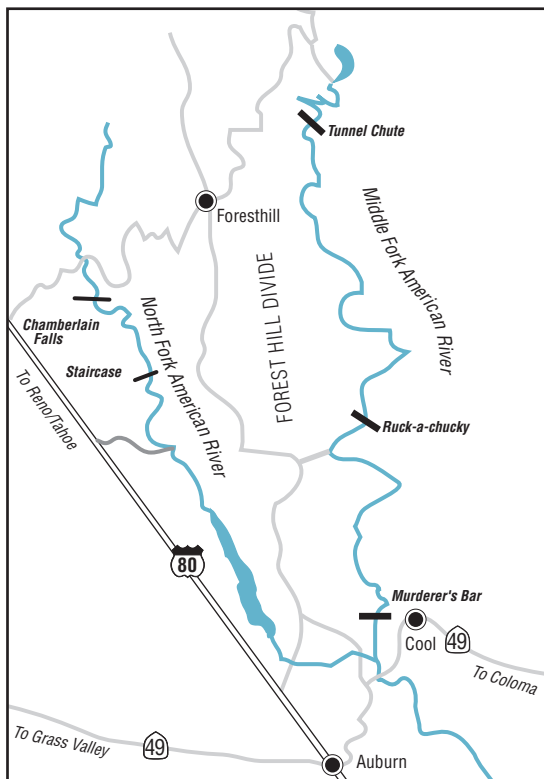
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## MIDDLE AND NORTH FORKS AMERICAN RIVER



*Thank You  
for Choosing  
American River  
Recreation*  
**1-800-333-7238**

**RESPONSIBILITY:** All river trips involve some risk and we recognize that accidents or illnesses can occur. We assume no responsibility for injury, damage or loss of your personal property, or for time and expense incurred. All participants will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk/Liability Release form before the rafting trip begins (please see enclosed sample copy). We require every minor participating in a trip without a legal guardian present to bring a form pre-signed by his or her legal guardian.

We ask that each participant be both physically and mentally prepared for the rafting trip. Each participant must notify us prior to a trip of any medical conditions, i.e., life-threatening allergic reactions and prescribed medications for severe physical conditions, etc. We reserve the right to turn away anyone we feel will jeopardize his or her own safety or the safety of other passengers and guides. The river is not a place for drugs or alcohol. We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone under the influence of such substances that will hinder his or her performance and jeopardize personal safety or safety of others. There are no refunds for cancellations made for this reason.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Please read our policies and advise other trip members. If you must cancel, all but a reservation fee of \$20.00 per person will be refunded up to four weeks before the trip start. We will refund 50% of the trip cost for cancellations made up to two weeks prior to the trip start. There are no refunds for cancellations made within two weeks of the trip start date.

Seats are transferrable. In the event of a last minute cancellation, try to find another person to take the place. The reason for this strict policy is that we have a limited amount of seats we can sell. Often our trips fill up and we have to turn others away. Also, substantial commitments and expenses must be incurred by American River Recreation before a trip departs.

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to weather, water conditions, insufficient reservations or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for expenses other than refunding all or part of the fees paid to American River Recreation. We are not responsible for any other expenses incurred by the individuals.

The determination of refunds will be made after reviewing trip details. Guides and other on river personnel employed by American River Recreation are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or trip credits. Such determination can only be made by company officers.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Unforeseen circumstances may result in last minute cancellations and could cause significant financial loss to our guests. For this reason we strongly recommend short term travel insurance. Policy information that includes accident, cancellation and baggage protection is available through our office, as well as through most insurance agents. If you must cancel because of unforeseen circumstances, this insurance protects against the loss of fees paid to American River Recreation. Please call our office if you have any further questions concerning cancellations.

**GRATUITIES:** Clients often ask us if tipping the guides is appropriate. Although our staff is well compensated for their services, if you feel they went that extra distance to make your trip special, a tip is a great way of showing your appreciation, as in any other service industry. Tips are generally around 5% of the trip cost.

**ABOUT THE MIDDLE FORK:** The Middle Fork of the American is a legendary Gold Rush river. In the nineteenth century mining towns sprang up along its banks, and Forty-niners worked claims that covered almost every foot of the river. More gold is said to have been found in the Middle Fork canyon than in any other in the California gold country.

In many places miners diverted the Middle Fork completely out of its bed. The most dramatic example is at Horseshoe Bend, where the river once flowed in a circuitous loop three quarters of a mile long around a steep granite ridge. The miners blasted a short tunnel through the ridge, diverted the river through the tunnel, then gleaned gold from the dry stream bed. This is how Tunnel Chute Rapid was born.