

Difficulty: Class III-IV Minimum Age: 12
SF Length: 15 Miles MF Length: 18 Miles
Season: April – September
Average Gradient: 23 Feet per Mile



DIRECTIONS TO MEETING PLACE

From Sacramento:

- Take Hwy 50 east towards South Lake Tahoe and Placerville
- Exit Ponderosa Rd (Exit 37) in Shingle Springs
- Go left on Ponderosa Rd cross over Hwy 50
- At the 2nd stop light turn right on North Shingle Rd
- Follow this road about 4.5 miles when North Shingle Rd turns into Lotus Rd
- Continue on Lotus Rd about 7 miles to Hwy 49
- Turn right on Hwy 49 Southbound
- Drive approximately 1/4 mile south on Highway 49 passing through James Marshall State Park
- Go straight onto Coloma Heights Road (when Hwy 49 takes a sharp right hand turn) and bear left on New River Road to American River Resort
- Please park in the rafting parking lot area and check in at the American River Resort Reception Office and River Store.

From Auburn:

- Take Hwy 49 South towards Placerville & Cool
- From Cool continue 11.5 miles on Highway 49
- Go straight onto Coloma Heights Road (when Hwy 49 takes a sharp right hand turn) and bear left on New River Road to American River Resort
- Please park in the rafting parking lot area and check in at the American River Resort Reception Office and River Store.

Our meeting place is about 1 hour from Sacramento, 2.5 hours from San Francisco and 1.5 hours from South Lake Tahoe.

GPS, Map Quest & Google are unable to calculate our exact location
Latitude 38.798467 Longitude -120.886472

South-Middle Fork American River

2-DAY COMBO RIVER TRIP

Meeting Time and Place

Our trip meets promptly at 10:00 AM inside the American River Resort ~ 6019 New River Road, Coloma, CA 95613. Please check-in at the American River Resort Reception Office. Everyone must arrive on time; we do not wait for late arrivals. Please check in with a staff member from American River Recreation.

Please follow our directions to the meeting place and arrive 10 minutes early

Trip Logistics

The adventure begins right at our river camp launching point. Here you will meet your guides, receive the safety talk and paddling instructions before the journey begins. Our first day is filled with excitement as you raft the South Fork. A delicious deli-style lunch buffet is served halfway through the day. Upon arrival back at camp around 4:30-5PM you will have time to set up your overnight gear, relax and play volleyball or horseshoes. The evening begins with delicious hors d'oeuvres while our chef prepares a scrumptious BBQ dinner. After a continental breakfast on day 2 (served at 6:30 AM) you have time to load your camping gear in your vehicles. You have the option of following our vans to the Middle Fork parking area or riding along with us. Enjoy a scenic shuttle ride to the put-in where the thrills of the Middle Fork await. Lunch is served halfway through our day. From the take-out, you can swap stories on the scenic shuttle ride back to your vehicles where you arrive around 4:00 PM. Please be aware that a variety of factors may 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 the following: trained guides, lifejackets, paddles, helmets, whitewater rafts, river shuttle service and camping for one night. Meals include lunch and dinner the 1st day, breakfast and lunch on the 2nd, with cold refreshments at the end of the trip. **Note:** Additional nights for camping, meals, and rental tents may be added for a fee and reserved and paid in advance.

What to Bring

River attire is casual and **you will get wet**, so dress accordingly. Quick-dry clothing is recommended. Cotton stays wet and does not keep you warm.

Following the list below will assure you a comfortable and well-prepared trip:

- Shorts or Swimsuit
- Waterproof Camera/GoPro
- Sunscreen (waterproof)
- Sunglasses w/Strap
- Full Personal Water Bottle
- **No Flip-Flops, Crocs or Bare Feet Allowed**
- Sun Hat or Visor
- Dry clothes/Shoes/Towels (leave in the car)
- Old Tennis Shoes or River Sandals (w/heel straps)
- Lip balm w/ sunscreen

Cold-weather clothing is recommended as a precaution during April-May or anytime during the season when rain or cool weather is a possibility:

- Wetsuit
- Neoprene Booties
- Rain Jacket
- Wool Socks
- Wool Hat
- Polypro Clothing
- Wool Sweater
- Wool Gloves
- Nylon Windbreaker

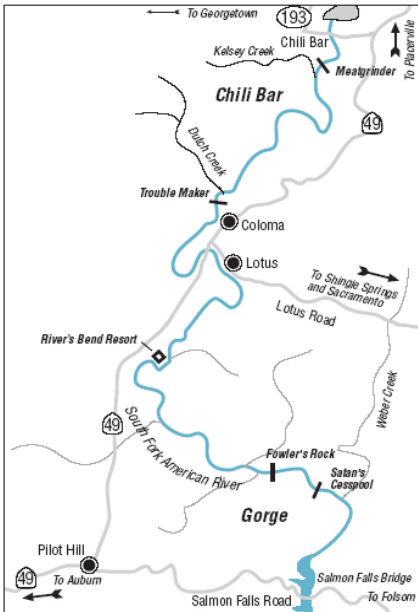
Suggested Overnight Gear

- Sleeping Bag & Pad
- Personal Toiletries
- Flashlight
- Medications
- Light Jacket
- Bath Towel/Pillow
- Dry Shoes
- Warm & Dry Change of Clothes
- Insect Repellent
- Small Tent & Ground Cloth
- Personal Drinks/Snacks

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.

We do not allow pets, fireworks, or firearms. Because of the great risk of injury, we do not allow any high-pressure water guns on our trips. **It is in your best interest to leave valuables behind** (we do not have lockers). You will have the opportunity to purchase photographs of you running key rapids upon the end of your journey. American River Recreation is not affiliated with the photo companies. You are unable to photograph while running the rapids.

SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER



SOUTH FORK LODGING

Located off of Highway 50

- Quality Inn & Suites: 530-677-2203
- Cameron Park Motel 6: 530-677-7177
- Placerville Inn: 530-622-9100
- Cary House Hotel: 530-622-4271
- Eden Vale Inn: 530-621-0901
- Coloma Country Inn: 530-622-6919
- Holiday Inn Express: 916-358-3100
- Lake Natoma Inn: 916-351-1500

Located off of Highway 49

- Bella Vista B & B: 530-622-3456
- American River Inn: 530-333-4499
- Rock Creek Inn: 530-333-4359

CAMPGROUNDS: COLOMA/LOTUS

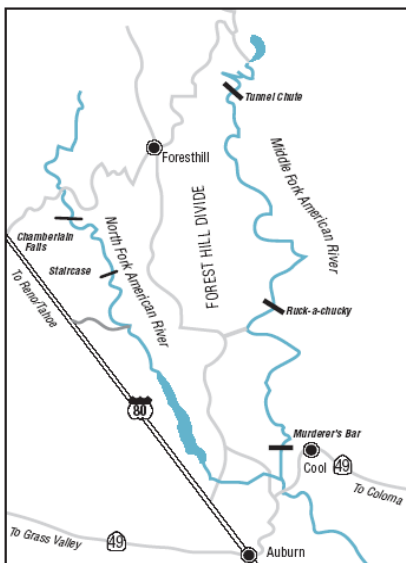
Located off of Highway 49

- American River Resort: 530-622-6700
- Coloma Resort: 530-621-2267

Located off of Hwy 50

- KOA Campground: 530-676-2267

MIDDLE AND NORTH FORKS AMERICAN RIVER



South-Middle Fork American

Responsibility

All river trips involve some risk and we recognize that accidents or illness can occur. We assume no responsibility for injury, damage or loss of your personal property, or for time and expense incurred. All participants are required to complete and sign the Release of Liability Agreement before the rafting trip begins. Minors participating in a trip without a legal guardian present are required to bring a pre-signed form by his/her legal guardian. Please bring completed form to the river for Check-In. Release forms are available at www.rrafting.com/waiverform.pdf. 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.

Waterflow Notice

Water flows for 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 permits from the County of El Dorado.

Cancellation Policy

Please read our cancellation policy and advise all participants in your party. If you must cancel, all but a reservation fee of \$20.00 per person will be refunded for cancellation made 30 days or more before the trip start date. A 50% trip refund will be issued for cancellations made 15-29 days prior to the trip start. **There are no refunds for cancellations made within two weeks of the trip start date or for 'No Shows'**. Seats are transferrable. In the event of a last-minute cancellation, try to find another person to take the seat. 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. 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 a refund will be made after reviewing the trip details. Guides and other 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 a company officer.

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.

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 service industry.

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 and then gleaned gold from the dry stream bed. This is how Tunnel Chute Rapid was born.

