

The Best in California River Rafting

Merced River Highlights

Section: Red Bud or Indian Flat to Railroad

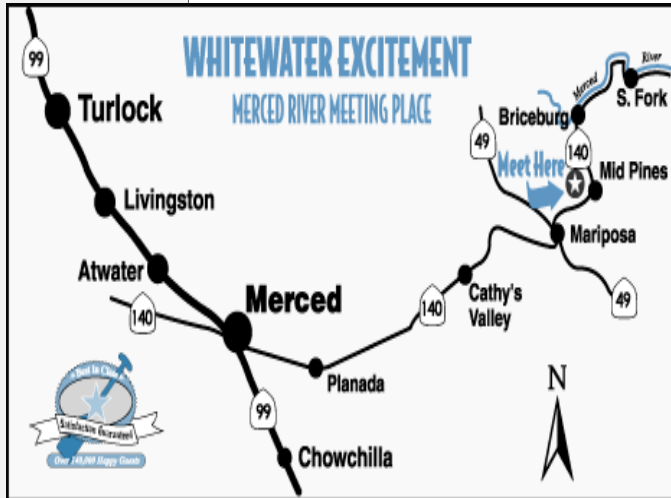
Difficulty: Class IV (Min. Age 14)

Skill Level: Adventurous Beginners

Thrill Level: Thrills and Excitement

Length: 18 Miles

Merced River – One Day Trip Information



Thank you for choosing Whitewater Excitement for your river adventure on the Merced River. This 18 mile, naturally controlled stretch has 30 major rapids that will test your paddling skills. Our launching point is just outside Yosemite National Park. The weather during the spring and summer can range from cool and rainy to hot and sunny. The following information will give you all the details about the trip including: directions to the meeting area with an area map, meeting time, what to bring, and information about camping.

Swimming ability is required for all Merced River Trips.

Meeting Time

8:30 am the morning of your trip

Driving time from the SF Bay Area is 2.5-3 hours, from Southern California 5 to 6 hours. Please be on time, as we only wait 30 minutes for latecomers.

Check-In

Upon arrival at the Whitewater Excitement meeting area, please walk toward our vans and our guide staff will check you in there.

What to Bring

River clothing is very casual and you should expect to get wet, please dress accordingly. Cotton gets wet and does not keep you warm.

List of items to bring: Swim suit or shorts, tennis shoes or Teva Type Sandals (**NO FLIP FLOPS OR BARE FEET ALLOWED**), light wind breaker and pile or polypro sweater in case of cool weather, hat with tie, sunglasses with retaining device such as chums, lip balm, sunscreen, garbage bag for your wet clothes, some dry clothes for the trip home (to be left in your car), and a small amount of money for souvenirs, photos, and meals on the way home.

Cool Weather Pre-Cautions

In case of cool weather we recommend the following as a pre-caution for the months of April, May and anytime during the season when rain or cool weather is a possibility: In addition to the provided wet suits listed below, we recommend you having **wet suit booties, wool or poly pro sweater, socks, and hat.**

Wet Suits are required during the Spring (prior to Memorial Day) and during times of High Water. These are provided to you as a service of WWE. Our wet suits fit those under 6'4" and/or 260 pounds. If you or any member of your group is over this size, they will need to rent a custom suit at a local dive or surf shop. **For your safety, those not having wet suits when required will not be able to participate in the trip.**

Gratuities - We are often asked if guests should tip their guides. While not mandatory, if you feel your guide did a great job in giving your group a safe and exciting time, then they would greatly appreciate a tip. Usual tip amounts are: _ Day Trips - \$3-\$5 per person, 1 Day Trips - \$5-\$10 per person, 2 Day Trips - \$10-\$20 per person.

Directions

Drive to the town of Merced on Highway 99. In Merced, take Highway 140 east toward Yosemite National Park. Follow Highway 140 through the town of Mariposa. Seven miles past the town of Mariposa, is the town of Midpines. Just past the MT. VIEW GROCERY STORE (the Grocery Store will be on your right). On the left side of Highway 140 is our MEETING AREA. Look for our WWE Vans. We'll have a Whitewater Excitement Sign posted so you can't miss it. Park in the Parking area and come to the Check-In Table and the WWE Staff will be there to help.

Merced River – One Day Trip Information

Camping Options on the Merced River

Yosemite Bug - Midpines (866) 826-7108

Here they have dorm cabins, tent cabins, private rooms w/bath and guest houses. Check out their website for accommodations. www.yosemitebug.com

BLM Camp Area – On the River First Come First Serve! The BLM camp areas are located right on the river in a primitive setting, and are about 10-15 minutes from our meeting area. Cost: \$10.00 a night.

Directions to the BLM CAMP AREAS:

From the WWE Meeting Area in Midpines, drive East on Highway 140. Continue down the winding section of the highway and at the bottom just before you cross the Bridge, Turn Left at Briceburg (a BLM Brick Building Field Office is on your left – Do NOT continue on Highway 140 heading East up the Merced River). Cross the old Suspension Bridge and follow the dirt road that follows the Merced River. The first camp area is called McCabe Flat, a very nice and large area. The second camp is a bit further down the road and is called Willow Placer, a smaller area. The last camp is further down and called Railroad Flat. If you can try to camp in McCabe Flat as it is the nicer and largest area AND right by one of the largest rapids on the river, Split Rock!

Facilities

We have for your convenience at the meeting area, portable bathrooms. Please do not bring any pets, fireworks, or firearms. Because of the great risk of injury, we do not allow 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 make sure it is a water-proof disposable type. Professional photographers will be taking pictures at various rapids and are available for sale after the trip. These photographers are in no way associated with Whitewater Excitement.



Meals

You will be served our riverside buffet deli-styled lunch half way down the river. Our lunch has many fruits and veggies for the vegetarians in the group. We will also have drinks and snacks at rivers end for the bus ride back to the meet area.

Responsibility

All river trips involve some risk and we recognize that accidents and injuries can occur. We assume no responsibility for injury, damage, or loss of your belongings. All participants will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk/Liability Release form before the trip. Any minor not being accompanied by their parent must have this form signed by their parents before coming up to the river trip. 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 and to anyone we feel will jeopardize his or her personal safety or the safety of others on the trip. There are no refunds for cancellations made for this reason.

Cancellation Policy

Please read our policy and advise other trip members. If you must cancel, all but a \$50 per person cancellation fee will be refunded to you provided we received written notice from you at least 60 days before the trip. For reservations made within 60 days of the trip, all trip fees are non-refundable, in which case we encourage you to find someone to take your place. Often our trips fill up and we have a limited number of guests we can take down on any one trip, while holding your space we are turning others away. Whitewater Excitement also incurs substantial expenses prior to the trip departure.

We reserve the right to cancel or modify a trip due to weather, water conditions, insufficient reservations or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases we are only responsible for the trip fees paid to us. Guides and other on-river staff employed by Whitewater Excitement are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or credits. Such determinations can only be made by WWE Office Staff. Trip Travel Insurance is strongly suggested and will cover such cancellations. Trips depart Rain or Shine.

Motels

Mariposa Lodge	(800) 966-8819
Best Western Mariposa	(800) 937-8376
Super 8 Mariposa	(209) 966-4288
Miners Inn Mariposa	(888) 646-2244
Yosemite Bug Lodge	(866) 826-7108 www.yosemitebug.com

Camping

KOA Midpines	(209) 966-2201
Indian Flat Campground	(209) 379-2339
Yosemite Bug (Tent Cabins)	(866) 826-7108 www.yosemitebug.com

Places to Eat

There are many eating establishments in the nearby town of Mariposa, anything from fast food and pizza to Chinese and Fine Dining.