

Whitewater Rafting with Outdoor Adventure Programs

FAQs

When and where do trips meet?

Both half day and full day rafting trips will meet at **07:00am**. Trips will meet at the Peterson Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation building located at: **830 Tinker St. Bldg 640, Peterson AFB, CO 80914**. Trips will depart from Outdoor Recreation at **07:30am**.

When is the best time to go?

There is no “best time” to go. However, there are seasonal differences that need to be considered when planning your trip. Our regular season runs from mid-May through mid-August. The Arkansas River typically reaches its peak sometime between mid-May and early July producing some of the best whitewater in Colorado. Remember. . . May and June tend to have cooler air temperatures and a mild chance for late afternoon showers, but it is not uncommon to find a hot sunny day. July through early August are the warm and sunny months with somewhat lower water levels. When the spring run-off is at its peak, some sections and/or rapids may be not be runnable. During these rare instances, we will accommodate your group on another section of the river. The majority of our overnight trips are run mid-May through early August depending upon water levels.

What should I wear?

Avoid cotton! You want clothing items that are designed to wick away moisture easily. Bathing suits, board shorts, athletic shorts, synthetic/polyester shirts work great. All shoes should have some type of heel strap or backing. Please do not wear Flip-Flops. On colder days; wetsuits, splash tops, and neoprene shoes are available to rent at no extra charge.

How Many People Go in a Raft?

Our 14 foot self-bailing rafts will accommodate four to six guests and 1 guide. At lower water levels we will usually take no more than five guests in a raft. When planning a trip for a group, try to reserve in multiples of 6. For example; a group of 12 would be divided into 2 groups of 6 and placed in 2 rafts. We attempt to fill all of the available seats for each trip, so a group of 10 may be asked to split into groups of 6 and 4, with the group of 6 in one raft and the 4 placed in a raft with 2 people from a different group. If you wish to guarantee your own exclusive raft with only members of your party you may purchase the additional spots in the raft.

What happens if I fall out of the raft or if I go “swimming”?

The ability to swim is a requirement in order to be able to participate in white water rafting. Swimming in any river is inherently dangerous and should always be avoided. When accidents happen on the river they often result in an unintended swim which subjects you to forces such as powerful water, impact with rocks, and possible extreme temperatures all of which can result in a variety of injuries. You should know that no outfitter can guarantee your safety or that you will not go for an unintended swim.

Although you are provided with a life jacket (personal floatation device) they are not infallible.

What equipment is provided by Outdoor Adventure Programs?

OAP will provide all necessary gear needed for rafting. This includes helmet, Personal Flotation Device (PFD), paddle, and qualified guide. In addition, we have a limited selection of wetsuits, splash tops, and water shoes available for rent at no additional charge. Round trip transportation and lunch will be supplied for every trip, but please be sure to inform our staff upon enrollment if you have any food allergies or considerations that we should be aware of.

Is this safe to do?

Like any outdoor adventure activity, rafting has inherent risks involved. Part of the charm and excitement of rafting is the unpredictable nature of the activity. Fluctuating water levels, weather, and other variables are hard to predict. Quality river trips depend largely on the skill and personality of the river guide. We carefully hand select our guides on that premise. All of our guides have First Aid & CPR certifications and swift water rescue training. As a guest you do have certain responsibilities to uphold and ultimately it is up to you decide what trip is best for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them with our staff before participating in any rafting trip.

What to bring:

- sunscreen
- water specific clothing
- dry change of clothes
- trash bag for wet clothes
- back pack / small duffle for your items
- snacks and reading materials for the ride
- an open mind to adventure

What NOT to bring

- flip-flops
- jewelry
- cotton clothing for the river
- drugs and alcohol
- sun glasses without retainers
- pets
- water bottles that cannot be attached to a raft

