



# NORTH FORK STANISLAUS RIVER

*Itinerary*



<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	<b>Calaveras Big Trees State Park</b>
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>RETURN TIME:</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>RIVER RATING:</b>	<b>Class IV (Suitable for intermediate to advanced rafters)</b>
<b>RIVER PUT-IN:</b>	<b>Sourgrass Crossing</b>
<b>RIVER TAKE-OUT:</b>	<b>Calaveras Big Trees State Park</b>
<b>MILES COVERED:</b>	<b>6 river miles with 8 recognizable rapids</b>
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	<b>Minimum age is 14 (16 at high water)</b>
<b>BOAT OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Paddle raft (Oar rafts may be available upon request)</b>

*\*\*Please fill out your Guest Registration form and return it to our office as soon as possible\*\**

Prepare yourself for an incredible whitewater adventure! The North Fork of the Stanislaus River is a unique high sierra river that thunders through six miles of granite gorges and deep alpine forest glens. From our put-in just below Sourgrass Crossing, which lies at 4000 feet in elevation, to our take-out near the Giant Sequoia groves of Calaveras Big Trees State Park, you'll raft through dark green woodlands, endless wild azaleas, and old Me-wuk Indian sites. Best of all, you'll challenge the most technical and intense Class IV whitewater in California. The North Stan with its 70 feet per mile gradient, cascades over massive drops and holes, creating huge adrenaline-pumping rapids such as Beginner's Luck, Claw, The Thing and the mighty Sequoia Falls. This river trip is recommended for paddlers with previous whitewater experience, or very aggressive first-time rafters.

## **AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969**

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

## **WHITEWATER**

The North Fork of the Stanislaus' water releases are controlled by power companies that release water in conjunction with the demand for power needed in the surrounding area. This causes fluctuations in river levels with little advance notice. For this reason we cannot guarantee raftable flows. **Please call us the day prior to your trip to check on water levels.**

For more information, call 1-855-541-4792 in the USA and Canada or 1-530-626-5600 -outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail [info@oars.com](mailto:info@oars.com)

## **Sample Itinerary**

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and always flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other trips on the water and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like:

- We'll meet at the designated time at Calaveras Big Trees State Park at 10:00 AM and return at approximately 4:00 PM—please be prompt. Turn right immediately after the Park Tollbooth, then take the first left into the parking area. Look for the O.A.R.S. representative in the parking area. We will have a few minutes to check our gear before boarding the shuttle vehicle for the 20-minute ride to the put-in. There will be a safety talk before starting down river.
- **There is a \$6.00 State Park Day Use Fee to park your car in Big Trees State Park.** This fee enables you to enjoy the Giant Sequoias, hiking trails and visitor center after your river trip.
- Beginner's Luck gives us a good warm-up, followed by The Claw and Convulsion in quick succession. With an average gradient of 70 feet per mile, the rapids come quickly on this river.
- Lunchtime comes and we pull off the water for a delicious picnic. Knowing that a morning of hard paddling inspires a very hearty appetite, we make sure that our lunches are abundant and satisfying. Lounge on the side of the river with a deli sandwich piled high with fresh cold cuts, cheese and veggies or perhaps tasty taco salad, plus icy lemonade, water, fresh fruit and cookies. After feasting and relaxing, we resume our journey.
- Dig Dog, Whiteout and Rattlesnake are among the continuous steep drops and boulder slaloms that we negotiate. After a couple of miles of aggressive paddling through tumultuous whitewater, we near the end of the Class IV section, but not before facing Big Trees Falls—the river's most infamous rapid and our right of passage as conquerors of the Stan.
- As we reach our take-out point, our river trip draws to a close. An O.A.R.S. shuttle will be waiting to give us a 10-minute ride back to our vehicles.

## **What's Included?**

- Skilled professional guide service
- Delicious deli lunch
- High-quality inflatable rafts and related river equipment including paddle, helmet, splash jacket and personal flotation device
- Transfers from the meeting place to the river and back

## **What's Not Included?**

- Pre- and post-trip accommodations
- Wetsuits (available for rent)
- Big Trees State Park \$6 entrance fee
- Items of personal nature (see suggested packing list)
- Insurance of any kind, including travel insurance
- Gratuities

## **SOMETHING VOLUNTARY**

- In reviewing your statement, you'll note a \$1/person/day donation to Friends of the River a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting California's rivers, streams, and watersheds. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to these environmental actions, and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. *Please notify our office if you would prefer to delete the donation from your balance if that is your wish.*
- The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit [www.oarsfoundation.org](http://www.oarsfoundation.org) to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

### Rendezvous

- The meeting point for our North Fork of the Stanislaus trip is the historic Big Trees State Park. From Stockton, travel east on Hwy. 4. Approximately 52 miles east of Stockton you will arrive in Angels Camp. Hwy 49 joins Hwy 4 at the stoplight and continues straight on the bypass towards Murphys. This will take you east on Hwy 4 for approximately 24 miles. Calaveras Big Trees State Park is on the right side of Hwy 4. Please be prompt and have all your gear ready and be dressed for the river

### Driving Times and Distances:

San Francisco	3 hours	150 miles
San Jose	3 hours	145 miles
Sacramento	2.5 hours	95 miles
Los Angeles	7 hours	400 miles
Reno	3 hours	120 miles
South Lake Tahoe	2 hours	88 miles
Stockton	2 hours	77 miles
Angels Camp	45 minutes	35 miles

These are approximate mileage and driving times and do not take into account any delays. Please allow yourself extra time. Additional maps of the area can be found at: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com), [www.yahoomaps.com](http://www.yahoomaps.com), or in some cases [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

### Pre and Post Trip Accommodations

We recommend that you make reservations well in advance in order to guarantee lodging — this area is a popular destination. We recommend the facilities listed below, please mention that you are rafting with O.A.R.S. All are fine establishments: well maintained, clean and comfortable. (Pre- and post-trip lodging is not included in the trip cost).

#### Hotels:

Dorrington Hotel B&B, Dorrington	(209) 795-5800
Arnold's Meadowmont Lodge, Arnold	(888) 538-1222
Murphys Suites, Murphys	(877) 728-2121
Murphys Historic Hotel, Murphys	(800) 532-7684
Trendwest Resorts, Angels Camp	(209) 736-2999

#### Camping:

Calaveras Big Trees State Park	(209) 795-2334
Golden Pines RV Resort	(209) 795-2820

## PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

### Footwear

The best choice is an amphibious shoe that drains water, won't come off in swirling current and protects your toes from stubbing and the tops of your feet from sunburning. An old pair of tennis shoes will work almost as well. Sport sandals with a heel strap are OK. "Water socks" are not a recommended option and flip flops or "Crocs" are not acceptable. For trips in the spring, we recommend wearing shoes along with wool or neoprene socks to keep your feet warm. Wetsuit booties with a reinforced sole are also a good option.

### Clothing

We recommend starting with bathing suit/swim trunks and a lightweight synthetic shirt, then adding layers of synthetic long underwear and fleece as needed. It can be cool in the morning even during mid-summer.

### Sun Protection

Protecting yourself from the sun should be taken very seriously. A hat, sunscreen, lip balm & sunglasses are a must.

### Suggested Packing List

- Sunscreen & lip protection: waterproof and SPF 30 or higher
- Water bottle with securing clip

- Shade hat/visor
- Sunglasses (preferably polarized) with securing strap
- Bathing suit
- Shorts (long board shorts preferable for sun protection) and quick drying top
- River/tennis shoes or river sandals with heel strap
- Wetsuit

### Rentals

- **Wetsuits:** With advance notice, wetsuits may be rented for \$10 per person (**required on this river**). It is important for you to advise the office of your size if you are renting a wetsuit. Please indicate your request on the Guest Registration form. Wetsuit rentals must be paid for prior to your trip. **Wetsuit rentals do not include “wetsuit booties” – please bring your own, or wear wool socks with tennis shoes as a good alternative.**

### Reminders

- **ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR CHANGEABLE WEATHER!** Especially during the months of April, May and early June, California can experience extreme changes in weather.
- **To avoid being cold:** Synthetic long underwear is a must-have on river trips in the spring and fall. It can be worn under shorts, rain gear, T-shirts, etc. and keeps you warm even when wet.
- **Wearing cotton items on a river trip is only appropriate when the weather is hot. Wet cotton will chill your body temperature.**

### Extra Gear

We recommend that you leave your valuables at home or in your private vehicle and take on the river only what's absolutely necessary. We recommend that you leave dry shoes and clothing in your car as well to ensure a comfortable drive home.

### Weather

You may want to check one week prior to your trip for an up-to-date weather forecast. We recommend you check the following web sites: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) or [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Water Temperature</u>
April	42	69	58
May	47	77	60
June	52	84	66

### Gratuities

Guests often ask whether gratuities are appropriate, and in what amount. If you feel your guides have provided a very special trip for you, a gratuity may be left with the trip leader and will be shared among the crew. Entirely discretionary, anything between “Thank you” and 10% of trip cost is a general tipping guideline. If you plan to tip, remember to bring a personal check or cash—ATM's are hard to find in the backcountry!

### A Few Important Details

#### Reservations and Deposits

- A \$30/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 30 days prior to departure.

#### Cancellations and Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, notify us as soon as possible. All payments are nonrefundable and we regret that we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge our participants to investigate trip cancellation insurance (see Insurance).
- If you transfer from one trip to another, there is a \$15/person charge up until 30 days before the trip. Transfers made after this time will be treated as cancellations.

#### Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying an O.A.R.S. trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

#### Insurance

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, we strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury. Trip

participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on an adventure travel trip, evacuation can be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and O.A.R.S. accepts no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed or stolen property.

#### **Liability Waiver**

- Everyone is required to sign a standard release before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with O.A.R.S. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

#### **Responsibility – An Important Notice**

- O.A.R.S. West, Inc. and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings (this trip requires a minimum of 4 guests), and other factors. There is risk in whitewater rafting, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" and "float-it-out" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices subject to change without notice.

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