



TUOLUMNE RIVER RAFTING

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	La Casa Loma River Store, 8 miles east of Groveland on Hwy 120
MEETING TIME:	Varies – see below
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 6:00 PM
RIVER RATING:	Class IV+ (Suitable for intermediate to advanced)
RIVER PUT-IN:	Meral's Pool
RIVER TAKE-OUT:	Ward's Ferry Bridge
MILES COVERED:	18 river miles with 15 recognizable rapids
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 12 (16 at high water levels)
TRIP LENGTH:	1, 2, or 3 Days

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

The Tuolumne River is considered the best whitewater trip in California. Its glacier-fed headwaters originate near Yosemite National Park, and then surge through an isolated, spectacular canyon, forming 18 miles of non-stop, class IV rapids. Intricate boulder gardens, rushing cascades, and churning holes promise action-packed paddling from put-in to take-out. But it's not just the whitewater that's earned the Tuolumne its distinction as the California river trip against which all others are measured.

The Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River flows through a remote wilderness canyon, relatively inaccessible between our put-in at Meral's Pool and our take-out at Ward's Ferry. Its steep, spring-green and summer-golden hills are forested with oak and pine and flanked by rocky terraces and sandy beaches—a natural habitat for wildlife. Early season wildflowers blanket the canyon in color: deep blue lupines, brilliant orange California poppies, yellow seep-spring monkeyflowers and bright pink shooting stars. Tumbling creeks, waterfalls and glassy pools adorn the river corridor and its side canyons—perfect for hiking, fishing, and swimming during your off-river time.

Trip Options and Meeting Times:

- One Day – 8 AM**
- Two Day – 8:30 AM**
- Three Day – 8:30 AM**

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

California's premier whitewater river, the Tuolumne, courses through outstanding rapids in a spectacular wild canyon in the central Sierra. Many of California's best rafters cut their teeth on the exciting, boulder-strewn rapids from Meral's Pool to Ward's Ferry. More than a dozen drops rated Class IV dot the run and there are many unnamed Class III and III+ rapids. You'll run rapids such as **Rock Garden** and **Nemesis** before reaching **Clavey Falls**, the biggest rapid on our 18 mile section. Follow up with **Gray's Grindstone**, **Thread the Needle**, **Hells Kitchen** and **Pinball**, just to name a few.

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. You'll cover all 18 river miles regardless of which trip length you chose.

- We'll meet at the La Casa Loma River Store in Groveland. Your guide will give you a waterproof bag in which to pack your belongings if you're on an overnight trip. Departing Groveland, we'll take a steep shuttle ride down to the river—a fitting introduction to a trip filled with big descents! Arriving at our put-in point, you'll meet the rest of your O.A.R.S. crew and feel your anticipation build as you see the rafts waiting for you. After the guides present an orientation and thorough safety talk, our adventure begins.
- Within the first two miles of the trip, we'll encounter three of the Tuolumne's most notorious rapids: Rock Garden, Nemesis, and Rams Head. The quick succession of fast chutes, sudden drops and technical maneuvering around boulders immediately sharpens our paddling skills, and our teamwork develops as we conquer the consistently exciting Class IV rapids.
- Come lunchtime, we'll pull over to a sandy beach for a delicious picnic. Your guides will lay out an abundant spread of cold cuts, cheeses, veggies, and breads, or perhaps a tasty taco salad for roll-your-own burritos, accompanied by fruit, cookies, cold water, and lemonade.
- Back on the river, each mile brings more white-knuckling thrills, more laughs, adrenaline and high fives. The remote beauty of our surroundings enhances our enjoyment of the trip. Since there are only two launches allowed on the Tuolumne each day, our feeling of absolute peace and seclusion in this breathtaking wilderness canyon is well founded.
- Well founded, but temporarily peaceful might not describe our mood when, around Mile 5, we hear a distant, rumbling sound up ahead. The rumbling turns into a loud roar as we approach the biggest whitewater in the canyon: Clavey Falls. The ultimate thrill, Clavey is actually a series of three staircase drops that are sure to deliver heart-pounding, frenzied-paddling, unabashed excitement! Flying through the bottom of the last drop, we'll feel an amazing sense of accomplishment and euphoria as we've just negotiated one of the most notable rapids in the West.
- Come mid- to late-afternoon, we'll stop and make camp if you're on a multiday trip; you grab your bags and set up your tent while we take care of the kitchen and "living room"—camp chairs and the site for tonight's campfire (if permitted). This is the perfect time for you to lounge on the beach with that book you've wanted to finish forever. Before long you'll be savoring pleasing hors d'oeuvres and the beverage of your choice—delicious as these refreshments are, they always taste better after a day on the river! Read, nap, or just sit back and laugh with friends and family as we prepare dinner. After another satisfying feast, the evening is yours to spend however you wish. Maybe music, stories or jokes will bring us together tonight; maybe the popping of the fire, the whisper of the river and the clarity of the big, star-filled sky will encourage silent reflection on the amazing wilderness that is, for now, our home.
- Grey's Grindstone, Thread the Needle, and Hell's Kitchen provide more thrills as we continue down the Tuolumne. In between rapids, calm stretches of cool water invite us to jump in for a refreshing swim.
- The three-day trip gives us lots of time to explore the hidden wonders of this canyon. Great hikes along the Tuolumne's side streams bring us to waterfalls, swimming holes, natural waterslides, and clear creeks that offer excellent trout fishing. We'll also have time for relaxing on the beach, taking in some tanning rays or joining a game of Frisbee, volleyball or horseshoes.

- As we reach Ward's Ferry and flat water, our river trip draws to a close. At the take-out point, an O.A.R.S. shuttle will be waiting to give you a ride back to the Casa Loma River Store. You'll be returned to your car by 6:00 PM.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide services
- Delicious meals—1 Day trip includes lunch; 2 Day trip includes 2 lunches, 1 breakfast and 1 dinner; 2 ½ Day trip includes 2 lunches, 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners; 3 Day trip includes 3 lunches, 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners.
- High-quality inflatable rafts and related river equipment including paddle and helmet and personal flotation device
- Waterproof dry bags for your belongings
- Splash Jackets (Spring and cold weather trips only)
- Transfers from La Casa Loma River Store to the river and back

What's Not Included?

- Pre and post trip accommodations and meals
- Tents, sleeping bags and pads (these items may be rented from O.A.R.S.)
- Wetsuits (available for rent on early season or cold weather trips)
- Insurance of any kind
- Items of personal nature (an equipment list will be provided)
- 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 to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

How do I get to the Tuolumne?

- Most people drive to our meeting place at La Casa Loma River Store, approximately 8 miles east of Groveland on Highway 120. The most direct route to Highway 120 from Northern and Southern California locations is via Highway 99.
- Traveling South on Highway 99: From Manteca, take the Hwy 120 East/Yosemite Ave exit towards Sonora, then turn left onto Highway 120.
- Traveling North on Highway 99: From Modesto, take Highway 132 East to Coulterville. Continue through Coulterville on J132 to Highway 120 and turn right. Or at Coulterville, take Highway 120 East to Groveland.
- From the San Francisco Bay Area, take I-580 East to I-205 East. After merging with I-5 North, immediately exit onto Highway 120 East.
- La Casa Loma River Store is on the left-hand side of Highway 120 at Feretti Rd, approximately 8 miles East of Groveland. **There is also a Feretti Rd in the city of Groveland by a pizza place. Do not turn here.** If you enter Yosemite National Park, you have gone too far. Driving time from the San Francisco Bay Area is approximately 3 1/2 hours; from Los Angeles approximately 7 1/2 hours. **These times are just estimates. Please allow yourself plenty of extra time. For more detailed driving directions, we recommend you check mapquest.com.**

A Few Important Details

For more information, call 1-800-346-6277 in the USA and Canada or 1-209-736-4677 outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail info@oars.com

Reservations and Deposits

- A \$125/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 60 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 4-6 guests, depending upon trip length), 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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