



FLOAT NOTES



Colorado - The Arkansas River

THANK YOU for booking a trip with Colorado River Expeditions (CRE)! The Arkansas River is a great whitewater adventure and we want you to be prepared for the time of your life! These notes will help you plan for the trip. Please read the following information carefully. If you have any questions about the river tour, please call us on 800-839-7238 or email us at info@ffoc.net.

When reading these notes, it is very helpful to have a road map of Colorado handy.

*All river trips are conducted by our affiliate:
Arkansas River Tours, a licensed Colorado outfitter.*

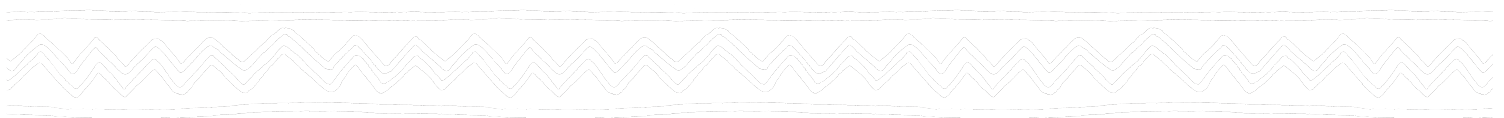
The Tour Package

**The following items are included in your
Arkansas River trip with CRE:**

- Lodging in cabin style tents with cots.
- All meals while at camp or on the river, beginning with the first morning's breakfast.
- Complete shower and restroom facilities. Hot and cold running water, flush toilets and electrical plug-ins are provided.
- An experienced guide in every boat.
- All river equipment.
- Shuttle to and from the river each day.
- Campfire program.

You will be responsible for:

- Meals while traveling to and from the camp.
- Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks.
(for camp consumption only)
- Sleeping bag and pad *(limited rentals available from CRE; see Rental section)*
- Clothing, fishing licenses and other personal items.



Equipment

We use durable, rugged inflatable rafts 14 to 16 feet in length. We provide all the accessories such as life jackets, helmets, first-aid kits and waterproof bags to store your personal effects.

Depending on water levels, the experience of our guests and the particular section of river, we may operate either paddle boats or boats with oars. Each boat is piloted by a guide and holds 5-6 guests.

Guides

All CRE guides are specifically trained on the Arkansas River and must meet specific guidelines set out by the State of Colorado. Should the need arise, all of our guides are trained to administer first aid.

Rentals

We have a limited supply of wetsuits, booties, and splash jackets that will be available for rent at our base camp. You will have an opportunity to rent these after the first morning's breakfast. There is no need to reserve these in advance.

- Wetsuit - \$11/weekend
- Splash Jacket - \$14/weekend
- Wetsuit Bootie - \$10/weekend

We also have a limited supply of sleeping bags and pads available for rent. Please notify us at the time of making your reservation if either of these items is needed.

- Sleeping bag - \$10/weekend
- Pad - \$10/weekend
- Both - \$15/weekend

Camping Facilities

Our camp is located next to the Arkansas River and is equipped with cabin style tents that sleep two people. Each tent has two cots and space for storing personal gear. The front and back doors roll down for privacy. We will assign two persons per tent and will make every effort to accommodate solo travelers with their own tent.

Also available at camp are showers, toilets, hot and cold running water and electrical outlets. There is one pay phone for outgoing calls.

Fishing prospects at our camp are excellent. You will need to purchase a Colorado fishing license, which can be obtained at the Texas Creek general store near our camp.

Food

Except for lunches on the river, we serve all of our meals buffet style from a dining facility located centrally to the cabin tents. Our menu is diverse and offers a variety of items such as fish, chicken, steaks, pork chops, several fresh vegetables, salad, bread and desert. Lemonade, tea and water are always available. In the morning, fresh coffee, tea and juices will be on hand.

Please feel free to bring your own soda, beer, wine or other beverages. For those traveling with CRE from the Colorado Springs airport, we will make a stop the first evening for these items.

Tipping

Many guests ask us whether tipping the guides is appropriate. If you believe the guides and camp staff have exceeded your expectations of service, please feel free to leave a tip (15% of the trip price is normal). Tipping is by no means required.

Alcohol

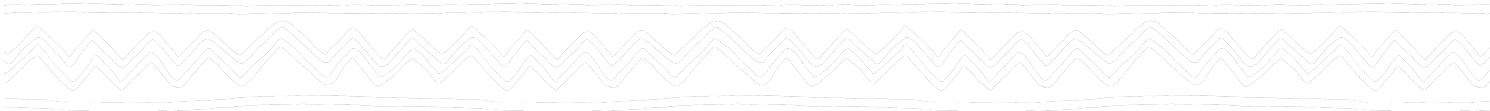
Although injuries on a river trip are rare, when they do occur, alcohol is often a contributing factor. If you bring alcohol on the trip, we ask that you consume it in moderation and only at camp. We will not allow alcohol to be consumed while on the river or at lunch.

Weather

In the early season (May, June) the weather in Colorado can get cold at night and sometimes rainy in the afternoon. Later in the season (July, August) are usually warm and sunny. It is not uncommon for the afternoons to bring wind and rain as the weather patterns build against the mountains. Please review the packing list above to make sure you have sufficient clothing that can be layered for your comfort. Average temperatures along the Arkansas River Valley are:

	Day	Night
May	65-75	30-40
June	70-80	35-50
July	75-90	40-60
August	80-95	50-60

See you on the river!



What to Bring

Over the years, we have learned how to properly dress for the mountain air and cold water of Colorado. The difference between having a great trip and one that is miserable is often the result of poor clothing. Please review this packing list carefully and call us should you have questions.

The three rules of dressing for cooler climates are:

- Always dress in layers.
 - Avoid wearing cotton when on the river.
 - It is easier to take a piece of clothing off than to not have enough to wear.
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Our general packing list:

- Teva Sandals, water shoes with ankle straps, wetsuit booties (*we have a supply of wetsuit booties for rent - see Rental section*) or old tennis shoes you don't mind getting wet.
 - Wool or neoprene socks.
 - Fast drying shorts or swimsuit.
 - T-shirts
 - Hat/Sunvisor/Sunglasses
 - Good **quality** rain jacket (*this is to keep the "splash" off ; we have a limited supply for rent - see Rental section*)
 - A "farmer john" type wetsuit (*we have a supply of wetsuits available for rent - see Rental section*)
 - Dry shoes for camp
 - Lightweight sweater or sweatshirt/long pants
 - Light jacket/windbreaker
 - Sleeping bag (*we have a limited supply for rent - see rental section*)
 - Air mattress or small pad
 - Pillow
 - Plastic water bottle (*to use during the day*)
 - Sunscreen, lip balm
 - Towel/Soap/Washcloth/Personal articles
 - Flashlight (*with extra batteries*)
 - Insect repellent
 - Special medications
 - Soft duffel bag to carry the gear listed above
 - Camera and film
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Supplemental Packing List

PLEASE REVIEW!!!!

Clothing for camp differs from what we wear on the river.

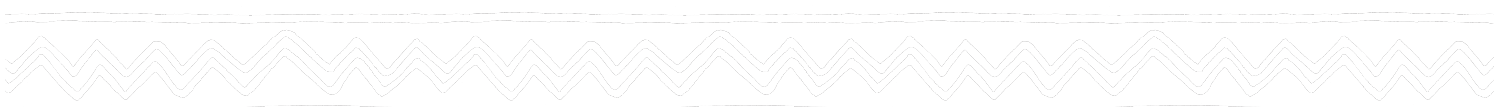
River Wear:

- Quick drying shorts or swimsuit.
- A long sleeve shirt made of wool, polypropylene, or Capilene (*a Patagonia brand name*). These materials are designed to help you stay warm even when wet. **PLEASE, DO NOT WEAR COTTON ON THE RIVER!**
- A "farmer john" type wetsuit.
- Wetsuit booties, Teva sandals or old tennis shoes with wool or neoprene socks.
- If you plan on wearing a wetsuit, a good rain jacket for your upper body will help knock off the water splash.

Camp Wear:

- A wool stocking cap (*to sleep in or for late evenings/early mornings*). Most heat loss is from the top of the head.
- Long pants such as warm-ups, jeans, etc.
- Long underwear made of wool, polypropylene or Capilene.
- A warm jacket made of fleece or wool. A sweatshirt is ok at camp.
- A windbreaker.
- Comfortable shoes with socks.

There are many sources for the above listed gear - sporting good stores, outdoor equipment retailers such as REI or Whole Earth and mail order companies. Our favorite happens to be Patagonia. Their gear is made for outdoor enthusiasts and comes with a rock solid guarantee. You'll find many of our guides wearing Patagonia clothing. Find them online at www.patagonia.com. You may order a catalog by calling 1-800-638-6464.



Sample Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 1 - This is a travel day. For those traveling via CRE's shuttle service, we will arrive at base camp this evening by 10:00 p.m. For those traveling in their own personal vehicle, plan to arrive at the CRE camp **no earlier than 7:00 p.m.** Lodging check-in starts at 7:00 p.m. **There is no meal service this day.**

Day 2 - Start the day with a country style breakfast! We'll have a brief orientation after breakfast and then board our vehicles for the river. Depending on water levels our time on the river will be between 4-6 hours, not including a lunch stop. We'll return to base camp at the end of the day for showers, dinner and a campfire.

Day 3 - After breakfast, we'll depart for another section of the Arkansas. Having had the previous day to "experience" whitewater, we will raft a section with even more excitement! Lunch on the river this day is usually a nice picnic spot along the river. Returning to camp, the guides will prepare dinner and a campfire for some good storytelling.

Day 4 - Final day. We'll provide a continental style breakfast before departing for Colorado Springs or wherever the road takes you. You will arrive at the airport by 11:00 a.m.

Transportation

CRE's base camp in Colorado is located at the Arkansas River Tours (ART) location, just west of Cotopaxi, Colorado on U.S. Highway 50. ART is approximately 24 miles west of Canon City and 30 miles east of Salida. The camp is situated just behind the ART office and boathouse near the river.

Guests who are driving to camp should plan to arrive no earlier than 7:00 p.m. on Day 1. When you arrive at the ART, look for our white cabin style tents behind the ART office and near the river. After 7:00 p.m. a member of the ART or CRE staff will be available for assistance and check-in.

>From Albuquerque:

Take Interstate 25 North to Santa Fe. Take U.S. Highway 285 North through Espanola to Alamosa, Colorado. Take Highway 17 North from Alamosa until it reconnects with 285. Follow 285 to Highway 50. Turn east and go through Salida. Follow Highway 50 to Cotopaxi which is about 30 miles east of Salida. Look for the Arkansas River Tours locations just before you enter Cotopaxi.

>From Denver:

Take Interstate 25 South to Colorado Springs. Take Highway 115 South/East to Highway 50. Take Highway 50 West through Canon City to Cotopaxi which is about 24 miles. Just as you pass through Cotopaxi, look for the Arkansas River Tour office in on the right hand side of Highway 50.

>From Dallas:

Take Highway 287 North to Amarillo. Take Highway 97 North to Raton, New Mexico. Follow I-25 North to Walsenburg, Colorado. Go North on Highway 69 to Texas Creek, Colorado. Turn left or west on Highway 50 where Highway 69 terminates. Travel approximately 7 miles west through Cotopaxi on Highway 50 to the Arkansas River Tour office located on the right hand side of Highway 50.

The CRE Hotline

Should you find yourself delayed or having difficulty arriving at our camp, please feel free to use our hotline service which can communicate with our staff at base camp and help answer any questions you may have. The number is **800-839-7238**.

