



Twice Named
“Colorado Company of the Year”!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: 1- Day Upper Bighorn Sheep Canyon Family Trip. Class I-II+. 18 miles.

Meeting Place: Wilderness Aware Headquarters, in Johnson Village near Buena Vista, CO.

Times: Meeting time is at 8:15am, trips depart daily at 9:00am. Get back to the office at about 5:00pm. River times outlined below are approximate.

Closest Major Airports: Colorado Springs (COS) – 2 hours, Denver (DIA) – 3 hours.

Meals Provided: Continental breakfast, a delicious smorgasbord lunch, light snack at the end of the trip.

Season: May 1- Labor Day

Itinerary: Upper Bighorn Sheep Canyon. This scenic trip starts right in Downtown Salida and features the most gentle section of the Arkansas River, perfect for families with young children or those not interested in big rapids. Great opportunities abound for bird watching along the river and you can take in the scenery of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range on this relaxing river trip.

8:15 am: You will meet at our 7200 sq. foot facility right along the banks of the Arkansas River. Enjoy a free continental breakfast after checking-in with our office staff for a pre-trip briefing. Then you can change into your river gear in our spacious and clean indoor changing rooms. Next, you will meet our guides who will outfit you in a Coast Guard approved life jacket and paddle. Helmets are optional on this section of river.

9:00 am: Once you are suited up, you will be whisked to the river for your adventure. Your trip leader will give you a comprehensive orientation and safety talk with plenty of time for questions. You will have the confidence needed to handle anything that comes up during the trip.

10:00 am: This section features long periods of floating mixed with some fun rapids like Spider and Bear Creek, both class II+. Take in the sights from the pygmy pinion-juniper forest, to the broken and folded limestone cliffs, and even a natural arch along the river.

12:30 pm: A well-deserved lunch break gives you time to dry out and stretch your legs while soaking in the sweeping mountain views. Enjoy some tasty hors d’oeuvres while the guides prepare a hearty, deli-style lunch.

1:30 pm: After lunch, you’ll be ready for the bigger class II+ rapids of Badger Creek, the Flume and Tincup rapid, the guides’ favorite on this section. As you enter Pleasant Valley, the canyon opens up and broad views of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range and the Twin Sisters are visible. Keep an eye out for Red-Tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures riding on thermal air currents while looking for an afternoon meal.

After the trip, you will enjoy complimentary drinks and snacks on the ride back to the office from the take out.

5:00 pm: When you return to the office, you may choose to remember your trip with a T-shirt, hat or pair of shorts. There is no better way to enjoy the Rockies!

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