



Twice Named
"Colorado Company of the Year"!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: Narrows ½ -Day Whitewater Raft Trip. Class III-IV. 9 miles.

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

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

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

Meals Provided: Continental breakfast.

Season: May - Labor Day

Itinerary: The Narrows Half-Day trip is a great introduction to rafting for those on a budget or short of time, or for people that have already done Brown's Canyon and are looking for something different in a half-day trip. This trip has it all – exciting whitewater, and spectacular views of Colorado's tallest mountain range.

8:15 am: Before the trip 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 the guides who will outfit you in a Coast Guard approved life jacket, helmet and paddle.

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

10:00 am: The Class IV Miracle Mile begins just a short time after you launch and really tests your skills with fast moving water and tight moves. The Narrows features a continuous gradient keeping the action moving fast. Expect to be drenched repeatedly on this non-stop whitewater ride! There is virtually no flat water on this approximately 2-hour trip. Other Class IV drops include Frog Rock Rapid, The Silver Bullet, and House Rock where split-second timing is required to avoid a gigantic boulder blocking the channel.

Along the way, you will be reminded of Colorado's mining past as you see the Historic Midland Railroad Tunnels, an old miner's cabin or even someone panning for gold! There are great views of the nearby 14,000-foot Collegiate Peaks Mountains. The environment along the river hosts a mix of water loving cottonwoods, piñon pines (piñon nuts are a major ingredient of pesto), and ponderosa pines, a towering giant common to the lower slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

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In June, when the river is swollen with snowmelt, prepare for a wet and wild ride with towering waves and powerful currents – a wetsuit is a must for rafting at this time of year. During late July and August, the river changes, requiring technical maneuvers around rocks and dropping through narrow chutes. As the river warms, wetsuits disappear and are replaced by swimsuits, providing opportunities to splash fight with new friends or even swim a rapid!

12:00 pm: Conveniently, this trip ends at our headquarters on the river, and it is just a short 100-yard walk back to your car and your dry clothes. Feel free to get changed and have a hot or cold drink and snack. When you return to the office, professionally taken photos from your trip will be available for purchase or you may choose to remember your trip with a T-shirt, hat or small souvenir. There is no better way to enjoy the day!