



Twice Named
“Colorado Company of the Year”!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: Browns Canyon 1-Day Whitewater Raft Trip. Class III-IV. 18 miles.

Meeting Place: Wilderness Aware Headquarters, Hwy 24/285 in Johnson Village near Buena Vista, CO.

Times: Meeting time is 8:45am, trips depart daily at 9:30am. Get back to the office at about 4pm. River times outlined below are approximate.

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

Meals Provided: Continental breakfast, delicious smorgasbord lunch and a light snack

Season: May - Labor Day

Itinerary: Full-day trips in the scenic Browns Canyon are our most popular river adventure. This trip has it all – exciting whitewater, spectacular views of Colorado’s tallest mountain range, a delicious deli-style lunch, and a feeling of getting away from the daily grind.

8:45 am: You will meet at our 7200 sq. foot facility right along the banks of the Arkansas River. In the morning before your trip, 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 and paddle. Helmets are optional on this section of river.

9:30 am: Once you are suited up, you will be whisked to the river for your full-day adventure. At the “Put-in”, 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.

10:30 am: You’ll quickly sharpen your paddle skills after kicking off to be ready for your first Class IV rapid, Beaver Falls, located less than ½ mile downstream of the launch area. Shortly after ward, one of the biggest rapids of the day, The Silver Bullet – a 7-foot drop with churning waves will give your system a quick shot of adrenaline and prepare you for lots more action in the afternoon.

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, we enter Brown’s Canyon, the most popular whitewater rafting destination in America. The character of this section is challenging to seasoned rafters, yet forgiving for beginners. Most of the large rapids are followed by a calm pool of slow moving water allowing an opportunity to either catch a quick breath of fresh mountain air or take a picture of the unique Granite rock formations set off against the clear blue Colorado sky. With that kind of scenery, it is no wonder that Brown’s canyon has been designated a Wilderness Study Area by the Bureau of Land Management. If you are lucky, you may just catch a glimpse of a herd of Bighorn Sheep or see a Brown Trout shooting out of the water after a quick snack.

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Browns Canyon will demand both your attention and muscles as you challenge rapids like Widow-maker, Zoom Flume, Seidel's Suck-hole or the vertical Silver Bullet. We can also accommodate folks interested in riding in an oar boat or just hanging on in a paddle boat when enough other people are available to paddle. 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 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!

After your trip, enjoy complimentary drinks and snacks on the ride back to our headquarters from the take out.

4:30 pm: When you return to the office, professionally taken 8x10 photos from your trip will be available for purchase or you may choose to remember your trip with a T-shirt, hat or pair of shorts. There is no better way to enjoy the day!