



Twice Named
"Colorado Company of the Year"!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: Browns Canyon ½ Day Whitewater Raft Trip. Class III-IV. 10 miles.

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

Times: Meeting time is 8:00 am and 12:30 pm, trips depart daily at 8:30am and 1:00pm. Get back to the office at about 12 noon and 4pm. River times outlined below are approximate.

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

Meals Provided: Continental breakfast on morning trips and a light snack on all trips.

Season: May - Labor Day

Itinerary: Half-day trips in the scenic Browns Canyon are one of our most popular river adventures. They are a great introduction to rafting for those on a budget, short of time, or for folks just wanting to try it out. This trip has it all – exciting whitewater, spectacular views of Colorado's tallest mountain range, and a feeling of getting away from the daily grind.

8:00 am or 12:30 pm: You will meet at our 7200 sq. foot facility right along the banks of the Arkansas River. Before a morning trip, enjoy a free continental breakfast after checking-in with our office staff for a pre-trip briefing. Afternoon trips do not include meals. 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.

8:30 am or 1:00 pm: 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.

9:15 am or 1:45 pm: Brown's Canyon of the Arkansas River is America's most popular whitewater rafting destination – for good reason. 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.

Browns Canyon will demand both your attention and muscles as you challenge rapids like Widow-maker, Zoom Flume, Pinball and the Staircase. 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!

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

12:00 pm or 4:30 pm: 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!