



Twice Named
"Colorado Company of the Year"!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: 2- Day Inn to Inn Whitewater Raft Trip. Class III-IV. 30 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 3:30pm. River times outlined below are approximate.

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

Meals Provided: Continental breakfast, 2 delicious smorgasbord lunches, evening happy hour & hors d'oeuvres, dinner at a local restaurant, breakfast at the Inn, light snack each afternoon

Season: May - August

Itinerary: This guided trip is a unique opportunity to raft the Arkansas River and stay at local Bed and Breakfasts along the way. You will be rewarded with some of the most continuous and exciting whitewater in Colorado, fantastic views of 14,000' peaks, and the charm of the Upper Arkansas River. This is the Colorado Rockies at their finest! It is a perfect trip if you are seeking adventure and excitement with all the comforts of home. On this top-quality trip our senior guides cater to your individual requests. Both days offer you something different to experience and enjoy. This trip offers you the experience of a lifetime!

8:15am: 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, 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 Inn to Inn adventure.

10:00 am: The Narrows, which doesn't allow much warm-up time as you jump right in to the big stuff. 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. 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!

12:00 pm: A well-deserved lunch break gives you time to stretch your legs and soak in the sweeping mountain views. Enjoy some tasty hors d'oeuvres while the guides set out a make-your-own deli-style sandwich lunch. Because lunch is by the river adjacent to our office, a clean restroom is available and you have access to your car for adjustments to your attire for the trip. On cool days, hot drinks are also available at the breakfast bar.

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1:00 pm: After lunch, the afternoon is free for you to relax at the Inn, join us for a gentle scenic downhill mountain bike ride on the old Midland Railroad Grade, or a horseback ride in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. These activity options are included in your trip cost!

If you select the mountain bike option, you will get a mountain bike custom-fitted and equipped for this off-road adventure. After being fitted with bike and helmet, you will be taken up Trout Creek pass, where you will meet the Midland Railroad Grade trail. This old railroad bed has been converted into a biking and hiking trail and features a wide, gentle downhill slope. You will bike through the pinion-juniper forest high above the Arkansas River Valley, providing ample opportunities to stop and smell the wildflowers in bloom or photograph the majestic vistas of the Sawatch mountain range.

Many of our guests choose the horseback ride. This two-hour ride through the pinion-juniper forest provides a unique perspective for viewing the plants and animals of the Arkansas Valley. Stunning views of the Sawatch mountain range are the norm during your ride. This horseback ride is suitable for beginners and experienced alike.

3:00-4:00 pm: After finishing your mountain bike or horseback riding tour, you will make your way to the inn. You will have some down-time after check-in to take an afternoon siesta or a well-deserved shower before dinner.

6:00 pm: Your guide will meet you at the inn for happy hour and hors d'oeuvres. We do our best to provide the drink of your choice. Each guide will also prepare a delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres before dinner.

7:00 pm: After enjoying happy hour snacks and drinks at the inn, we will visit the group's choice of one of the many restaurants in town.

Day 2: 8:00 am: Wake up and have breakfast at the inn. The inn-keepers take special pride in preparing a genuine Colorado breakfast. You'll need it as you will be rafting through Brown's Canyon today.

9:30 am: After joining you for breakfast, your guide will bring you back to our headquarters and you will continue your rafting trip. The morning is perfect for viewing wildlife along the river as you weave your way through the Arkansas Valley. Mt. Princeton dominates the valley in this section of river. Keep an eye out for trout as this is some of the best fishing water on the Arkansas River.

12:00 noon: Today's lunch will be served on the river near Brown's Canyon. You will be able to take a short hike to explore the unique geology of the Canyon or cool off in the river. Your guide will prepare another fantastic lunch from one of our many menus.

1:00 pm: After lunch you will tackle the rapids of Brown's Canyon (Colorado's most popular rafting section). The character of this section is challenging for 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. Don't look too long – Browns Canyon will demand both your attention and muscles as you challenge rapids like Widow-maker, Zoom Flume, the Staircase and Seidel's Suck-hole.

3:00 pm: After the trip, you will enjoy complimentary drinks and snacks on the ride back to the office from the take out. 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 Colorado!