



Twice Named
“Colorado Company of the Year”!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: Numbers Full-Day Whitewater Raft Trip. Class IV-V. 15miles.

Meeting Place: Wilderness Aware Headquarters, located at the base of Trout Creek Pass, just east of the river on Hwy 24/285 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 3pm. 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: The Arkansas River’s Numbers full-day section is a steep, very technical boulder-choked run. Class IV-V whitewater is demanding, with little room for error. Crews must be fit enough to endure the rigors of continuous paddling in difficult whitewater and be prepared for long and dangerous swims. The Numbers are characterized by cold, continuous, powerful fast-moving water with big waves and holes, requiring aggressive paddling to maneuver the raft. If you’re looking for challenging high-energy adventure, we recommend this world-class section.

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 the guides who will outfit you in a Coast Guard approved life jacket and paddle. Helmets are required on this section of river.

9:00 am: Once you are suited up, you will be transported a short distance north of Buena Vista 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.

10:00 am: There is time to practice the skills needed to handle one of the toughest sections of the Arkansas. Within half a mile you’ll begin a series of rapids that will test your skill, concentration and endurance. The rapids in the not-so-creatively-named Numbers section with rapids named “One” through “Seven” are big, rocky, and steep. There’s not much time to catch your breath or dry off as you conquer these demanding rapids. You may even have an opportunity to try river “surfing” in the Trash Can!

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 required 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 through the Swiss-cheese rock!

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12:00 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.

1:00 pm: After lunch we enter The Narrows. Class IV Miracle Mile begins with fast moving water and tight moves. The Narrows features a continuous gradient keeping the action moving fast. There is virtually no flat water on this section. Other Class IV drops include Frog Rock Rapid, The Silver Bullet, and House Rock.

3:00 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 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!