



Twice Named
"Colorado Company of the Year"!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: Narrows Express 1-Day Whitewater Raft Trip. Class III-IV. 26 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 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: The Narrows Express Full Day trip combines two of the Arkansas River's best trips into one – the Narrows ½ day section and the scenic Browns Canyon full-day trip. This is the longest whitewater day-trip in Colorado! 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.

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!

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 full-day 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 mid-day adjustments to your attire for the day. On cool days, hot drinks are also available at the breakfast bar.

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1:00 pm: After lunch, you'll take on Brown's Canyon. 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.

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

4:00-5:00 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!