



Twice Named
"Colorado Company of the Year"!

River: North Platte River

Trip: 2 – Day Northgate Canyon Whitewater Raft Trip, North Platte River, Class III – IV, 30 miles.

Meeting Place: 21 miles north of Walden, Colorado just off CO Hwy 125 just across the river to a road on the right marked "Route Access". The meeting place is a parking area about 1/2 mile down this road.

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

Closest Major Airports: Steamboat Springs (HDN) – 1 hour, Vail-Beaver Creek (EGE) – 2 hours, Denver (DIA) – 5 hours.

Meals Provided: 2 Delicious smorgasbord lunches along the river, a hearty dinner, dessert and a full breakfast.

Season: May – Late June

Itinerary: Itinerary: Come explore the North Platte River and Northgate Canyon Wilderness on a great multi-day trip and experience the fun of self-contained overnight camping by the river. Wilderness Aware has specialized in running multi-day rafting trips since 1976. This experience gives us the competitive edge when it comes to organizing your adventure. Come explore the North Platte River and Northgate Canyon Wilderness on a great full-day trip, far removed from the hustle of the more crowded full day rivers in Colorado. The North Platte River is one of the best-kept secrets in Colorado.

Northgate Canyon wilderness is a forested canyon featuring Douglas fir, Spruce and a variety of pine trees. The water boasts Gold Medal designation for its fishery and offers challenging Class III-IV whitewater. Close up views of majestic Bald Eagles only add to the exceptional beauty of this special place.

8:45 am: You will meet your guides at the Route Access where they will check you in and give you a pre-trip briefing. The guides will be available to help pack your gear (camp clothing, toiletries, sleeping bag and pad) in a watertight overnight bag. Everyone gets their very own souvenir insulated coffee mug to keep after the trip. Tents are packed away separately. Next, the guides will outfit you in a Coast Guard approved life jacket and paddle. 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.

9:30 am: You will have some mildwater time to practice before getting to the Class IV Windy Hole Rapid. This is a great warm up rapid for the more continuous whitewater section to come after lunch.

11:00 am: Depending on the nesting habits of the local bald eagles in this section, we may be able to stop and take a short, but very steep wildflower lined hike up to the remains of an Indian "wickiup". Dating from the 1800's, this teepee shaped log structure will remind you of the long history of human habitation we often forget about in our modern world.

12:00 pm: After our hike, you'll be ready for a well-deserved lunch break. Enjoy some tasty hors d'oeuvres while the guides prepare a hearty deli-style lunch.

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1:00 pm: After you have filled your belly, we're off to the whitewater maelstrom that include Cowpie, The Narrows, OFR, and Stovepipe. These rapids are steep with boulder choked channels requiring aggressive maneuvering.

3:00 pm: After the biggest rapids of the day we have the option to bring out the inflatable kayaks or "duckies". Paddled with a two bladed kayak paddle, the "ducky" allows you to take on the rapids individually. We have both one-person and two-person "duckies" available on our trips. After a short training demonstration by the trip leader and donning a helmet, you will be ready to take on the rapids of the North Platte.

4:00 pm: Once we arrive at our riverside campsite, we unload all the rafts and have an opportunity to change into camp clothes and set up tents. Guides will be on-hand to assist with setting up your camp. After a brief camp orientation where you'll become acquainted with the "Groover", our solid waste toilet system and the camp routine, you will be free to take out your fishing pole, enjoy a refreshing swim, or simply breathe the pine-scented mountain air.

7:00 pm: After playing, relaxing or taking a quick nap, the guides will have put on their chef's hats and will have happy hour snacks ready, and shortly afterward will have hot dinner ready for you. Some of the dinner entrees we offer are: Grilled Chicken, Steak and Salmon, Stir-Fry, Lasagna, and Enchiladas, followed up with a Dutch-oven cake. This is not pork-and-beans camping! After dinner you can relax with a cup of cocoa or tea beside the campfire under a blanket of stars playing cards, telling ghost stories, and re-living your adventures from the river.

Day 2 – 7:00 am: In the morning, you'll wake up to the aroma of freshly brewed "Cowboy" coffee delivered to the door of your tent. When you get up, you'll see that camp is nearly in full swing and an array of fresh fruit, juice and other goodies available for you to nibble on. The smell of bacon in the air tells you breakfast is nearly ready. Our breakfast entrees may include blueberry pancakes, French toast, or Veggie eggs. After you eat, it's time to pack up your tent and overnight bags and re-load the rafts for the day's river adventure.

9:00 am: The second day of the North Platte offers magnificent scenery. Several nesting sites of Bald Eagles can be seen just feet from the water's edge. There is plenty of opportunity for fishing and swimming alongside the rafts. After lunch, the canyon walls recede, and the river grows from several large tributaries. We emerge from the mountains and enter the rolling hill country and remote ranch country of southern Wyoming. With a larger and milder river, it is excellent time to try out a "ducky" excursion for those who would not be comfortable in bigger rapids.

3:00 pm: After arriving at Bennett Peak Access, we will change clothes and load up our gear before driving back to Route Access.

4:30 pm: It's time to unpack your bags and say good-bye to new found friends and reflect on this rapid-filled wilderness canyon trip. You may also choose to remember your trip with a T-shirt, hat or small souvenir. There is no better way to spend 2 days!