

# KERN RIVER OUTFITTERS

Sequoia National Forest

## Lower Kern One-Day “The Big Five” Trip

Just a few hours from Los Angeles, the Lower Kern is a superb rafting adventure. Our one-day trip originates at our camp and flows southwest through a gorge forested with willows, cottonwood, sycamore, and alder. Over the course of the day we run some of the Lower Kern’s most famous rapids. After portaging the Royal Flush, we take a break early in the afternoon for a hearty lunch and gear up for a series of Class IV rapids called “The Big Five”. The rapids come close together and we end our day navigating Pinball ... an intricate, demanding rapid. At Democrat Beach our trip ends and our bus will take you back to Wofford Heights.

**MEETING TIME AND PLACE: 8:00 AM AT OUR RAFTING CENTER IN WOFFORD HEIGHTS. OUR PHONE NUMBER THERE IS 1-760-376-1455. RESERVATIONS OFFICE 1-800-323-4234.**

### DIRECTIONS

From Southern California, leave the Los Angeles Basin by Interstate 5 North. Descend the Grapevine Grade and take Highway 99 North to Bakersfield. Take the Lake Isabella / Highway 178 East exit and follow 178 up to the town of Lake Isabella. At Lake Isabella, take Highway 155 North towards Kernville. Wofford Heights is mid-way between Lake Isabella and Kernville. **Our temporary Rafting Center for 2010 is located at 6643 Wofford Heights Blvd (at the intersection of Woodland Drive).**

Park your car at the back of the building and register inside. Although our parking lot is on private property, it is near a busy road. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle and make sure it is securely locked. No overnight camping is allowed at our parking area.

### ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE AREA

There are numerous campgrounds on Route 155 by Lake Isabella and along the river north of Kernville. For motels, we recommend:

The Kern Lodge  
67 Valley View  
Kernville, CA 93238  
1-800-924-8817

Kernville Inn  
11042 Kernville Rd  
Kernville, CA 93238  
1-877-393-7900

Falling Waters River Resort  
15729 Sierra Way  
Kernville, CA 93238  
1-888-376-2242

### WHAT TO BRING

River attire is casual. Sneakers are a must. Plan to get wet and bring a change of clothing. We recommend:

- Sneakers, or river shoes/sandals with ankle strap (wool socks or wetsuit booties in cold weather)
- windbreaker
- sun block
- lip balm
- wool or fleece sweater (in cold weather)
- visor or hat
- sunglasses
- strap to secure sunglasses
- water bottle
- swimsuit or shorts

Please do not bring radios, firearms, pets, or valuables. Sun-sensitive persons should bring a hat and lightweight long-sleeve shirt. On certain early season trips when water and weather conditions dictate, we may require all passengers to wear wetsuits. If needed, wetsuits can be rented at our Wofford Heights Rafting Center the morning of your trip.

### LUNCH

We take a break early in the afternoon for a delicious, riverside, deli-style lunch.

### AGE LIMITS

The minimum age on our Lower Kern trips is nine years old (twelve during high water). This age limit is in place for the safety of your child, the safety of our other guests, and our guides.

### ALCOHOL

Please do not bring alcohol on your trip.

## **EQUIPMENT**

We furnish rugged inflatable rafts, 12 to 16 feet in length. We provide life vests, first aid, and safety supplies. Do not bring your own lifevest. Our lifevests are approved for rafting and we require that they be worn by guests. On most trips, the majority of passengers ride in paddleboats. A paddleboat is piloted by a guide, assisted by four to six passengers.

## **HELMETS**

Safety helmets are available at no additional charge to guests joining us on any stretch of river that we run. Helmets are **REQUIRED** for all trips we run except the Lickety Split stretch on the Upper Kern. Clients expressly assume all risks associated with their refusal to use or properly use helmets.

## **GUIDES**

Our guides are experienced, skilled whitewater boaters. They are knowledgeable about canyon ecology and natural history. Should the need arise they are trained to administer First Aid. Guides can also provide information on organizations that work to preserve and protect rivers and river canyons.

## **PHOTOS OF YOUR TRIP**

Kern River Outfitters will be on the river to capture your day of fun and excitement. A skilled photographer will take snapshots of you and your group as you travel down the Kern River. CD's will be available for purchase at the conclusion of your trip containing all of the photos of your raft or, if you prefer, all of the photos taken of the entire trip.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Trip participants should understand that river trips involve known and unknown risks. Kern River Outfitters assumes no responsibility for injuries, death, or loss/damage to client's property while on the river. All clients must sign a Release and Waiver Agreement expressly acknowledging these points. Kern River Outfitters assumes no responsibility for vehicles and/or the contents of vehicles parked during the trip. Because of the risks associated with river trips, including personal injury, death, property loss or damage, or financial loss in the event of trip cancellation, we urge all trip participants to supplement their own insurance with vacation insurance.

## **YOUR HEALTH**

Our Kern River trips are fun, fast, and challenging. To participate, you should be in good health. You may also need to perform certain physical activities. These include: basic swimming, hiking in rugged or uneven terrain, climbing in and out of rafts, and assisting in your rescue, if that becomes necessary. Please let us know when you return your Release Agreement if you have any health or dietary restrictions. We will gladly accommodate reasonable dietary restrictions with advanced notice.

## **PERFORMANCE**

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for paying expenses other than refunding all or part of the fees paid to Kern River Outfitters. Determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details. Guides and other personnel employed by Kern River Outfitters are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or trip credits. Such determinations can be only be made by company officers.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

If you must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under stringent federal regulations which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. We incur substantial expenses before each trip departs. In the event of late cancellations, Kern River Outfitters cannot recover costs, nor can we make refunds. **Written** cancellation notice received more than 30 days prior to departure will result in a refund of trip fees less \$50 per person. **Cancellations within 30 days of a trip are nonrefundable.** If you must cancel at the last minute, and do not have vacation insurance, try to find a friend to take your place.

## **TIPPING**

Guests sometimes ask whether gratuities are appropriate. If you enjoyed your trip, please feel free to leave a tip with the Trip Leader. Guests typically leave 10% - 15% of the trip cost. Gratuities will be shared among all the guides on the trip.

## **PERMITS**

Our trips are conducted under a permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest. Our permit is your assurance that Kern River Outfitters is legally operating on the river. Our operations and facilities are operated on a nondiscriminatory basis.

## **RAFTING VACATIONS IN IDAHO & OREGON**

Our sister company, Idaho & Oregon River Journeys, offers 6 day trips down the Middle Fork and Main Salmon rivers in Idaho and 4 day trips on the Rogue River in Southern Oregon. For more information on our Idaho and Oregon trips visit [www.IdahoRiverJourneys.com](http://www.IdahoRiverJourneys.com) or [www.RogueRiverTrips.com](http://www.RogueRiverTrips.com).

