



Sequoia National Forest

LOWER KERN TWO-DAY TRIPS

Just a few hours from Los Angeles, the Lower Kern is a superb rafting challenge. Our two-day trip originates below Lake Isabella and ends at Democrat Beach, a distance of 20 miles. The river flows southwest through a gorge forested with willows, cottonwood, sycamore and alder. Our trip starts at a leisurely pace then quickens as the canyon steepens. Both days feature stretches of Class III and IV rapids.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: 9:30 AM AT OUR RAFTING CENTER IN WOFFORD HEIGHTS. OUR PHONE NUMBER THERE IS (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 Rafting Center is a tan building on the right at 6602 Wofford Heights Blvd (at the intersection of Evans Road.)

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.

TRIP DETAILS

From our meeting place, we'll take you by bus to the river. Because our on-river campsite is accessible by road, it isn't necessary to carry overnight gear on the rafts. During the day, you'll probably want to carry sunscreen, a hat and perhaps a light jacket.

Before getting on the rafts, our Trip Manager will discuss the trip and answer last minute questions. Guides will be introduced and passengers instructed on paddling technique, safety and general procedures.

For the first few miles the Kern is gentle and ideal for practicing the skills we'll need to navigate the rapids downstream. By the time we stop for lunch, you'll be familiar with rafting techniques and quite comfortable. After lunch the rapids get bigger and your new skills will be tested. Our campsite is just below Powerful Possum, a Class IV rapid that is one of the biggest on the Lower Kern.

We usually arrive at camp around 4:00 P.M. Your overnight gear will be there and the guides will help you select a campsite. Snacks and cold drinks will be available shortly after arrival. Before dinner, hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Our second day begins with a hearty breakfast. Afterwards, personal gear is repacked, the camp cleaned up, and we're ready for another river day. After portaging Royal Flush, we stop for 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 we end our trip. Our bus will take you back to Wofford Heights, about a 30 minute ride. We usually arrive there by 5:00 P.M. The trailer with your personal gear will be at our rafting center.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE AREA

If you plan to stay in the area before or after your trip, we suggest:

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
15729 Sierra Way
Kernville, CA 93238
1-888-376-2242

WHAT TO BRING

The Kern Valley is hot and dry in the summer months. A light change of clothes and a sweatshirt are usually sufficient for camp. Tents are usually not necessary for comfortable sleeping, although you are welcome to bring one. Baseball caps or other secure hats are recommended, especially for fair-skinned persons. **While on river, please wear sneakers or river sandals to protect your feet.** Please pack your gear in duffel bags or other soft luggage. It is often colder early in the season (April, May & early June) and you'll want to bring warmer clothing and a tent for those trips.

For your convenience, we have sleeping bags and tents available for rent. They should be reserved at least a week before your trip date.

- Sleeping bag or bedding
- Sunscreen
- Sneakers to wear in boat
- Sunglasses
- Strap to secure sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Small flashlight
- Swimsuit or shorts
- Lip balm
- Sneakers or shoes for camp
- Baseball cap or visor
- Towel

Optional:

- Fishing Rod
- Beverages (in unbreakable containers)
- Guitar or musical instrument

Please do not bring lawn chairs, lanterns, large tents, large coolers, radios, firearms, pets, valuables or personal lifevests. Our lifevests are approved for rafting and we require that they be worn.

WETSUITS

For most of the summer, weather in the Kern region is very warm and sunny and you'll be comfortable wearing light clothing. For early season trips, we sometimes require wetsuits. They can be rented at our rafting center the morning of your trip.

PADDLING THE RIVER

On our Lower Kern trips, we run virtually all paddle rafts. These are exciting, participatory boats in which four to eight guests and a guide work as a team to maneuver the raft through the rapids. Paddling requires physical effort and is sometimes strenuous.

If you would prefer to ride in an oarboat (a raft rowed by a guide without guest assistance), call our office and we will try to accommodate you.

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 our Class V trips and are strongly recommended on all stretches of the Kern, when rafting on water flows below 1,000 cubic feet per second. Clients expressly assume all risks associated with their refusal to use or properly use helmets or other safety equipment.

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.

MEALS

All on-river meals are provided beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last day. The food is fresh and hearty and our guides will prepare it for you. We can accommodate special diets with advance notice. We welcome your participation in helping to set up camp, prepare meals, etc. Please feel free to participate in trip work, as much, or as little, as you would like.

ALCOHOL

If you bring alcohol on your trip, we ask that you drink in moderation and only while in camp in the evening. Consumption of alcohol is prohibited while rafting or prior to rafting for your safety and for the safety of your fellow guests and our guides.

AGE LIMITS

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

CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

To protect the river, we carry out all trash and use no soap in the river. The guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact of our group on the canyon.

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.

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.

Please read and provide the personal information requested on our Participant Agreement and return it to our office well before your trip.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend you supplement personal insurance with travel insurance. Policies which include accident, cancellation, and baggage protection are available through our office, as well as most travel agents. Cancellation initiated by you may result in substantial loss of fees paid. Available insurance protects against the loss of deposits in the event you must cancel because of unforeseen circumstances.

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. Cancellation notice must be made in writing. **Written** cancellation notice received more than 30 days prior to departure will result in a refund of trip fees less \$100 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.

RESERVATION CHANGES

A transfer fee is charged for changes in trip dates or rivers beginning the change is made within 60 days prior to the original trip date. The fee is \$20.00 per person. No changes are permitted within three weeks of a trip.

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 only be made by company officers.

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 permit issued by the U.S. National 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.

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.

RAFTING VACATIONS IN IDAHO & OREGON

Through our other company, Idaho & Oregon River Journeys, we have 6 day trips down the Middle Fork and Salmon rivers in Idaho and 4 day trips on the Rogue River in Southern Oregon. For more information on our Idaho trips visit www.IdahoRiverJourneys.com and for the Rogue, www.RogueRiverTrips.com.