

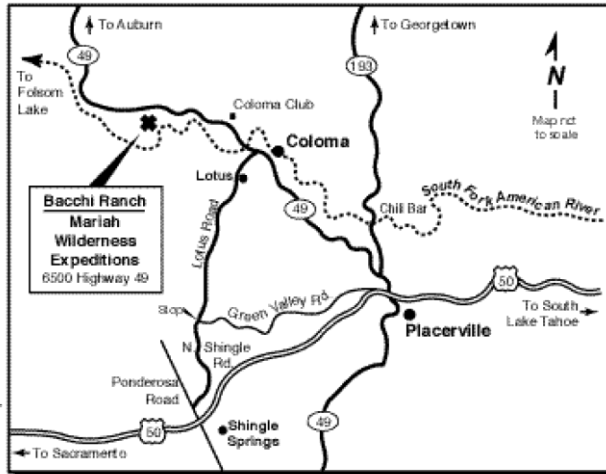
# Mariah Wilderness Expeditions

## South/Middle Fork American River

### Two-Day Combo Trip – Meet Mariah Camp

**Class II-IV: Medium Intensity Whitewater–29 Miles**

*Welcome to Mariah Wilderness Expeditions!*



#### **MEETING TIME AND PLACE**

**We meet you at 10:00** the morning of your trip at the Mariah Wilderness Expeditions BASE CAMP.in Coloma.

**The address is 6500 State Hwy 49, Coloma, CA 95613.** After you park your car in the Mariah parking lot, walk down the footpath to the kitchen where a Mariah staff-person will greet you, welcome you to Mariah, and give you any necessary instructions.

**PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON YOUR GPS OR YOU MAY END UP IN YOSEMITE.**

#### **TRIP HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **First Day – South Fork – Class III**

- Exciting Whitewater perfect for the first-time rafter, that gives you the opportunity to warm up for day two.. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, camping.

##### **Second Day – Middle Fork – Class II-IV**

- Exciting Whitewater and perfect for the adventuresome first-time rafter as well as a great step-up for the experienced paddler
- The famous Class V Tunnel Chute, an exciting, adrenaline-rush whitewater ride
- Seventeen miles of river with many Class II, II and IV fun rapids, plus the Tunnel Chute rapid
- Legendary Gold Rush river with visible mining sites along the riverbank, 1000' cliffs and beautiful scenery

- Time to savor the remote wilderness canyon as we paddle through peaceful stretches
- A delightful riverside lunch as we relax and enjoy the quite of the day
  - At the end of the day you will be driven back to the South Fork basecamp, a 40-minute drive, where your cars are.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

**FROM SACRAMENTO** (driving time approximately 1 hour): proceed east on Hwy 50 toward South Lake Tahoe.

At approximately 35 miles look for the Shingle Springs-Ponderosa Road off-ramp (exit 37). At the stop light turn left over the freeway.

After crossing the freeway make an immediate right hand turn at the stop light onto North Shingle Rd. Proceed on North Shingle Rd (it turns into Lotus Road at about mile 5) for about 11.5 miles until it dead ends at Hwy 49. Turn left onto Highway 49 (Coloma Rd) and proceed about 2 miles to 6500 Hwy 49 (Coloma Rd). There will be a big Mariah Wilderness Expeditions sign.

Make a left turn and follow the hard-packed dirt road that curves gently to the right. You will see the big “Welcome Mariah Wilderness Expeditions” sign. Park your car and walk down the main path to the kitchen where you will check in with your guides.

**FROM AUBURN** (driving time approximately 45 minutes): proceed west on Hwy 80 to Auburn. Take Highway 49 south toward Coloma/Placerville. You will have a beautiful drive down into a deep canyon and then up the canyon, through the town of Cool and the hamlet of Pilot Hill. Drive about 16 miles and look for the 6500 Hwy 49 (Coloma Rd) sign that will be on the right hand side of the highway. If you enter the town of Coloma then you have driven about 2 miles too far so turn around. Once you make the right hand turn, follow the directions to the camp above.

**FROM SOUTH LAKE TAHOE** (Drive time: about 2-3 hours, depending on where at South Lake Tahoe you are. Traffic on the mountain roads can be slow. Check MapQuest): proceed west on Hwy 50 to Placerville. Turn right at Spring Street/Hwy 49 toward Coloma. Spring Street turns into Hwy 49. Drive about 8 miles into Coloma. Continue on Hwy 49 driving over the bridge, past the Shell gas station on the right, and keep going to 6500 Hwy 49 (Coloma Rd). Follow the directions above.

## **WHAT TO BRING:**

–During warm summer months Mid-June through September

### **FOR ON-RIVER**

- Shorts/swim suit
- Tennis shoes (old) or river sandals (no flip flops or bare feet allowed!) Mariah rents booties for \$3/pair.
- Sunglasses with tie-on
- T-shirt or long-sleeve shirt (sun protect)
- Hat/Visor with tie-on.

Note: If you will be wearing a helmet you will want to wear a baseball style hat or visor to wear under the helmet to screen you from the sun.

- Sunscreen - carry in shorts' pocket

### **–Add for cool weather months May to Mid-June**

- Wet suit, booties - Available to rent for small fee. Call office to reserve. Underneath your wetsuit you can wear shorts, bathing suit, or polypro or silk underwear.
- Wool/polypro socks to wear under the booties, hat, gloves
- Wool or fleece shirt/sweater
- Windbreaker or light rain jacket
- On cool days we'll have a dry bag in each boat for an extra wool or fleece top

### **IN CAMP WHEN OVERNIGHTING**

- Dry shoes & socks, flashlight
- Sleeping bag and tent. Tent is available to rent from Mariah. Call office to reserve.
- Sweater or jacket
- Ground cloth, pad or air mattress
- Comfortable clothes for camp
- Toiletries, soap, shampoo, toothbrush & paste plus medications, towel and washcloth

### **OPTIONAL**

- Clean set of clothes to leave in your car for the drive home
- Fishing gear with license, books, games
- Bring your favorite beverages for dinner, i.e. wine, beer, soft drinks. On overnight trips we serve a small amount of wine during hors d'oeuvres plus fruit juice and fresh water. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate are served with dessert.

### **GRATUITIES & More**

We are frequently asked if it is customary to tip the guides. Our guides' goal is to provide you with a fun and safe river trip. The guides do not expect a tip. However, they enjoy a token of your appreciation for a job especially well done. A popular gesture seems to be for each crew of rafters to present their guide with around \$10 per rafter at the end of your trip.

**PLEASE, NO PETS, NO FIREARMS. We do not have electricity in camp.**

## **PLACES TO STAY THE NIGHT BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR TRIP:**

Enjoy strolling main street Placerville (historic gold discovery town).

–Placerville, places to stay include:

- Best Western at 530-622-9100
- Historic Cary House Hotel, 530-622-4271
- Historic Shafsky House Bed & Breakfast 530-642-2776

–Coloma, places to stay include:

- The Sierra Nevada House (530-626-8096)
- The Coloma Country Inn (530-622-6919)

—Call the El Dorado County Visitors Authority at 887-588-4386 to obtain a listing of all the local hotels and bed & breakfasts.

–Georgetown, places to stay include:

- American River Inn (800-245-6566)

### **CAMPING**

- American River Resort (530-622-6700)
- Camp Lotus (530-622-8672)
- Ask us about camping at Mariah Campground

## **FOR YOUR SAFETY**

Mariah Wilderness Expeditions has an excellent record of providing safe and fun river adventures. While most of our trips are not strenuous, they can be a dramatic change in routine and do involve some risk. We take many safety precautions and ask you to respond to our safety requirements:

- It is your responsibility to select a river trip appropriate to your abilities and physical condition. Please call to discuss any concerns that you may have.
- Please consult your doctor and discuss with us in advance any medical conditions that would restrict your full participation. Our meals are planned to naturally respond to vegetarian requests.
- Our life jackets will fit a maximum chest size of 52 inches and weight of 280 lbs.
- You will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk and Liability Release before your trip begins.



AN UNFORGETTABLE  
OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE  
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