

MARIAH WILDERNESS EXPEDITIONS

SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER ONE-DAY TRIP, THE GORGE

Class III: Low-Medium Intensity Whitewater—11 Miles

Welcome to Mariah Wilderness Expeditions!

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- The South Fork of the American River is the BEST California river for the first-time rafter as well as experienced paddlers, families, groups of friends, company team building outings, and youth.
- * Get your feet wet on about 11 miles of the lower half of the South Fork, and about 3-3.5 hrs of rafting.
- * Our riverside campground has a camp store which provides last minute items you may have forgotten. You may find t-shirts, shorts, waterproof cameras, caps, and sunscreen.
- * Mariah has top quality guides who are skilled and provide a safe and fun outdoor adventure.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE

We will meet you at **9:30 AM** at 6500 Hwy 49 (Coloma Rd), Lotus, CA 95651. We will meet you in the Mariah Campground kitchen where you will check in with your guide. Please be on time; if you are late and your shuttle has already gone then you will have missed your trip and there will be no refund nor credit.

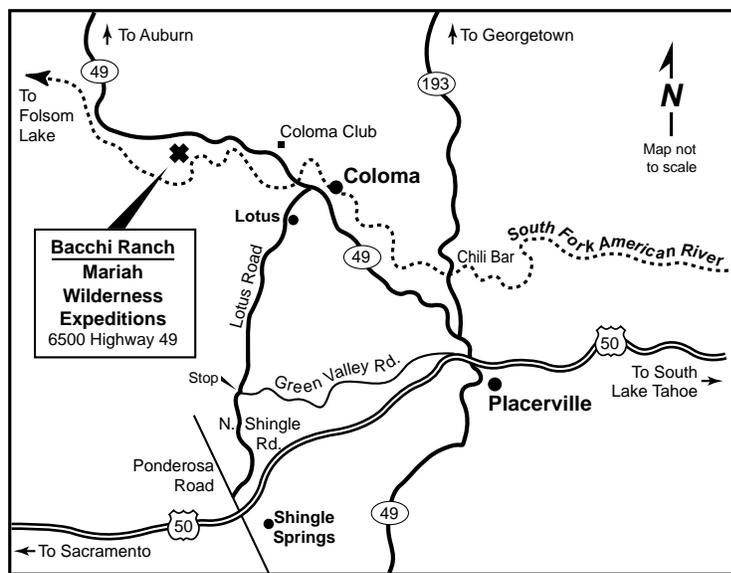
Remember to wear shoes that are secure on your feet such as a pair of old tennis shoes, water shoes, or sandals that will stay on your feet if you decide to go for a swim. Bring a water bottle which the guides can refill throughout the day.

DIRECTIONS

FROM SACRAMENTO: 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 for about 11.5 miles until it dead ends at Hwy 49. Turn left on 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 around a right-hand curved road. 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. Driving time Approx. 1 hour.

FROM AUBURN: 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 which 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. Driving time approximately 45 minutes.

FROM SOUTH LAKE TAHOE: 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. Drive time: 3 hrs.



WHAT TO BRING

FOR ON-RIVER

- Shorts (quick drying), swimsuit
- T-shirt for sun protection
- Tennis shoes or sandals secure on feet
- Hat or visor
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, chums, water

ADD FOR COOL WEATHER

MAY TO MID-JUNE

- **Wet suit, booties - Available to rent**
Call office to reserve: **\$10 per day**
- Wool/polypro socks, hat, gloves
- Wool or fleece shirt/sweater
- Windbreaker or light rain jacket

COME DRESSED READY FOR THE RIVER

- You may bring a jacket or sweatshirt to wear on the way to put-in
- On cool days we'll have a dry bag in each boat for an extra wool or fleece top
- We'll have your reserved wetsuit with us; wear it over your shorts, bathing suit, or polypro underwear

PLACES TO STAY THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Combine your raft trip with an overnight stay in one of several wonderful hotels and bed & breakfast accommodations.

Enjoy strolling main street Placerville (historic gold discovery settlement), antiquing and visiting specialty gift shops.

Placerville, places to stay include:

- Best Western at 530-622-9100, and the
- 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

PHOTOS & GRATUITIES

At the end of the trip, you will have the chance to view and purchase photos of your paddle boat running the rapids. 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 to present their guide with around \$10 per rafter at the end of your trip.

PLEASE, NO PETS, NO FIREARMS NOR FIRECRACKERS. We do not have electricity in camp. FOR OVERNIGHT: Bring a flashlight, lantern, bug spray.

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.

CANCELLATION & REFUND

Due to our limited trip sizes, we turn away others once your reservation has been submitted. If you must cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. Upon receipt of written notice 31 days or more prior to your launch date, you will receive a full refund less your per person deposit. Any cancellation made within 30 days of the trip will not be eligible for a refund. You may, however, substitute another person without penalty.

We reserve the right to cancel a trip due to weather, water conditions, or other good cause beyond our control. Should this occur, your trip fees will be fully credited towards another trip. All refunds and credits shall be limited to amounts actually paid to Mariah Wilderness Expeditions.


MARIAH
WILDERNESS
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