

MERCED RIVER TRIP INFORMATION - INDIAN FLAT RV PARK MEETING SPOT

Welcome to ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS and the MERCED RIVER! Although the churning waters of the Merced River do not look particularly "merciful" to today's rafters, it was a different story in 1806, when Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga and his men named the river "Nuestra Senora de La Merced" (Our Lady of Mercy).

The following detailed information and maps are designed to give you a smooth and enjoyable whitewater vacation. If you have any questions about any of the following information, feel free to give our office a call. **During periods of high water or inclement weather, it is advisable to call our office to check in 2 days before your trip.**

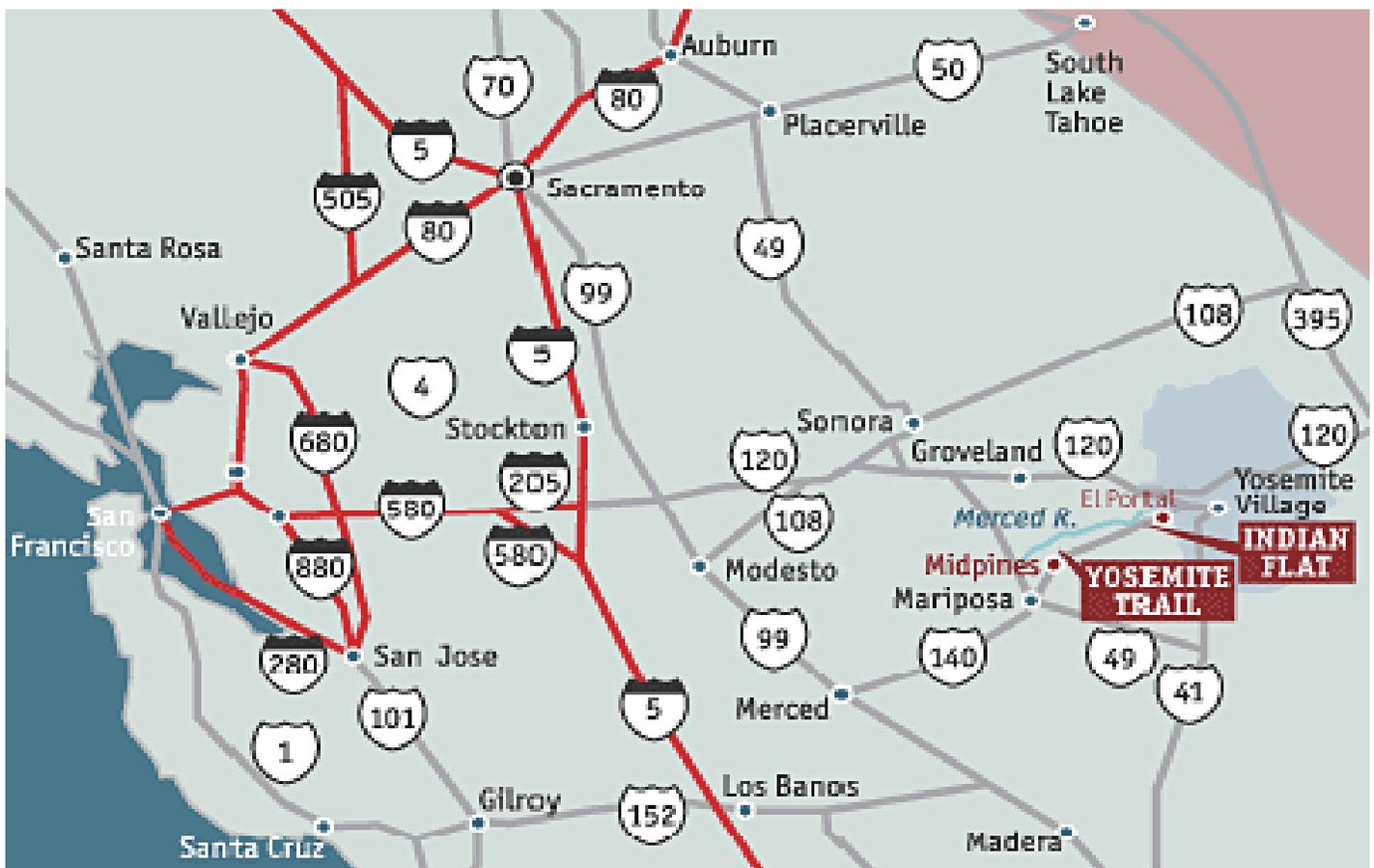
MEETING TIME AND PLACE: The morning of your trip at **INDIAN FLAT RV PARK/CAMPGROUND**

Half Day Trips - meet at 8:30 A.M and 2:00 P.M. **1-Day Trips** - meet at 10:00 A.M. **2-Day Trips** - meet at 9:00 A.M.

DIRECTIONS: Our meeting spot is INDIAN FLAT RV PARK, located on Hwy 140, 5 miles west of El Portal. From Mariposa drive 23 miles east on Hwy 140 and look for the RV Park on your right. Please meet us at the east end of the RV Park. (Look for our office and sign.) Your car will be parked here for the duration of the trip and we will transport you to and from the river.

From the San Francisco Bay Area or Sacramento (driving time approximately 3 hours), drive to Manteca which is at the intersection of Hwys 99 and 108/120. From Manteca go south on Hwy 99 to Merced. At Merced take the Hwy 140 exit and go east toward Yosemite to Mariposa. Then follow the directions above.

From Southern California (driving time approximately 6.5 hours from Los Angeles) drive north on Hwy 99 toward Merced. About 11 miles south of Merced, take the cut off to Planada. Turn east on 140 to Mariposa. Then follow the directions above to our meeting place.



MEALS: One day trips include a full lunch served on the river, as well as cold beverages at the end of the day. Two-day trips include 4 meals starting with lunch on day one and ending with lunch on day two. We do offer wine with dinner and cold beer and soda at camp. No alcohol of any kind is allowed during the day. **Please bring a water bottle with you on the raft.**

WET SUITS: For trips through late June or so (depending on winter snow pack), wet-suits are a must. During the spring, the water is high and cold, and we want you to be comfortable. **Wet-suits are provided by Zephyr.** NOTE: We no longer provide booties, as our self-bailing rafts keep your feet out of the water most of the time. You should bring along tennis shoes and wool socks, or water socks to wear on the river. A nylon swimsuit (or other thin material suit) should be worn underneath the wet-suit.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: For low cost travelers insurance, call (800) 937-1387 or (925) 932-1387. Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, PST

WHAT TO BRING.....

For on the river:

- Shorts/swimsuit
- T-Shirt or long sleeve shirt
(for sun protection)
- Tennis shoes/Sport sandals with heel strap
(required to be worn the boats) **No flip-flops**
- Wool socks
(when wet, wool keeps your feet warm)
- Sunglasses with tie-on
- Baseball-style hat with brim
(to wear underneath your helmet)
- Sun-tan lotion
- Light unlined nylon parka
- Water Bottle

For camp:

- Extra shoes and socks
- Sweater or jacket
- Sleeping bag (*Warm bags for May and ~June, and summer bags for July on*)
- Ground cloth/tarp
- Pad or air mattress
- Comfortable old clothes
- Towel
- Toiletries (*toothbrush, etc.*)
- Prescription medications if applicable
- Tent
- Mosquito repellent (*spring trips only*)
- Flashlight

Optional:

- Clean set of clothes
(left in your car for the ride home)
- Fishing gear with license
- Musical instruments (guitar in hard shell OK)
- Books, cards, games, etc.
- Rain jacket

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: We recommend arriving in the area the night before your trip.

MOTELS in the MARIPOSA and MIDPINES AREA:

Yosemite Bug Hostel & Lodge	(209) 966-6666	www.yosemitebug.com (unique accommodations with a great restaurant)
Mariposa Lodge	(209) 966-3607	(800) 966-8819
Mother Lode Lodge	(209) 966-2521	(800) 398-9770
Miners Inn Motel	(209) 742-7777	(888) 646-2244
Comfort Inn	(209) 966-4344	(800) 321-5261
Best Western	(209) 966-7545	(800) 321-5261
River Rock Inn	(209) 966-5793	(800) 627-8439
EC Lodge Yosemite	(209) 742-6800	

MOTELS in the EL PORTAL AREA (closest to our meeting place and to Yosemite Valley):

Cedar Lodge	(209) 379-2612	(800) 321-5261
Yosemite View Lodge	(209) 379-2681	(800) 321-5261
Yosemite Park Information	(209) 372-1000	

BED AND BREAKFAST INNS: For information on the many B & B's in the Mariposa area, call the Mariposa Bed & Breakfast Association at (209) 742-7666.

CAMPING: Camping is available at the **INDIAN FLAT RV PARK**. For reservations call (209) 379-2339. Additional camping is available at **KOA KAMPGROUNDS** in MIDPINES. Tent cabin rentals are also available at **YOSEMITE BUG HOSTEL IN MIDPINES**. For reservations, call (209) 966-6666. For reservations call (209) 966-2201. For campgrounds in **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** call (800) 436-7275.

HALF-DAY TRIP LOGISTICS: Our morning trips meet at 8:30 A.M. and return at about 1:00 P.M., and our afternoon trips meet at 2:00 P.M. and return at about 6:00 P.M. Your head guide will meet you at our staging area next to the Indian Flat campground. After a brief orientation talk, wet-suits will be passed out (if needed), and we will board our bus for a short drive to put-in. We will raft 11 miles, ending at Briceburg where you will board our shuttle for the drive back to your car. **LUNCH IS NOT PROVIDED ON 1/2-day trips, only beverages.**

ONE-DAY TRIP LOGISTICS: Your head guide will meet you the morning of your trip at our staging area next to the Indian Flat campground. After a brief orientation talk, wet-suits will be passed out, gear stored and loaded in our bus, cars locked, and we will set out for a great day on the River. We will raft 16 miles, with a stop for lunch along the way. Depending on water levels (the higher the water, the faster the trip!) we will have you back to your vehicles between 3:30 and 5:30 in the afternoon.

TWO-DAY TRIP LOGISTICS: Same as for one-day trip logistics, except that when we reach the end of the first day, we are in the heart of the Merced River Canyon and near our overnight campsite. Our gear vehicle (which had been loaded with your overnight gear that morning) will meet the trip in the afternoon, and we will transfer all gear and food onto the rafts and float across river to our beautiful on river campsite. We will enjoy a wonderful evening meal prepared by our multi-talented guides/chefs and then bedtime. Breakfast will be served the next morning, and then depending on water levels, we will continue on downstream through Quarter Mile Rapid, portaging a waterfall, and ending the trip at Bagby. Or if water levels are high, we will float across river, load up in the bus, and drive upriver to put in at Redbud (one mile above where we launched the first day) and enjoy this great Class 4 section in addition to repeating the best of the whitewater of the first day. The trip will end at Briceburg on day 2, and you will be bussed back to your cars between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

HOW TO PACK (TWO-DAY TRIPS ONLY): Please have all your gear in a duffel or similar bag when your trip leader meets you in El Portal. Overnight gear will be trucked close to camp and then we will ferry it across the river to camp. Having all of your personal items in one large bag reduces the chance of loss, and makes it easier to handle. The gear that you pack in your duffel will not be accessible during the day. We suggest placing small items that you wish to use during the day (sunscreen, lip ointment), in a plastic ziplock bag which we can place in our day bag.

CAMERAS: If your camera is small and inexpensive, a large ziplock bag will give sufficient protection. More expensive cameras can be protected with a watertight inflatable "sports pouch" available at sports stores. Camera insurance is recommended.

TIPPING: We are frequently asked whether it is appropriate to tip guides. While our guides are well compensated for their skills, if you feel your trip was exceptional, or that your guide or guides went out of their way to make the quality of your experience a notch above the norm, tipping is a nice way of saying thank-you.

DRIVING TIMES

Los Angeles	6.5 hrs	(319 miles)
Bay Area	4 hrs	(195 miles)
Groveland	1.5 hrs	(49 miles)
Tenaya Lodge	1.5 hrs	(42 miles)
Mariposa	1 hr	(29 miles)
Yosemite Valley	40 min	(15 miles)

RESPONSIBILITY

In over 35 years of operation, ZEPHYR has maintained an excellent safety record. However, river trip(s) do involve risk, accidents can occur, and baggage can be lost. We assume no responsibility for injury to trip members, loss of personal baggage, damage to cameras or other equipment, or loss of time or expense incurred. All trip members are required to sign a liability release and assumption of risk form prior to trip departure.



ZEPHYR
WHITewater EXPEDITIONS

P.O. Box 510
 Columbia, CA 95310
 (209) 532-6249

IMPORTANT
PLEASE BRING TO THE RIVER
DO NOT RETURN BY FAX OR MAIL

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Information (please print or type)

Note: We update our mailing list from this form, so please print name, address and zip clearly.

TRIP/RIVER: Merced (El Portal) TRIP DATE: _____ GROUP ORGANIZER: _____

NAME: _____ Email: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CELL PHONE: () _____ AGE: _____ WEIGHT: _____ HEIGHT: _____

If a minor is listed, please provide the relationship of the person signing this document to the minor. _____

In case of emergency, please notify: _____

Name

Address

Phone

Medical Information

Please describe your general health: _____

Do you have any physical handicap which might affect your safety or health on the trip? Yes No

If yes, please explain _____

Allergies: to bee stings _____ to certain food _____ other _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Any other helpful medical information: _____

Do you carry any medical insurance? Yes No

If so, Insurance Company or Provider _____

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS AND THE NEXT PAGE
AND BRING WITH YOU TO THE RIVER

ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

This is a release. Read it carefully and sign below. This release essentially says that I know I am going on a whitewater rafting trip. If I die, get hurt, or damage my belongings, I will not make a claim, sue, or expect ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , its owners, operators, agents, employees, and associates to be legally responsible or pay for any damages.

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily chosen to go on this whitewater rafting trip with ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , I know and fully understand that a whitewater rafting trip, whether on a raft, an oar boat, a kayak, or any other type of vessel, is an outdoor adventure activity with inherent risks and hazards where serious accidents can occur, participants can die, sustain injuries, and property damage. I acknowledge and willingly assume all risks and hazards in whitewater rafting and river related camping, including but not limited to, loss of control of the raft, collision with other participants, rocks, trees, and any portion of the interior of the raft, other rafts, and any other manmade or natural obstacles, whether they are obvious or not; submersion in water, drowning, encounters with animals, wildlife and insects, exposure to extreme temperatures and inclement weather, wilderness terrain and unavailability of immediate medical attention in case of injury.

I further understand and acknowledge that ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , provides foot cups in some of its boats to assist participants in stabilizing themselves. Although foot cups assist participants from falling out of a boat, the use of foot cups may present an increased risk of knee, ankle, or other injuries because of their restrictive nature. Use of foot cups is totally voluntary. Finally, I understand that Class IV and V represent the most difficult and dangerous levels of whitewater and recognize that the risks associated with whitewater rafting are increased. ***My participation in this activity is purely voluntary and I elect to do so at my own risk.***

In consideration for ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , allowing me to participate on this trip, I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , and their owners, officers, agents, and employees for any and all claims of liability arising out of their negligence, recklessness, strict liability, breach of contract, or any other act or omission which causes the undersigned illness, injury, death, and damages of any nature in any way connected with my participation in this activity. I also expressly agree to release and discharge ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , their owners, officers, agents, and employees from any act or omission of negligence in rendering or failing to render any type of emergency or medical services. ***In signing this document, I fully recognize and understand that if I (or any minor on whose behalf I am signing this release) am hurt, die, or my property is damaged, I am giving up my right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , and all other parties and affiliates named herein even if they negligently or by some other act or omission cause the injury or damage.***

As parent or legal guardian of a participant under 18 years of age, I have read and voluntarily agree that said minor may participate in this whitewater rafting trip, and I sign this release on their behalf. In addition, I give ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , its agents, employees, and associates permission to treat said minor in case of illness, injury, emergency or accident. Should emergency medical services become necessary, for the undersigned participant or minor, the expenses are the sole responsibility of the participant and not that of ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS. Personal medical and travel insurance is strongly advised.

ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , reserves the right to accept or deny service to any person. I hereby agree to follow all rules, regulations, and instructions of ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS, while on this trip. I also certify that I and any minor on whose behalf I am signing, are physically and mentally capable of participating in these activities. I hereby agree that ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS , may use film or photographic records of this rafting trip for its promotional and/or commercial purpose.

The venue of any dispute that may arise out of this agreement or otherwise between the parties to which ZEPHYR WHITEWATER EXPEDITIONS, or its agents is a party shall be the Municipal Court or the County or State Superior Court in Tuolumne County.

I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM ASSUMING ALL THE RISKS INHERENT IN WHITEWATER RAFTING. I VOLUNTARILY SIGN MY NAME AS EVIDENCE OF MY ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE PROVISIONS. Please Print Clearly:

DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN (IF UNDER AGE OF 18) _____



TENT & SLEEPING PACK RENTALS

Tent and sleeping pack rentals are available on all Zephyr trips. This is great for the person who likes to travel light. We have limited quantities, so early reservations are recommended. Please call us at 1-800-431-3636 to verify availability of rentals before sending in your payment.

Sleeping packs include one sleeping bag with a sheet liner, therma-rest pad and ground cloth.

Platform Tent includes up to 6 inflatable ground pads. Available on Kings trips only.

PRICES FOR RENTALS

Sleeping packs are \$25.00 per person / per trip

4-Person dome tents are \$25.00 for 1 night or \$35.00 for 2 nights (each)

Platform Tent is \$60.00 for 1 night or \$75.00 for 2 nights (Kings trips only)

Inflatable Ground Pads are \$10.00 for 1 night or \$15.00 for 2 nights (each)

Yes, please reserve for me _____ sleeping pack(s)!

Yes, please reserve for me _____ four-person tent(s) for _____ night(s)!

Yes, please reserve for me _____ platform tent for _____ night(s)!

Yes, please reserve for me _____ inflatable ground pad(s) for _____ night(s)!

I have enclosed \$_____ for my rentals! I understand that full payment must be returned with this form in order to reserve camping gear.

RIVER _____ TRIP DATE _____

NAME _____ GROUP ORGANIZER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____