

WHITEWATER BOATING

Sierra National Forest



The Sierra National Forest offers a variety of river sports opportunities. Whitewater enthusiasts might consider a trip down the Kings River or the Merced Wild and Scenic River. Both rivers are very technical (Class III and IV) and suited for experienced boaters. You can organize your own trip, or arrange a trip with one of the commercial rafting companies authorized by the Forest Service. If taking a guided trip, be sure your Guide has a valid Special Use Permit, assuring a safe and authorized service.

The Kings River

The Kings River offers an enjoyable ten-mile rafting run with Class III and IV rapids. Rafting season is usually from late April to mid July depending on river runoff. The Kings River is a 1 ½ hour drive east of Fresno towards Pine Flat Reservoir via the Trimmer Springs Road. Continue on the Trimmer Springs Road until you reach Kirch Flat Campground, at the east end of Pine Flat Reservoir. Follow the road past the campground until you get to a metal bridge. After crossing the metal bridge, turn right on the Garnet Dike Road.

Put-Ins

Two put-ins are available on the Kings River, one at Winfrey Mine (seven miles up the Garnet Dike Road) and the other at Garnet Dike (eight miles up the Garnet Dike Road).

Rafting Permits

A rafting permit is not required for most private groups to raft the river. However, a special user permit may be required for some non-commercial guided trips and for large groups. Contact the **High Sierra Ranger Station** for more information.

Campgrounds

There are several **campgrounds** and **group campgrounds** in the area.

Also dispersed camping is permitted along the Garnet Dike Road. Dispersed camping does require a **campfire permit**. Camping at or near raft put-in points is prohibited during rafting season.

Rafting Companies

Several private rafting companies provide guided trips on the Kings River, they include:

- **Kings River Expeditions**
www.kingsriver.com
- **Whitewater Voyages**
www.whitewatervoyages.com/
- **Zephyr River Expeditions**
www.zrafting.com/

Rafting Trip Tips:

When the river is flowing at 10,000 or more cubic feet per second it is not recommended that your raft from the Garnet Dike put-in. To obtain river flow information contact (916) 368-8682.

For More Information contact:

High Sierra Ranger District
P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
(559) 855-5360
TDD (559) 855-5367



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
www.r5.fs.fed.us/

Sierra National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra

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Merced River

The Merced River provides excellent whitewater and Class III and IV rapids. Rafting season is usually from late April to August depending on river runoff. To get there take Hwy 41 north of Fresno to Oakhurst. At Oakhurst take Hwy 49 west to Mariposa. At Mariposa, take Hwy 140 north to the Merced River. The Merced River is a about ½ drive from Mariposa.

Put-Ins

Put-ins are available Redbud, Cranberry, Briceburg and Indian Flat. Take-outs are at Briceburg, McCabe Flat, Railroad Flat, and Bagby Reservoir. Portage is mandatory at North Fork Falls.

Rafting Permits

Permits are required, contact the Bureau of Land Management for information at (916) 985-4474.

Campgrounds

There are two campground, Dirt Flat and Dry Gulch that provide that provide overnight camping along the river. Dry Gulch does except reservations. Contact Reserve America at www.reserveamerica.com

Rafting Companies

Several private rafting companies provide guided trips on the Merced River, they include:

- **Ahwahnee Whitewater**
www.ahwahnee.com/
- **American River Recreation**
www.arrafting.com/
- **O.A.R.S. Inc.**
www.oars.com/htdocs/index.html
- **Whitewater Voyages**
www.whitewatervoyages.com/
- **All Outdoors Inc**
www.aorrafting.com/carivers.htm
- **Zephyr Whitewater Expeditions**
www.zrafting.com/
- **Arta**
www.arta.org/

Rafting Trip Tips:

To obtain river flow information contact (916) 368-8682.

For More Information contact:

Bass Lake Ranger District

57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
(559) 877-2218 ext 0

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