



SIERRA MAC RIVER TRIPS



WWW.SIERRAMAC.COM

(209) 591-8027

INFO@SIERRAMAC.COM

CHERRY CREEK / UPPER TUOLUMNE RIVER CHERRY POWERHOUSE TO MERAL'S POOL

MEETING TIME:

6:00am unless otherwise specified

MEETING PLACE:

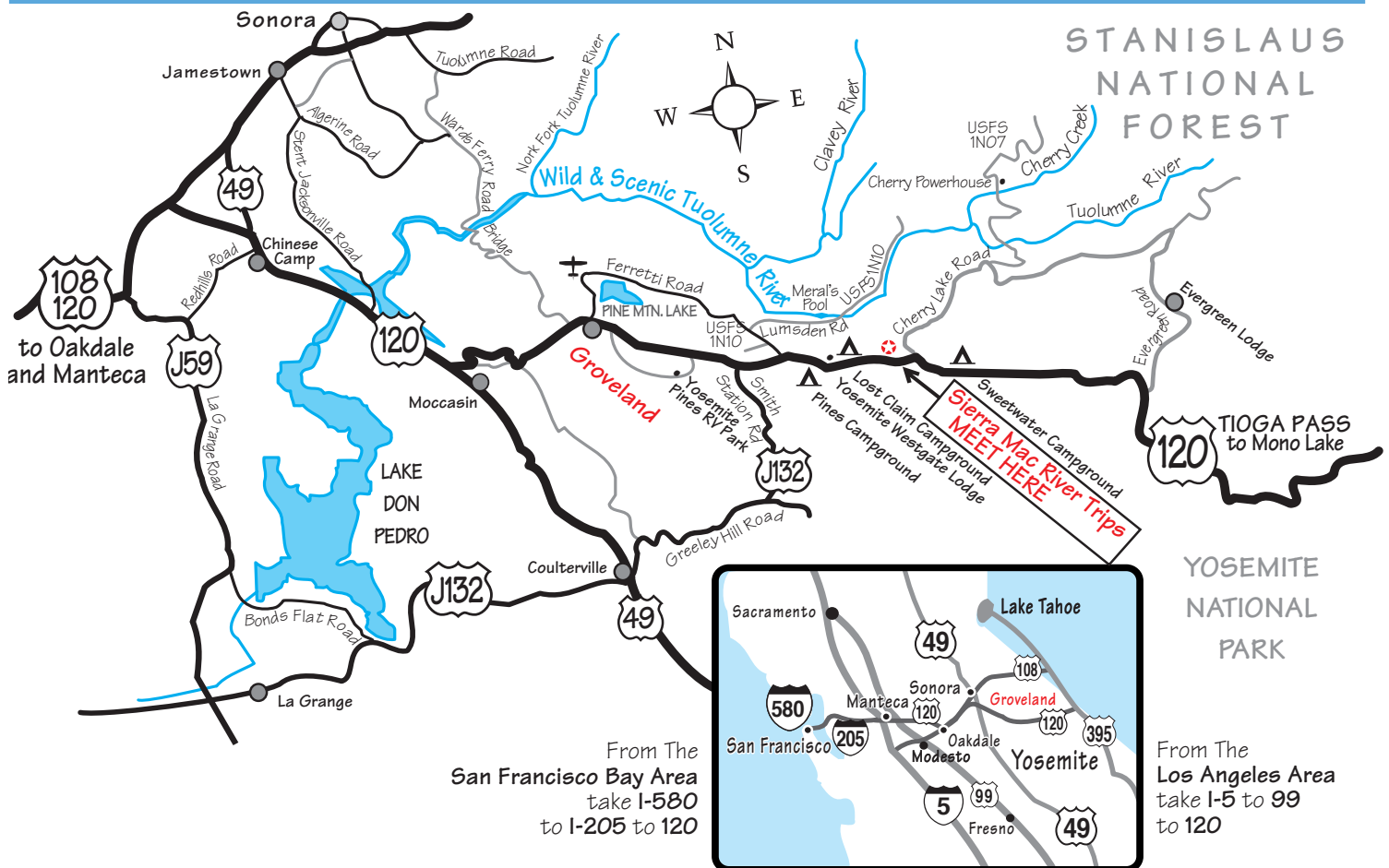
SIERRA MAC RIVER TRIPS HEADQUARTERS
27890 Highway 120, Buck Meadows, CA 95321

GETTING THERE: We meet in the parking lot of Sierra Mac Headquarters at 27890 Highway 120, 13 miles east of the town of Groveland. If coming from the west, after you pass Buck Meadows look for the Vista Point/Rim of the World overlook on your left, followed by Packard Canyon Road on your right. We are just beyond on the north (left) side of the road. If you are coming from the Yosemite area, we are about 1/2 mile beyond the Cherry Lake Road. Pay attention--our place comes up quickly!

Driving time from the Bay Area is about 3 1/2 hours; from Manteca, about 1 1/2 hours; from Los Angeles, about 7 hours; and from Yosemite's northwest entrance gate (Big Oak Flat), about 25 minutes. We can also arrange local pickups at the Pine Mountain Lake Airport for travelers arriving by private plane.

PLEASE NOTE

- If you will NOT be available by phone before your trip, contact our office at 209-591-8027 within 48 hours of meeting time to reconfirm logistics.
- Be on time or you may forfeit your trip! If you are late, call us ASAP at the above number. Cell phone coverage is spotty and unreliable along Highway 120. If you need to contact us you may have to stop and use a land line.
- Internet mapping systems (Google, MapQuest, GPS) incorrectly locate our meeting place and often direct travelers to take much longer and circuitous routes. Reconfirm driving directions with a standard map from AAA or other source.



Welcome to Class V, the ultimate challenge in white water rafting! Having pioneered commercial Class V river trips on the Cherry Creek/Upper Tuolumne and the classic Main Tuolumne, we at Sierra Mac are excited to share these thrilling adventures with you. It is important to realize that these trips are intense and demanding passenger participation experiences. A successful Class V run depends on you and your boat team.

DEPARTURE DAY LOGISTICS

The release schedule from upstream dams dictates our 6 am meeting time. It is imperative that you arrive on time to coincide with the perfect flow needed to successfully navigate this demanding run. At the parking lot, you will be met by your guides and fitted in a wetsuit, helmet and high flotation lifejacket. We will also provide a high calorie but light "power breakfast" before getting in our shuttle van and heading to the Cherry Creek launch point.

Please come dressed in your river attire. If you are on an overnight trip, have your gear ready for transfer into our waterproof bags. (See the section on Overnight Trips for more information.) These will meet you at the end of your Upper Tuolumne run and transferred to a cargo boat for the remainder of the trip.

We recommend leaving a hide-a-key on your vehicle while on the river. We have never had a problem with theft or break-ins but please take normal precautions.

TRAINING SEMINAR

After arriving at the river you will go through an intensive whitewater field course which includes training in swift-water swimming, boat navigation, paddling techniques, and safety procedures. If, in our opinion (or yours), you are not ready for this rigorous experience following the training seminar, you will be asked to return with the shuttle van. We do everything we can before the trip to screen potential paddlers and give them a clear picture of what this unique trip entails, but occasionally we do need to send people back. (In this case you will receive a 50% refund.)

TYPICAL SCHEDULE

We are usually on the river by 8am and finish the run with a delicious celebratory lunch around 1:30pm. High energy snacks and drinks are provided throughout the day. You are back at your car around 2:30pm. If you are on an overnight trip, your personal gear will meet you at the lunch spot and you will proceed to your campsite from there.

WHAT TO WEAR

Wetsuit and splash jacket (*provided by SMRT*)
Shorts and swimsuit (*under wetsuit*)
T-shirt
Tennis shoes (*sandals do not protect your feet*)
Ball cap
Sunglasses (*with security strap*)

ADDITIONAL COOL WEATHER CLOTHING

Wool, silk and synthetic layer (*to wear under wetsuit*)
Wool or neoprene socks
Wool or neoprene gloves
Wool or fleece hat

WHAT TO BRING

Water bottle
Sun block, lip balm, medications
(*packed in a plastic zip-lock bag*)
Camera (*waterproof models strongly advised*)

SANITATION/HYGIENE

Bathrooms are located at Sierra Mac Headquarters, the Cherry Creek launch site, and the Meral's Pool take-out. We carry a small portable toilet system for use during the day. Our guides will instruct you in appropriate hygiene procedures that minimize our impact on the river canyon.

WEATHER

During the summer you can expect hot days and warm nights. Spring and fall weather is generally mild but rain showers can occur at any time. During shoulder seasons, please bring suitable rain gear.

GRATUITIES

We are often asked if tipping is appropriate. Tips are certainly appreciated by our guides. Tips normally range from 5% to 10% of the trip cost. Whether and how much you tip should depend on your satisfaction with the trip, your feelings towards tipping and your financial means. At the end of the trip guests usually give their tip to the lead guide, who will split it equally among the crew.



OVERNIGHT TRIPS

For guests combining the Cherry Creek/Upper Tuolumne and Main Tuolumne runs

Pack light and compact. Each person will receive a 3.8 cubic foot dry bag for storing his or her belongings—about the size of a 30-gallon plastic trash bag.

WARM WEATHER RIVER ATTIRE

Wetsuit and splash jacket (*if needed provided by SMRT*)
Shorts and/or swimsuit (*under wetsuit*)
T-shirt
Tennis shoes or closed toe river shoes with good tread
Ball cap
Sunglasses (*with security cord*)

Passengers with extreme sun sensitivity may wish to wear quick-dry long pants and long-sleeved shirts.

COOL WEATHER RIVER ATTIRE

Wool, silk or synthetic layer under wetsuit
Wetsuit and splash jacket (*if needed provided by SMRT*)
Wool or neoprene socks
Tennis shoes or wetsuit booties
Wool or neoprene gloves
Wool or fleece hat

For warmth, layering wool or synthetic performance garments under a wetsuit and splash jacket is best. Avoid wearing sweats or cotton clothes of any kind on the raft—they never dry out and keep you cold.

CAMPING ATTIRE

Comfortable clothing
Underwear
Extra tennis shoes or sandals
Socks
Sweater or other warmie
Windbreaker

CAMPING GEAR (*rentals available*)

Sleeping bag
Air or foam mattress
Tarp
Tent (*optional*)

PERSONAL GEAR

Small towel
Toiletries
Flashlight and batteries (*one for each person – pack separately to prevent turning on in bag*)
Extra plastic zip-lock bags

DAY ITEMS

Water bottle
Sun block, lip balm, medications
(packed in a plastic zip-lock bag)
Camera (*waterproof models strongly advised*)

OPTIONAL

Rain jacket and pants
Fishing license and gear (*hard shell case*)
Snorkel mask
Bike gloves to protect hands while paddling
Small day pack or fanny pack
Reading material
Journal and pens
Cards or games

ALCOHOL

SMRT provides a modest amount of beer and wine at dinnertime. You are also welcome to bring your personal stash of favorite beverages of any kind. Give it to your guides the morning of the trip and they will pack it for you in the cargo boat. Note that there is no glass of any kind allowed except for wine bottles. Canned beer and liquor decanted into plastic or metal travel containers are acceptable. Consumption of alcohol is not permitted until arrival at camp.

CAMPFIRES

You are welcome to sit around and enjoy the fires built in the commissary area. Fires elsewhere are prohibited, and extreme caution with matches is imperative. No fires are permitted during fire closure seasons.



AREA INFORMATION

LODGING

Alpenglo Inn <i>bed and breakfast</i>	209-962-4541 www.alpenglo-inn.com
Century 21 Pleasant View Properties <i>condo and home rentals</i>	866-350-7372 www.c21pleasantview.com
Evergreen Lodge <i>rustic lodge, restaurant, bar</i>	800-935-6343 www.evergreenlodge.com
Groveland Hotel <i>historic inn, restaurant, bar</i>	800-273-3314 www.groveland.com
Hotel Charlotte <i>small historic hotel, restaurant</i>	800-961-7799 www.hotelcharlotte.com
Lillaskog B&B <i>best views of the Sierras</i>	209-962-1818 www.lillaskogyosemite.com
ReMax, Loreen Borup <i>condo and home rentals</i>	877-962-7180 www.yosemitgoldvacations.com
Yosemite Ridge Resort <i>cabins for 4 to 8, restaurant</i>	800-706-3009 www.yosemiteridge.com
Yosemite Rose <i>bed and breakfast</i>	866-962-6548 www.yosemiterose.com
Yosemite Westgate Lodge <i>modern, restaurant</i>	800-253-9673 www.yosemitewestgate.com

CAMPING

Yosemite Pines RV Park <i>RV rental, camping, pool, phone, showers and store</i>	877-962-7690
Pine Mountain Lake Campground <i>RV park and camping, showers</i>	209-962-8615

U.S. FOREST SERVICE CAMPGROUNDS:

East of Groveland, on Highway 120 in the Buck Meadows area near the meeting place, are U.S. Forest Service campgrounds *Pines, Lost Claim and Sweetwater*. They do not take reservations; information is available from the U.S. Forest Service office in Groveland at 209-962-7825.

RESTAURANTS & SERVICES

Buck Meadows Bar & Restaurant	209-962-5181
Buck Meadows General Store & Gas	209-962-7690
Cocina Michoacana, Groveland	209-962-6651
Groveland Hotel <i>fresh seasonal California cuisine</i>	209 962-4000
Hotel Charlotte, Groveland	209-962-6455
Iron Door Bar & Grill, Groveland	209-962-6244
Mountain Sage, Groveland <i>café, nursery, outdoor gear</i>	209-962-7455

OTHER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Yosemite National Park
- Tioga Pass on Highway 120
- Hetch Hetchy Reservoir
- Columbia State Historic Park
- Railtown State Historic Park, Jamestown
- Calaveras Big Trees State Park

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Yosemite Reservations	559-252-4848
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce <i>www.groveland.org</i>	800-449-9120
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau <i>www.yosemitgoldcountry.org</i>	209-533-4420

