



# SIERRA MAC

## RIVER TRIPS



WWW.SIERRAMAC.COM

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### MAIN TUOLUMNE RIVER

18 MILES • MERAL'S POOL TO WARD'S FERRY

#### MEETING TIME:

8:30am unless otherwise specified

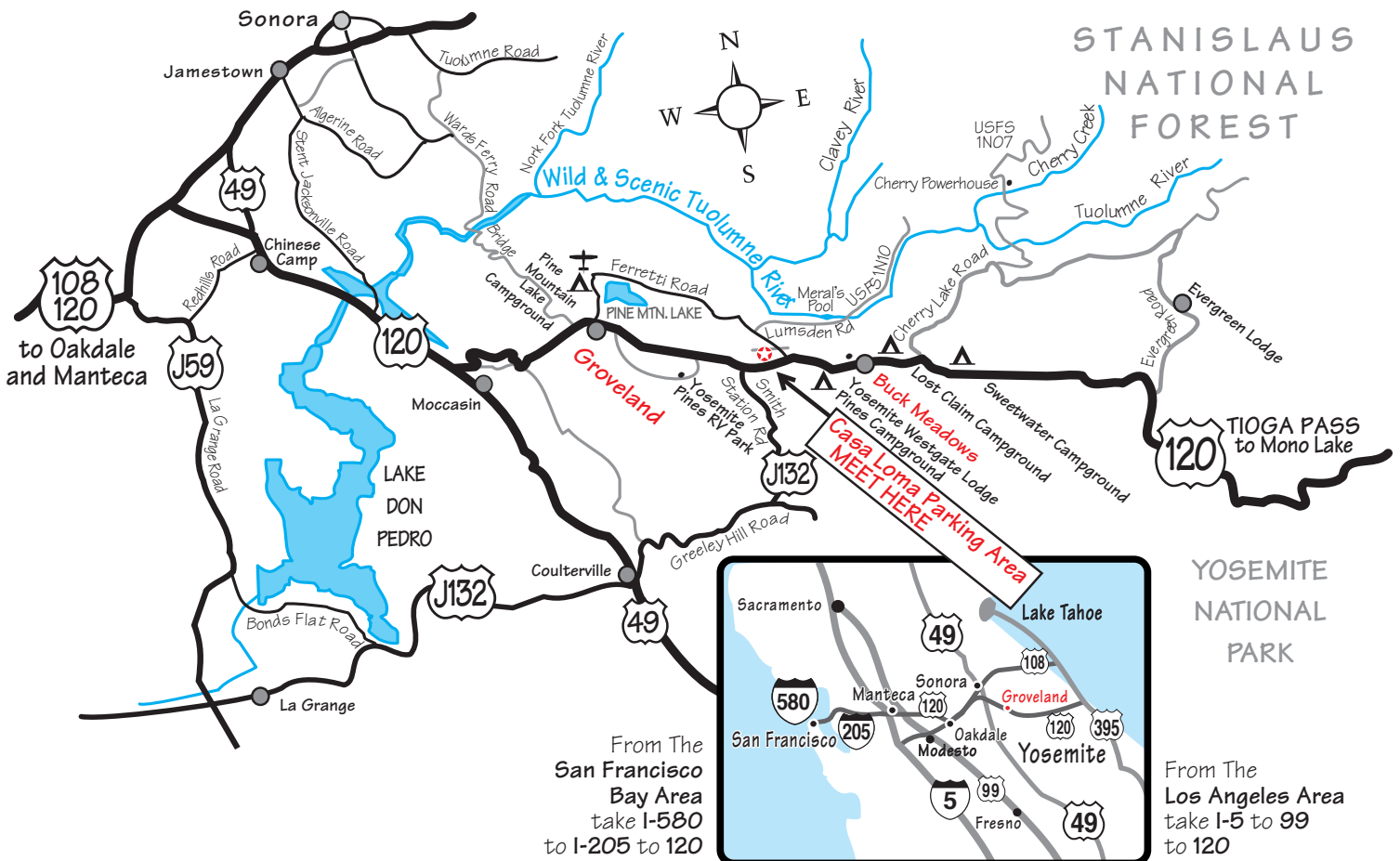
#### MEETING PLACE:

Casa Loma Parking Area  
24000 Casa Loma Road, Groveland, CA 95321

**GETTING THERE:** The Casa Loma Parking Area is located 7 miles east of Groveland adjacent to Highway 120. If coming from the west, travel 7 miles beyond Groveland on Highway 120. Turn left (north) on Ferretti Road. Go about 100 yards, take another left onto Casa Loma Road and park immediately. **Do not turn at the Ferretti Road in the town of Groveland – the correct turn is 7 miles beyond as described above.** Our guide and shuttle bus will meet you there. Driving time from the Bay Area is about 3 ½ hours; from Manteca, about 1½ hours; from Los Angeles, about 7 hours; and from Yosemite's northwest entrance (Big Oak Flat), about 30 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.



## DEPARTURE DAY LOGISTICS

Our guide and shuttle bus will meet you at the Casa Loma Parking Area at 830am the morning of your trip. Take normal security precautions such as stowing your valuables, locking doors, and closing windows. We also recommend using a hide-a-key instead of bringing your keys with you on the river.

Come dressed in river attire and ready to go! Wetsuits, if needed, will be provided by Sierra Mac and distributed later at the river. Items that you wish to access during the day will be placed in a communal dry bag on your raft.

Don't forget to eat breakfast!

## TYPICAL ITINERARY *(subject to change)*

### DAY TRIPS

- 8:30am** Meet guide, secure your vehicle, and take your seat in our shuttle bus. Toilet/changing facilities are available at Casa Loma and at the launch site.
- 9:00am** All aboard for the river! Bus departs for the 40 minute ride down to the launch site.
- 9:40am** Arrive at Meral's Pool launch site and meet the other guides. Listen to a river safety talk and go through some paddling drills.
- 10:30am-** On the river and having fun! We'll have  
**4:00pm** lunch at one of many scenic beaches downstream.
- 5:30pm** Back at your car at the Casa Loma Parking Area.

### OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Pack light! (See page 3 for packing details.)

Day 1 is the same as above, with the exception that you will pull over at a scenic riverside campsite around 4:00pm. Spend the rest of the afternoon lounging by the river, exploring a side creek or cooling off in a swimming hole. Dinner in the early evening. Next morning after a hearty breakfast we'll load the boats for another full day of rapids and a scrumptious lunch downstream. Rafters on 2-day trips are back to their cars around 5:00pm. Those on 3-day trips spend another night in the river canyon enjoying some of the best camping in the state. There is plenty of time for relaxing, having fun and savoring sumptuous meals. Ask any boater - this is the absolute best way to experience all the delights the Tuolumne has to offer! On Day 3 we'll spend a few hours hiking up the exceptionally beautiful North Fork canyon. After another delicious lunch we'll head downstream for more rapids, reaching the take-out point around 4:00pm. You will be back at your car around 5:00pm.

## WHAT TO WEAR

### WARM WEATHER RIVER ATTIRE

Shorts and/or swimsuit  
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  
Sunglasses *(with security cord)*  
Wool hat or ball cap  
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.

## 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 the meeting place inside the Buck Meadows Restaurant and at the Meral's Pool launch site. On the river, we carry portable toilet systems for use during the day and at camp. 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 (see gear list.)

## 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

We will issue you a waterproof bag for all personal gear when we meet you in the parking area the morning of your trip. Pack light! The bags are about the size of a 30 gallon trash bag (3.8 cubic feet.) No hard suitcases or large backpacks – soft duffel bags or stuff sacks are best. If you bring your own stash of personal beverages they need to be in aluminum cans or unbreakable containers. Wine bottles are acceptable. Do not pack beverages in your dry bag - keep them separate and give them directly to the guides at the launch site for safe storage in the cargo boat. Place the items you would like to access during the day in Ziploc bags (camera, medicines, sunscreen, etc.) and give them to your guide for placement in your boat's communal dry bag. If you are renting gear from us, sleeping bags, tarps and sheets will already be in your dry bag when we give it to you in the morning. Tents and sleeping pads are already on the boats and will be available when we reach camp for the night.

### WARM WEATHER RIVER ATTIRE

Shorts and/or swimsuit  
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  
Sunglasses (*with security cord*)  
Wool hat or ball cap  
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

### 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. Consumption of alcohol is not permitted until arrival at camp. If you bring additional personal beverages they need to be in aluminum cans or unbreakable containers, except for wine (bottles ok.)

### 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.yosemitegoldvacations.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.yosemitegoldcountry.org</i>	209-533-4420

