



# SIERRA MAC

## RIVER TRIPS



WWW.SIERRAMAC.COM

(209) 591-8027

INFO@SIERRAMAC.COM

## CHERRY CREEK / UPPER TUOLUMNE RIVER ONE-DAY TRIP

CHERRY POWERHOUSE TO MERAL'S POOL  
LOGISTICS AND GEAR

### MEETING TIME:

6:00am unless otherwise specified  
returning about 2:30pm

### MEETING PLACE:

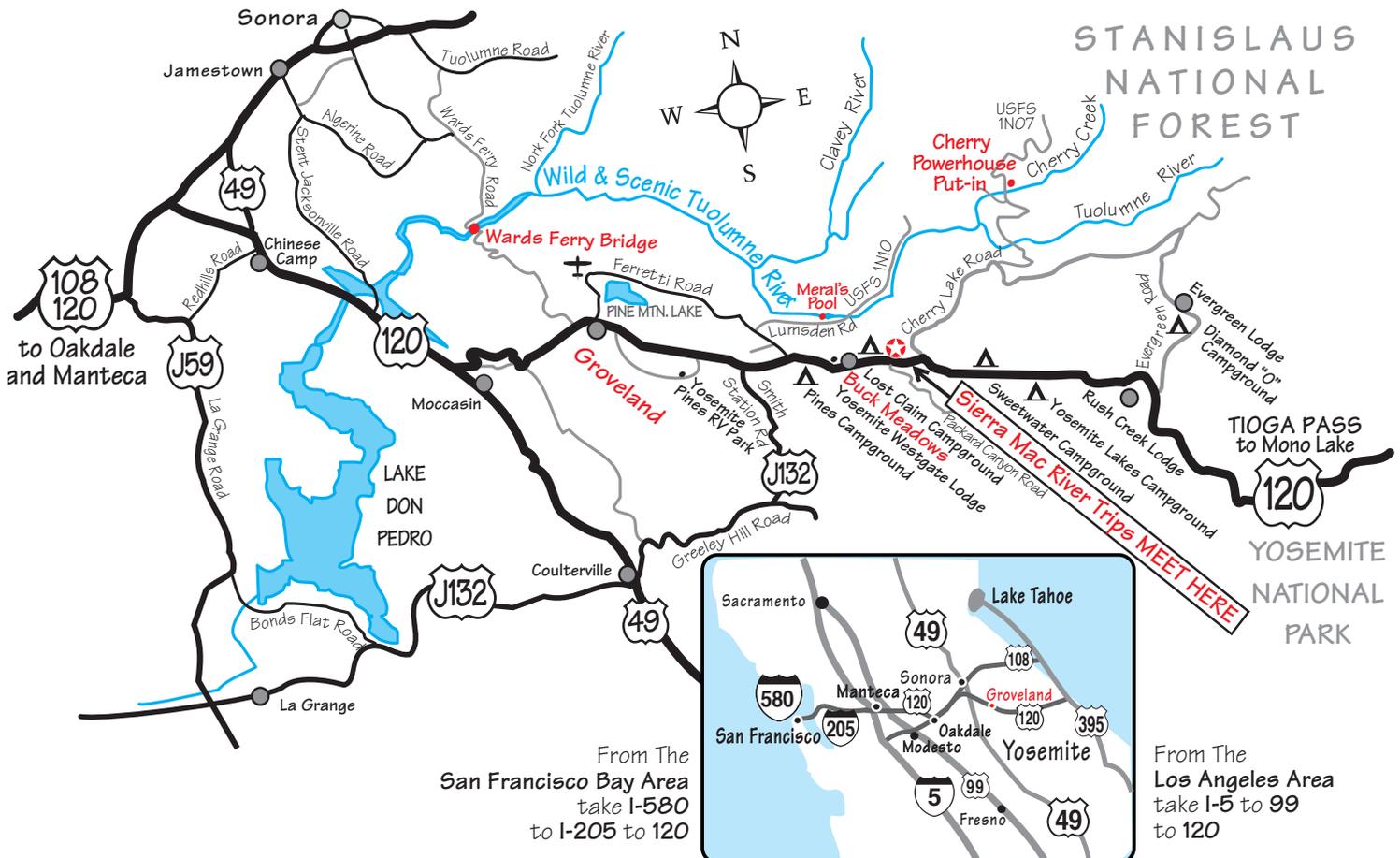
SIERRA MAC RIVER TRIPS HEADQUARTERS  
27890 Highway 120, Colfax Spring, CA 95321

**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 ½ mile beyond the Cherry Lake Road. Pay attention--our place comes up quickly!

Driving time from the Bay Area is about 3 ½ hours; from Manteca, about 1 ½ 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 call where you have a signal.**



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” after our shuttle van arrives at the Cherry Creek launch point.

Please arrive ready to go with your river attire on – under-wetsuit garments and shoes.

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 and having breakfast, you will go through an intensive whitewater field course which includes training in swiftwater 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.

### 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.

### SANITATION/HYGIENE

Bathrooms are located at the meeting place in Colfax Spring 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 procedures that minimize our impact on the river canyon and maximize your personal hygiene.

### WHAT TO WEAR

Wetsuit and splash jacket (*provided by SMRT*)  
Nylon shorts and swimsuit (*under wetsuit*)  
T-shirt (*non-cotton, quick-dry*)  
Wetsuit socks or wool socks  
Athletic shoes that are lace-up (no slip-on or thongs)  
Glasses (*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

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

### OPTIONAL

Rain jacket and pants  
Bike gloves to protect hands while paddling

### GRATUITIES

We are often asked if tipping is appropriate. Tips are certainly appreciated by our guides. Tips normally range from 7% 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.

### BYOB ALCOHOL

Historically we have provided some beer and wine for our guests, however Forest Service and insurance regulations now prohibit us from providing any alcohol. We want you all to have your beverages of choice. We are able to pack in our containers, your liquid supplies such as beer in cans or wine in bottles. Consumption of alcohol is not permitted until arrival at camp. We will supply some sodas and always have water and a sports drink mix (Gatorade) on hand. Please bring your favorite beverages if you have preferences.



**AREA INFORMATION**

See our blog at for more information: <https://www.sierramac.com/yosemite-rafting-blog/>

**LODGING**

Rush Creek Lodge 209-379-2373  
*New lodge and resort* [www.yosemitegoldvacations.com](http://www.yosemitegoldvacations.com)  
 Yosemite Westgate Lodge 209-962-5281  
*modern, restaurant* [www.yosemitewestgate.com](http://www.yosemitewestgate.com)  
 Yosemite Ridge Resort 800-706-3009  
*cabins for 4 to 8, restaurant* [www.yosemiteridge.com](http://www.yosemiteridge.com)  
 Hotel Charlotte 209-962-6455  
*small historic hotel, restaurant* [www.hotelcharlotte.com](http://www.hotelcharlotte.com)  
 Groveland Hotel 800-273-3314  
*historic inn, restaurant, bar* [www.groveland.com](http://www.groveland.com)  
 Evergreen Lodge 209-379-2606  
*rustic lodge, restaurant, bar* [www.evergreenlodge.com](http://www.evergreenlodge.com)  
 Lillaskog B&B 209-962-1818  
*best views of the Sierras* [www.lillaskogyosemite.com](http://www.lillaskogyosemite.com)  
 Blackberry Inn 209-962-4663  
*bed and breakfast* [www.blackberry-inn.com](http://www.blackberry-inn.com)  
 Yosemite Rose 866-962-6548  
*bed and breakfast* [www.yosemiterose.com](http://www.yosemiterose.com)  
 Tesla Ready Air B&B  
*best option for groups* [www.airbnb.com/rooms/8880620](http://www.airbnb.com/rooms/8880620)  
 Yosemite National Park 888-413-8869, 877-444-6777  
*lodging reservations in the Park* [www.travelyosemite.com](http://www.travelyosemite.com)

**RESTAURANTS & SERVICES**

Buck Meadows Bar & Restaurant 209-962-5181  
 Buck Meadows General Store & Gas 209-962-7690  
 Cocina Michoacana, Groveland 209-962-6651  
 Fork & Love, Groveland 209-962-1912  
 Groveland Hotel 209 962-4000  
*fresh seasonal California cuisine*  
 Iron Door Bar & Grill, Groveland 209-962-6244  
 Mountain Sage, Groveland 209-962-7455  
*café, nursery, outdoor gear*  
 Priest Station, Big Oak Flat 209-962-1888  
 Two Guys Pizza, Groveland 209-962-4897  
 Tangled Heart Bakery, La Casa Loma 209-962-8904

**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

**VACATION HOME RENTALS**

[www.airbnb.com/s/Groveland--CA/all](http://www.airbnb.com/s/Groveland--CA/all)  
[www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/california/gold-country-high-sierra/yosemite/groveland](http://www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/california/gold-country-high-sierra/yosemite/groveland)

**CAMPING**

Pine Mountain Lake Campground 209-962-8615  
*RV park and camping, showers*  
 Yosemite Lakes/Thousand Trails 877-570-2267  
*RVs, camping, pool, phone, showers and store*  
 Yosemite Pines RV Park & Campground 209-962-7690  
*RV rental, camping, pool, phone, showers and store*

**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*.  
 Information 209-379-2258

Reservations and information at:  
[www.americanll.com/groveland-ranger-district](http://www.americanll.com/groveland-ranger-district)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Yosemite National Park 209-372-0200  
*[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)*  
 Yosemite Chamber of Commerce 800-449-9120  
*[www.groveland.org](http://www.groveland.org)*  
 Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 209-533-4420  
*[www.yosemitegoldcountry.org](http://www.yosemitegoldcountry.org)*

