



SIERRA MAC

RIVER TRIPS



WWW.SIERRAMAC.COM

(209) 591-8027

INFO@SIERRAMAC.COM

MAIN TUOLUMNE RIVER TWO & THREE-DAY TRIPS

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

LOGISTICS AND GEAR

MEETING TIME:

8:30 am unless otherwise specified
returning to Colfax Spring about 5:30pm

MEETING PLACE:

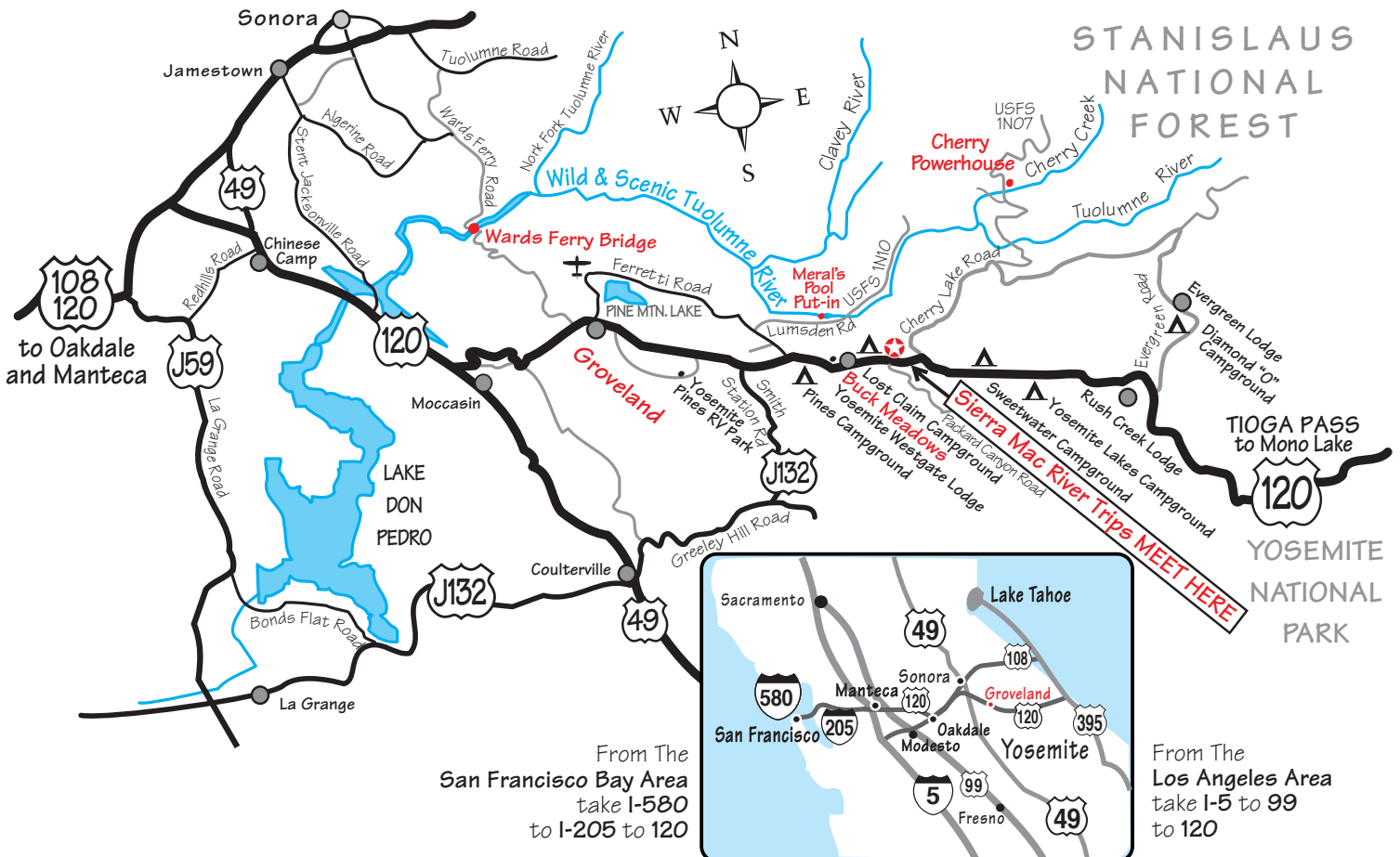
SIERRA MAC RIVER TRIPS HEADQUARTERS
27890 Highway 120, Colfax Spring, CA 95321

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 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 call where you have a signal.**



Since 1965, Sierra Mac has outfitted whitewater rafting trips for thousands of people between the ages of 5 and 75. Our expert guides are dedicated to your enjoyment of this remarkable environment. Thank you for your business!

DEPARTURE DAY LOGISTICS

Our guide and shuttle bus will meet you at the Colfax Spring Parking Area at 8:30am 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)*

- 8:30am** Meet guide, secure your vehicle and take your seat in our shuttle bus. Toilet/changing facilities are available at our meeting place in Colfax Spring and at the river 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
- 1:00pm** Enjoy a delicious lunch provided by Sierra Mac served at a scenic riverside site.
- 4:00pm** Setup camp at a scenic riverside campsite

THE FINAL DAY

- 4:00pm** Takeout - trip ends at Ward's Ferry Bridge
- 4:30pm** Board our buses for the return ride to parking area
- 5:30pm** Back at your car in Colfax Spring

On Day One we 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 is 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 Three 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 ON THE RIVER

WARM WEATHER RIVER ATTIRE

- Shorts and/or swimsuit
- T-shirt
- Athletic shoes that are lace-up (no slip-on or thongs)
- 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 ON THE RIVER

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

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.

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 10% to 20% 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 duffle 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 and should be paid for online through Xola with credit card*)

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

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



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.

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 season.

AREA INFORMATION

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

LODGING

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

VACATION HOME RENTALS

www.airbnb.com/s/Groveland--CA/all
www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/california/gold-country-high-sierra/yosemite/groveland

CAMPING

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

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

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 <i>fresh seasonal California cuisine</i>	209 962-4000
Iron Door Bar & Grill, Groveland	209-962-6244
Mountain Sage, Groveland <i>café, nursery, outdoor gear</i>	209-962-7455
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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Yosemite National Park <i>www.nps.gov/yose</i>	209-372-0200
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce <i>www.groveland.org</i>	800-449-9120
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau <i>www.yosemitegoldcountry.org</i>	209-533-4420

