Two-Day Lower Kern Trip Details

Just a few hours from Los Angeles, the Lower Kern is a superb rafting adventure. Our two-day trip originates below Lake Isabella and ends at Democrat Beach, a distance of 20 miles. The river flows southwest through a canyon forested with willow, cottonwood, sycamore and alder. Our trip starts at a leisurely pace then quickens as the canyon steepens. Both days feature stretches of Class III and IV rapids.

TRIP MEETING TIME
9:30AM

TRIP MEETING PLACE
Kern River Outfitters Rafting Center
6602 Wofford Blvd,
Wofford Heights, CA 93285

DIRECTIONS
Google Maps

From Southern California: leave the Los Angeles Basin by Interstate 5 north. Descend the Grapevine Grade and take Highway 99 north to Bakersfield. From Bakersfield, take highway 178 east towards Lake Isabella. Take the 2nd Lake Isabella exit which reads Highway 155-Kernville. Turn left at the stop sign and follow Highway 155 north towards Kernville. Wofford Heights is mid-way between Lake Isabella and Kernville. Our Rafting Center is located on the right at 6602 Wofford Blvd (at the intersection of Evans Road).

Parking: Park your car at the back of the building and register inside. Although our parking lot is on private property, it is near a busy road. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle and make sure it is securely locked. No overnight camping is allowed at our parking area.

PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM AND WAIVER
Link to our online waiver
Each member of your party needs to completely fill out, read, understand and sign our Personal Information and Participant Agreement Form. A timely submission allows us to plan for any special needs.

LODGING THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR TRIP
Lodging Guide PDF
We encourage you to spend the evening before your trip in the Kern Valley at one of the motels in the area. Our office staff will be happy to assist you with pre and/or post trip lodging plans.
AGE LIMITS
Minimum age of 12 years old.
The minimum age on our Lower Kern trips is twelve years old. This age limit is in place for the safety of your child, the safety of our other guests and our guides.

TRIP DETAILS
From our meeting place, we’ll take you by bus to the river. Because our on-river campsite is accessible by road, it isn’t necessary to carry overnight gear on the rafts. During the day, you’ll probably want to carry sunscreen, a hat and perhaps a light jacket.

Before boarding your raft, your Trip Leader will discuss the trip and answer last minute questions. Guides will be introduced and passengers instructed on paddling technique, safety and general procedures.

For the first few miles, the Lower Kern is gentle and ideal for practicing the skills you’ll need to navigate the rapids downstream. By the time we stop for lunch, you’ll be familiar with rafting techniques and quite comfortable. After lunch the rapids get bigger and your new skills will be tested. Our campsite is just below Powerful Possum, a Class IV rapid that is one of the biggest on the Lower Kern.

We usually arrive at camp around 4:00 PM. Your overnight gear will be there and the guides will help you select a campsite. Snacks and cold drinks will be available shortly after arrival. Before dinner, hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Our second day begins with a hearty breakfast. Afterwards, personal gear is repacked, and we’re ready for another river day. After portaging Royal Flush, we stop for lunch and gear up for a series of Class IV rapids called “The Big Five”. The rapids come close together and we end our day navigating Pinball...an intricate, demanding rapid.

At Democrat Beach we end our trip. Our bus will take you back to Wofford Heights, about a 30 minute ride. We usually arrive there by 5:00 PM. The trailer with your personal gear will be waiting for you at our Rafting Center.

YOUR HEALTH
Our Kern River trips are fun, fast and challenging. To participate, you should be in good health. You may also need to perform certain physical activities. These include basic swimming, hiking in rugged or uneven terrain, climbing in and out of rafts and assisting in your rescue, if that becomes necessary. Please let us know when you return your Release Agreement, if you have any health or dietary restrictions. We will gladly accommodate reasonable dietary restrictions with advanced notice.

ALCOHOL
If you bring alcohol on your trip, we ask that you drink in moderation and only while in camp in the evening. Consumption of alcohol is prohibited while rafting or prior to rafting for your safety and for the safety of your fellow guests and our guides.

MEALS
All on-river meals are provided beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last day. The food is fresh and hearty and our guides will prepare it for you.

PADDLING ON THE RIVER
On our Lower Kern trips, we run paddle rafts. These are exciting, participatory boats in which four to eight guests and a guide work as a team to maneuver the raft through the rapids. Paddling requires physical effort and is sometimes strenuous. If you would prefer to ride in an oarboat (a raft rowed by a guide without guest assistance), call our office and we will try to accommodate you.
CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
To protect the river, we carry out all trash and use no soap in the river. The guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact of our group on the canyon.

WETSUITS
For most of the summer, weather in the Kern region is very warm and sunny and you’ll be comfortable wearing light clothing. For early season trips, we sometimes require wetsuits. They can be rented at our Rafting Center the morning of your trip.

HELMETS
Safety helmets are available at no additional charge to guests joining us on any stretch of river that we run. Helmets are required for all trips we run except the Kernville Rapid Run stretch on the Upper Kern. Clients expressly assume all risks associated with their refusal to use or properly use use helmets.

GUIDES
Our guides are experienced, skilled whitewater boaters. They are knowledgeable about canyon ecology and natural history. Should the need arise they are trained to administer First Aid.

PHOTOS OF YOUR TRIP
For most trips, Kern River Outfitters will be on the river to capture your day of fun and excitement. A skilled photographer will take snapshots of you and your group as you travel down the Kern River. CD’s will be available for purchase at the conclusion of your trip containing all of the photos of your raft or, if you prefer, all of the photos taken of the entire trip.

RESPONSIBILITY
Trip participants should understand that river trips involve known and unknown risks. Kern River Outfitters assumes no responsibility for injuries, death or loss/damage to client’s property while on the river. All clients must sign a Release and Waiver Agreement expressly acknowledging these points. Kern River Outfitters assumes no responsibility for vehicles and/or the contents of vehicles parked during the trip.

PERFORMANCE
It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for paying expenses other than refunding all or part of the fees paid to Kern River Outfitters. Determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details. Guides and other personnel employed by Kern River Outfitters are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or trip credits. Such determinations can only be made by company officers.

CANCELLATIONS
Learn about our cancellation policy here. Notice must be made in writing.

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<th>Notice 30 days or more prior</th>
<th>Notice 29 to 14 days prior</th>
<th>Notice 14 days or less prior</th>
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<td>$50 cancellation fee / person</td>
<td>$75 cancellation fee / person</td>
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TRIP INSURANCE
We recommend you supplement personal insurance with travel insurance. Cancellation initiated by you may result in substantial loss of fees paid. Available insurance protects against the loss of deposits in the event you must cancel because of unforeseen circumstances.

Travel Insurance companies:
- BHTP
- Travel Guard

TIPPING
Guests sometimes ask whether gratuities are appropriate. If you enjoyed your trip, please feel free to leave a tip with the Trip Leader. Guests typically leave 15% - 20% of the trip cost. Gratuities will be shared among all the guides on
PERMITS
Our trips are conducted under a permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest. Our permit is your assurance that Kern River Outfitters is legally operating on the river. Our operations and facilities are operated on a nondiscriminatory basis.

WHAT TO BRING
The Kern Valley is hot and dry in the summer months. A light change of clothes and a sweatshirt are usually sufficient for camp. Tents are not necessary for comfortable sleeping, although you are welcome to bring one. Baseball caps or other secure hats are recommended, especially for fair-skinned persons. While on river, please wear sneakers or river sandals to protect your feet. Please pack your gear in duffel bags or other soft luggage. It is often colder early in the season (April, May & early June) and you’ll want to bring warmer clothing and a tent for those trips.

For your convenience, we have sleeping bags and tents available for rent. They should be reserved at least a week before your trip date. We recommend:

- Sleeping bag or bedding
- Sneakers, or river shoes/sandals with ankle strap with wool socks or wetsuit booties
- Windbreaker or Paddling Jacket
- Sun block
- Lip balm
- Small flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Swimsuit or board shorts
- Visor or hat
- Strap to secure sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Wool or fleece sweater
- Sneakers or shoes for camp
- Towel

Please do not bring radios, firearms, pets or valuables. Sun-sensitive persons should bring a hat and lightweight long-sleeve shirt. On certain early season trips when water and weather conditions dictate, we may require all passengers to wear wetsuits. If needed, wetsuits can be rented at our Wofford Heights Rafting Center the morning or your trip.