



ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

- * RAFT * MTN. BIKE * PEAK CLIMBING *
- 4 WHEEL DRIVE * HORSEBACK * FISHING *
- SUP/KAYAK * ZIPLINE * HOT SPRINGS *

"145 miles of choices" The Arkansas River Valley and **Browns Canyon National Monument** offers unparalleled recreational opportunities. More than (25) 14,000-foot peaks surround the valley with the river cutting through and changing the views every few miles. The river source at Leadville, Colorado begins your 145 miles of unlimited offerings, a world of adventure and outdoor opportunities. Explore the possibilities with a customized DVK multi-sport trip. Spend the day running the river or climbing to the sky on the shoulders of a 14,000-foot peak, riding the trails on a mountain bike, exploring ghost towns and natural hot springs. An overnight whitewater river trip will combine horseback riding, hiking, biking and exploring to take you even deeper into the beauties of the State Park's Arkansas Recreation Area. By foot, trail, river or bike, Dvorak Expeditions offers trips featuring any combination. Let us custom design your 2-5 day stay in the valley.

The Arkansas River is a river that offers a variety of choices. It is possible to combine whitewater runs creating trips from one day to five days over the length of the river.

The Arkansas River starts out with a bang. **The Pine Creek & Numbers**, the highest sections of the river are the most technical and demanding stretch the Arkansas offers. Here only those with previous paddling experience dare to go. You must be at least 18 years of age. CLASS IV-V. After leaving the Numbers the river slices through the solid granite of **Browns Canyon National Monument**, the most popular stretch of the river in the country. It is an excellent single day trip or take time to enjoy the national monument on an overnight adventure which puts in below the Numbers and is a good introduction to multi-day wilderness river trips. The **Salida & Bighorn Sheep Canyon** sections are where the river opens to beautiful views of the snow-covered Sangre de Cristo range, rising to over 10,000 feet above the valley floor. These sections are a good introductory river experience for the whole family and a great first time challenge in whitewater excitement. CLASS II - III.

After passing through the heart of the Arkansas you pre-prepare for the **Royal Gorge** and put your finger to the pulse of excitement. The Royal Gorge was once the place where boaters let the river flow on alone. With today's improved equipment and more extensive guide training and experience the Gorge has become the cutting edge of CLASS IV & V whitewater excitement. **The Royal Gorge and Numbers runs must be earned for paddle crews by successfully completing an introductory swim in the CLASS III rapids.**

ARKANSAS RIVER

Gateway to the
"BROWN'S CANYON National Monument"



Arkansas River @ DVK's Main Office
2 hours from Denver, Colo.
17921 US Hwy 285 | Nathrop, CO 81236
(719) 539-6851 or (800) 824-3795



Arkansas River's world famous "ROYAL GORGE"
1.5 HOURS FROM Colorado Springs, Colo.

www.DvorakExpeditions.com

Book Now! 24/7 Reservations

ARKANSAS FLOAT NOTES

These float notes will help you prepare for your river trip. There is information on everything from travel and lodging arrangements, typical weather, and menus to cancellation and refund policies. If you have any questions that are not answered in these float notes give us a call. When reading these notes, it's helpful to have a road map of Colorado nearby.

SEASON

Due to the run off from the high mountain peaks the season starts when the snow melts. Usual season begins in mid-May and will run through early September with good snow pack and possible releases from the dams upstream. High water late May Thru Mid-June. Custom fishing trips are available throughout the entire season. These are covered in more detail under fishing trips.

PERMITS - Outfitting since 1969

The Arkansas River is jointly managed as the Upper Arkansas Recreation Area. We operate under special use permit from the Bureau of Land Management located in Canyon City and Colorado's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. We are Colorado 1st licensed outfitter, licensed by Colorado's Division of Parks and Wildlife. All our permits and licenses are your assurance that Dvorak Expeditions is legally operating on the river and that our guides, past performance and qualifications have met detailed requirements and more.

GUIDES & INSTRUCTORS

Our guides are experienced men and women skilled at handling their crafts. They all have current first aid and CPR training and have fulfilled guide qualification requirements in the states of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. Trip Leaders have thousands of river miles of experience on all classes of rivers including all those Dvorak Expeditions. [GUIDE OR INSTRUCTOR'S GRATUITY IS NOT INLCUDED IN YOUR TRIP COST.](#) Always appreciated 10-20% recommended.

YOUR HEALTH

Our river trips are not strenuous, but they are a dramatic change in routine for most people. Although the trip is relaxing, the area is 8,000 feet high and the canyons are somewhat remote, so you should be in relatively good health. Please let us know when you return the release form if you have any health problems or concerns. If you have dietary restrictions, we'll gladly accommodate your needs with sufficient notice.

CAMPING

Campsites on the Arkansas River are limited and we must make the arrangements for Browns Canyon as our overnight stop for the Arkansas Combination trips. Minimum-impact camping practices have enhanced these sites and you'll see few reminders other than foot prints of previous visitors. Your cooperation to keep our river corridor as pristine as possible is appreciated greatly by all.

FISHING & FLY FISHING INSTRUCTION

The Arkansas offers [GOLD MEDAL fishing](#) and the best Trout fishing in Colorado. Our custom float and wade fishing trips are available April - September season. Set up a custom fishing trip any time. Raft and dory float trips down the river to otherwise inaccessible fishing sections. Catch & release; artificial flies and lures only. You must purchase a valid Colorado fishing license.

WEATHER

In the early season (May & June) you can experience cold, changeable high mountain weather. This is high water time. Most days are warm and sunny, but it is best to be prepared for both warm and cold weather (50 - 65 degrees).

PRE-AND POST TRIP ARRANGEMENTS

BY PLANE

Major airports are Denver International or Colorado Springs; rental car or van from there to the Arkansas Valley. Car rentals are available in Denver or Colorado Springs. There are "limited" jeep and domestic rental vehicles available in the Arkansas valley by prior arrangement.

Salida and Buena Vista, Colorado have small aircraft facilities and charter flights only are available with adequate numbers for charter. Arrive in Salida or Buena Vista, Colorado the day prior to the trip

BY CAR

To reach our Browns Canyon/Nathrop Base, 17921 US Hwy 285, Nathrop, CO 81236. FROM DENVER: You will follow Hwy 285 out of Denver all the way to the Base located 5 miles south of Nathrop. It is approximately 160 miles from Denver Airport to the Nathrop Base (4 hours). Mtn road driving is slower but, a beautiful part of the Rocky Mountains and you should allow extra driving time to sight-see. FROM COLO.SPRINGS: use Hwy 24 west connecting with US Hwy 285 north & south towards Buena Vista. Turn south on Hwy 285-11 miles, you will see on the west side our sign just north of the Gas station and Prospector Rock Shop on Hwy 285.

Royal Gorge and Big Horn Sheep Canyon has an optional meeting location for groups: FROM COLO. SPRINGS: take Hwy 115 and Hwy 50 west through Canon City. Meeting @ Parkdale Launch site is about 10 miles west of Canon City on Hwy 50. FROM JOHNSON'S VILLAGE: take Hwy 285 through Nathrop which joins with Hwy 50 east, via Hwy 291 through Salida. Travel @ 60 miles to the Parkdale launch site (Arkansas Headwaters Rec. Area).

Arrive at the appropriate arranged meeting location @ confirmed time (depending on trip) on the first day. You will meet your guides at either DVK Nathrop base or Parkdale launch site. The travel time to the river by bus/van varies with each canyon and start point. Confirm prior to start date.

There is a secure private parking area at the Nathrop base for you to leave your vehicle and belongings. [Parkdale launch site will require a state park parking pass in your vehicle \\$7-10.](#)

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AT TRIPS END

At the end of your day or the final day of your trip, Dvorak's van or bus will either deliver you to the place where you left your car or return you to your lodging or arranged drop off point. "River Time is unpredictable." Please keep this in mind when you make final day commitments.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The following are recommended for pre- and post-trip:

Salida

Baymont Inn & Suites

7400 Hwy 50 West

Salida, CO 81201 (719) 539-8500

www.baymontinn.com

MORE LODGING www.ColorfulColorado.com

THE COMBO PACKAGES

The following **are included** in your DVK Arkansas Valley Combination:

- Lodging arrangements as described below dependent on length of your trip and method of arrival.
- The shuttle and transport to and from the river is provided.
- ½ - 7 days' raft/hike/horseback/bike/jeep/etc.
- Rain Jacket with pants
- Eating utensils, cup, plate (on overnight trips)
- Water proof dry bags/containers for personal gear (on river trip portions)

YOU are responsible for the following:

- Transportation to and from the arranged meeting point. (Dvorak Expedition Base)
- Transportation, meals & lodging pre-and post-trip
- Personal clothing and other sundry items

DVK WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT:

We furnish rugged inflatable self-bailing rafts 12 to 16 feet in length. We provide all necessary river equipment, pfd's (Type V), water-proof dry bags for personal gear, first-aid and safety supplies. There is a guide on every raft and ratio of 1 to 4 on any instructional clinic. In addition, we have rental equipment that consist of tents, sleeping bags, pads and ground sheets. We also have wetsuit and boot rentals available per day or trip.

You can choose to be either in a paddle raft (participatory) or an oared raft, (passenger). Paddle rafts have 4 to 6 persons and 1 guide.

FOOD

On overnight trips, 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 the guides will prepare it for you. A typical dinner menu will include as a main course BBQ Steak, Baked Fish, Teriyaki Chicken, or combination entrees, fresh vegetables and salads, Dutch-oven desserts or breads, hors d'oeuvres, fresh fruits, fruit juices, coffee, tea and a complimentary glass of wine with dinner.

ALL LUNCHESES: are buffet style with a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, fruit, cheeses, sliced meats, nuts and juices or sodas. ***(NO ALCOHOL on day trips)***

Breakfast includes fresh fruit juice, eggs in all styles, special pancakes, French toast, melons, fruit, cereals with milk, sausage, bacon, coffee, tea, hot chocolate. ***We can accommodate special diets with advance notice and almost always the menu suits the vegetarian.***

Though we carry ample supplies of juices, coffee, tea and hot chocolate we encourage you to bring extra soda or beer. You can arrange for us to pick up specific beverages for you prior to the trip or you can stock up in Salida before you meet us at the base. Any liquids you bring must be in unbreakable containers.

ALCOHOL

We request that you do not drink alcohol on the day trips on the river. You're welcome to bring alcohol in unbreakable containers on overnight trips for drinks around the fire. Wine is complimentary with dinner. Our guides may refuse to let you participate in a trip if your safety is at risk.

RIVER TRIP EQUIPMENT LIST

ONE DAY ITEMS

- Long john style wetsuit/boots for cold months or Class IV+
- Nylon shorts or swim suit under wetsuit
- Non-cotton shirt or poly propylene top (fleece top)
- Warm jacket, wind proof or Fleece, water resistant
- Pair of tennis shoes - tie on preferred (No sandals) or wet boots.
- Wool socks will help keep feet warm in tennis shoes
- Sun glasses with loss protector/keeper, with UV protection
- Sun block (over 8000' altitude - lots of UV exposure)
- Hat for sun protection (tie-on)
- Splash jackets/pants are provided (you can bring your own)

Packing List for OVERNIGHT trips

- Extra-long sleeve shirt apart from River Wear clothing
- Pair of long pants for night camping
- Small towel / bio soap/shampoo/lotion etc.
- Flashlight and extra batteries with new bulb. Head torch.
- Bandana and a pair of lite gloves for sun protection.
- Personal items kit (hygiene) medicines etc.
- Waterproof camera or a very good waterproof case. (Disposable)
- Extra sodas and or canned beverages for camp. NO Liquor during the day on the river
- Compact synthetic sleeping bag with sleeping pad ground sheet
- Small backpack style tent w/ fly
- EXTRA BEVERAGES - PLASTIC containers of liquor, CANNED beer wine coolers. An adequate supply of soft drinks is provided. If you prefer diet drinks, please request in advance. Complimentary glass of wine is provided with evening meals.
- OPTIONAL ITEMS: Field glasses, protection, Journal notebook, book, pliers (for use in taking things from fire i.e. coffee, hot water, etc.), Day pack & Extra Zip Lock Bags.

RESERVE RENTALS

OVER-NIGHT ITEMS (one night rental)

- \$15 Lightweight Sleeping Bag / Ensolite pad and Ground Cover to line your tent (per trip)
- \$25 Three-man dome tent with floor one night \$50 two or more nights
- \$ 10 Thermo-Rest Sleep pad inflatable

RENTAL BY DAY OR TRIP

- \$10 Long John Wet suit with booties per day
- \$25 Long John Wet suit with bootie two or more days
- \$ 8 Wet Suit only (per day) \$20-2 or more days
- \$ 3 Booties only (per day) \$10-2 or more days
- \$45 Dry Suit per day rental.

Note: These items need to be reserved and payment is due along with your trip balance 45 days prior to departure.

KAYAK –SUP-RAFT INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

The Arkansas River is suitable for the beginner to advanced boaters. **Learn to Raft, Kayak, SUP:** We ask that basic beginner boaters start their KAYAK clinic in a lake to gain knowledge of techniques and basic strokes to be able to move you onto the river for a full day on day 2 or more. Here you will learn to read the river and understand it's hydrology before moving onto more difficult stretches of the river. We have guide service available for the individual who wants to have local knowledge of the best play spots, where to scout rapids, etc. Private lessons are available for individual attention.

You are welcome to bring your own equipment for our instructional clinics or sign up for the clinics inclusive of all equipment. *If you would just like to bring personal paddling equipment and have us supply the boat only etc. that is also acceptable and cuts the rental cost approximately 30% for you.*

HORSEBACK RIDING

We will arrange your horse ride and outfitter details, and will enclose a map and note meeting place on your confirmation letter. *What to wear and bring:*

- Blue jeans (loose fitting)
- Sturdy shoes with heels
- Warm jacket and waterproof cover (poncho or rain jacket)
- Hat for sun protection
- Sun screen (altitude over 10,000 feet)
- Water canteen for personal use
- Snack for half day rides (no lunch provided)
- All full-day rides include lunch

FORMS WE NEED!

Thank you for joining us on the Arkansas River this season. You will find most information in the river notes. We request that you fill out the forms enclosed and return them to us as soon as possible. *** Trip Questionnaire & Passenger List | Online Waiver Signed | Reserve Rentals | Instructional questionnaire Kayak/SUP/Raft**

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Bill Dvorak Kayak & Rafting Expeditions Inc. recommends that you purchase a Travelex travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip interruption, Emergency Medical & Emergency Evacuation-Repatriation. Trip delay, baggage delay and more.

For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, click on the link below or contact **Travelex Insurance Services @ 800- 228-9792 and reference location number #06-0520** Please note: To be eligible for the waiver of pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, the protection plan must be purchased within 21 days (Travel Select) or 30 days (Travel Max) from the time you make your initial trip deposit. However, the plan can be purchased any time prior to departure.

For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations, and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294

FORMS

Thank you for joining us on the Arkansas River this season. You will find most information in the river notes. We request that you **fill out the forms and return them prior to trip.**

- Waiver Form (1 each) Online signing
- COVID-19 Questionnaire / Waiver
- Trip Questionnaire with passenger list (address/phone)
- Rental requests (height, weight, shoe size for wetsuits)
- Camping or Instructional Rental Reservation Form
- Instructional questionnaire if kayaking /canoeing

RESPONSIBILITY

Dvorak Exp's require you to **READ and SIGN a liability release form** prior to your trip. Please fill out the health questionnaire. There are inherent risks associated with river trips, including possible personal injury, property loss, financial loss, personal cancellation.

PERFORMANCE

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to weather or water conditions or other 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 Dvorak Expeditions. The determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details.

Guides and other on-river personnel employed by Dvorak Expeditions are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or trip credits. Such determinations can only be made by company officers.

RESERVATIONS & CANCELLATIONS

Please read our cancellation policy carefully, as it applies in every instance. If YOU must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under stringent federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. We incur substantial expenses before each trip departs. In the event of late cancellation, Dvorak Expeditions cannot recover costs, nor can we make refunds.

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

A minimum **advance deposit of \$100 or 25%** of trip cost per person (whichever is greater) is required when making reservations. **The total is due 45 days prior to trip.** When **cancellations are made more than 30 days before the trip** - all moneys are refunded **LESS \$100 per person.** If **cancellation is made less than 30 days before the trip,** the deposit of 25% per person is non-refundable. **With less than 14 days' notice, no moneys are refunded.** (This includes all credit card charges.)

2022