



NORTH PLATTE RIVER WILDERNESS

*25 - 38 miles Class III - Class IV
2 - 3 Days*

The North Platte is a mountain river. Set in a narrow canyon at over 8,000 feet, the North Platte runs crystal clear with the power of melting snows from Rocky Mountain National Park and other mountain ranges which ring the basin. One of the last true discoveries of river runners, the Northgate section offers a combination of intense whitewater at rapids like Northgate Falls, Stovepipe, Windy Hole, and the Narrows.

Trout fishing is hard to beat due to some extremely inaccessible sections we raft through. The surrounding area has a long history of Wild West stories of cattlemen who have made millions from the fertile land and still run some of the largest cattle ranges in the country from these valleys. Because of its mountain setting, it offers the clear water, pristine river corridor and solitude which make it a great float fishing trout river, complete with the excitement of some of the best whitewater in the west.

It is the most recently designated wilderness area in Colorado/Wyoming. Enter the world of the old west that James Michener wrote about in his book *Centennial*, the wilderness world of the North Platte for a trip of two or three days.

SEASON

May - July: The North Platte is a free-flowing snow melt river that can begin in early to mid-May and extend through mid- to late July depending on the year's snowpack and seasonal rains.

The highest water levels are in May and early June during the high snow melt period. The water normally levels out to a steady flow in mid-June for the best fishing season.

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 aren't answered in these float notes, give us a call. When reading these notes, it is helpful to have a road map of Colorado / Wyoming nearby.

[PREPARE TO GO FORMS ON WEBSITE](#)

Est. 1969 | 6 Rivers 24 Canyons



[CUSTOM FISHING FLOATS](#)

Designated a Gold Medal Trout fishery, the North Platte is one of those legendary stretches that is known throughout the west. Avid anglers speak about this one in whispers around the campfire. "The Home of Lunger Trout" offers both Browns and Rainbows.

The primary reason for this reputation is the river's inaccessibility. The only way to fish the entire corridor is by float fishing. Our CUSTOM fishing trips put two anglers and one guide in each raft. This allows you to fish downstream at your own pace. To allow for adequate time for fishing and full enjoyment of the canyon, it is best to plan a three-day trip.

The special regulations are 6 fish in possession, one only over 16". All fish 10 - 16" must be released. Fly and lures only. We encourage everyone to catch and release. A valid Wyoming fishing license is required. An out-of-state 1-5-day license can be purchased in Riverside, Wyoming on the first day of your trip if necessary. Please decide at the time of your booking to do this. We will be happy to give you some tips on types of lures, flies, etc. before your trip so you can stock up.

We also set up custom trout fishing trips in Colorado on some of the best trout rivers in the U.S. (Request a brochure and more information on other rivers floats).

PERMITS

Outfitting since 1969

We operate under the National Forest Service Special Use Permit administered by the Routt and Medicine Bow National Forest in Walden, Colorado. We are Colorado's first licensed outfitter, licensed by Colorado's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. 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.

THE TRIP PACKAGE

The following are included in your Dvorak Expeditions

North Platte trip:

- All boating equipment/life jackets/drinking water
- Pre- and post-trip arrangements as described
- 2 or 3 days of rafting, float fishing or instruction clinic
- All on-river meals (lunch day 1 through lunch last day)
- Rain jacket with pants (PVC)
- Eating utensils, plates, complimentary Dvorak cup
- Waterproof dry bags/containers for personal gear
- 6-man rain tarps for shelter in kitchen area

You are responsible for the following

- Transportation to the arranged meeting point
- Personal clothing and other sundry items
- Transportation at the arranged drop off point
- Pre-and post-lodging with meals

KAYAK & SUP INSTRUCTION CLINICS

The North Platte is suited to **Class IV, Intermediate to Advanced boaters**. 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, that is also acceptable, and cuts the rental cost about 30-40% for you.

GUIDES

Our guides are experienced men and women skilled at handling their craft. They all have current first aid, CPR and Swiftwater Rescue training and have fulfilled guide qualification requirements in the states of Colorado, Utah, Texas and New Mexico. Trip Leaders have thousands of river miles of experience on all classes of rivers including all those Dvorak Expeditions run.

CAMPING

Campsites on the North Platte are limited and assigned by the Forest Service. They are on flat grassy benches nestled among the pines along the Canyon's steep slopes. Many have interesting side canyon hikes or accessibility to tributary streams for additional fishing.

On trips with Dvoraks, our river guides will provide instruction about disposal of human waste, the disposal of different types of trash, and other camp practices. Minimum-impact camping practices have enhanced these sites and you'll see few reminders other than footprints of previous visitors.

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 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.

CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

RIVER USE ETHICS: The river areas are fragile environments that degrade without proper care by visitors. To protect the river, we use minimum impact camping techniques carrying out all trash and human waste, etc. The guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact our group has on the canyon, and we request your cooperation.

We take pride in having the highest standard of river ethics possible.

FOOD

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch on the first day and ending with lunch on the last day. The food is fresh and hearty, and the guides will prepare it for you while you enjoy the homey atmosphere generated around each river camp. You can set up your tent or go for an evening walk, relax, read, or join the guides in the kitchen if you so desire.

A typical three-day menu may include as a main course BBQ steak, baked fish, pork chops and dumplings, 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.

Lunches are buffet style with a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, fruit, cheeses, sliced meats, nuts, juices or sodas.

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

Although we carry ample supplies of juices, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate we encourage you to bring extra soda, beer, wine or other beverages you may prefer. You can arrange for us to pick up specific beverages for you prior to the trip or you can stock up before we head to the river. Any liquids you bring must be in unbreakable containers, limited to one case per person.

ALCOHOL

You're welcome to bring alcohol if it is in unbreakable containers. **Discretion in alcohol consumption during whitewater days is strongly advised.** If you would like us to pick up a particular beer and bring it to the river, please let us know and payment can be made for your purchase at the river put-in with your Trip Leader.

WEATHER

In the early season (April - May) the North Platte can experience cold, changeable high mountain weather. While most days are warm and sunny (50-80°) it is best to be prepared for both warm and cold weather.

During July, temperatures range from 70-80° and can be quite warm. Due to its high elevation, however, dramatic fluctuations are still possible this time of the year. It is prudent to come prepared for cooler weather and ask advice from your guide as to their recommendations when packing up the first morning of the trip.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP ARRANGEMENTS

The meeting place for a North Platte River trip is the Routt National Forest access site, located approximately 8 miles north of Cowdrey, Colorado on Hwy #125. As you cross the bridge over the North Platte River, look off to the northeast to see a portable trailer where the river ranger resides. There is a white forest service sign ½ mile north of the bridge which indicates the Routt Access turnoff. The rendezvous point and staging area is at the parking lot by the portable toilets and not at the boat ramp near the ranger's trailer. Your vehicle will be left in this parking lot unless we shuttle it to the take-out point. It is okay to go to the boat ramp to drop off equipment before parking your car if necessary. We will rendezvous with you at 8:00 a.m., the morning the trip begins. There is primitive camping available there if you would like to arrive the night before the trip starts. Alternate camping areas are Cowdrey Lakes State Park in Cowdrey or Six Mile Gap Forest Campground about 6 miles north of the Routt Access sign.

Post trip arrangements vary depending on length of trip, water level and weather conditions. We will either leave your vehicle at the Routt access parking lot and arrange van transport back at trip's end or do an early morning shuttle (about 1½ hours) on the first day of the trip and leave vehicles at the take-out point. In either instance, you can plan on being back at your vehicle late in the afternoon on the trip's final day.

First day's lunch is usually 1-2 miles down stream between noon and 2:00 p.m. therefore plan on eating a hearty breakfast before your morning meeting time. Walden is the closest town with cafes.

GETTING TO THE NORTH PLATTE

BY PLANE: Fly into Denver, Colorado (served by most major airlines) and rent a car for the drive to the Routt National Forest "River Access", approximately 3½ hours. Another option is to fly to Steamboat Springs airfield. With advanced notice and a transport fee, pick up at the airport can be arranged. Rental cars are available in Steamboat Springs. It is about 1½ hours from Steamboat to the put-in point.

BY CAR: From the North: From Riverside, Wyoming follow Hwy #230 south to the Colorado State line where it changes to Hwy #125. It is a 2-3-mile drive from the state line to the (white) Routt Forest Access turn off sign.

From the South: From Walden, Colorado follow Hwy #125 north 4 miles beyond Cowdrey to a "T" junction. Continue northwest on Hwy #125 about 4 miles to the (white) Routt Forest Access turn off sign.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AT TRIP'S END

You will be back at your vehicle mid to late afternoon of the last day of your trip. Although you can usually make a connecting flight home from Denver after 9:00 p.m. on the last day of the trip, we recommend you fly out the following morning in case inclement weather or other circumstances delay your arrival in Denver. Remember, "River Time" is unpredictable.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We recommend the following for pre- and post-trip:
North Park Motel | 625 Main Street | P.O. Box 785
Walden, CO 80480 | (970) 723-4271

There is good camping available at "Six Mile Gap". This has water & toilets, access to the river by small hike down. The road access is 6 miles north of your put-in road at Routt Access sign.

WE 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 a ratio of 1 guide to 4 students on any instructional clinic. We have rental equipment available: tents, sleeping bags, pads, ground sheets, as well as wetsuit/boot rentals available per trip.

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

PERSONAL TRIP EQUIPMENT LIST

Please limit your gear to 30 pounds in weight. It should be able to be packed into a standard duffel bag. This list should cover everything for a safe, comfortable trip.

- Compact sleeping bag (not down) with Insulate pad
- Small backpack style tent w/ fly & ground sheet
- Long john style wetsuit/boots for cold months *
- Long pants (one light weight to block the sun & one warm wool or pile/fleece type*)
- Nylon shorts or swimsuit under wetsuit
- Long sleeved shirts (one warm*/one light weight)
- Non-cotton shirt or poly propylene top (fleece top)
- Warm jacket*, wind proof or Fleece, water resistant
- Pair of tennis shoes - tie on preferred or wet boots.
- Wool socks will help keep feet warm in tennis shoes
- Sunglasses with loss protector/keeper (with UV protection)
- Sun block (over 8,000' altitude - lots of UV exposure)
- Hat for sun protection (tie-on)
- Rain gear is provided unless you want to bring your own
- Small towel / biodegradable soap/shampoo/lotion etc.
- Flashlight and extra batteries with new bulb.
- Bandanna and a pair of lite gloves for sun protection.
- Personal items kit (hygiene) medicines etc.
- Waterproof camera or a very good waterproof case.
- **Caution:** Bugs can be a nuisance so bring adequate repellent
- EXTRA BEVERAGES - PLASTIC containers of liquor, CANNED beer or wine coolers. An adequate supply of soft drinks is provided. If you prefer diet drinks, please request them in advance. Wine is provided with evening meals.

* **Can be excluded during warmer weather**

RENTALS

TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS & WET SUITS

- \$15 Lightweight Sleeping Bag / Insulate pad
- \$25 Three-man dome tent with floor & ground sheet one night, \$50 two nights
- \$ 5 Therma-Rest Sleep pad, inflatable
- \$25 Long John Wet suit with booties

Note: These items need to be reserved. Payment is due along with your trip balance 45 days prior to departure. Be sure to give your height, weight, and shoe size for wet suit rentals.

INSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST

Full kayak or SUP instruction package will include the following or you can rent any of the equipment (See rental form)

- Kayak or Stand-up Paddleboard
- Floatation in each boat
- Paddle (variety to suit)
- Paddle jacket (Wind proof)
- Farmer john/jane wetsuit & boots
- Type III lifejacket & Helmet to size

You will need to bring the following:

- Polypropylene top/bottoms underwear
- Thin billed cap to wear under helmet
- Nylon shorts or bathing suit to wear under wetsuit
- Paddling gloves
- Fleece paddle jacket (not bulky)

Our instruction rental equipment includes state of the art kayaks – SUP boards * Wet suits and boots * paddle jackets * life jackets * helmet * flotation * spray skirts * paddles.



PREPARE TO GO FORMS

Thank you for joining us on the North Platte this season. You will find most information in the river notes. We request that you **fill out the forms we need and return them to us as soon as possible.**

- Waiver Form Online or print and return (1 each)
- 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 or SUP

Website: DvorakExpeditions.com

RESPONSIBILITY

Dvorak Expeditions will assume no responsibility for injury to trip members, damage, or loss of belongings, or for time or expense incurred. We require you to READ and SIGN a liability release form prior to your trip. Please fill out the health questionnaire.

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 45 days before the trip - all money is refunded **LESS \$100 per person**. If cancellation is made **less than 45 days before the trip**, the deposit of 25% per person is non-refundable. **With less than 14 days' notice, NO money is refunded.** (This includes all credit card charges.)

TRAVEL PROTECTION INSURANCE

Bill Dvorak Kayak & Rafting Expeditions Inc. recommends that you purchase a Traveler 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 **Traveler 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

DVORAK EXPEDITIONS

17921 U.S. Highway 285, Nathrop, CO 81236

Ph. (719) 539-6851 or (800) 824-3795

<mailto:Info@DvorakExpeditions.com>