



Twice Named
“Colorado Company of the Year”!

River: Arkansas River

Trip: 1- Day Bighorn Sheep Canyon Trip. Class II-IV. 20 miles.

Meeting Place: Parkdale Recreation Site located 2.6 miles west of the junction of Hwy 50 and Hwy 9, which is nine miles west of Canon City. There are parking, changing and restroom facilities at the site.

Times: Meeting time is at 8:45 am, trips depart daily at 9:30 am. Get back to your car at about 3:30 pm. River times outlined below are approximate.

Closest Major Airports: Colorado Springs (COS) – 1.5 hours, Denver (DIA) – 3 hours.

Meals Provided: A delicious smorgasbord lunch and a light snack at the end of the trip.

Season: May 1- August 15

Itinerary: The Lower Bighorn Sheep Canyon trip features class III-IV rapids. Lower Bighorn Sheep Canyon offers the best opportunity to view herds of Bighorn sheep grazing up on the craggy hillsides straddling the river. We only offer this trip to groups of 10 or more because we feel that Browns Canyon is a better trip with comparable rapids. Normally these groups have already done Browns Canyon and are looking for a new section.

8:45 am: We meet at the Parkdale Recreation Site, which is the ending point for our full day adventure through the Bighorn Sheep Canyon. There are parking, changing, and restroom facilities at the site. Due to the distance from our headquarters and timing of this trip, we are not able to provide the complementary continental breakfast that guests coming to our headquarters in Buena Vista have come to expect. Plan ahead for breakfast so you have plenty of energy for the morning!

9:30 am: Once you are suited up, you will be whisked to the river for your full-day adventure. At the “Put-in”, your trip leader will give you a comprehensive orientation and safety talk with plenty of time for questions. You will have the confidence needed to handle anything that comes up during the trip.

10:30 am: The morning portion of the trip features fun rapids like Gosh Awful, Texas Creek and Maytag. These rapids feature big, splashy waves and are very forgiving for beginning rafters. The morning is milder than the afternoon, giving us time to warm up for the big stuff. The vegetation in this section is influenced by dry, high desert conditions. Cholla and prickly pear cactus dot the rocky hillsides.

12:00 pm: A well-deserved lunch break at a shady cottonwood tree covered bench gives you time to dry out and stretch your legs while soaking in the sweeping canyon views. Enjoy some tasty hors d’oeuvres while the guides prepare a hearty, deli-style lunch.

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1:00 pm: The afternoon is packed with class III-IV rapids similar to those in Brown's Canyon. Some of the highlights are Three Rocks, Spike Buck, Shark's Tooth and Double Dip. The water here is warmer than in Brown's canyon and has a higher volume creating bigger splashes and a thrilling ride. In June, when the river is swollen with snowmelt, prepare for a wet and wild ride with towering waves and powerful currents – a wetsuit is a must for rafting at this time of year. During July and August, the river changes, requiring technical maneuvers around rocks and dropping through narrow chutes. As the river warms, wetsuits disappear and are replaced by swimsuits, providing opportunities to splash fight with new friends or even swim a rapid!

3:30 pm: We will arrive at the Parkdale Recreation in mid-afternoon where you can change out of your river clothes and enjoy a cold drink. Your car will be parked here, so no bus ride back to the headquarters is needed. It's time to say good-bye to new found friends and reflect on this rapid-filled trip. You may also choose to remember your trip with a T-shirt, hat or pair of shorts. There is no better way to spend a day!