
Whitewater Voyages' Recreation Guide To Sequoia National Forest & The Kern River Valley

A key gateway to the southern Sierra, the Sequoia National Forest and the Kern River Valley are a recreational wonderland! Fabulous attractions include not only 60 miles of exhilarating world class whitewater on the Kern River, but also an amazing abundance of other delightful, learning-filled, enriching activities: wind-surfing, fishing, mountain biking, hiking, birding, golfing, kite-boarding, jet skiing, lake kayaking, gold mining, horseback riding, rock climbing, antiquing, shopping, B&B-ing, fine dining, naturalist tours, historical exploration, spelunking, hot spring basking and so much more! Whitewater Voyages hopes this guide will help you find and enjoy some of the many attractions of the area.

Remember, this is only a place to start. There is plenty here to discover on your own!

As a meeting place of five bio-regions, Sequoia National Forest and the Kern Valley wilderness provides the perfect setting for adventure and wonder. Whether enjoying the cascading waterfalls, the giant sequoias, or basking in the desert sun of Joshua Tree, this recreational paradise is sure to present the perfect backdrop for your adventures!

Forest's treasures include

Trail of 100 Giants
Giant Sequoia National Monument
South Fork Wildlife Area
Kern River Preserve
Golden Trout Wilderness
Dome Land Wilderness



In addition to the wilderness and wildlife preserves, another showpiece for the Kern River Valley is Lake Isabella.

Located just miles from your whitewater rafting adventure and easily accessible when entering or exiting the Sequoia National Forest, Lake Isabella is the largest freshwater lake in Southern California. Well stocked with trout, bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish, the great fishing draws people. Others come to boat, sail, water ski or jet ski.

These vast regions of natural wonderland offer thousands of acres of beauty and intrigue. Hiking, fishing and camping are just a handful of activities to be enjoyed. To make the most of your Kern River Valley experience, we recommend planning your adventure in advance.

To obtain information about Sequoia National Forest recreation, permits, camping, maps, brochures, etc., contact...

Kernville Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 397
11447 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238
760-376-2629
www.kernvillechamber.org

Kern River Ranger District
P. O. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
760-376-3781
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Kern River Valley
Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 567
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
866-KRV-4FUN
www.kernrivervalley.com



Things to Do & See

Annual Events

In addition to the great whitewater rafting, the Valley is home to many annual events which are certain to add to your unforgettable vacation! These are just a few events which usually take place during the rafting season, but to check out a complete list of events, visit www.kernvillechamber.org and view the Kern Valley Annual Events Calendar.

Kern Valley Festival

"A Celebration of the Bio-regions" - Getting bigger every year, this event celebrates the Valley's ecological diversity. Five of California's six bioregions meet here, making it unique in the world. The Valley also hosts 315 species of birds and scores of other wild-life species. There are field trips with experts, workshops, live animals and outdoor games for the kids. Info: 760-376-2629.

Spring Fine Arts & Crafts Festival

Enjoy an array of arts and crafts created by local artists and craftsmen: fine leather accessories, hand-crafted jewelry and beautiful one-of-a-kind paintings of all varieties. Festival Admission is free. 760-376-1403 or 760-379-6162.

Kern River Valley Historical Society History Days

Learn about the intriguing history of Kernville through exhibits, films, and much more provided by the Kernville Museum. In addition to exhibits and outdoor recreation, the museum provides tours which allow you to explore luxurious natural hot springs, gold mines, and historical buildings and homes that make the area so quaintly unique. Admission is free. 760-376-6683.

Annual Whitewater Wednesday

Sponsored by the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, this event introduces newcomers to the sport of whitewater rafting. All of the local rafting companies donate rafts and guides to the cause. Riverside Park is the place. Come get wet with us! Info: 760-376-2629.

Kids Fishing Derby

Kids Fish Free! This fishing event is tons of fun for children ages 5-16, as they race to catch Lake Isabella's largest fish for trophies and fun fishing prizes. After the contest weigh-in, everyone can enjoy complimentary hotdogs, snacks and sodas, a friendly face-painting and a visit with Smokey the Bear! There are lots of other fun activities for everyone! Admission is free. 760-376-2804.



Hikes & Favorite Places

Cannell Meadow Trail

North of Kernville on Sierra Way just before the SCE Powerhouse on the right, the trail ascends through a variety of landscapes to the Kern Plateau. Great in the spring when the wildflowers bloom, it's also a nice biking trail.

Needles Lookout Trail

A short drive south of Quaking Aspen is the Needles Lookout Road, follow the trail for about an hour to the top of the Needles. Enjoy the fantastic series of granite domes and the awesome views of the Kern River, Lloyd Meadows and the Golden Trout Wilderness. Visiting hours are 9-6 when occupied. Limit 4 in the lookout at one time.

Dry Meadow Creek & Peppermint Creek

Both these creeks are accessible from Lloyd Meadow Road and feature water worn granite tubs and falls, cool water and great views! Our favorite high country day spots!

River Trail ~ Park at the Johnsondale Bridge, walk back over and down the stairs on the south side. The trail follows the North Fork of the Kern for 5 miles. An easy hike for a great picnic by the river.



Find out how to enjoy more of the breathtaking Valley and Giant Sequoias by visiting www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia or by calling the Kern River Ranger District office at 760-376-3781.

Whitewater Voyages' Kernville Outdoor Center Welcomes All!

We warmly invite you to visit our Kern Outdoor Center in Kernville, located inside Frandy Park Campground.

Aside from being our meeting area for all Kern trips,

K.O.C. is also a great place to get your Whitewater Voyages souvenirs!

You can purchase cool t-shirts, hats, sundries and much more...

there's even a place to check out pictures of you and your friends and family on the river!

We may be able to take short-notice or walk-in reservations for the Kern at our river office (760-376-8806). However, because of our busy season, we recommend that you reserve your trip well in advance by calling our main office, open weekdays year-round and on weekends during the season, at 800-400-7238.

Haven't Booked Yet?



Whitewater Voyages offers a variety of trips throughout California.

Kern River trips range anywhere from 1/2 day express trips to 3-day expeditions, the most popular being the 1-day Upper Kern and 2-day Lower Kern.

From our well-trained, fun-loving guides to our sumptuous meals, Whitewater Voyages is dedicated to making your trip enjoyable!

For advance reservations call us at 800-400-7238. Even on short notice, we may be able to accommodate you.

Enjoy
the beautiful scenery of
the
Kern River Valley!

And please help
preserve the beauty
of our National Forest
by treading lightly and
leaving no trash behind.



Get Involved...



Whitewater Voyages would like your rafting adventure and visit to the Kern River Valley to be a spectacular experience. In fact, we hope you enjoy the river and beauty of the Valley so much that we see you every year!

We are continuously searching for ways to provide the best experience for our patrons, and the annual events and creativity of the Kern River Valley residents add to the warm welcome and adventure that the area has to offer.

The Valley community works diligently to preserve the natural beauty of the river and the Valley. As part of this effort, Whitewater Voyages schedules annual Kern River clean up trips.

If you would like more information on how contribute to clean-up efforts and conservation of the Valley contact us or the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Whitewater Voyages is an equal opportunity outfitter operating under a Special Use Permit from the Sequoia National Forest.

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Whitewater Voyages — 800-400-RAFT — www.whitewatervoyages.com — fun@whitewatervoyages.com

Lodging & Campgrounds

Motels/Inns in Kern Valley

Lodging in the Valley offers the perfect small town charm you may be looking for to jump start or complete your rustic river adventure. Many require a two-night minimum stay on weekends and holidays so be sure to check in advance for availability/rates.

Whispering Pines Lodge, 760-376-3733
www.kernvalley.com/whisperingpines
River View Lodge, 877-885-6333
www.kernvalley.com/riverviewlodge/goto.html
Kern Lodge Motel, 760-376-2223
www.kernvalley.com/kernlodge/

Kern River Inn B&B, 800-986-4382
www.kernriverinn.com
Kernville Inn, 760-376-2206
www.kernvilleinn.com
Pine Cone Inn, 760-376-6669
www.pineconeinn.com

Motels/Inns in Bakersfield

Bakersfield, approximately 50 miles from Kernville, is the last "big city" before you head up the mountain to Kernville. You may want to consider staying in Bakersfield if you're looking for a reasonable one-night stopover during your travels. Below is a list of several motels/inns that are located in Bakersfield near Highway 178 (toward Lake Isabella/Kernville).

La Quinta Inn, 661-325-7400
Double Tree Hotel, 661-323-7111
Ramada Limited Suites, 661-831-1922

Best Western Crystal Palace, 661-327-9651
Days Inn, Bakersfield, 661-324-5555

Campgrounds and RV Parks

Frandy Park ~ (800) 372-6399 ~ www.frandy.net

Tent camping, RVs, river parking.

All of Whitewater Voyages' Kern River trips meet at Frandy Park*, which offers campsites on a first-come, first-serve basis for a fee paid upon entrance. Restrooms and pay showers are on site. For more information regarding accommodations and rates, or to inquire about advance reservations, contact Frandy Park*. Please note...Frandy Park is not owned or operated by Whitewater Voyages. All fees are charged at the discretion of the owners of Frandy Park and are not controlled by Whitewater Voyages. Frandy Park charges a parking fee to Whitewater Voyages' clients.



Forest Service Campgrounds

The Forest Service hosts a wide array of campgrounds at affordable rates, both along the river and Lake Isabella. Some of the more popular sites are listed below. For information about campground specifics and amenities it is best to contact the local Forest Service (Kern River Ranger District ~ 760-376-3781).

Hobo
Sandy Flat

Camp 3
Camp 9

Limestone
Pioneer Point

Goldledge

For detailed information about Sequoia National Forest camping, recreation, permits, maps, brochures, etc., visit the U.S. Forest Service website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia>.

Some Forest Service campgrounds may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 877-444-6777, or, through www.ReserveUSA.com.

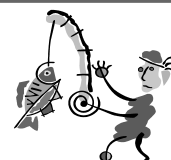
You can also visit the Chamber of Commerce website at www.kernvalley.com/news/campmenu.htm.

Boating & Fishing

Lake boating and fishing permits may be obtained at these locations:

French Gulch Marina ~ 760-379-8774
Red's Kern Valley Marina ~ 760-379-1007
Isabella Market ~ 760-379-8222
Primos ~ 760-376-2555

Dean's North Fork Marina ~ 760-376-1812
Crossroads Market ~ 760-379-8170
James Sierra Gateway Market ~ 760-376-2424
Riverside One Stop ~ 760-376-1688



Information can be obtained by contacting the Kern River Ranger District ~ 760-376-3781.

Please confirm any/all travel directions with a California map.

Whitewater Voyages — 800-400-RAFT — www.whitewatervoyages.com — fun@whitewatervoyages.com