

Dear Trip Leader,

Thank you for your interest in rafting the beautiful Nantahala River with us.

At Nantahala Rafting with Fast Rivers, outdoor adventure is our passion and sharing it is our dream.

We are pleased to help make your job as trip leader as easy as possible, whether you are a group of 1 or 100. We have put together this information packet to help organize and inform your group.

*Please have everyone sign an individual form prior to arrival. You can sign them digitally through the link in the confirmation email, or print out paper copies to bring with you.*

We know it is a lot of information, but it will help to best prepare you and your group for your whitewater fun.

Helping you and your group have fun is what we are here for, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Our goal is to help make your adventure a success.

Thanks again! We look forward to seeing you on the river with us. We believe that the most important trip down the river is yours.

Come and enjoy the fun!

Will Truett  
Nantahala Rafting with Fast Rivers  
Rated #1 on Trip Advisor  
1965 US Highway 19, Topton, NC 28781;  
Nantahala Gorge  
828-321-4037; 1-800-GET-RAFT (438-7238)  
[www.NantahalaRafting.com](http://www.NantahalaRafting.com)  
[willtruett@outlook.com](mailto:willtruett@outlook.com)



## WELCOME TO NANTAHALA RAFTING with FAST RIVERS!

Welcome to Nantahala Rafting with Fast Rivers where we are proud to be the top rated outpost on Tripadvisor! As the finest company on the Nantahala River (nan-tuh-hay-luh), our family owned and operated outfitter has been specializing in whitewater rafting adventures for over 40 years. Putting you first since 1979, Fast Rivers Rafting continues to welcome you to miles of exciting class II and III rapids on one of the country's most popular rivers.

Our goal is to exceed your expectations in all facets of your rafting experience. Our friendly, skilled, and sincere service is second to none. We welcome the opportunity to have you on the river with us. Fast Rivers is geared to give you personal and knowledgeable service allowing you a wonderful, memorable trip down the Nantahala River. We thank you for choosing us and look forward to sharing the adventure of whitewater rafting with you. After all, the most important trip down the river is yours!

We have set aside a spot just for you, whether you're a rugged whitewater veteran or a beginner enthusiast. Your river experience can range from a family outing to a high-performance adventure; we offer group discounts, privately guided, guide-assisted, and self-guided rafting trips, as well as funyaks "duckies." In our outpost you'll find river photos, T-shirts, souvenirs, and much more! If a guided Nantahala rafting trip is your preference we are pleased to set you up with the best guides on the river. Or if you choose, you may allow your family or group the excitement of guiding your own rafts. We do all we can to help your group understand the "how-to's" for enjoying the river with a guide or on your own.

In the heart of the Nantahala National Forest, the Nantahala River is a family friendly, nationally recognized river of recreation. The Class II-III river is dam-controlled and pulls its water from the bottom of Nantahala Lake. The water has a scheduled daily release from the dam about 15 miles upstream and is pulled from approximately 250 feet in depth. Since the water does not see sunlight until its release, it stays cool year round. The crystal-clear mountain water then runs its course through the Nantahala River emptying into Fontana Lake.

Mid-March through Mid-October, your whitewater adventure begins at the Fast Rivers Rafting outpost located 20 miles west of Bryson City, NC and 10 miles east of Andrews, NC. After checking in at the store, you'll get fully equipped, receive personal instruction, and be shuttled to the put-in (about a 1 minute drive) where your whitewater fun will begin. Hours/days vary depending on season. Please visit our website and click **Information** then **Trip Times** to verify.

On the area's most scenic terrain, you will experience over 20 named rapids, including *Patton's Run*, *Whirlpool*, and *The Bump*. There are plenty of waves to crash through and several calm water opportunities to simply enjoy the natural beauty and wonders of the Nantahala River and the Great Smoky Mountains!

## **WHAT WE OFFER**

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!** – Nantahala Rafting with Adventurous Fast Rivers has an ideal and amazing location just seconds from your entry onto the Nantahala River! The beautiful Great Smoky Mountains and Nantahala National Forest has become a destination place for many vacationers and day-trippers alike. You can enjoy our mountain views while relaxing by the creek, having lunch at one of our picnic tables, or playing cornhole with your family. We have spacious bathrooms with hot showers and changing facilities and a top-notch retail souvenir shop. Anyway you look at it – you are sure to have a great day at Adventurous Fast Rivers on the Nantahala River!

**INSTRUCTION** – Undoubtedly THE BEST! In a nicely wooded instruction area, alongside our creek, our instructors teach raft handling and crew coordination to help you understand how to make the raft easier to control. They use a hand painted picture of the river while describing the best routes to take through the most difficult rapids. And, of course, they answer all of your questions so you will have a fun and memorable trip!

**TRIP DETAILS** – We have set pickup times, eliminating any long waits at the take out. We are there waiting on you rather than you there waiting on us.

**8.5 mile Full River Trip** – *Total time on the River is about 1 hour and 45 minutes to 2 hours. We advise that you plan on about 3 hours for your overall trip time.* After we personally fit you into your life jacket and give you full instruction, we shuttle you to the put-in. On your way down the river, you'll enjoy over 20 named rapids! We will meet you at the commercial take-out and shuttle you back to our outpost, where your dry clothes & captured memories await you.

**PHOTOS** – We take pictures of your group at the last rapid, *Nantahala Falls*. Your pictures display at our outpost store on a wide screen TV for the whole group to enjoy and relive the fun! They can be purchased in store, over the phone, or online through our website.

*\$20 (plus tax) - 1 photo from 1 boat*

*\$35 (plus tax) - All photos from 1 boat*

*\$50 (plus tax) - All photos from all boats in your party*

**BOATS** – We offer a diverse selection of different sized boats with various performance levels, 1 man to 8 man carrying capacity.

**GUIDES** – We personally hire only the BEST! Our trained guides take great pride in their ability to provide you with a fun-filled adventure! They are First Aid and CPR certified with experience and knowledge of the river as well as meeting all United States Forest Service requirements.

**RENTAL GEAR** – We offer splash jackets, wetsuits, and neoprene booties if you prefer additional gear on the river. Our sizing ranges from children up to 4X and our booties fit up to a men's size 15.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. WHAT IS PROVIDED?**

Fast Rivers will provide all necessary equipment, life jackets, paddles, detailed personal instruction, and transportation. Helmets are optional.

### **2. WHAT DO WE WEAR AND WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE BRING?**

In warm weather we suggest a bathing suit, quick dry shorts, tank top or t-shirt.

The forest service does not allow bare feet or slide on shoes due to risk of foot entrapment. Footwear must be secure to your feet with a heel strap, but can be open-toed.

For cool weather any long sleeve– synthetic clothing is best, Capilene, wetsuit, splash gear and/or diving booties are recommended.

### **3. WHAT IF IT RAINS?**

We go rain or shine. You'll get wet anyway! It's been several years since it stormed so bad we had to cancel trips. It is always a good idea to throw on your rain jacket just in case, or we have rentals available if needed.

### **4. WHAT TIME SHOULD WE ARRIVE AT THE OUTPOST FOR OUR TRIP?**

We ask that you arrive at our outpost 30 minutes prior to your scheduled trip time. This allows you time to check-in and get your group ready for your trip. Your scheduled trip time is the actual time that we start our process to personally fit you into your life jacket, give instruction & then load you onto the bus. If you arrive late, you risk being put on a later or shorter trip or forfeiting your trip all together.

### **5. WHERE CAN I FIND THE RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER FORM?**

Your confirmation email will include a link to a digital copy for you to sign. It also will include a copy that can be printed to bring with you at the end of the literature packet.

### **6. HOW COLD IS THE RIVER?**

The Nantahala River is a dam-controlled river. The water is being pulled from the bottom of Lake Nantahala about 250 feet below the surface. The temperature is about 48-52° year round.

### **7. DO WE NEED A GUIDE?**

It is a personal preference, however, if you have never been before it is recommended that you go guided. We want you to reserve what makes you most comfortable so you can always give us a call – we are happy to discuss which option is best for you & your entire group!

### **8. WHAT ARE YOUR HOURS OF OPERATION?**

We are open 7 days a week March–October. Memorial Day through Labor Day is our peak season. Our trip times in the peak season are 9:30am, 10:30am, 2:00pm, and 2:45pm. Outside of peak season we offer 10:30am and 2:00pm trip times daily. We happily open each morning 45 minutes prior to our first check-in period and close each day when the last customer bids their farewell.

### **9. WHERE DO WE GO ON THE RIVER & WHAT CAN WE BRING IN THE RAFT?**

Our staff will instruct your group on what to look for and avoid when going down river. Forest Service regulations prevent coolers on the river. Too many times it ends up as river trash. Alcohol is strictly prohibited on the river and in our rafts. If you have been drinking alcohol you risk a fine, as well as not being permitted to raft.

**10. HOW DO WE GET BACK TO FAST RIVERS OUTPOST?**

We shuttle you to the put-in, as well as shuttle you back from the take-out.

**11. DO WE HAVE TO PADDLE?**

YES! An active and engaged paddler is a safe paddler. If you have mobility concerns, we will be happy to accommodate your needs.

**12. HOW OLD DO CHILDREN HAVE TO BE?**

The United States Forest Service regulations require a child to weigh at least 60 pounds OR be 7 years of age to raft on the Nantahala River.

**13. CAN WE BRING OUR DOG?**

In the interest of everyone's safety, animals are not permitted in the rafts. There are several good kennels located nearby that board animals for the day, such as; *Rippling Waters*: 828-488-2091

**14. WILL THERE BE PHOTOS TAKEN?**

Yes! We make every effort to capture your memory of going through the last rapid. We do our absolute best to take several pictures of each raft. You can then view and/or purchase them at the outpost store after your trip or online. Please know that, although not common, there are no guarantees due to circumstances beyond our control.

**15. WILL OUR GROUP BE IN A RAFT WITH ANOTHER GROUP?**

If you are going on a guided trip, smaller parties may be combined unless you select the private trip option for an additional \$15 per person. Self guided trips will not be combined.

**16. HOW DEEP IS THE RIVER?**

The Nantahala River varies in depth from 10 inches to over 10 feet deep in places. Our instructors will explain why the shallow sections are by far the more dangerous sections.

**17. WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?**

When you make a reservation with Fast Rivers, it is our commitment to hold a space for you and possibly turn others away from that particular trip date and time. With this in mind, please understand that we must be firm in adhering to our refund/cancellation policy. If you need to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. To hold your reservation we must receive a credit card commitment or a 50% deposit.

**Cancellations up to 14 days prior to trip date – 100% Refund Cancellations 7-13 days prior to trip date – 50% Refund or 100% credit toward trip this season. Cancellations less than 7 days prior to trip date or NO SHOW on day of trip – No Refund.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our cancellation policies or any other matter, please call us. We are always happy to help! (828)321-4037

**20. DO YOU TAKE WALK INS?**

While Reservations are suggested, walk-ins are always welcome. Please remember that the only way we can guarantee a space is by making a reservation. Your group's reservation requires full payment or credit card commitment in advance. **Trips Go Rain or Shine. All reserved spots will be charged.**

**\*\*Insurance is included in pricing and covers damaged rafting equipment, not individual boats such as funyaks and torrents. Insurance DOES NOT COVER LOST EQUIPMENT for self-guided trips and Tote & Float rentals.**

# Rates

## Self-Guided Trip

<u>Number of people</u>	<u>Cost Per Person</u>
1-14	\$28
15-24	\$26
25-49	\$24
50+	Please call

## Fully-Guided Trip

<u>Number of people</u>	<u>Cost Per Person</u>
1-14	\$55
15-24	\$52
25-49	\$49
50+	Please call

\*\*For a guaranteed private trip, you may request this at an additional \$15 per person.

## Guide-Assisted Trip

<u>Number of people</u>	<u>Cost Per Person</u>
8-14	\$46
15-24	\$44
25-49	\$42
50+	Please call

\*\*Must have at least 8 people in your group for this option.

## Guided Funyak Trip

\$70 per person, \$82.50 with wetsuit rental.

## Self-Guided Funyak Trip

\$35 per person (single person funyak)

\$30 per person (two person funyak)

*We also offer a Tote & Float option for our Funyaks. This means you can pick up and drop off the boat at any time the same day, but you are responsible for transportation. We do have day and season river passes available for purchase at our outpost. The rest of the necessary gear will be included in your Tote & Float price. Please call for more information.*

**FAST RIVERS RAFTING COMPANY (FRR)**  
**RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the Nantahala Riverside, Inc. dba Fast Rivers Rafting program, its related events and activities, I, the participant, the undersigned, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular skills, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the Adventurous Fast Rivers Rafting immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS Nantahala Riverside, Inc., their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors or premises used for the activity ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property associated with my presence or participation, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I understand all equipment is my responsibility to return intact to FRR staff and if retrieval of equipment or anyone in my party is required by AFRR staff a retrieval fee may be charged based on time and equipment required (\$25.00 minimum). Insurance is included against damaged equipment, not lost or stolen equipment. In the event any equipment gets lost or stolen; payment will be required for complete replacement. I authorize the use of all photos taken of myself or of our group for any type of promotional advertising.

(A) Once your life preserver is personally fitted to you before the trip begins, you MUST wear it with all buckles securely fastened at all times while on the river. (B) Wear proper shoes. Sandals without a strap around your heel, flip-flops, and slick sole shoes are not appropriate. You are more inclined to slip and fall or twist an ankle if you are wearing inappropriate footwear (or no shoes at all!). You need to wear a fairly sturdy, secure shoe with some tread to prevent slipping. (C) Sit only in proper places on the craft as indicated in your safety instruction. NEVER DRAG crafts as this will cause wear and damage. (D) Do not participate in this whitewater trip if you are under the influence of alcohol or "drugs". They impair your judgment and coordination, thus jeopardizing your safety and the safety of others. AFRR prohibits harmful conduct or interference of any kind with safety and reserves the right to remove any individual from a trip, with no refund, if these policies are not followed.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OR RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address (optional & kept confidential)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (under age 18 at time of signing)**

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my child and our heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law. I also understand and agree that my child is at least 60 pounds or at least 7 years of age.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age of Minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Weight of Minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed