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## **NANTHALA WHITEWATER RAFTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **HOW ARE RAPIDS RATED FOR DIFFICULTY?**

#### **INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER DIFFICULTY**

##### **CLASS I- EASY**

Few or no obstructions; fast moving water with riffles; risk to swimmers is slight.

##### **CLASS II- NOVICE**

Wide clear channels; occasional maneuvering; rocks and medium-sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers; swimmers are seldom injured; assistance is helpful but rarely needed.

##### **CLASS III- INTERMEDIATE**

Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and capable of swamping a canoe; complex maneuvers in fast current and narrow passages require good boat control; large waves, holes and strainers may be present but are easily avoided; powerful current; scouting advisable; swimmers are unlikely to be injured but assistance may be needed to avoid a long swim.

##### **CLASS IV- ADVANCED**

Intense, powerful rapids; turbulent water; may involve long, unavoidable waves, holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure; may require "must" moves above dangerous hazards; risk of injury to swimmers in moderate to high; group assistance to swimmers requires practiced skills.

##### **CLASS V- EXPERT**

Long, obstructed, turbulent rapids; drops may contain very large unavoidable waves, holes or steep congested chutes with complex demanding routes; several of these factors may be combined at the upper level of this class; rescue is extremely difficult; above average rescue skills are essential.

##### **CLASS VI- ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE**

Difficulties of Class V are carried to the limits of navigability; very dangerous; risks are high and rescue may be impossible; for teams of experts only under favorable conditions.

### **WHAT FACTORS DETERMINE THE AGE/WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS?**

The line has to be drawn somewhere. The determining factors usually revolve around the likelihood of a flip or swim and at what age or size can a child listen to and understand instructions. Can the child understand the dangers? Does the child have enough size or body fat to have control of their body in icy water? Can the child rescue themselves or will the parents be so concerned about a young child they put their own health at risk?, A parental signature is required signifying proper age. Should you push the limit with your child? No, it is not worth the risk!



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### **IS RAFTING REALLY SAFE?**

Wildwater Ltd. has been in business for 30 years and has maintained an excellent safety record. Team Members go through extensive training before being "checked out" as a trained guide. All guides are trained in CPR and First Aid with many being trained in Advanced Wilderness First Aid as well. However, due to the nature of whitewater rafting and other associated activities, Wildwater Ltd. and its affiliates assume no responsibility for personal safety or loss of personal property. All participants are required to complete a personal liability and photo release form before their trip.

### **WHAT IF I CANNOT SWIM?**

Many rafters cannot swim. On all trips, Coast Guard-approved lifejackets are provided and must be worn. On advanced trips it is recommended that you have basic swimming skills.

### **DO I NEED TO BE PHYSICALLY FIT?**

Participation is required on all trips, you must paddle. On all Chattooga trips there is a 1/4 mile hike into and out of the river carrying all equipment needed for the trip. You do not need to be an athlete, however a good physical condition is recommended. Lifejacket limitations are a maximum girth of 52". For any medical conditions that may be affected by strenuous activity please consult your doctor.

### **WHAT DO I WEAR?**

In the summer shorts, a bathing suit and shoes that will stay on your feet are recommended. For the spring and the fall we recommend layering with synthetics such as fleece or polypropylene. On the Chattooga River Wetsuits are provided March, April, October and November free of charge. On other rivers wetsuits are available to rent for \$10 and wetsuit booties for \$5.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS BAD WEATHER?**

**Rain:** Trips go rain or shine. You are going to get wet anyway so why not enjoy your river trip when other activities like hiking and biking are better when it is sunny & dry! Rainy days also provide some of the most beautiful scenery as fog and mist rises off the river. A baseball cap can help by keeping rain out of your eyes.

**Lightning:** In the event of a locally severe lightning storm, trips may stop and pull over on the bank. Exposure while on the river is at a minimum because of the high ridgelines and trees that surround the river. Trip starts may be delayed if a storm is occurring at the rafting center.

**High Water/ Flood:** Wildwater, in conjunction with the Federal Agencies that license the outfitters, have established where it is best to raft at specific water levels. If the water levels on any of the rivers exceeds safe levels, trips may be cancelled or relocated to another river. In the case of a trip cancellation, guests are offered the option to reschedule.



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### **DO I HAVE TO FILL A RAFT?**

No. Whether you come by yourself or with a large group we can accommodate you on a trip. If you do not have a full boat, groups will be combined. The rafts on the Chattooga hold 4-5 per raft and on the Ocoee, Nantahala and Pigeon Rivers the rafts hold 6 people. Numbers may vary depending on the size of the group. Whitewater rafting is a participatory activity and everyone is expected to help paddle.

### **WHAT MEALS ARE PROVIDED AND WHAT IS FOR LUNCH?**

Lunch is provided on the Nantahala Raft & Rail, Chattooga III & IV, and Ocoee Combo. Lunch consists of a sandwich buffet with all the fixings. A variety of bread, cheeses, meats, tomato, lettuce, onion, pickles, chips & salsa, fruit, veggies, trail mix, cookies and a drink are all included.

(Lunch may vary slightly depending on the trip).

The Chattooga Super Friday includes a BBQ dinner and the Saturday Chattooga III includes a cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs and grilled chicken.

### **WHAT ARE GUARANTEED DAYS ON THE PIGEON RIVER?**

Carolina Power and Light is required to release water for recreational purposes 3 days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 12:00 Noon until 6:00pm.

### **HOW WILL CHATTOOGA RIVER LEVELS AFFECT MY TRIP?**

The Chattooga River is a free flowing river that is affected by the amount of rain received in the area. Typically the Chattooga has higher water in the spring with water levels dropping to lower levels in mid-late summer. If you are looking for big whitewater then we recommend the spring. If you are looking for a great day out in the wilderness with family and friends with less intense whitewater, then the summer is your ticket.

The exact stretch of river you will navigate will depend on the water levels on the day of your trip. Please expect changes if the water is very high or very low. Water levels below .85 can cause changes in river schedules- please check to make sure your trip time has not changed before leaving for your trip.



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### WHAT TO WEAR GUIDE

#### CHILLY OR RAINY WEATHER

- Complimentary wetsuits on full-day Chattooga trips in March, April, October and November. (Bootie rentals available at most locations)
- Complimentary spray jackets at all locations.
- Wool or synthetic (Thermax or polypropylene) garments will "wick" away moisture from your skin and warm you. Cotton will leave you wet, cold and clammy.
- A good wool cap can help significantly. (40% of heat loss is through the head.)
- Wool socks are also recommended if you don't have neoprene booties.

#### SUMMER OR WARM WEATHER

- Bathing suits or shorts & T-Shirt
- Tennis shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops)
- Cotton holds moisture to our skin, keeping you wet and clammy. Cotton will not keep you warm.
- Sunscreen- particularly if you are fair skinned. The water reflects and enhances the chance of sunburn.
- If you choose to wear prescription or sunglasses we recommend string or Chums to hold them in place.

Be certain to bring a change of clothes and a towel. (Showers Available) River stores have Chums, sunscreen, camera film, sport sandals, towels, and other necessary items should you forget them.

A Monthly Guide to Planning Your Whitewater Adventure			
Month	Clothing	Ave.Temp	Typical Conditions
March	Early Spring Wetsuits	66.8	Water cold. Level High on all rivers.
April	Early Spring Wetsuits	70.1	Water cold. Level High on all rivers.
May	Spring varies	76.3	Water cold. Level High on all rivers
June	Spring varies	82.1	Level Medium-High on all rivers
July	Summer light	86.3	Water mild. Level medium
			*Medium High on Ocoee, Nanty and Pigeon
August	Summer light	85.7	Water warm. Level lower.
			*Medium high on Ocoee, Nanty and Pigeon
Sept	Fall Wetsuit Optional	78.6	Water mild. Level lower-medium.
Oct	Late Fall Wetsuits	68.0	*Medium high Ocoee, Nanty and Pigeon
Nov	Late Fall Wetsuits	68.0	Water cool. Level varies



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### **DIRECTIONS TO BRYSON CITY, NC**

#### **FROM MURPHY, NC:**

Follow Hwy 74 East past the Nantahala River. The Nantahala Rafting Center is on Hwy 74, five minutes past the take-out, 1.7 miles on your right.

#### **FROM BRYSON CITY, NC:**

Take the Great Smoky Mountain Expressway (74 West). About 12 miles past Bryson City, Hwy 74 narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Go straight, staying on Hwy 74 West. The Nantahala Rafting Center is 1.8 miles on the left past the 74/28 fork.

#### **FROM FRANKLIN, NC: (1 HOUR MOUNTAIN DRIVING)**

Take 28 North to US 74, turn left onto US 74. About 12 miles past Bryson City, Hwy 74 narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Go straight, staying on Hwy 74 West. The Nantahala Rafting Center is 1.8 miles on the left past the 74/28 fork.

#### **FROM FRANKLIN, NC: (STRAIGHTER ROADS, BUT MORE MILES)**

Take 441 North to Dillsboro, pick up US 74 West toward Bryson City. Stay on 74. About 12 miles past Bryson City, Hwy 74 narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Go straight, staying on Hwy 74 West. The Nantahala Rafting Center is 1.8 miles on the left past the 74/28 fork.

#### **FROM ATLANTA, GA: 3.5 HOURS**

Take I-85 North to I-985 North (in Gainesville) to I-365 North (in Cornelia) to 441 North past Franklin, NC to Dillsboro. In Dillsboro take Hwy 74 towards Bryson City. About 12 miles past Bryson City, Hwy 74 narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Go straight, staying on Hwy 74 West. The Nantahala Rafting Center is 1.8 miles on the left past the 74/28 fork.

The Nantahala Rafting Center is located on Hwy. 74 South, 12 miles South of Bryson City, North Carolina. We recommend Hwy. 74 versus Hwy. 19 for time and better roads. Please check your map to confirm driving routes.

**MEETING LOCATION:                    10345 HIGHWAY 19 WEST  
    BRYSON CITY, NC 28713**



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### **BED AND BREAKFASTS**

West Oak B&B & Cabins -(828) 488-2438  
Charleston Inn Bed & Breakfast- (888) 285-1555  
Folkestone Inn B&B- (888) 812-3385  
The Chalet Inn- (800) 789-8024  
Calhoun House Inn & Suites - (828) 399-9765

### **CABINS AND COTTAGES**

Nantahala Village (800)-438-1507  
Whispering Winds Log Cabin Rentals (828) 736-6443  
Fox Creek Cabins (866) 251-4408  
Wesser Heights Cabin (866) 251-4408  
Yellow Rose Realty (800) 528-0760  
Great Smokys Cabin Rentals (866) 251-4408  
Ironhorse Motorcycle Lodge, Cabins & Camping (828) 479-3864  
Cherokee Mountain Cabins 866-77-CABIN  
Watershed Cabins (877) 784-0688  
Mountain Brook Cottages (828) 586-4329  
Stonewood Cabin (912) 727-4025  
Nantahala River Lodge (912) 727-4025  
Raccoon Ridge Properties - (828) 399-9765

### **CAMPGROUNDS**

KOA Campground (800) 825-8352/ (828) 497-9711  
Deep Creek Tube Center and Campground (828) 488-6055  
Turkey Creek Campground (828) 488-8966  
Lost Mine Campground (828) 488-6445  
Kirkland Creek Campground- (828) 488-6482



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### **HOTELS MOTELS AND INNS**

Nantahala Village (800)-438-1507  
Lloyd's On The River (828) 488-3767  
The Carriage Inn (800) 480-2398  
Fryemont Inn (800)845-4879  
Sleep Inn (828) 488-0326/ 800-SLEEP IN  
Best Western Smoky Mountain Inn (800) 218-2121

### **RESORTS AND RETREATS**

Falling Waters Resort (800) 451-9972  
Fontana Village (800) 849-2258  
Lakeview At Fontana (800) 742-6492  
Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center (800)-222-4930  
Awanita Valley Retreat Center (864) 836-3956

### **OTHER NC LODGING PROPERTIES**

Saluda Mountain Lake Retreat (828) 242-8686  
Great Smokies Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort (828) 254-3211  
Ramada River Ridge  
Grove Park Inn  
Double Tree Biltmore  
Timberwolf Creek B&B (828) 926-2608  
Asheville Bed & Breakfast Association  
Willow Winds Cabins (866) 603-8281  
Romantic Asheville  
Asheville Renaissance Hotel