



TRIP DETAILS – UPPER KERN RIVER RAMBLER

TRIP MEETING TIME:

Rambler 9:00am (8:00am Non-Profit Trips),
One Day Trip
(Please arrive 15 minutes early)

MEETING SITE:

Whitewater Voyages' Sequoia Outdoor Center
11316 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238

Parking Instructions:

Parking is available on Kernville Road and we have a parking lot inside Frandy Park Campground. Frandy Park charges a fee of \$10.00 per car/per day for parking (fees for RV's and buses are higher). Whitewater Voyages does not own or operate Frandy Park and has no control over parking fees. For further parking information or reservations, you may contact Frandy Park at (760) 376-6483.

RESERVATIONS OFFICE:

Whitewater Voyages' Sequoia Outdoor Center
P. O. Box 375
11316 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238-0375
Phone:
Email:
Website:

1-800-400-7238

fun@whitewatervoyages.com

www.whitewatervoyages.com

LOCAL WEATHER AT RIVER:

www.weather.com

Zip Code 93238

WATER FLOWS:

www.dreamflows.com

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING SITE

A. In Bakersfield, on Hwy 99, is where you'll connect onto Hwy 178 East toward Lake Isabella

From the South (L.A., O.C., San Diego):

From Interstate 5 connect onto Hwy 99
Exit 26A eastbound onto Hwy 178 / Rosedale Hwy

From the North (Fresno, Merced, San Joaquin):

From Hwy 99 exit 27 onto Golden State Ave 204
Golden State Avenue becomes a surface street for a few blocks through downtown—stay in your right-hand lanes and watch for the Hwy 178 onramp on the right-hand side

B. After connecting onto Hwy 178 East, follow directions below...

1. On Hwy 178 East go approximately 50 miles (a significant portion of 178 is a curvy, two-lane canyon road—drive carefully and use the turnouts!)
2. Exit Hwy 155 / Kernville.
3. Turn left off exit and go approximately 10 miles—you will pass through Wofford Heights about halfway to Kernville.
4. In Wofford Heights Hwy 155 cuts off to the left—do not turn at that point—instead stay right/straight towards Kernville.
5. You are near Kernville when you pass the golf course on the right.
6. Shortly after the golf course the road will curve right—you will start to see small businesses and the river will be on your right.
7. Immediately at the end of the “bridge” that crosses the river turn right into Frandy Park Campground.
8. When entering Frandy Park, after paying parking fees, follow signs directing you to Whitewater Voyages

Note: In the event that Highway 178 from Bakersfield to Lake Isabella is closed, you may take Highway 58 East to Highway 14 North to Highway 178 East to Lake Isabella to Sierra Way (a right turn).

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Please read the following attachments in your email:

- Trip Description (trip specific)
- Kern Lodging Info
- Other Things To Do
- Pre-Trip Guest Info
- Kern Camping Info
- What To Bring On A Rafting Trip Guidelines
- Trip Photo Info
- Dining Out Around the Kern



TRIP DETAILS – UPPER KERN RIVER RAMBLER

TRIP AGENDA

- Arrive and check in 15 minutes before meeting site/time specified above (your trip will leave shortly after meet time)
- Complete your Electronic Release Form at trip check-in
- Rafting gear provided (life vest, helmet, wet suit-if needed)
- We are all transported to river put-in
- Safety talk administered by Whitewater Voyages' Lead Guide
- Rafts launch onto river; each raft has own professional guide
- Enjoy midday lunch (full day trips) along river's edge
- Raft to take-out
- Cold beverage provided & transported back to meeting site

Note: The natural formation of the Upper Kern River is such that a long, continuous run is not possible...it is run in sections that require multiple put-ins and take-outs...you might consider it fun, healthy exercise!

WETSUITS

Wetsuits are available to rent for a nominal fee.

Wetsuits are typically required through May. Occasionally, cool weather occurs after May in which case a wet suit may be needed.

Wetsuit size requirements are determined at trip check-in.

- Wetsuits provided are 3mm neoprene "Farmer John" style
- Nylon paddle jackets (similar to a rain jacket) are provided with wetsuits, however booties are not—please wear sturdy, secure-fitting ***shoes*** and wool socks
- Wetsuits should be worn over bathing suit, lightweight non-cotton shorts or polypropylene long underwear
- We recommend wearing shorts over your wet suit to help prevent slipping on the raft

MEALS

Full-Day Trips: Lunch along the river consisting of variety breads, deli-meats, cheese, vegetables, fruit, cookies and punch

Please bring a personal water bottle with you. There is, also, a gallon water jug provided on each raft.

Vegetarians usually find sufficient accommodation; however, special needs requests are accepted through our main reservations office.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Please understand that alcohol is strictly prohibited the morning of your trip & while rafting.

PERSONAL GEAR

Please see the following attachments:

- Pre-Trip Check List (the bare basics to bring on the raft)
- What To Bring On A Rafting Trip Guidelines (for your entire trip)

DO NOT wear sandals/flip-flops while rafting - you must wear shoes that have laces or water shoes/sandals that securely strap around your ankle.

Do not take your car keys (AAA does not always service Kernville the same day) or anything of value to you on the river as there is a likelihood it may not return with you. We have a very small safe we will lock your keys for you in, but **no lockers**. ***Note:*** Whitewater Voyages cannot be responsible for items left in your car.

Note: we have a small store on-site where you can buy last minute "must-have" items for your convenience and the largest selection of Whitewater Voyages memorabilia.

Thank you for rafting with Whitewater Voyages...we hope you have a great time!



TRIP DESCRIPTION – UPPER KERN RIVER RAMBLER

Here is a little description of the “Rambler” One Day trip on the Upper Kern River that we will be running this season for your review:

This trip meets at 9:00am at our Sequoia Outdoor Center (SOC) located in Kernville and will return around 4:00pm that afternoon.

The "Rambler" One Day runs about 10-12 miles of the Wild and Scenic Upper Kern River and is a Class III and IV section. Your guides will select the best, world-class whitewater runs to raft during the day depending on current water flows and river conditions. Lunch is served along the river over the course of the day.

These trips are usually available between April 1st through mid-July, however big water years can extend this operation window. The recommended minimum age for this trip is 12 years old and kids must weigh at least 50 pounds. If the water flow rises to 5000 cubic feet per second or higher, we will raise the minimum age to 14 years old.

The price for the trip depends on the day of the week you join us. Kids under the age of 17 are eligible for a 10% Youth Discount. Groups of 12 or more are eligible for a 10% Group Discount. Non-Profits, Scout, and Church Groups of 12 or more are eligible for a 15% Non-Profit Discount. Please keep in mind that there is a 6% Land/Use Fee that will be added to the price of the trip when your reservation is placed.

A non-refundable deposit of \$50/person is due when your reservation is placed. The balance is due 30 days prior to your start date.

In our Trip Details we have provided some information on Camping, Lodging, and Dining Out here in the Kern River Valley, as well as useful information for your rafting trip for your review.

Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions about the course or should you like to reserve your space. Our office hours are 9:00am - 5:00pm, Monday – Friday, however, should you need to leave a message during off hours, we are usually able to get in touch with you in short order.

Thank you for sharing our favorite river with us this season.



PRE-TRIP GUEST INFORMATION

What Can I Bring? What Do I Need to Leave Behind?

WATER? Yes! Hydrate! A communal One Gallon jug is provided on each boat for refills, however, you should **Bring Individual Water Bottles** to fill with water. We have some nice ones available for purchase at our check-in locations.

HATS? Yes! You can wear them under your helmet. We sell hat clips at our check-in locations.

GLASSES? Yes! You can remove glasses, or if you bring them, bring or buy retention straps (Chums). Available for purchase at our check-in locations.

SUNSCREEN? Yes! You should use it! Lather up before, then bring just one big bottle to share for your raft group. We will put it in the Ditty Bag (the mesh bag we carry on the boats). **PRO-TIP:** don not put any sunscreen on your forehead or the back of your thighs.

SHOES? Yes! Sneakers are best; sandals are OK but must have ankle strap. No Flip Flops or Bare Feet! We have booties for rent at our check-in locations.

VALUABLES? No! Remove and don't bring anything you wouldn't want to lose in the river (phones, rings, watches, etc.). You can lock valuables and cell phones in your car.

KEYS? No! Lock your car and drop keys in our key box. We will keep it safe in our safe. Note that AAA sometimes cannot make it out the same day to retrieve keys locked inside vehicles.

DITTY BAGS: Ditty Bags (mesh bags on rafts for sunscreen and personal water bottles only) will be on each raft. Please remember anything you bring with you *will get wet*.

RESTROOMS: Portable toilet facilities are located at our check-in locations. There are none available on the river.



WHAT TO BRING ON A RAFTING TRIP

ESSENTIALS

- Everything on your Pre-Trip Additional Info list - your water bottle, sunscreen, sunglasses/Chums, shoes, hat. Your loose items will go into the Ditty Bag on the boat. The Ditty Bag does not seal, but it does have a synch strap closure. Do not put sunscreen on your forehead, as splashes of water on the river will cause it to run down into your eyes and that will sting. Do not put sunscreen on the backside of your legs, as this will act as a slipping agent and will make it very easy for you to have a wild ride and slide out of the boat.
- **Change of Clothes.** We have changing stalls available for you to get into dry clothes at the end of your trip.

MEDICAL CONDITION ALERT

- **Bring your own medication.** If it is something you may need immediate access to, such as conditions in which you are susceptible to anaphylactic shock from bee stings, allergies, etc., please notify our Reservations Office and your Trip Leader and we will make sure it is put in the First Aid Kit on the raft for easy access.
- If you have a medical condition, any physical restrictions or limitations, please let our Reservations Office know in advance, as this will help us prepare for you to have the best experience upon your arrival.
- Our staff is prepared to provide basic First Aid, but we are prohibited by law from providing, and we are not trained to, administer medications or advance medical care.

CLOTHING GUIDELINES

Spring and Fall (before June and after September):

- **Warm Clothing**
Warm clothes made of non-cotton fabrics such as wool, synchilla, polartec, fleece, capilene, polypropylene and similar materials which insulate well even when damp. Cotton when wet retains all the water and does not insulate, therefore making you colder on the river! Wool or neoprene socks/booties will keep your feet toasty!
- **Wetsuit and/or paddling jacket**
If needed, wetsuits and paddling jackets (like a rain jacket but without the hood, made for rafting) are available for a nominal fee. You may want to bring your own, just make sure you have ample flexibility so you can do your best paddling. We recommend wearing board shorts over your wetsuit, so you are less likely to slip out of the boat.
- **Gloves**
Gloves are not usually worn during the colder months, but if you feel the need to bring them, we recommend 0.5mm neoprene or some water ski/cycling gloves.
- **Shoes**
We require you to wear footwear that is secured to your foot. We recommend shoes with laces, however, any type of footwear that you can wear in the water which has a strap to go around your ankle to secure you it on to your foot will suffice. You will be getting on and off the raft, so footwear with a solid outsole will be good for managing those rocks and making quick movements.

Summer and anytime (June through September):

- **Swimsuit and board shorts**
We recommend wearing board shorts, so you are less likely to slip out of the boat.
- **Rash guard or sun top**
Even wearing a thin, non-cotton, UPF hiking shirt will provide you the ultimate sun protection.
- **Hat/visor**
A baseball/trucker cap is the best style to wear under the helmet we provide you. We have hat/visor clips for sale at our store.
- **Sunglasses**
If you're wearing a hat, sunglasses may not be necessary. But, if you are going to wear glasses, be sure to wear retainers like Chums or Croakies so that you don't lose them if you go swimming, and most of all so that you are not polluting the river when they sink to the bottom.

OPTIONALS

- **GoPro/Waterproof Camera**

We have several helmets with the GoPro sticker pad on them for your convenience. You will need to bring the screw & the part that slides into the helmet & locks in place. Whitewater Voyages cannot be responsible if you lose your camera. If you have a strap that you can tie your GoPro to your helmet, we recommend you bring that as well, as sometimes the impact of a wave will knock it off your helmet. You will be using your hands most of the day, so a hand-held GoPro may not be the best choice.

MULTI-DAY TRIPS

- **Sleeping Bag/Pillow**

Nights in the spring and fall can be chilly to some at 50 degrees Fahrenheit, but in July and August, nights can be warm at 70 degrees. You can also rent a sleeping bag from us if you notify our Reservations Office in advance.

- **Sleeping Pad**

We have plush sleeping pads called Paco Pads from NRS/Aire at our Lower Kern Camp, so you may decide to leave yours behind. However, for our multi-day Wild and Scenic trip, please bring your own sleeping pad or you may rent one from us if you notify our Reservations Office in Advance.

- **Headlamp/Flashlight**

We have small solar lights around the kitchen area, but not on the Wild and Scenic section. A headlamp is like a flashlight on your head that makes getting around in the dark easy with your hands free.

- **Chair**

We have plenty of chairs available at our Lower Kern Camp, however, if you have an amazing chair you love, bring it.

- **Tent**

Most people prefer to sleep in the open air as to enjoy the night sky of stars that usually aren't visible in the big city. But if that isn't your groove, bring a tent. Check the weather and see if rain might be in the forecast. You can also rent one from us if you notify our Reservations Office in advance.

- **Bug Spray**

During the springtime, mosquitoes are out to play, but in the heat of the summer, their numbers drop drastically.

- **Drinks/Coolers**

We have plenty of punch, juice, and food available. If you'd like to bring alcohol for the evening time, feel free to stock and bring your own cooler, but choose your poison wisely, as you have an action-packed day on the water the next day.

- **Reading Material**

- **Music/Cell Phone**

We highly recommend you **DO NOT** take these items on the river with you, (these are very expensive items) but we do recommend you pack them up & send them to camp. There is no cell phone reception almost everywhere on your trip.

- **Toiletries**

We have non-flushing toilets (porta-potty or groover) on all our trips.

- **Lip Balm**

- **Plastic Bag**

To store your wet clothes in.

- **Dry Bag**

For our Wild and Scenic trips only, as your gear will go on the raft with you. For our Lower Kern trips, your personal gear is brought down to Camp in our trailer.

- **Hammock**

There are trees around for hammocks. Please bring the appropriate strap to protect the tree bark.



KERN LODGING INFORMATION

Here is a list of lodging facilities in the area. Contact the motels directly for rates and availability.

Kernville

Falling Waters (<i>pets ok</i>)	15729 Sierra Way (2.6 miles away)	(760) 376-2242
<i>Guests of Whitewater Voyages get 10% off their stay at Falling Waters. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.</i>		
Piazza's Pine Cone Inn (<i>pets ok</i>)	13383 Sierra Way (0.3 miles away)	(760) 376-6669
Kernville Inn	11042 Kernville Road (0.2 miles away)	(760) 376-2206
<i>Guests of Whitewater Voyages get 10% off their stay. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.</i>		
Whispering Pines	13745 Sierra Way (0.6 miles away)	(760) 376-3733
Riverview Lodge	2 Sirretta Street (0.2 miles away)	(760) 376-6019
<i>Guests of Whitewater Voyages get 10% off their stay. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.</i>		
Kern Riverview Inn	101 Kern River Drive (0.2 miles away)	(760) 376-1396
Kern Riverfront Lodge	113 Kern River Drive (0.2 miles away)	(760) 376-1396
Sierra Gateway Cottages	13512 Sierra Way (0.5 miles away)	(760) 223-6269
<i>Guests of Whitewater Voyages get 10% off their stay. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.</i>		
Sequoia Lodge	16123 Sierra Way (3.1 miles away)	(760) 376-2535
<i>Guests of Whitewater Voyages get 5% off their stay. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.</i>		

Clean Getaways manages many AirBnBs in the Kern River Valley. Visit www.airbnb.com/p/cleangetawaykernrivervalley

The Kern River House owns riverfront AirBnBs in Kernville and has a visitor's store in town. Visit <https://thekernriverhouse.com>

North of Kernville

Allow 20-30 minutes for travel time to our meeting place

Corral Creek Resort	Mountain Hwy 99 (9 miles away)	(760) 376-3601
Johnny McNally's Fairview Lodge	Mountain Hwy 99 (15 miles away)	(760) 376-3601

Wofford Heights

Allow 10 minutes for travel time to our meeting place

Barewood Inn	7013 Wofford Heights Blvd (3.8 miles away)	(760) 376-1910
Lakeshore Lodge	7466 Wofford Heights Blvd (3.8 miles away)	(760) 376-1910

Guests of Whitewater Voyages get 15% off their stay at BOTH LOCATIONS. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.

Lake Isabella

Allow 20 minutes for travel time to our meeting place

Paradise Cove Lodge	10700 Highway 178 (15.5 miles away)	(760) 379-2719
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Bakersfield

Allow one hour & 15 minutes for travel time to our meeting place

Doubletree by Hilton	3100 Camino Del Rio Court (53.9 miles away)	(661) 323-7111
Courtyard by Marriott	3601 Marriott Drive (54 miles away)	(661) 324-6660

Guests of Whitewater Voyages receive a discount. Call to inquire about the discount and availability.



KERN CAMPING INFORMATION

Privately Owned Campgrounds

Frandy Park – 11252 Kernville Rd, Kernville. 92 family units, trailers up to 70'. On-site host; restrooms, showers, dump station, water; pets ok (\$4/night no pit bulls or pit bull mixes). Electric/water hook-ups available. Summer rates are \$48-\$160/night; Wagons are available for \$185/night + cost of campsite. Holiday rates require a 3-night minimum and are \$54-\$170/night, Wagons available for \$250/night + cost of campsite. Open year round. Call 888-372-6399 or visit www.frandy.net for information and reservations.

Camp Kernville – 24 Siretta Street, Kernville. 49 family units, 18 pull-thru sites for trailers up to 45'. On-site host; restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, dump station, campfire rings, water; some pets ok. Full hook-ups available. 2-night minimum stay through summer, 4-nights on during peak season and holiday weekends. If you only plan to stay 1 or 2 nights, they may make an exception if sites area available. \$125-\$1500/night. Open year round. Call 760-376-1000 or visit www.campkernville.com for information and reservations.

Camp James – 13801 Sierra Way, 1 mile north of Kernville. On-site host; restrooms, showers, wi-fi, firewood, ice, ATM, cable tv; some pets ok (fee/night) Full hook-ups, sewer available. RV and cabins rentals available. \$70-\$400/night (more than 2 people may be additional fee). Open year round. Call 760-376-6119 or visit www.krsrvresort.com for information and reservations.

Rivernook Campground - 14001 Sierra Way, 1 mile north of Kernville. Trailers up to 40' with full hook-ups available. On-site host; restrooms, newly remodeled showers, water, firewood, ice, free premium wi-fi, general store & beer cave, pets ok. \$500-\$125/night. 4 night minimum stay May through September. Must book 14 days in advance. Open year round. Call 760-376-2705 or visit www.rivernookcampground.com for reservations and information. Guests of Whitewater Voyages receive 10% off their stay.

Kern River's Edge – 15775 Sierra Way, 2.6 miles north of Kernville. 10 RVs up to 40' with power. 45 tent sites. On-site host; restrooms, coin-showers, water, concierge service for firewood/ice, games & amphitheater. 2-night minimum stay, 3-4 night minimum on holidays unless reserved 7 days in advance. \$40-410/night. Pets ok \$10/day/pet fee. Open year-round. For spring discounts on camping before mid-May, click here <https://www.kernriversedge.com/blog>. Call 760-376-6553 or visit www.kernriversedge.com for reservations and information.

KOA – 15627 Highway 178, Weldon, CA 93283, 15 miles southeast of Kernville. Pull-thru RV up to 60' sites, tent sites and 1-2 bedroom cabins. On-site host; restrooms, showers, water, firewood, ice, camp kitchen, pool, game room, wi-fi, general store and pub. Full hook-ups available. \$40-\$235/night. Open May 1st – October 1st. Call 760-378-2001 or visit www.koa.com for reservations and information.

Forest Service Campgrounds

These recreation areas operate under a concessionaire program with California Land Management. Reservations can be made for the developed fee campsites by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service at 877-444-6777, or on-line at www.recreation.gov. For further information, please contact the Kernville Ranger Station at 760-376-3781. All campsites are \$34-\$425/night; \$7-10 each add'l vehicle.

Upper Kern

Camp 3 – 5 miles north of Kernville. Paved road; 50 family units; Trailers up to 30'; host; toilets, water, drinking water, campfire rings; pets ok. Elev 2800 ft. Supplies at Kernville, Riverkern. Open May - Sept.

Headquarters – 6 miles north of Kernville. Paved road; 44 family units. Trailers up to 27'; host; toilets, water, drinking water, campfire rings; pets ok. Elev 2800 ft. Supplies at Kernville, Riverkern. Open year round.

Hospital Flat – 6.5 miles north of Kernville. Paved road; 32 family units, 1 w/ ramp. Trailers up to 30'; host; toilets, water, drinking water, campfire rings; pets ok. Elev 3000 ft. Supplies at Kernville, Riverkern. Open May - Sept.

Thunderbird – 6.5 miles north of Kernville. 3 group campsites. Toilets, water, campfire rings; pets ok. No drinking water. Elev 3000 ft. Supplies at Kernville, Riverkern. Open year round.

Goldledge – 10 miles north of Kernville. Paved road; 33 family units. Trailers up to 30'; host; toilets, water, drinking water, campfire rings; pets ok. Elev 3200 ft. Supplies at Fairview. Open May – Sept.

Fairview – 13 miles north of Kernville. Paved road; 48 family units. Trailers up to 45'; host; toilets, water, drinking water, campfire rings; pets ok. Elev 3500 ft. Supplies at Fairview. Open April – Nov.

Limestone -19 miles north of Kernville. Paved road; 22 family units. Trailers up to 30'; first come, first served. Toilets, water, campfire rings; pets ok. No drinking water. Elev 3800 ft. Open April – Nov.

Lake Isabella

Live Oak – Hwy 155, across the road from Isabella Lake. 1 group site (max 100 persons), 30 family units. Tents only. Toilets, campfire rings, water, showers; pets ok. Supplies at Lake Isabella. Open May – Sept.

Tillie Creek – Hwy 155, Wofford Heights. Paved road; 3 group sites (1 wheelchair access.), 73 family units. Trailers up to 45'. Toilets, campfire rings, dump station, showers, playground; pets ok. Supplies at Wofford Heights. Open April – Oct.

Camp 9 – Sierra Way, 5 miles south of Kernville. Paved road; 11 group sites (tent only, some first come, first served), 100 family units; some first come, first served. Toilets (some flush), drinking water, campfire rings, boat ramp. Supplies at Kernville. Open year round.

Boulder Gulch – Hwy 155. 58 family units. Trailers up to 30'. Host; flush toilets, campfire rings, water, drinking water, playground, showers; pets ok. Supplies at Wofford Heights. Open May – Sept.

Lower Kern

Sandy Flat – Old Kern Cyn Rd, 15 miles southwest of Kernville. 33 family units. Host; toilets, water, drinking water; pets ok. Supplies at Lake Isabella, Bakersfield. Open April – Nov.

Hobo – Old Kern Cyn Road, 17 miles southwest of Kernville. 35 family units. RVs up to 22', no trailers. Currently Day Use Only; keep checking back for opening of overnight use. Vault toilets; pets ok. No water. Supplies at Lake Isabella, Bakersfield. Open May – Sept.



DINING OUT AROUND THE KERN RIVER VALLEY

Here is a list of the restaurants our staff recommends for our rafting guests. Enjoy!

Breakfast/Lunch

Sequoia Mountain Bakery

9 Big Blue Road
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-6020
Deliciously Made Treats In-House Daily

Cheryl's Diner

11030 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-6131
Kernville's Oldest and Best Diner

Dam Korner

6303 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-8770
Historic Diner

Big Blue Bear

101 Piute Drive
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-2442
Wonderful Hand Crafted Sandwiches, Etc.

McNally's Outpost

11301 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-2431
McNally's burgers in town - the best burgers in the West

Kern River Ceviche Company

36 CA-155
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 278-1854
Yes, it really is fresh and delicious!

Dinner

Kern River Brewing Co. (KRBC)

13415 Sierra Way
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-2337
Award Winning Hand Crafted Beer and Food

Ewing's On The Kern

125 Buena Vista Drive
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-2411
Best Dining View in Town

Johnny McNally's Fairview Lodge

7300 Kern River Highway
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-2430
AMAZING Steaks and Home of the 40oz Porterhouse

Dick Weed's Brews & Pub

6301 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-8770
Classic American

El Rio

13423 Sierra Way
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-3246
The best Mexican food in town

Pizza Barn

11401 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-1856
Great Pizza and Salad Bar

Country Style Kitchen

11 Kern River Drive
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 379-0178
New Mediterranean and American

178 Bar & Grill

6107 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-0178
The old Shady's



OTHER THINGS TO DO

Here are some great ideas for hikes, sightseeing and other things to do here in the Kern River Valley:

French Gulch Marina: Rentals of waverunners, pontoon boats, fishing boats, kayak and SUPs. www.frenchgulchmarina.com

Mountain Biking Trails: Remington Ridge, Mill Creek, Keyesville, Unal Trail, Just Outstanding to Waggy Ridge, Dutch Flat, Cannell Plunge, Nelson Trail, Bear Creek

Cannell Trail: The trailhead for the Cannell Trail is about 2 miles north of Kernville. It is an "out and back" trail that offers scenic views of Kernville and the surrounding countryside. I usually hike up to the "Singing Gate", a Forest Service gate that is on a saddle about 1 1/2 miles in. The first part of the hike is uphill, then the trail levels out. The final leg to the gate is also uphill. The roundtrip usually takes about 1 1/2 hours.

<http://kernriversierra.com/bike/cannelllower.html>

Packsaddle Trail: The trailhead for this hike is almost 15 miles upstream of Kernville. It is about a 5-mile Round Trip that leads up over a saddle, down to a creek, and then to a really cool Limestone cave.

http://kernriversierra.com/hike/packsaddle_trail.html

The River Trail: The trailhead for the River Trail (also known as the 4 Mile Trail) is right at the Johnsondale Bridge (about 18 miles upstream from Kernville). This is a relatively level out and back hike along the river. You can hike up to four miles before the trail heads up the mountain. This trail parallels the last four miles of our Class V "Forks of the Kern" run. About 3/4's of a mile in you'll see one of the Class V rapids we run, Carson Falls. If you continue, you'll come across several more beautiful rapids. They're impressive even at low flows.

<https://www.southern-sierra.com/Community/hiking.html>

I'd also recommend the following scenic drive and short hikes in the high country just outside of Kernville. You'll drive up past the Johnsondale Bridge to access these places. The drive is about an hour from Kernville. All three stops are in close proximity of one another.

The Trail of 100 Giants: This is a great, self-guided tour through the Long Meadow Grove of Giant Redwoods. It is impressive (if not awe inspiring), and educational. The last time I was up there, one of the trees had fallen and to view one from a horizontal perspective is a special treat.

<http://www.redwoodhikes.com/SequoiaNM/TrailOf100Giants.html>

Dome Rock: After viewing the Trail of 100 Giants, I'd recommend driving a little further to Dome Rock. You can park at right next to this amazing monolith and stroll right up the back side (super easy walk) to the top where you'll find an amazing view of the High Sierra and the awesome canyon the North Fork of the Kern River has cut through the countryside. You also can't miss seeing The Needles, a group of granite spires not far from your vantage point. You'll see both of these landmarks in the distance on your drive up.

<https://www.hikespeak.com/trails/dome-rock-sequoia-national-monument/>

If you visit the High Country by driving a little further, you will find the remnants of **The Ponderosa Lodge**. This establishment burnt down in the epic winter of 2023. They have a GoFundMe page to raise money to rebuild. Their phone number is 559-542-2579. Here is the link to the GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/71b8e857>

I hope you find this information helpful. Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions regarding this information.



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