

Wildwater Nantahala

The Nantahala River, located in Nantahala National Forest, is one of America's favorite whitewater playgrounds. The ideal location at the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, just a short distance from Cherokee and Bryson City, NC, makes the Nantahala River convenient to mountain vacationers. Since the Nantahala River is a dam-controlled river, one can expect good water flows at all times of the year.

Nantahala Guided Rafting

Eight miles of clear water, constant waves and swift currents make the Nantahala River a delight for all ages and groups interested in an exhilarating introduction to whitewater rafting. The trip takes over 3 hours and contains numerous class II rapids, with class III Nantahala Falls at the end. Our rafting trips are fully guided with a guide in every raft. All rafters must be 60 pounds or more and 7 years or older.

Raft and Inflatable Kayak Rentals

Many groups and individuals prefer the flexibility and excitement of guiding their own rafts or inflatable kayaks and traveling down the river on their own. If you have rafted before and feel comfortable with your skills, this may be just what you are looking for. Wildwater provides rafting equipment and transportation to and from the Nantahala River. All rafters must be 60 pounds or more and 7 years or older.

Raft & Rail

A unique family adventure in the heart of the Smokies, take a 2-hour rail excursion on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad up the Nantahala River, meet your guides, get your rafting gear and enjoy lunch. Then start the fully guided raft trip down 8 miles of river. Wildwater will meet you at the take-out and return you to our Nantahala Adventure Center for dry clothes and hot showers. Transportation back to the train depot and your car in Bryson City is provided. Must be 60 pounds or more and 7 years or older to raft. Train only tickets allow some family members to stay on the train while the rest of the group rafts.

Wildwater Jeep® Adventures

Join our skilled and knowledgeable local guides by following in the trails of the early explorers, visiting the back roads of the region and learning more about this beautiful region directly from North Carolina natives. (Minimum weight 40 lbs.)

Rails & Trails

Start the day out with the scenic 22 miles along the foothills of the Smokies and up the Nantahala River Gorge. At the top-of-the-line, disembark from the train and climb aboard our customized Jeep® for a personal exploration. (Minimum weight 40 lbs.)

Nantahala Gorge Canopy Tours

Located across the street from the rafting center Nantahala Gorge Canopy Tours is the first and best Canopy Tour in the area. Since 2009 Guests have enjoyed 13 ziplines and 8 sky bridges through a smoky mountain forest with views of Lake Fontana and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Every Canopy Tours begins with instruction and practice zips. Must be 10 years or older and between 70 and 250 pounds.

KidZip

Located behind our Canopy Tour Tree House, KidZip is the perfect zipline adventure for those 4-12 years old. KidZip is composed of 13 ziplines in 3 loops. It is designed using a continuous belay system, so once they are on the course, they cannot come loose until the end. A paying adult must accompany kids 4-6 years old.

Tarzan Train and Kid Tarzan Train

Following in the tracks of the Raft & Rail, ride the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad to the top of the Nantahala Gorge, enjoying a deli lunch along the way. After disembarking, we will transport you to the Canopy Tour Tree House for your ziplining activity! Must be 10 years or older and between 70 and 250 pounds for Canopy Tour. Must be 4-12 years old for KidZip. Kids 4-6 must be accompanied by an adult.

Wildwater's Falling Waters

Unique Yurt lodging and a group lodge provide a convenient place to stay right next to your Wildwater activities. Groups wanting to camp can also reserve our private Group Camp, including showers and a kitchen. Key pickup is at the rafting center.

Weddings at Falling Waters

Debuting in 2017, Weddings at Falling Waters combines our unique lodging with destination weddings. Wedding packages include lodging for two nights, allowing couples to enjoy their celebration without having to worry about their friends. Falling Waters offers venue space for both weddings and receptions with fire pits, yard games, and gorgeous views of the Smoky Mountains.

Directions to Wildwater Nantahala

10345 Highway 19 South/74 West

Bryson City, NC 28713

Reservations Phone: 866-319-8870

Local Phone: 828-488-2384

GPS Coordinates: 35 20' 36 N, 083 33' 39 W

Wildwater Nantahala is located on Highway 19/74 West, 12 miles Southwest of Bryson City, North Carolina.

***Map Quest and many car GPS systems do not give the correct directions to rural locations. Please have a copy of our directions or a map as a backup.

How to Dress for Whitewater Rafting

Cooler Weather

- Wetsuits and bootie rentals available
- Complimentary spray jackets
- Wool or synthetic (polypropylene) garments will help keep you warm when wet
- Cotton will leave you wet, cold and clammy. **DO NOT WEAR COTTON**
- 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
- You will need a strap, Chums or string if you wear prescription or sunglasses
- Be certain to bring a change of clothes and a towel. (We have showers)

Warm Weather

- Bathing suits or shorts
- T-Shirt, 50/50 better than 100% cotton
- Tennis shoes or sport sandals (no flip-flops)
- Sunscreen - The water reflects and enhances the chance of sunburn
- You will need a strap, Chums or string if you wear prescription or sunglasses
- Be certain to bring a change of clothes and a towel. (We have showers)

Our river store has Chums, sunscreen, t-shirts, sport sandals, towels and other necessary items should you forget them.

The Risks and Responsibilities of Rafting & Canopy Tours

While Wildwater Ltd., Nantahala Gorge Canopy Tours, & the managing agencies set a minimum age and/or weight for trips, you must also evaluate your own fitness level. Participating in outdoor activities involves inherent risks, and can be physically demanding. If you are seriously overweight or have special medical conditions, you should consult your physician before participating. You cannot go if you are pregnant. All Guests go at their own risk and are required to sign a waiver of liability.

Alcohol

Wildwater reserves the right to refuse to accommodate anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs (which may impair abilities on the activity). We will not hesitate to remove them from the activity without refund.

Liability

Wildwater provides high quality equipment and staff is professionally trained for your well being. However, each person must evaluate their own abilities, readiness and is responsible for their own liability, you will be required to sign a waiver prior to the start.

Reservations Policy

Call 800-451-9972 or go Online to check on availability and trip times. If the day and time of your trip is important, make your reservation immediately as dates do fill up. For groups of 9 or less, telephone reservations made more than two weeks away will be held for seven (7) days pending receipt of full payment. For groups of 10 or more, telephone reservations made more than 30 days away will be held for (7) days pending receipt of a deposit payment equal to \$20 per person, with the balance due 30 days prior to trip date.

Cancellations and Date Transfers

Please make sure everyone in you group knows canceling or rescheduling can result in penalties. If we have to cancel a trip for safety reasons a full refund will be given.

Cancellation Guarantee

Wildwater introduces an exclusive service to our Guests. Freedom to change your mind and no pressure if you have to cancel or reschedule.

- Full Refund except for Guarantee Fee for any reservation cancelled by 1pm the day before their Activity or Lodging.
- Full Credit in the form of a Voucher or Wildwater Adventure Dollars for any Activity or Lodging cancelled the same day scheduled. Prior to Activity Start time.
- A 7.5% Fee will be charged on the reservation. This is non-refundable.
- Freedom to reschedule is unlimited as long as it is done before activity starting time for any reason including weather.

Standard Cancellation

Industry Standard policy for a contracted service between a customer and provider. Just like buying a seat on an airplane, Guests purchase an opportunity to ride at a specific time and place.

- Full Refund except for one \$10 reservation fee for any reservation cancelled 14 days in advance.
- \$20 per person cancellation fee for any activity cancelled between 14 and 7 days before the activity.
- No refund for any reservation cancelled less than seven days before their activity date.
- Rescheduling will be treated as a cancellation.