

## JPL HIKING + TRIP REPORT

### TRIP: American Whitewater Expeditions Rafting Trip



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**LEADER:** Becky Thompson

**DATES:** July 13-14, 2002

**COST:** \$332 South Fork/\$364 Middle Fork

**PERMITS/CAMPSITE INFO:** All inclusive: campsite, food, rafts, guides and roundtrip bus transportation. Two people paid \$5 extra for additional night: Thursday, July 11, 2002. Six people drove up and four took the bus. Those that drove deducted the cost of the bus, which was \$60.

**NO. OF PARTICIPANTS:** 10 people: 4 JPLer's, 2 guests, 4 people from TRW

**ACTIVITIES DONE ON TRIP:** Whitewater rafting, camping, and lots of good eating!

**GENERAL COMMENTS:** The trip was very enjoyable. The food was excellent. Our meals included 2 hearty breakfasts, 2 lunches and a wonderful dinner! The Saturday night dinner included steak, chicken, and lobster with great side dishes. The river was really beautiful. We all enjoyed each other's company within our group as well as meeting new people at the camp.

The river guides were skilled in knowing the personality of the river and maneuvering through the rocks. We were told we could jump out of the raft and swim at several places on the river. When Lisa, our river guide, said "Jump out!", we all looked dubiously at the river's small rapids looming ahead of us. My friend Mo, in total trust, jumped out of the raft just like a true Navy Seal! However Sheila Bender and I just looked at each other and then back to the guide...."you mean NOW...?" Sheila jumped out, I decided to stay with the raft. I don't think I would have been a good seal of any kind.

One suggestion for the future would be to confirm with the bus trip coordinator to make sure the bus will be on time. Our bus was an hour and a half late. We didn't get up to the campsite until 11:30 pm. I think I would drive up next time and take an extra day to enjoy the scenery. Six people did take an extra day and were able to do some sight seeing through this beautiful rustic gold country!