

Welcome!

The Tuolumne is born high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Yosemite National Park. From 13,000 foot Mount Lyell Glacier to its confluence with the San Joaquin, the river flows through some of the most primitive and scenic country in California. The Miwok Indians inhabited the canyon for nearly 1,500 years and the river derives its name from a tribe who lived in the region. In the mid 1800's, the California Gold Rush brought a flood of miners into the canyon. As gold fever subsided, these rugged inhabitants moved on, leaving behind a decaying legacy of their short visit. A stone powerhouse, a stamp mill, abandoned cabins, and mine shafts still remain in the canyon as reminders of this period.

Both our 2 and 3 day trips begin at Meral's Pool, a quiet spot in the river about 23 miles downstream from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and end at Ward's Ferry Bridge 18 miles later. For the first six miles, from Rock Garden to Clavey Falls, the rapids come almost non-stop as the river winds and drops through numerous granite boulderfields. Clavey Falls, at mile 6, is a whitewater event which you will never forget. Below Clavey, the rapids continue but are separated by short pools which allow us a welcome opportunity to enjoy the scenery and solitude of the canyon. Camping is along the river at pristine, wilderness sites, often near beautiful sidestreams which offer great opportunities for hiking, swimming and relaxing. Most people don't want to leave!

Meeting Time and Place:

All trip members will meet at **8:30 am on the morning of the trip** at La Casa Loma Espresso Deli, 7½ miles east of Groveland on Highway 120 (24000 Casa Loma Road, Groveland, CA for on-line directions). Stay on Highway 120 through Groveland and go 7½ miles to the "other" end of Ferretti Road, (it makes a loop), then turn left on Ferretti and immediately left again to the Deli. (If you will be late, please call our office at 209/962-7873). Park in the designated area on the frontage road in front of the Deli. Vehicles may be left here during the trip. ARTA will provide transportation to the river and back; arrival time back at La Casa Loma should be between 5:00 and 6:00 pm.

Transportation:

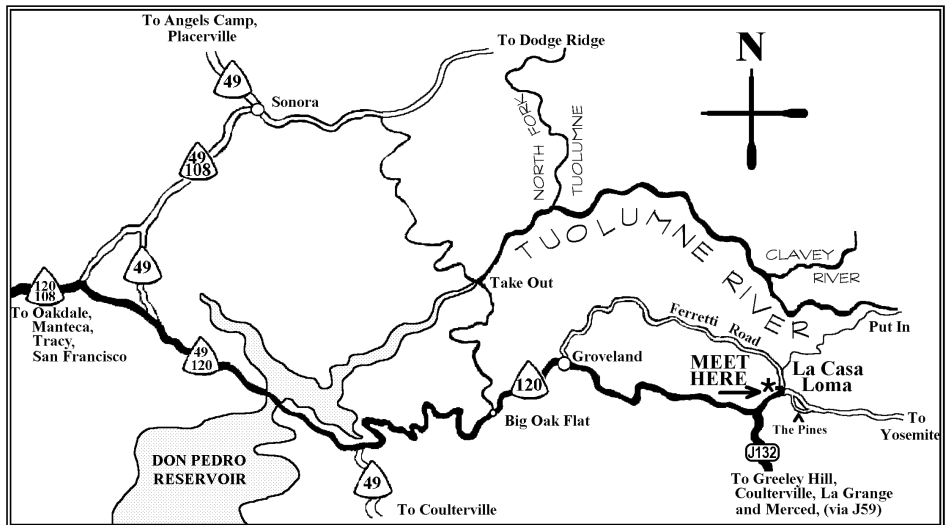
There is no public transportation available to Groveland. You can fly into San Francisco, Oakland or Sacramento, all of which are about 3 hours from Groveland. Driving time from the Bay Area is about 3 to 4 hours through Livermore, Tracy, Manteca, and Oakdale; from Los Angeles it is about 6 to 7 hours, through Merced, Snelling, La Grange, Coulterville, and Greeley Hill (you will bypass Groveland and join Highway 120, 1 mile west of La Casa Loma). A good map helps.

Accommodations/Camping:

The Groveland Hotel (209/962-4000) and the Hotel Charlotte (209/962-6455) are both in "downtown" Groveland, 8 miles from La Casa Loma and across the street from the historic Iron Door Saloon. 3 miles east of La Casa Loma is the modest Westgate Motel, (209/962-5281). There are numerous "first-come, first-served" Forest Service campgrounds in the area. The nearest is The Pines, a mile east of La Casa Loma. Reserved camping is available 5 miles away at Yosemite Pines RV park (877-962-7690) and an hour away in Yosemite National Park (209/372-0200).

Meals & Camping:

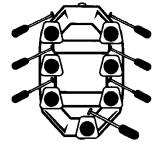
Meals are well-balanced and consist of fresh fruits, vegetables and meats. Guides double as camp chefs and the menu includes a wide and tasty variety. If you have special dietary needs, please notify our office in advance of the trip; we will make every effort to satisfy your request. Campsites are unimproved riverside beaches in scenic settings with portable toilet facilities.



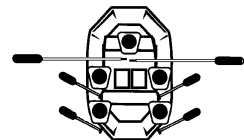
Raft Types:

Because of the difficulty of the Tuolumne, ARTA uses self-bailing paddle and oar-paddle combination rafts.

PADDLE RAFTS are 14 feet long and are powered by 4 to 6 paddlers plus a guide. You will be sitting along the outside of the raft and actively paddling through the rapids



OAR-PADDLE COMBINATION RAFTS are 14 to 16 feet long and are steered by a guide using two oars and assisted by 2 or 4 paddlers riding in the front. All of the overnight gear for the trip is carried on these rafts.



Please note your preference on your Guest Information Sheet; we will try to accommodate your request, however, it is occasionally necessary to rotate paddlers.

Weather:

During the summer, the temperatures in the Tuolumne Canyon often reach into the 90's, cooling off into the 60's at night. It rarely rains, but a waterproof rainshell and a small tent are advisable, just in case. Springtime temperatures can range from the 60's to the 80's, and rain is more likely.

If your trip is before June 15, come prepared for cool temperatures and cold water (wetsuits and synthetic fleece for on the river and tents for in camp).



Personal Equipment List

CAMP ITEMS: These will be packed in your dunnage bag and will not be available during the day. Light, minimal and compact are important considerations; you do not need a lot of gear.

- Sleeping bag*, compact, down or synthetic rated to 40°
- Closed-cell foam or self-inflating sleeping pad*, (ensolite or Thermarest)
- Lightweight, compact tent* or ground cloth (please no wall tents or "family domes")
- 1 change of clothing, (versatile pants and shirts for camp, cotton is fine)
- Warm sweater or compact jacket, (thick fleece is great - will work on-river as well)
- Extra socks, (wool or fleece are best), and underwear (wool only for the rugged!)
- Shoes for camp, (tennis shoes, flip-flops or light boots)
- Towel and biodegradable soap and shampoo
- Personal hygiene items & medicine
- Small flashlight, (headlamps work well)

RIVER ITEMS:

- Swimsuit or shorts and T-shirt, (nylon quick-drying shorts are best)
- Sandals with heel strap or old tennis shoes. *Chacos and Keen sandals work well*
NO SLIP-ONS OR FLIP-FLOPS.
- Brimmed hat for under helmet, (baseball caps work well)
- Lightweight cotton clothing, (old dress shirts or surgeon's scrubs) for sun protection
- Waterproof sunscreen, lip balm
- Sunglasses with strap, (maybe not your best pair)
- Water bottle, 1 quart, (**required** - even if its just an empty plastic Gatorade bottle)
- Fleece jacket or polypropylene long underwear top, **required** March - June, recommended all year.
- Waterproof** rainshell*, **required** March - June (make sure it's waterproof, not repellent)
- Wetsuit*, **required** March - June. 3mm or 1/8" farmer-johns or spring suits work best.
* available for rent, (see **Equipment Rentals** at right)

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Small daypack, "dry bag", or ammunition box
- Waterproof camera
- Book, fishing gear, snorkel & mask, etc.
- Fleece cap and gloves, (great on Spring trips)

Equipment Information:

When you arrive at La Casa Loma, your lead guide will give each person a waterproof bag for their gear. The bags are 17" in diameter and 22" tall - ample space if you pack wisely. Because of the difficult nature of the Tuolumne, we ask you to limit the weight of your gear to 25 pounds. Remember, comfort on a river trip is not determined by how much you bring, but by what types of things you bring. One fleece jacket that will keep you warm when wet is much better than five cotton sweatshirts that will be worthless when wet. During the high water period (before mid-June) we require all trip members to have a wetsuit. ARTA will provide a cup, plate and silverware for each guest. PLEASE DO NOT BRING radios, cellular phones, expensive jewelry, guns, pets, or any irreplaceable items.

*Equipment Rentals:

ARTA has a limited supply of the following items available to rent. Please reserve well in advance using your Guest Information Sheet or by calling our office:

- ***Sleep Kits**, (30° sleeping bag, liner, self-inflating pad, and tarp): \$15 per person;
- ***Tents**, (Sierra Designs Clip III two-person tents): \$15 per trip.
- ***Wetsuits**, (3mm farmer-john with waterproof paddling jacket; bring your own fleece): \$10 per day.

A Note About Water Levels & Daily Itineraries:

High water conditions prevail from one to seven weeks each year, peaking in late May or early June. **At high water levels, each guest should be physically and mentally ready for a demanding trip.** Later in the summer, the flows are regulated and we raft on daily hydroelectric releases from upstream reservoirs. These flows are exciting and fun, but do not require the same physical qualifications. Due to the distance from the dams, the water levels often do not rise at our downstream campsites until after noon. There is a lot to do near camp, but a good book, snorkel and mask, fishing rod, or other toy can be helpful in passing the time.



Insurance:

We recommend that you purchase short-term travel insurance prior to your trip. Baggage, trip cancellation and medical coverages are available. Please request a Travel Insurance packet from ARTA if you have not received one.

Included:

The trip fee includes all meals from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last day, transportation from La Casa Loma to the river and from the river back to La Casa Loma, all cooking facilities and all guides, cooks and helpers for the trip. Also included is the use of the rafts, waterproof bags, lifejackets and river transport equipment during the trip. Gratuities for your guides are not included and are always appreciated when given in recognition of outstanding service. Tips range from prized river gear to 5% to 15% of the trip cost.

