



Echo Canyon's 8 Mile Bar and Grill is popular with the after-rafting crowd.

For Immediate Release

Driving to the Arkansas River and its Whitewater Rafting

CAÑON CITY, Colo., June 30, 2022 - A quick walk around the parking lot at the [Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#) headquarters near Cañon City, Colo. recently revealed an eclectic mix of license plates. There were plates from Colorado, of course, but also Utah, Kansas, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas. Lots of plates from Texas.

Echo Canyon River Expeditions' owner is still seeing lots of enthusiasm for the adventure, despite this year's high gas prices.

"The season is still going strong, and the flows are really good, thanks to some welcome late-season precipitation," said Andy Neinas, owner of Colorado's largest rafting outfitter. "While we welcome many day-trippers from Colorado's front range, we see many visitors who travel from longer distances, like Texans and Oklahomans who have made the trek to Colorado for generations."



Royal Gorge Cabins feature one- and two-bedroom units.

Central Colorado's Arkansas River is the nation's most popular rafting river for good reasons. Its flows are dependent not upon rain but on mountain snow melt, and rafters have options ranging from smooth water suitable for all ages on up to adrenaline-producing whitewater.

And it's easy to get to from Denver, Albuquerque and surrounding states.

Getting Here

Located some eight miles west of Cañon City, Colo. on U.S. Route 50, Echo Canyon is often a day trip, but the recent addition of nine one- and two-bedroom [Royal Gorge Cabins](#) and eight glamping tents appeal to guests who love the rafting and would prefer to linger instead of driving home afterwards.

Drive times from Western metropolitan areas are:

- Denver, Colo. - 2¼ hours (125 miles via Interstate 25, CO 115 and US 50).
- Albuquerque, NM - 5½ hours (380 miles via I25 and US 50).
- Grand Junction, Colo. - 4½ hours (270 miles via US 50).
- Cheyenne, Wyo. - 3½ hours (220 miles via Interstate 25, CO 115 and US 50).
- Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas - 11 ½ hours (700 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Salt Lake City, Utah - 8 ¾ hours (520 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Tulsa, Okla. - 10½ hours (635 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Phoenix, Ariz. - 11½ hours (700 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Kansas City, Mo. - 9½ hours (635 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Omaha, Neb - 9½ hours (635 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Bozeman, Mont. - 12 hours (815 miles via US routes and interstates)
- Rapid City, SD - 8¾ hours (510 miles via US routes and interstates)

About the Rafting

Echo guides take guests through the big waves of the Royal Gorge as well as the smaller levels upstream that appeal to intermediate rafters and families who run Bighorn Sheep Canyon and gentle stretches on the country's sixth-longest river.

Echo Canyon offers these half- and full-day rafting trips:

The [Bighorn Sheep Canyon](#) trip is a good choice for families with children six and up as well as intermediate rafters. Available now, this trip combines mild whitewater with calm stretches featuring wildlife watching in a spectacular natural setting. Rates are \$87 for half-day trips and \$153 for full-day trips. Full-day trips include a gourmet boxed lunch.

The [Scenic Float](#) is a half-day, five-mile excursion that also takes place in the Bighorn Sheep Canyon. This trip will be available beginning May 28, and it is suitable for multiple generations, including kids as young as four. Easy Class II and gentle Class III rapids are mixed with plenty of floating time. Rates are \$87 per person.

[Royal Gorge Rafting Trips](#) feature rapids ranging from challenging Class III up to Class V. These trips travel through the 1,000-foot deep Royal Gorge

of the Arkansas. Minimum age is 14. Rates are \$105 for 10-mile, half-day trips and \$175 for 20-mile, full-day trips. Full-day trips include gourmet boxed lunch served at a scenic private site overlooking the river.

Food and Lodging

Located across the street from Echo Canyon River Expeditions are the [Royal Gorge Cabins](#), a complex of one- and two-bedroom [luxury cabins](#) with fully equipped kitchens, living areas and private outdoors spaces, and queen and double-queen [Glamping Tents](#) with private patios and fire rings.

The [8 Mile Bar and Grill](#) features a 16-tap bar with Colorado brews and popular favorites as well as a menu offering salads, burgers, sandwiches and entrees. More than half of the restaurant's seating is outside, and large bay doors allow for plenty of fresh air.

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[Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#) is the leading whitewater destination resort in central Colorado and one of the country's top [adventure resorts](#), according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The region offers an array of outdoor adventures and attractions including [whitewater rafting](#) on the Arkansas River, mountain biking on an acclaimed [trail system](#) and the [Royal Gorge Bridge & Park](#). Drive time is approximately two and one-half hours from Denver and one hour from Colorado Springs. The Colorado Springs Airport (COS) offers non-stop service from several major cities throughout the country including Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago and Phoenix.

Contact Echo Canyon by email at info@raftecho.com or by calling 1-800-690-3246, or follow the resort on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#) or by signing up for the resort's [newsletter](#). Travelers can also read about visitors' experiences on [TripAdvisor](#) and see why Echo Canyon is consistently named the No. 1-rated tour in Cañon City.

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