



The 8 Mile Bar & Grill features outdoor seating and is popular for meeting after a day on the river.

For Immediate Release

Echo Canyon River Expeditions Heads into Whitewater Rafting Season With High Expectations

CAÑON CITY, Colo., March 29, 2021 - Whitewater rafting season begins next month, and Andy Neinas thinks it will be the beginning of one of the strongest rafting seasons in years.

Owner of Colorado's largest outfitter, [Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#), Neinas supports his prediction by pointing to a perfect storm of variables and the lessons learned from challenges of the pandemic year.

Among those variables on his mind: a clear pent-up demand for travel in general; the mental and physical benefits of outdoor recreation and strong river flows resulting from this year's melting snowpack.

"It's time to get ourselves and our guests back on the river," said Neinas. "Based on the increasing advance bookings of our luxury cabins, Glamping Tents and rafting trips, this could be a banner year for those in the world of outdoor adventure."

Colorado's largest outfitter is also eager to apply lessons learned after last summer's surprisingly strong rafting season during the pandemic.



Gentle Family Floats and the Bighorn Sheep Canyon trips are recommended for multi-generational groups.

Here are some the lessons the Echo crew learned:

- Rafting is as close to the perfect pandemic activity as it gets. Outdoors, fresh air, reasonable distance and the occasional blast of water combine for an atmosphere that mitigates the spread of germs.
- People like private rafts. Echo added the option of booking by the raft and will continue to offer it. Starting at \$395 a group of up to five people may have their own guided raft.
- Offering freestanding [accommodations](#) attracted many people looking to turn a day of rafting into a multi-day getaway.
- Outdoor dining is the best. With bay doors between its dining room and patio, Echo's [8 Mile Bar and Grill](#) was already popular with the "apres raft" crowd. Expanding outdoor dining options was easy and well-received.
- While the challenges of the pandemic remain, they are now known quantities. Uncertainty is stressful, and there is far less of it this year, said Neinas.

Rafting trips Offered by Echo Canyon River Expeditions

The **Bighorn Sheep Canyon** trip is recommended for families with children six and up as well as intermediate rafters. The trip combines mild whitewater with calm stretches featuring wildlife watching in a spectacular natural setting. Rates per person are \$79 and \$395 for private rafts for half-day trips and \$139 per person and \$695 for private rafts for full-day trips. Full-day trips include a gourmet boxed lunch.

The **Gentle Family Float** is a half-day, five-mile excursion that also takes place in the Bighorn Sheep Canyon. This trip is suitable for multiple generations, including kids as young as four and grandparents. Easy Class II and gentle Class III rapids are mixed with plenty of floating time. Rates are \$79 per person and \$395 for private rafts.

Experienced rafters looking for an adrenaline rush can choose the **Royal Gorge Rafting Trips**. With rapids ranging from challenging Class III up to Class V, this trip makes its way through the 1,000-foot deep Royal Gorge of the Arkansas. Suggested minimum age is 14. Rates are \$95 per person and \$475 for private rafts for 10-mile, half-day trips and \$159 per person and \$795 for private rafts for 20-mile, full-day trips. Full-day trips include gourmet boxed lunch served at a scenic private site overlooking the river.

Echo Canyon provides all rafters with a personal flotation device and helmet and offers rentals of water shoes, wetsuits and splash jackets. Echo Canyon pioneered the use of GoPro cameras mounted on all rafts, enabling both photos and videos to be captured throughout the trip. Due to advanced technology at Echo Canyon headquarters, rafters can view and purchase photos and videos of their adventures shortly after they arrive back to the office.

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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