

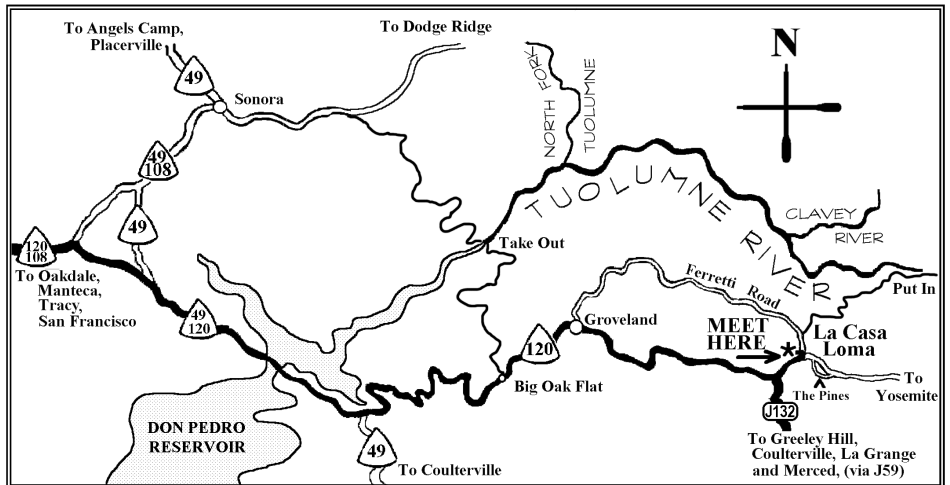
Welcome!

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.

Our 2 1/2 day trips are special itineraries designed around the low-flow days of late summer when hydroelectric releases do not provide ample water for rafting, (usually Sundays in late July and August). The first afternoon is spent in the canyon, relaxing in camp and enjoying the Tuolumne's non-whitewater attractions. The second two days are normal river days with plenty of whitewater excitement at Ramshead, Clavey Falls, and Grey's Grindstone. Because of their late meeting time, these trips allow guests to drive up to the river the day of the launch, and to enjoy a wonderful evening along the shores of the Tuolumne before beginning their adventure.

Meeting Time and Place:

All trip members will meet at 3:00 pm on the afternoon of the trip starting date at La Casa Loma Espresso Deli, 7 1/2 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 7 1/2 miles to Ferretti Road. 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



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 on Ferretti Road at Pine Mountain Lake Campgrounds (209/962-8625) and an hour away in Yosemite (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. We do not provide alcoholic beverages but you are welcome to bring your own (in non-glass containers). 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.

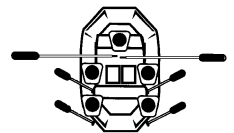
Raft Types:

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 (thick synthetic fleece top 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: These will be worn or packed in a community dry bag that will be accessible during the day.

- 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

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Small daypack, "dry bag", or ammunition box
- Book, fishing gear, snorkel & mask, etc.
- Waterproof camera
- Beer, wine, alcohol in non-glass containers

Equipment Information:

When you arrive at La Casa Loma, your lead guide will give each person a water-proof 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. 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): \$25 per person;
- *Tents**, (Sierra Designs Clip III two-person tents): \$25 per trip.

A Note About Water Levels & Daily Itineraries:

Late summer Tuolumne trips depend on hydroelectric releases from upstream reservoirs. It is common for these releases to be too low for rafting on Wednesdays in July and August. At the same time, the US Forest Service assigns launch dates and authorizes two outfitters to launch each day. When our assigned launch falls on a low-water Wednesday, we offer a 2 1/2 day trip that meets in the afternoon, drives into the canyon and camps at a tranquil site across the river and just downstream from the normal launch site. The following morning, when the hydroelectric release is made, we launch on the river and spend two full days rafting. The afternoon meeting time allows you to drive up to the river in the morning and enjoy a night of river camping before your trip.

Insurance:

We strongly recommend that you purchase short-term travel insurance prior to your trip. Contact USI Travel Insurance Services (www.travelinsure.com or 800-937-1387) for more information.

Included:

The trip fee includes all meals from dinner 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.

