

Welcome!

The Tuolumne is born high in the Sierra Nevada in Yosemite National Park. From 13,000 foot Mount Lyell to its confluence with the San Joaquin, the river flows through some of the most spectacular scenery in California. In September of 1984, 89 miles of this wilderness were protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, preserving the unique and beautiful area for future generations to enjoy. For many years, the word "Tuolumne" has been synonymous with outstanding whitewater, and the river has justly deserved this association. Recently, however, the outstanding fishing, the exquisite scenery, the beautiful side creeks and canyons, the solitude, and the peacefulness of the canyon have all become recognized as the Tuolumne's equally important assets.

The emphasis of our 1 day trips is whitewater. In the 18 miles from Lumsden to Ward's Ferry we will run over 14 major rapids rated Class IV or better, and several others rated Class III and III+. The action is nearly non-stop and we recommend that you don't plan to be too active the day after your trip; you will most likely be exhausted.

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 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 around 6:00 pm.

Transportation:

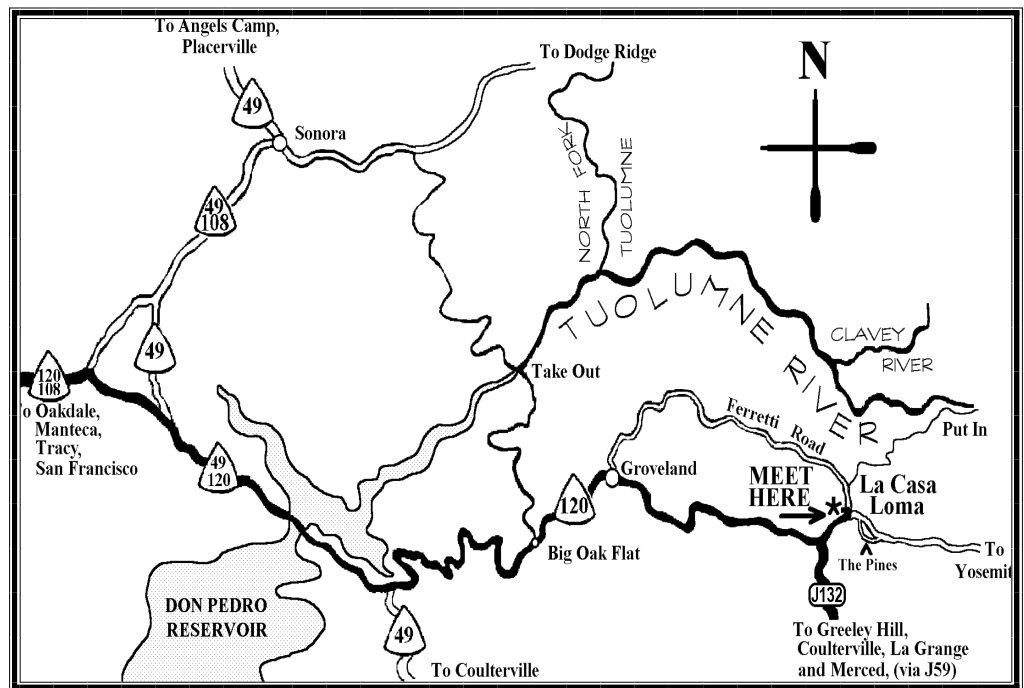
There is no public transportation available to Groveland. You can fly into San Francisco, Oakland or Sacramento, all of which are about 3 hours from Groveland. Driving time from the Bay Area is about 3 to 4 hours through Livermore, Tracy, Manteca, and Oakdale; from Los Angeles it is about 6 to 7 hours, 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 (962-4000) and the Hotel Charlotte (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, (turn at the Forest Service Headquarters sign). Reserved camping is available on Ferretti Road at Pine Mountain Lake Campgrounds (962-8625 and an hour away in Yosemite (372-0200).

Included:

One day Tuolumne trips include full transportation from the meeting place to the river and back, lunch and snacks, the use of the lifejackets, helmets, rafts, and rafting equipment for the day, and guide service throughout the trip. Gratuities for your guide are not included and are always appreciated when given in recognition of outstanding service.



Personal Equipment List

During the summer, you will need:

- Sandals with heel strap (Chacos, Keen, etc.) or old tennis shoes
NO SLIP-ONS OR FLIP-FLOPS!
- Swimsuit or shorts (nylon quick-drying are best)
- Long-sleeved cotton or dry-tech style synthetic top for sun protection
- Hat for under helmet (baseball style is best)
- Sunglasses with strap, (maybe not your best pair)
- Sunblock, lip balm
- Water bottle (an empty Gatorade bottle is fine)
- Lightweight fleece or polypropylene top if you get cold easily
- Waterproof camera, (optional)

During the spring high water period (April, May and early June) you will also need:

- Full or "Farmer-John" type wetsuit* **(required)**
- Waterproof (not repellant) rainshell or paddling jacket* **(required)**
- Polypropylene pile or fleece pullover or jacket (Polartec, Polarfleece, etc.) **(required)**
- Second pair of shorts for over wetsuit
- Fleece cap, gloves, and socks, wetsuit booties (optional)

*ARTA has 3mm Farmer-John wetsuits with Kokatat waterproof paddling jackets available for rent. The cost is \$10.00 per day. Our supply is limited and we cannot always accommodate late requests. Please reserve well in advance using your Guest Information Sheet.

Being Prepared:

It is usually warm and sunny in the Sierra during the heart of the summer so you won't need much for a day on the Tuolumne. You will be getting wet and the water is cold (55°) so things that dry quickly work best. It is a long day on the river, so don't forget a water bottle and if you get cold easily, a lightweight fleece is handy (we'll pack it in a community dry bag).

During the spring months the Tuolumne is full with snowmelt and is quite cold. Therefore, we **require** that all trip members have wetsuits, waterproof rainshells and fleece jackets. 3mm or 1/8 inch Farmer-John wetsuits work best, they cover your legs and torso but leave your arms and shoulders free to move. For your upper body, a polypropylene pile or fleece sweater, **(NOT COTTON)**, under a waterproof rainshell will help to keep you warm and comfortable.

Water Levels and Trip Lengths:

The Tuolumne is a wild river with wide fluctuations in flow. High water conditions last for one to seven weeks and peak around the first of June. During the high water period, the river is a solid Class IV+ to Class V river and everyone should be in good physical condition and ready for a challenging day on the river. All one-day trips are long and arduous and include two formidable shuttles, an intricate warm-up session, 18 miles of challenging river, at least one extended scout, and only a short stop for lunch. All guests should anticipate and be ready for a full day. As the season progresses we conduct 2 and 3 day trips which are less rushed and allow more time to enjoy the beauty and solitude of the canyon.

Insurance:

We strongly recommend that you purchase short-term travel insurance prior to your trip. This insurance can provide extra baggage, trip cancellation and medical coverage for you. Please request a Travel Insurance packet from ARTA if you have not received one.

