



Colorado Raft Guide Training Course- May 26th to June 10th 2025

This is a sample Itinerary and can change due to water levels and group dynamics.

Day 0 May 25th:

3:00 Meet and greet Durango boatyard

3:30 Jeep tour!

6:00 Return to boat yard

Day 1 Topics: Rowing Form & Paddle commands! *Pack for 4 days of camping*

Be prepared to camp this night pack a lunch
(Dinner will be provided on the river this day)

7:30 Meet at Boat Barn (50 Animas View Dr. Durango, Co 81301)

8:15 Drive to Ruby Horsethief put in

12:30 launch on Colorado river Ruby Horsethief

1:00 Introduction to rowing 101

5:00 Camp on the river!

Logged miles/ hours 11/ 8

Day 2 Topics: Rowing Form, Paddle commands, Rigging & angles!

Be prepared to camp this night
(Breakfast- Lunch- Dinner provided this day)

8:00 Breakfast and wake up

9:00 launch on the river

12:30 Lunch

2:30 Take Out/ Drive to Onion group camp

5:00 Dinner/ Knots

Logged miles/hours: 13/ 8

Day 3 Topic: Catching eddies, Swift water swimming, rescue, and river mechanics, maneuvering in fast moving water!

Be prepared to camp this night
(Breakfast- Lunch- Dinner provided this day)

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Drive to Hittle bottom

10:00 launch on moab daily

12:00 Lunch

3:00 Takeout/ takeout beach

3:30 Drive to Norwood camp

5:00 Dinner

Logged miles/hours: 15/ 8

Day 4 Topic: River Work! Keeping people in the Boat. Ferry!

Be prepared to camp this night
(Breakfast- Lunch- Dinner provided this day)

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Drive to Caddis flats

10:00 San miguel ½ day

12:30 Lunch

1:00 San miguel ½ day

2:30 Take out/ Drive back to Durango

6:00 Done for the Day

Logged miles/hours: 20 /8

Day 5 Topic: Putting it all together! How to run a commercial trip!?

8:30 Meet at Durango boat yard

9:00 1/2 day

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:30 2 hr Animas

5:30 De rig de brief

Logged miles/hours: 24/8

Day 6: Rest day

Day 7 Scouting and Running Rapids, Group management, Spacing, & running order

7:30 Meet at Durango boat yard

8:30 Oxbow ¾ day

1:00 Lunch

2:30 Take out Brits

5:30 D/Rig Shop

6:00 Done

Logged miles/hours: 26/8

Day 8 Topics: Swimmer recovery, Boat Flipping.

7:30 Meet at Durango boat yard

8:00 Boat flipping drills

10:00 1/4 animas

12:30 lunch

1:00 1/2 animas

5:30 De rig/ Debrief

*Logged miles/hours: 12/6***Day 9 Topics: River Hazards, River Currents, Eddies, Waves, and Laterals**

7:30 Meet at Durango Boat yard

9:30 Smelter laps

11:30 Lunch

12:00 Smelter Laps

5:30 Take out/ De rig/ Debrief

6:00 Done

*Logged miles/time: 16/6***Day 10 Topics: Scouting and Running Rapids Advanced , Types and Causes of River Rapids, Paddle Commands**

7:30 Meet at Durango boat yard

12:00 Lunch

5:30 Take out/ De rig/ Debrief

6:00 Done

*Logged miles/hours: 26/8***Day 11 Topics: Risk Management, River Rescue and Safety, Retrieving Swimmers. *Any Moab peeps will transfer on this day***

10:00 Meet at Durango boat yard

8:30 1/2 Day Animas

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:30 2 hr Animas

6:00 Done for the Day

*Logged miles/hours: 18/6***Day 12: FA/ CPR****Day 13 Topics: Oar Management, River Games, and Duckies**

9:00 Meet at Durango boat yard

9:30 Smelter laps

12:30 Lunch

1:30 1/2 day Duckie Trip

5:30 Done for the day

*Logged miles/hours: 16/8***Day 14 Topics: Focus on the Customer, What makes a complete guide!?Entertaining Guests Commercial trips (It's their trip not yours!)**

10:00 Meet at Durango boat yard

8:30 1/2 Day Animas

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:30 Celebration course d-brief.

5:30 Done for the day

*Logged miles/hours: 18/6***Congratulations! You are a certified Class III guide in the States of Colorado/Utah!**

Total Class Miles: 217

Total Hours: 86

*Participants will be learning and performing a variety of swift water skills including swimming of up to class 3 rapids throughout the course. Swims will begin with easier whitewater and progress upwards. Rope techniques will include Throw bags, Z-drags, Vector pulls and bow stern compression techniques.

**Participants will have an opportunity to attend a CPR/First Aid Course and receive certification. The certification fees are not included in the price of the course.

Recommended equipment and clothing list:

Nylon shorts/swimsuits for under wetsuits

Polypro/wool or similar long underwear.

Fleece jacket (rentals available)

Rain Suit

Wetsuit & booties (rentals available)

Sunscreen

Hat and sunglasses

Water bottle

Fleece or wool socks

Sleep Kit Bag, Pad, and Tent.

Two locking Carabiners and 9 ft piece of Tubular webbing