



**Durango Area Raft Guide Training Course - May 5th through May 21st 2026**  
**This is a sample Itinerary and can change due to water levels and group dynamics.**

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### **Pre-Course: Day 0 – Sunday, May 4**

**3:00 PM | Welcome & Pre-Course Orientation**

**3:30 PM | Jeep Tour of the Area**

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### **Day 1 – Monday, May 5**

**Topics: Swiftwater Swimming · River Mechanics · Introduction to Rowing**

7:30 AM | Meet at Durango Boatyard (50 Animas View Dr)

7:35 AM | Meet & Greet

8:00 AM | Facility & Boatyard Tour

8:30 AM | Boats 101: Equipment & Anatomy

9:00 AM | Depart for the River

9:45 AM | Launch at Trimble

12:30 PM | Lunch on river

5:00 PM | Takeout at 32nd

6:00 PM | Debrief & Debrief

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### **Day 2 – Tuesday, May 6**

**Topics: Guest Orientation · Ferry Angles · Flip Drills · Paddle Commands**

7:30 AM | Assemble at Boatyard

8:00 AM | Depart for 32nd

12:00 PM | Lunch

1:00 PM | takeout @ Basin

1:30 PM | Launch 29th

5:00 PM | Takeout Highbridge

5:30 PM | Debrief & Adjourn

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### **Day 3 – Wednesday, May 7**

**Topics: Hydrology · Scouting · River Hazards · Rescue Skills**

7:00 AM | Assemble Durango Boat Yard

7:30 AM | Launch Oxbow

12:30 PM | Lunch

5:00 PM | Takeout Basin

5:30 PM | Daily Debrief

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### **Day 4 – Thursday, May 8**

**Topics: Paddle Boating Basics · Knot Tying · Swimmer Management**

7:00 AM | Meet at Durango Boatyard

7:30 AM | Depart for River

8:00 AM | Launch at oxbow

12:00 PM | Lunch

5:30 PM | Arrive at Brits

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### **Day 5 – Friday, May 9**

**Topics: Rescue Techniques · River Spacing · Emergency Protocols**

7:00 AM | FA/CPR Certification Course  
8:45 AM | Meet at Durango Boat Yard  
9:15 AM | Launch oxbow to santirita laps  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Takeout & Debrief

**Day 6 – Saturday, May 10: Scheduled Day Off (subject to change):**

- **Moab Crew head to Moab (745 Kane Creek Blvd)**
- **Idaho Springs Crew head to Idaho Springs**
- **Durango crew Day off**

**Day 7 – Sunday, May 11**

**Topics: Guest Engagement · Keeping Guests in the Boat**

7:00 AM | Assemble at the Durango Boat yard  
9:00 AM | Launch 32nd to highbridge laps  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Takeout & Debrief

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**Day 8 – \*Leaving for a three day two night san miguel trip\***

*\*Meals provided starting this night Dinner\**

7:00 AM | Assemble at Durango Boat Yard  
9:00 AM | CDOT to Beaver Put in  
12:00 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Takeout/ Debrief/ Set up Camp

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**Day 9 – Tuesday, May 13**

**Topics: Technical Maneuvers · Eddies · Rock Avoidance · Advanced Angles**

7:00 AM | Breakfast / Morning Meeting  
9:00 AM | Launch at Caddis  
12:30 PM | Lunch Takeout  
1:30 PM | Launch Caddis  
5:30 PM | Takeout Debrief

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**Day 10 – Wednesday, May 14**

**Topics: Throwbags · PPE Review**

7:00 AM | Breakfast/ Morning Meeting  
9:00 AM | Launch at Ballfields  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
3:00 PM | Takeout/ Drive back to Durango

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**Day 11 – Thursday, May 15**

**Topics: Full-Day Trip Execution · Gear Fitting · Knot Workshop**

8:00 AM | Meet & Rig Gear  
9:00 AM | Guest Gear Fitting  
10:00 AM | Launch 33rd  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
3:30 PM | Takeout Brits  
4:15 PM | Knots Bootcamp  
5:30 PM | Debrief & Adjourn

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## Day 12 – Friday, May 16

**Topics:** Inflatable Kayaks (Duckies) · Group Dynamics · IK Management

8:00 AM | Meet at Boatyard  
8:30 AM | Depart for 33rd to 4crs Laps  
9:00 AM | Launch  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Takeout

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## Day 13 – Saturday, May 17

**Topics:** Running New Rivers · Reading Beta · On-the-Fly Adaptation

8:00 AM | Meet at Boatyard  
8:30 AM | Depart 33rd to Highbridge Laps  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Takeout  
6:00 PM | Adjourn

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## Day 14 – Sunday, May 18: ~Day Off (Subject to change)

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## Day 15 – Monday, May 19

**Topics:** The Complete Guide Day · Leadership on the River

8:00 AM | Assemble at Boatyard  
8:30 AM | Launch 33rd to Brits X2 laps  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Final Takeout  
6:00 PM | Adjourn

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## Day 16 – Tuesday, May 20

**Topics:** Final Skill Assessments · Ferry Angle Test

8:00 AM | Meet at Boatyard  
8:30 AM | Smelter Laps!!!  
12:30 PM | Lunch  
5:00 PM | Takeout  
6:00 PM | Adjourn

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## Day 17 – Wednesday, May 21

**Final Wrap-Up · Celebration · Career Planning**

8:00 AM | Assemble at Boatyard  
9:00 AM | Launch from Oxbow  
1:30 PM | Final Takeout at Brits  
3:00 PM | BBQ Celebration & Debrief  
4:00 PM | Meeting with Jake: Next Steps as a Guide  
5:00 PM | Wrap-Up & Goodbyes

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## Recommended Personal Gear

Nylon shorts/swimsuits (for under wetsuits)  
Synthetic or wool base layers (polypro/fleece)  
Fleece jacket (*rentals available*)  
Wetsuit and booties (*rentals available*)  
Hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen  
Wool/fleece socks  
Rain gear  
Sleeping kit (bag, pad, tent)  
Two locking carabiners  
9 ft tubular webbing  
Water bottle

## Required Gear

Sleeping kit (Bag, Pad, Tent)  
Whistle  
Water Bottle