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White Water Rafting In Colorado's Royal Gorge: Why This Adventure Spot Should Be On Your Radar



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Travel

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Rafting on the Arkansas River in the Royal Gorge is the chance to see amazing scenery while ... [\[+\]](#)

ECHO CANYON RIVER EXPEDITIONS

The Royal Gorge area is home to a plethora of attractions including white water rafting. And while there are plenty of spots to go rafting in Colorado, what makes this place so unique is the stunning scenery. The nice part is that there are so many different rafting options depending on skill and adventure level; so, everyone from adrenaline junkies looking for some serious rapids to families looking for a comfortable mid-level trip down the river will find the right excursion for them.

[Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#) has been rafting the Arkansas River since 1978 so they are able to create several rafting trips catering to each type of paddler. They also have wet suits and a variety of gear available at their storefront to make the trip comfortable and memorable.

Located about an hour from Colorado Springs, right next to the Royal Gorge, Echo Canyon has well-trained guides that work with each group's skill level to chart the best path down the river.



Family-friendly rafting trips are available for half and full day excursions. ECHO CANYON RIVER EXPEDITIONS

One of the most popular trips for families, as well as beginner and intermediate rafters, is the Bighorn Sheep Canyon trip. The rapids here are class III, which means the water is manageable to navigate while still getting in some white-water excitement. If the water is at a high flow, you may even

experience some class IV rapids on your trip. The river canyon is really stunning, so the views while rafting is really something special. There will be some quiet, peaceful stretches of the river broken up by some adrenaline-pumping rapids like Wake Up, Three Rocks, Spikebuck, and (the favorite) Sharks Tooth. Plus, there's a chance you might see some wildlife including bighorn sheep, eagles, falcons and possibly even bears. If the water is clear, you may even see a variety of trout swimming underneath your raft.



Rapids in the Royal Gorge can be pretty thrilling. ECHO CANYON RIVER EXPEDITIONS

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If you're looking for some more adventure, check out the Royal Gorge Rapids trip which takes paddlers into the heart of the 1,000-foot canyon walls. Rapids here range from class III to V and this stretch of the Arkansas River is peppered with rapids with names like Sunshine, Sledgehammer, and Boat Eater. These rapids are steep meaning there is more whitewater, continuity, technicality, but ultimately more excitement. This trip is ideal for those rafters who are comfortable in the water, know how to swim and are fit (there's a lot of paddling, so you'll get a great workout!).

Rafting excursions are offered half, full and even multi-day trips.

Where to Stay



The Royal Gorge Cabins are luxurious and offer great views of the Rocky Mountains. ROYAL GORGE CABINS



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If you're looking for a place nearby to stay, [Royal Gorge Cabins](#) is a great option. These private luxury cabins are a great combination of an outdoor-adventure Rocky Mountain getaway with all the comforts of an upscale accommodation. Each cabin has plenty of privacy and comes equipped with an indoor/outdoor fireplace (which is a great way to enjoy a fire no matter what the weather), a private patio and hammock, and plenty of amenities.

Plus, the cabins were built using repurposed materials, so you'll get a little taste of history during your stay. The fireplace mantle was sourced from the original planks of the historic Royal Gorge Bridge. The coat rack hooks in the cabin are repurposed from rail spikes found along the Royal Gorge Route line dating back to the 1800s.

Of course, the real show-stopper in the cabin is the view: you'll walk up enjoying your coffee with amazing panoramic views of Rocky Mountain peaks.



The glamping tents are spacious and comfortable. ROYAL GORGE CABINS

If you're looking for something even more rustic, you can try the glamping tents. These cozy tents—think 14 by 16 feet—can accommodate two people and come with super comfy beds (yes, it's glamping, not camping); lamps; a love seat; desk and chair; and an outdoor porch complete with table and chairs.



The fire pit outside the glamping tents are a great spot for making s'mores. ROYAL GORGE CABINS

In terms of food, the nearby [8 Mile Bar & Grill](#) is located just across the road from the cabins and the food is served up with a friendly smile. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, and boasts over 16 beers on tap. Menu options include made-to-order salads, sandwiches and burgers. The kids will be entertained with the bean bag toss, ladder ball, and sand volleyball pit located on-premise. The giant fire pit is a nice touch when the weather dips. Be sure to sit outside and take in the Rocky Mountain views.

Check out my [website](#).



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