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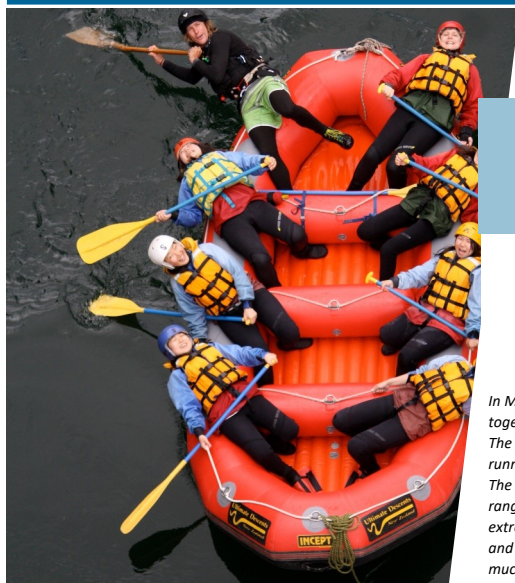


Smylies

TOURS

TOUR 7

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Rafting the South Island 5 days 4 nights rafting with friends

Need to get away? Sign up with Smylies Tours on their unique Rafting tour of the Clarence river

In Māori lore the Waiau-Toa/Clarence River is a male river, its lover is the female river Waiau-Uwha. At their head waters these rivers are close together but they separate as they flow toward the Pacific Ocean.

The river begins in the St James Range. It is 230 kms long, for the first 50kms it runs in a South-easterly direction before taking a sharp turn and running north-easterly until it meets the Pacific Ocean close to Kaikoura.

The river runs through high country stations including the Molesworth. The river then weaves its way between the Inland and Seaward Kaikoura ranges. The river valley is host to a variety of landscapes including vast tussock lands, stunning gorges, as well as open braided sections. There is extremely limited vehicle access to the river which makes this a real wilderness journey. During the trip we will cover about 170km, starting at 700m and making our way down to sea level. The Waiau-Toa/Clarence River is class 2 rafting. This means there are sections of fun waves and rapids but much of the river is fairly flat and gentle. The emphasis is on the five day river journey rather than full on white water rafting

Day 1: Mon 25th Jan - Christchurch to Hamner Springs and the Clarence river (146 km, 3hours driving)

We leave Springfield base nice and early and meet the new participants in Rangiora for a cruise across the plains to Hamner Springs. From there we head up into the mountains to meet our Rafting Guides.

Our guides provide all river equipment for multi-day rafting so all you have to do is transfer your camping clothes into a big dry bag that is provided, get dressed into the gear and listen to a comprehensive safety briefing. Then we pack the gear into the rafts and set off on our adventure downstream. No previous rafting experience is needed as our guides will teach you everything you need to know before we start.

On our first day we enter our first gorge. The river narrows and is surrounded by steep walls. We also have some fun rafting through rapids including 'the shoot' in this section. We arrive at camp in the mid-late afternoon. Most of the cooking throughout the trip is done on an open fire so a billy for tea and coffee is soon on the go and tents are pitched in one of the many beautiful spots on the river's edge.

Day2: Tue 26th Jan - River day 2 An average day on the River would see us leaving camp at around 0900, this means a wake up of 0730 or so. On day two we raft through a stunning and varied part of the South Island. In the morning we pass large scree-scarred mountains and tussock lands. You will be asked to paddle at times to keep the raft moving through the pools however you will have plenty of time to sit back and take in the views. In the afternoon, as in day one, we enter a gorged part of the river and make our way around Observatory Point. Fascinating rock formations tower over the river and make quite the contrast to the scenery of the morning. The river valley then opens up as we make our way down towards Quail Flat for our second night of camping. We have a few spots in this area that we like to camp in. Depending on the weather or if we just want somewhere to throw a frisbee around will depend on the location we choose to camp.

Day 3: Wed 27th Jan - River day 3 Day three tends to be the longest day on the river. For the most part we raft through open landscapes which means it is a great day to look high and see the mountains in the distance. If the skies clear you can see Tāpuae O'Uenuku, at 2885m. The Kaikoura earthquake of November 2016 had a significant impact on the River. Today we will raft past a massive slip that came down in the earthquake. The slip blocked the river and created a lake for a short time, before the dam burst leaving a new rapid to raft before entering the third gorge. In the first hour of the gorge we have a few different camp spots to choose from. We are now entering Manuka tree territory. This wood makes great coals for the camp oven which means something yummy for dessert.

Day 4: Thurs 28th Jan - River day 4 Day four is an enjoyable day of rafting with lots of grade two rapids that are really entertaining. We start off with a rapid called Jawbreaker, however it is not the most apt name as you would have to be very unlucky to do yourself any damage on it. The rapid is simply a super fun wave chain. Today we reach the most northern point of the Waiau-Toa/Clarence. From this point the river turns southeast and continues in this direction until it meets the ocean a further 6 hours downstream. By this stage of the trip you will be experts at pitching your tent and making camp. We enjoy spending the final night of our journey around another toasty camp fire.

Day 5: Fri 29th Jan - Clarence mouth to Christchurch (245km 3.5 hrs)

This is your last day on the water and you will meet the bus around noon. After farewell our guides, the bus will head to Kaikoura where you can get a well deserved meal of local fish and chips. We are going to try and get you home around early evening where the last few days of your holiday you can reflect on your Great NZ Kiwi journey you have completed

TOUR INCLUDES: 4 nights camping, 4 dinner, 4 breakfast, 4 lunch, transport, guiding, all equipment, photo's
Sleeping bag required

Please get a trip form from the international office and return it by the 18th of Sept. We need a minimum of 10 students to run this trip.

WOW!

Only \$1495

