

whitewater rafting





The thrill of the ride, the cool, refreshing spray of the water, the break from the everyday routine as you flow along with the river- these are just some of the reasons that keep experienced whitewater paddlers coming back for more and lure beginners in for the first time. Increasingly popular in the Deep Creek area, you can find whitewater rafting trips to match any ability level within a 40 minute drive or less. Both natural and man-made whitewater venues offer an invigorating way to enjoy the outdoors and relieve stress with friends and family, it's a sport that affords fitness and fun for all ages.

Originating at Maryland's highest point, Backbone Mountain, the Youghiogheny River is a popular destination for area rafting companies. It's rugged yet breathtaking scenery, miles of continuous whitewater and dam-released flows combine to make this river a classic with something for every adventure level. The river is at its wildest in Maryland and gradually calms as it flows into Pennsylvania.

Offering the most family friendly experience, the Middle Yough's (pronounced "yock") Class I to II waters are calm and scenic. Laurel Highland River Tours provides knowledgeable staff to steer you through the majesty of this beautiful valley. The only thing extreme about the Middle Yough is the scenery. Their fully guided tours can offer a more personalized experience for your group. Separate from the rest of the group, your party is led by guides handpicked for their expertise and

congeniality. They will share their knowledge of area history and plant and animal life that is unique to the Youghiogheny River Valley. The Lower Yough offers Class III to IV rapids, providing enough challenge and excitement to satisfy experienced rafters without overwhelming beginners. Laurel Highlands' guides paddle along, offering instruction and assistance at each major rapid. Their tours can accommodate a variety of group sizes and can be upgraded for a more customized adventure. A Premium Tour is the ultimate way to survey the splendor and grandeur of the Youghiogheny River Gorge. Your party is separate from the rest of the group and enjoys a private gourmet lunch. Whitewater veterans can rent advanced equipment for a more challenging ride.

Dropping over 115 feet per mile, the Upper Yough is a famous whitewater run for expert

paddlers in Maryland. It should only be attempted with a guide that knows the twists and turns of the river. Class IV and V rapids with names like "Meat Cleaver" and "Eddy of Death" serve as a warning, inspiring rafters to respect the power of this spectacular river. The Upper Yough is for those ages 16 and up and previous whitewater experience is required. Cheat River Outfitters and Laurel Highland River Tours have expert guides to lead you on the trip of a lifetime. It is most runnable during the winter/spring months that bring rain or snow melt and in the summer and fall on weekdays when water is released from Hoyes Run hydroelectric station.

Just as famous as the Yough, the nearby Cheat River possesses thrills and chills all its own. When traveling along the Cheat, you'll

find yourself surrounded by serious white-water, unique rock formations and tumbling waterfalls. With ability levels ranging from Class II to V, depending on water levels, both beginners and experts will appreciate the ever changing challenges. Cheat River Outfitters' Cheat Narrows Tour is a moderate 10 mile paddle. Each season offers a different ride with the steady snowmelt and rain of spring bringing more difficult rapids better suited for the more advanced paddler. The lower water levels of summer make for an ideal trip for families who can enjoy a riverside picnic or a dip in the crystal clear water.

On the more wild side, Cheat Canyon trips travel along a 13 mile section of river that contains over 30 rapids rated Class III to Class V. Surrounded by the beauty of a

Big Spring Rafting is Here!

The Cheat River Outfitters family has been providing quality adventure experiences for over 35 years!



The Thrill of the Cheat River!



- Worldclass Whitewater Rafting
- Cheat River & Upper Yough
- Family Whitewater Rafting
- Rock Climbing
- Wild Caving
- Paintball

Close to
Deep Creek Lake

The Adventure Starts Here!
CheatRiverOutfitters.com

1-888-99-RIVER

spectacular wilderness canyon, Cheat River Outfitters will guide you through some of the best whitewater in the East. Beautiful and wild, you will observe waterfalls coming into the canyon and unique rock formations. You will encounter such rapids as Decision (where you decide once and for all whether to continue your trek into the canyon), Big Nasty, Tear Drop, Coliseum and Fossil Falls. The season for running the Canyon is Spring, when heavy rains and snowmelt equal higher water levels.

The Adventure Sports Center International's (ASCI) recirculating whitewater course on March Mountain offers a controlled environment that mimics nature where you can get your feet wet with a guided tour or go for a more advanced experience in one of their instructional courses. It's the newest way to experience whitewater in Garrett County and is the world's only adjustable whitewater venue with rapids ranging from Class I-IV. Ideal for honing your skills, you improve your abilities before testing them on an open river. If you're already a paddler, bring your own boat and access the course with a private boater pass. Whether you are a participant or spectator, the ASCI whitewater course is the perfect way to cool off on a hot summer day.

Whether they're man-made or Mother Nature's creation, unique opportunities for families and outdoor enthusiasts lie around every turn in the Deep Creek Lake area. As with any adventure sport, whitewater safety is key. Unless you are an expert with first hand knowledge of area rivers, you should consult local outfitters for information, advice and instruction.

For more information on Deep Creek Lake

area whitewater rafting visit:
www.dnr.md.gov/publiclands/western.html
www.laurelhighlands.com
www.cheatriveroutfitters.com
www.adventuresportscenter.com

All Whitewater Is Not Created Equal

Rapids can range from pleasant to terrifying, so choose a river that matches your abilities and personal fun/fear threshold. Rapids are rated from *Class I through V*, according to their difficulty and potential danger. *Class I and II rapids are mild*, suitable for young kids and those seeking a pleasant outing rather than an adrenaline rush. *Class III requires skilled maneuvering* and will probably get you wet, but presents no real danger. *Class IV rapids are intense and powerful*. They demand quick and accurate maneuvers to avoid dangerous hazards. *Class V rapids are for experts only*, demanding the highest skill levels and best equipment.

