



VAAL RAFT CAMPING BRIEFING

One, two or three days * Nights under the stars * Entirely natural campsites

WHAT TO EXPECT

Raft camping is a really enjoyable way to experience the pleasures and surprises of a river trip.

We pack the boats on first day and raft downriver with everything tied on. Capsizes are rare but if they happen most items are waterproof. You are shown how to pack and secure the load. Your load would include your clothing, toiletries, tent, groundmat, drinks and snacks, lightweight chairs (optional), bottled water, cellphone and solar charger (waterproof). Group kit is carried by guides including the kitchen, tables, rain tarpaulin, cooking pots, braai grids, cutlery and serving dishes, washup and scullery. If you are self-catering please tell us if you wish to use our group kit or will have your own. Packing on the rafts is an important consideration. Tents and mattresses must be lightweight. Bring a puncture kit and small pump for lilos.

Each day, we paddle downriver to campsites that we know. If we are caught by bad weather or other conditions, we stop where we can. This is an expedition and it requires improvisation. The campsites we choose have no facilities other than rocks, trees, sandy beaches and probably a rapid nearby. We carry everything with us and are self-contained. Everything travels in barrels, drybags and coolboxes. We provide you with drybags for personal clothing, tents and sleeping bags. If you have a coolbox bring it, but it must be no larger than the normal Coleman cooler and you should bring plenty of ice which may last a couple of days if the cooler is kept closed.. Do not bring electrical cooler boxes.

WHAT WE DO NOT PROVIDE

Bring your own sleeping bag, tent and groundmat. We have tents & mats for hire, please notify us to book. Bring your own collapsible lightweight chairs or stools. We provide fruit juices and milk for beverages but no fizzy drinks or alcohol. We have a first aid medical kit but it is not for use for minor cuts, headaches or sprains. Bring your own medications.

MEALS



Cleanliness and hygienic cooking and washing are vital on any river trip. We take along fresh water for hot drinks, toothbrushing and drinking water. Other water is drawn from the river, boiled and/or or disinfected. We have a full kitchen range including scullery with washup basins and waste bins where refuse is sorted into glass, organics, plastics etc.



Cooking is done mostly on charcoal which we carry with us, or limited amounts of dry driftwood. We also have gas stoves. IF YOU ARE SELF CATERING THERE IS A CHARGE TO REFILL OUR GAS. We have tables, cutting boards and washup kit for which there is no charge. We also have complete cutlery, plates and mugs, drying towels and swabs.

SELF CATERING

Please ask for our self-catering guidelines. Be aware in planning that there may be vegetarians, vegans or people with special religious preferences, and plan accordingly.

SNACKS & SUNDOWNERS

Bring your own energy snacks, fizzy drinks and drinking water for the first day (after which we can provide. **YOU MAY NOT DRINK ALCOHOL OR TAKE RECREATIONAL DRUGS BEFORE OR DURING A DAY TRIP.** Bring own beers, wines or liquor for the evenings but **PLEASE DO NOT OVERINDULGE AS YOU WILL BE DEHYDRATED THE NEXT DAY.**

TRANSPORT

Your vehicles will be safely parked for the duration. At the start of the trip the group may shuttle personal vehicles to safe locations or the vehicles will be brought back to our base. Leave keys with the lead guide.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hygienic catering has been mentioned above. On very hot trails such as the Orange Gorge we try to keep everything as cool as possible to prevent decay of vegetables or milk souring. Meat should be vacuum packed and frozen solid. All eating utensils must be properly washed after use. We have a three-stage disinfecting system.

We are always concerned about ticks, mosquitos, miggies, spiders, snakes and scorpions. We have never had a serious incident in 40 years of rafting camping with any of these creatures. Be wary and bring insect repellent. Monkeys must be chased away and no food left out.

Campsites are kept clean of refuse to avoid animal raiders. We try to **LEAVE NO TRACE** and sites are thoroughly cleaned before we leave. Waste that accumulates is carried out to the end with us. Only organic waste is burnt.

Toilets: We set up a "boom box" toiler-with-a-view and teach everyone how to use it. It is perfectly hygienic and environmentally friendly. The pictures say it all:



Boomboxes are used everywhere in the world on river trips. Contents are bagged and travel with a guide! Set up at each camp. Privacy is ensured.

ASK ANY QUESTIONS

This is a summary of all our systems but **IF YOU WANT FURTHER DETAIL PLEASE WHATSAPP 084 245 2490.**

