



P.O. Box 111, Ocoee, TN 37361  
Phone: 800.451.7238 – 423.338.5124  
Fax: 423.338.1990  
Web: [www.CherokeeRafting.com](http://www.CherokeeRafting.com)

Hello Group Leader!

Thank you for your interest in Cherokee Rafting and America's most popular stretch of whitewater, the beautiful Ocoee River.

We're celebrating 42 years on the Ocoee this season where outdoor adventure is our passion and sharing it is our dream. We truly appreciate your business and are committed to providing you and your group with a positive whitewater rafting experience. We work hard to ensure your satisfaction and value the trust you put into our company. Our competitive edge lies in our proven position on superior customer service which allows us to continue to build a business based on long-standing relationships with satisfied guests. We have one of the best groups of hand-selected river guides who share our same passion for the love of our sport and the Ocoee River. They're friendly, funny, knowledgeable and well-trained professionals who'll help you at every step of the way along your journey down the river. That being said...we're excited about your whitewater rafting trip!

Enclosed you will find valuable information about planning your group's outing. Please read ALL of the information to familiarize yourself with our rafting trips. We are committed to make your job as "group leader" as easy as possible. If you'd like to consider putting together a rafting trip for your group, please contact me. Our group leader packet includes more information on the trips we offer, our rate sheet, a group leader's checklist, directions, other Things to Do in our area, Lodging info, a signup sheet, and a copy of our liability waiver (Please keep in mind that every rafting participant will need to sign a form prior to arrival). All rafters MUST be at least 12 years old, in good health and have a chest size no larger than 60 inches. When planning your trip, keep in mind that some dates fill up quickly, especially on weekends. As participants, sign up, it's best to **collect full payment from each participant**. We know this is a lot of information, but it will help you and your group to best prepare for your whitewater fun. You can also visit our website for most of the above information, including our rafting calendar and rates.

Our facilities include a bathhouse with changing rooms, hot showers, souvenir and retail shop, digital photos, large picnic pavilion, up-to-date equipment and catered meals (available upon request). Please do not hesitate to call or email us with any questions. Our goal is to make your adventure a success.

We look forward to having you and your group visit us! The most important trip down the river is yours and although you'll arrive as a guest, you'll leave like family!


Come and enjoy the fun,

Judy Thomason  
Manager



## 2020 RATE SHEET

### Middle Ocoee Trips (5 miles long and takes approx. 1.5 - 2 hours to complete)

	April & October		May		June & September		July & August	
	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun - Fri	Sat	Sun - Fri	Sat
Individual Rate 1-7 people	\$29	\$32	\$31	\$34	\$32	\$38	\$33	\$42
Group Rate 8 – 29 people	\$26	\$29	\$29	\$32	\$29	\$35	\$30	\$39
Groups of 30 or more	\$26	\$29	\$26	\$29	\$26	\$32	\$28	\$36


**\*Mondays are only \$28/person June – July - August**

**\*Groups of 50 or more: Please call 1-800-451-7238 for custom group discounts**

### Upper Ocoee Trips (5 miles long and takes approx. 1.5 - 2 hours to complete)

	May, June & September		July & August	
	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat
Individual Rate 1-7 people	\$40	\$42	\$42	\$45
Groups of 8 or more	\$35	\$37	\$37	\$40

### Full River Trips (10 miles long and takes approx. 5 hours to complete. Includes riverside lunch.)

	May	June & September		July & August	
	Sun & Sat	Sun	Sat	Sun	Sat
Individual Rate 1-7 people	\$75	\$80	\$85	\$85	\$88
Groups of 8 or more	\$70	\$75	\$80	\$80	\$83

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE AND WHAT IS PROVIDED?**

Just about everyone can go whitewater rafting. No experience is necessary! It does require some paddling and you WILL get wet. Participants must be in good health and have a chest size of no larger than 60 inches. The state law requires that you must be 12 years of age to go rafting on the Ocoee River. We will provide all necessary equipment: PFD's (personal floatation device), helmets, and paddles. You will also receive a detailed river briefing covering safety issues and the risks involved. Transportation will also be provided to and from the river gorge.

### **HOW LONG ARE THE TRIPS?**

The Middle Ocoee River trip is 5 miles long and takes about 2 hours to run that section of river. You will receive instructions and safety information and also have some time to practice with your guide before departure on the river. There is also a short drive to and from the river. Plan to spend a total of 3 to 3.5 hours with us for this trip. The Full River trip is 10 miles and takes about 5 hours to complete. You'll need to plan about 6 to 6.5 hours with us for this trip. Our Full River combo trips also include a riverside lunch.

### **HOW MUCH OF THE TRIP IS WHITEWATER?**

The Middle Ocoee is almost continuous whitewater with about 90% of that section being whitewater with over 20 major rapids. The upper Ocoee provides an additional 13 rapids, is 70% whitewater and includes the famous 1996 Olympic Whitewater Course.

### **WHAT IF IT RAINS?**

Trips go rain or shine. Of course everyone loves a beautiful sunny day, but that doesn't stop us from running the river. You're going to get wet anyway! Rafting can also be the perfect rainy day activity. On cool days, we provide splash jackets free of charge.

### **DO YOU HAVE SELF-BAILING RAFTS? AND WHAT SIZE ARE THE RAFTS?**

Yes, our entire fleet consists of self-bailing rafts that are 13-14 feet in length and specifically used for whitewater use.

### **ARE GUIDES REQUIRED? HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN A RAFT?**

Yes, guides are required on the Ocoee and every raft will have one. The rafts are designed to hold 7-8 people; however we usually fill them up with 4-6 rafters plus a guide. We can run a 7-load plus the guide in some situations.

### **ARE GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE?**

Yes, we offer group rates every day. The more you bring, the bigger the discount. Please see our rate schedule or contact our office.

### **HOW ARE THE RAPIDS RATED?**

Rapids are rated on a difficulty scale between 1 and 6 (shown as Roman numerals I - VI) which describes the difficulty and danger level. Class I rapids are the easiest while a class VI rapid is the most dangerous. The scale is not to be used in considering the fun factor of a river run. The Ocoee River is rated as a class III & IV river. It was recently named America's favorite whitewater run!

### **HOW COLD IS THE WATER?**

The Ocoee River feeds from a lake upstream and is fairly warm all year round. The dams are mostly "top fed" meaning the water comes off the surface of the lake to feed the riverbed below. That allows warmer water to flow instead of pulling from the bottom of the dam, where sunlight doesn't often reach. However, the spring months and fall sometimes get a little cooler depending on rainfall and outside air temps.

### **HOW SHOULD I DRESS?**

In warm weather, wear short or bathing suits and a t-shirt. In cool weather, bring a wool, fleece or polyester top and insulating pants. Under Armor-type materials work great! NO COTTON on cooler days as it has no insulating value. We also provide splash jackets free of charge on cool days to wear over your clothing. We also recommend wearing shoes with backs or a heel strap. Flip-flops, Crocs and similar type shoes will work, but not the best for this sort of activity and may come off if you fall out or decide to jump in and swim.

**These are just some of the many questions we get asked all of the time. Should you have any questions that aren't answered here, please call our office. Our staff will be glad to help! 1-800-451-7238**

# GROUP SIGN UP SHEET

Cherokee Rafting on the Ocoee River

TRIP DATE	TRIP TIME	PRICE PER PERSON	DUE DATE
1	Paid	31	Paid
2	Paid	32	Paid
3	Paid	33	Paid
4	Paid	34	Paid
5	Paid	35	Paid
6	Paid	36	Paid
7	Paid	37	Paid
8	Paid	38	Paid
9	Paid	39	Paid
10	Paid	40	Paid
11	Paid	41	Paid
12	Paid	42	Paid
13	Paid	43	Paid
14	Paid	44	Paid
15	Paid	45	Paid
16	Paid	46	Paid
17	Paid	47	Paid
18	Paid	48	Paid
19	Paid	49	Paid
20	Paid	50	Paid
21	Paid	51	Paid
22	Paid	52	Paid
23	Paid	53	Paid
24	Paid	54	Paid
25	Paid	55	Paid
26	Paid	56	Paid
27	Paid	57	Paid
28	Paid	58	Paid
29	Paid	59	Paid
30	Paid	60	Paid

## **GROUP LEADER'S CHECK LIST**

- Call Cherokee Rafting and reserve a date, time and approximate number of rafters in your group. Credit card commitment due in order to hold reservation or you can mail us a check if approved by the office staff.
- Post the sign-up sheet with a deadline for sign-ups.
- Collect the full amount of money from everyone who signed up. This makes them accountable for their own spot on the trip.
- Call Cherokee Rafting with updates on any adjustments to the group size at anytime. You are responsible for any changes to your reservation.
- More than 10 days prior to your trip date, double check with everyone who signed up and call Cherokee Rafting with any cancellations for a 100% refund. Any changes made less than 10 days before your trip date are subject to a \$10.00 cancellation fee per person. Unfortunately, NO refunds are given for cancellations made less than 24 hours of your scheduled trip.
- About 3-7 days before your trip, check with everyone again and notify us of any changes or let us know if you have any additional reservations. Things always change! This helps us better prepare for your arrival.
- Make sure everyone signs our liability waiver and returns it to you. Everyone MUST sign a waiver. If they are a minor (under 18 years old), they will need a parent/guardian's signature also on the form. If they are an adult (18+), only one signature is required.
- Plan to arrive on your trip date at least 30 minutes prior to your trip time. Present all liability waivers and any final payments to Cherokee Rafting.

### TIPS:

- Have everyone pay you in full when they sign up. For Group Discounts to apply, you will need to make one group payment or two if you paid a deposit. Anyone paying individually will be charged the individual rate.
- Do not make a reservation for anyone who doesn't give you his or her money. This takes the financial commitment off of you as the group leader.
- Call Cherokee Rafting even if 1 person wants to cancel prior to the cancellation deadline.
- If the cancellation deadline has passed to receive a refund, the person wanting to cancel should find a replacement. This should not be the group leader's responsibility. Remember, all reserved spots will be charged.
- If your group number changes, you will be charged the rate per person in that discount bracket. This rate may be different than what you were originally quoted.

## **DIRECTIONS TO CHEROKEE RAFTING**

**Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your trip time. We are on Eastern Time!**

**FROM CHATTANOOGA, TN** (43 miles, 45 min – 1 hr) - Take I-75 north towards Knoxville to exit #20, turn right and merge onto the 64 bypass. Travel 6.5 miles to Highway 64 east (Ocoee exit). Take the Ocoee exit and merge onto Highway 64 east and travel 9 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the left.**

**FROM KNOXVILLE, TN** (93 miles, 1 ½ hours) - Take I-75 south to exit #25, turn right at the end of ramp onto Highway 60 south. Travel 4 miles to the Ocoee exit for Highway 64 east. Turn right for the Ocoee exit and merge onto Highway 64 east and travel 9 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the left.**

**FROM NASHVILLE, TN** (170 miles, 3 hours) - Take I-24 east to Chattanooga. At the junction for I-75 in Chattanooga take I-75 north towards Knoxville. Follow directions above **From Chattanooga.**

**FROM ATLANTA, GA** (112 miles, 2 - 2 ½ hours) - Take I-75 north to exit #293. Turn right at the end of the ramp and take Highway 411 north for 65 miles to the junction of Highway 64. Make a left turn onto the entrance ramp for Highway 64 East. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Highway 64 and travel 1.5 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the left.**

**FROM BIRMINGHAM, AL** (185 miles, 3 hours) - Take I-59 north towards Chattanooga. At the I-24 junction, take I-24 east to Chattanooga. At the junction for I-75 in Chattanooga, take I-75 north towards Knoxville. Follow directions above **From Chattanooga.**

**FROM HUNTSVILLE, AL** (142 miles, 3 hours) - Travel east on Highway 72 to I-24 and take I-24 east to Chattanooga. At the junction for I-75 in Chattanooga, take I-75 north towards Knoxville. Follow directions above **From Chattanooga.**

**FROM ASHEVILLE, NC** (160 miles, 3 ½ hours) - Take I-40 west to exit #27. Take exit #27 and follow Highway 74 west to Murphy, N.C. (88 miles). In Murphy, take Highway 64/74 west and travel straight ahead for 49.5 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the right.**(approx. 34 miles from the TN/NC state line)

**FROM THE KNOXVILLE AIRPORT AREA** – (64 miles, 1 hr 45 min) Take Highway 129 to Maryville. Then take Highway 411 south to the junction for Highway 64 (62 miles). Make a right turn onto the entrance ramp for Highway 64 east. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Highway 64 and travel 1.5 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the left.**

**FROM GATLINBURG, PIGEON FORGE, TOWNSEND AREA** (2 to 2 ½ hours) - Take Highway 321 west from Pigeon Forge to Townsend. In Townsend, continue on Hwy. 321 to Maryville then take Highway 411 south to the junction for Highway 64. Make a right turn onto the entrance ramp for Highway 64 east. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Highway 64 and travel 1.5 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the left.**

**FROM BLUE RIDGE, GA** (39 miles, 1 hour) - Take Highway 5 north to Highway 68 in Copperhill/McCaysville. Turn left and travel on Highway 68 north to Highway 64. Take the ramp to go west on Highway 64 and travel 24.5 miles. **Cherokee Rafting is on the right.**

**Drive times and mileage may vary due to road conditions, traffic, weather or other issues beyond our control. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled trip time. Remember...we are in the Eastern Time Zone. Please arrive on time and plan your travel accordingly.**

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## **THINGS TO DO IN THE OCOEE AREA**

### **The Ocoee Scenic Byway**

The first-ever U.S. Forest Service scenic byway was designated in the Cherokee National Forest in Polk County. It includes a portion of U.S. Hwy. 64 (historic Old Copper Road) and Forest Service Road 77. About half of the U.S. Hwy 64 section passes through the Ocoee River Gorge. Forest Service Road 77 turns off U.S. Hwy 64 and winds its way up Chilhowee Mountain following the crest of the mountain. Within this drive are rock bluffs, mountain peaks, Parksville Lake and the Ocoee River, all of which offer visitors magnificent views of natural beauty. The scenic byway also offers access to boating, swimming and historic sites related to the Civil War and Cherokee Indian culture.

As you approach the Cherokee National Forest on Hwy. 64 heading east from Cleveland, Tn., the view includes Big Frog and Chilhowee mountains and the Big Frog Wilderness area. Entering the forest, you see an overlook with a magnificent view of the TVA dam that creates Parksville Lake (Lake Ocoee). In the background is Sugarloaf Mountain's sharp peak, a prominent landmark readily visible for many miles from nearly every direction. Sugarloaf Mountain Park, located just below the dam, offers a place to stop for a picnic, dip your feet into the river, and learn from interpretive signs. The park also has a model of the Olympic whitewater race course.

As you leave the dam site, several sightseeing pull-offs offer incredible views of Lake Ocoee with the Cherokee National Forest proudly painted as a backdrop. The 1,950 acre lake is entirely encompassed by National Forest land.

Continuing on the route is Parksville Beach, a mecca for swimmers. Many nooks and crannies around the shores of the lake provide colorful picture-taking opportunities.

Between mileposts 7 and 8 is the Ocoee Ranger District office, which serves as a welcome center with information, brochures and maps.

Mac Point swimming area is nestled in a cove between mileposts 9 and 10, just before the highway enters the Ocoee River Gorge. In the gorge, from April through October, there is an area of river recreation delight where whitewater rafters and kayakers take full advantage of the fun on the Ocoee River. The scene is dominated with views of the river and rock cliffs.

Just beyond the rafting exit point (the "takeout") is the historic TVA #2 Powerhouse. The Ocoee flume line, which carries the river water to the powerhouse, snakes its way around the bluffs of the Ocoee River Gorge for nearly five miles. Through a special arrangement with TVA, power generation is halted to allow water releases for whitewater rafting during the summer months.

Approaching the upper end of the gorge between mileposts 17 and 18 is the boat launching area (the "put-in") used by the rafting outfitters. It is here that a "stick dam" is seen, an engineering marvel where the flume begins.

More scenic beauty abounds with a view of both the Big Frog and Little Frog Wilderness areas and the upper segment of the Ocoee River. This section is normally dry because the water is used for producing electricity. (Upstream water is diverted to a tunnel that goes through the mountain to powerhouse No. 3) There are limited water releases for recreation on the upper river.

The spot where the river veers away from the highway was the site of whitewater canoe and kayak slalom competition during the 1996 Olympic Games hosted by Atlanta. The Ocoee Whitewater Center remains to serve as visitor center and recreation center.

Finally, at milepost 22 is the Boyd Gap Overlook, a perfect ending to a trip that abounds in "oohs" and "ahhs," for it is here that you get an eye-popping view of the splendor of the Cherokee National Forest.

### **Along Forest Service Rd. 77**

You can turn onto FS 77 off U.S. 64 about 200 yards east of the entrance to the Forest Service Ranger Station. A comfortable but steady climb begins immediately, leading you through a high-quality forest

landscape. Between two and two and a half miles up the mountain are two overlooks that offer breath-taking views across the Tennessee Valley and down to Ocoee Lake more than 600 feet below.

A climb of another mile brings you to one of the most magnificent views in East Tennessee. From here, the Blue Ridge province, Tennessee Valley and Cumberland Plateau are all within view.

Just to the south the entire length of Parksville Lake is visible. Further to the south are the mountains in Big Frog and Cohutta wildernesses; and to the southwest is the metropolis of Chattanooga. On to the west is the pastoral Tennessee Valley. One could have seen great armies moving through the valley toward some of the most decisive conflicts of the Civil War 125 years ago.

After driving six miles, you reach a 1900-foot mountain plateau where several overlooks offer views to the west. Just down the road is a Civil War interpretive site where evidence of an 1865 skirmish and small Confederate campsite was found.

A short distance further, the seven-mile paved road section ends at Chilhowee Recreation Area, which offers camping, swimming and hiking.

### **Hiking Trails**

A number of trails exist in the Cherokee National Forest near the Ocoee River. Trails range from easy to difficult: some are heavily traveled while others offer more solitude. Some of the trails have remained unchanged for nearly 100 years and average 1 mile to over 15 miles in length. The most popular trails are the Benton Falls Trail in the Chilhowee Recreation Area and the Tanasi Trail System at the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Be sure to ask our manager about the best hiking trails for your group and which waterfalls to explore.

### **Swimming**

Day use swimming areas are available along Parksville Lake. Chilhowee Recreation Area offers a swimming area with a bathhouse on top of Chilhowee Mountain at Lake McKamy.

***For information on the above activities, call the Ocoee Ranger Station at 423-338-5201.***

**Float the Hiwassee River** - A state scenic river in Polk County, near Reliance, TN offering class II whitewater. Contact Webb Brothers Float Service at 877-932-7238 or visit [www.webbbros.com](http://www.webbbros.com) for more info related to tubing, ducky (inflatable kayak) and raft rentals.

**Chatata Valley Golf Course** - 18 holes, driving range, pro shop near Cleveland, TN. Call 423-339-9784 or visit [www.chatatavalleygolf.com](http://www.chatatavalleygolf.com)

**Horseback Riding** - Blanche Manor Stables in Copperhill, TN. Call 423-496-1060

**Downtown Chattanooga** - Tennessee Aquarium and Imax 3D Theatre – 800-262-0295. The Southern Belle Riverboat, Discovery Museum, Duck Boat Rides, restaurants and more; call the Chattanooga Visitor's Bureau at 423-756-8687.

**Ruby Falls, Rock City & The Incline Railway** - Visit [www.lookoutmountain.com](http://www.lookoutmountain.com)

**Raccoon Mountain** - Cave tours. Minutes from downtown Chattanooga. Call 423-821-9403

**Lost Sea** - America's largest underground lake in Sweetwater, TN. Call 423-337-6616

**Hiwassee River Rail Adventure** - Open rail car ride along the Hiwassee River. Call 423-894-8028 or visit [www.tvrail.com](http://www.tvrail.com)

**Chilhowee Glider Port** - Call 423-338-2000 or visit [www.chilhowee.com](http://www.chilhowee.com)

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## **ACCOMMODATIONS AND LODGING**

While Cherokee Rafting doesn't have any lodging on-site at our rafting facility on Hwy 64 in Ocoee, TN, there are still plenty of options for you and your group nearby such as cabins, hotels, camping and bunk houses.

### **CAMPING**

**Nearby in Cherokee National Forest** - Chilhowee Recreation Area & Campground (lake, beach and 60 ft. waterfall), Parksville Lake Campground (lake, RV hookups, waterfalls nearby) and Thunder Rock Campground (riverside camping alongside the Upper Ocoee). Call the Ocoee Ranger Station at 423-338-5201 for more information.

**Gee Creek Campground** - Located in the Hiwassee State Park near Delano, TN. Call 423-263-0050 for more information.

**Persimmon Creek Campground** - Located 12 west of Murphy, NC and 7 miles east of the TN/NC state line on Hwy 64. Call 828-644-5800 or visit [www.persimmoncreekcampground.com](http://www.persimmoncreekcampground.com)

**KOA Campground** - Located in Cleveland, TN. Call 423-472-8928

### **CABINS AND BUNK HOUSES**

**Hall Cabin** - Located in Ocoee, TN (closet cabin to our outpost). Call 423-338-8465 or visit [www.hallscabinrentals.com](http://www.hallscabinrentals.com)

**Mountain Escapes Cabin Rentals** - Call 877-537-2273 or visit [www.mecabins.com](http://www.mecabins.com)

#### **Welcome Valley Village**

Call 800-452-8567 or visit [www.welcomevalleyvillage.com](http://www.welcomevalleyvillage.com)

#### **Mountain Stream Lodging**

Located in Reliance, TN. Call 423-338-1070 or visit [www.mountainstreamlodging.com](http://www.mountainstreamlodging.com)

#### **Lost Creek Cabins**

Located in Reliance, TN. Call 423-338-0757 or visit [www.lostcreekcabins.com](http://www.lostcreekcabins.com)

#### **Mountain River Cabins**

Located in Blue Ridge, GA. Call 770-977-5391 or visit [www.mountainrivercabins.com](http://www.mountainrivercabins.com)

**Blanche Manor Resort and Lodge** - Located in Copperhill, TN. Stay in a yurt or a lodge. Call 706-633-7574 or visit [www.blanchemanoryurts.com](http://www.blanchemanoryurts.com)

### **HOTELS**

#### **Hampton Inn**

I-75 at exit 27  
423-559-1001

#### **Baymont Inn**

I-75 at exit 27  
423-614-5583

#### **Best Western**

I-75 at exit 27  
423-472-5566

#### **Comfort Inn**

I-75 at exit 27  
423-472-5566

#### **Wingate Inn**

I-75 at exit 25  
423-478-1212

#### **Fairfield Inn**

I-75 at exit 25  
423-664-2501

#### **Douglas Inn & Suites**

I-75 at exit 25  
423-559-5579

#### **Whitewater Inn**

1 mile from our outpost on Hwy 64 in Ocoee, TN  
888-716-2633 or visit [www.ocoewhitewaterinn.com](http://www.ocoewhitewaterinn.com)

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