



Now is the time to book a Colorado rafting adventure



Amiee White Beazley 2022-06-04

By Amiee White Beazley

May and June are undoubtedly the best months for rafting Colorado's rivers. Snowmelt runoff is at its peak, which means fast moving water, strong rapids and high excitement.

Recently, I drove over Independence Pass from Aspen and stopped in beautiful Buena Vista to join AVA Rafting for a half-day excursion rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon, a stretch of river I'd long wanted to experience.

Rafting through Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River

The Arkansas is a popular destination in a myriad of Colorado river rafting offerings, accounting for more than 42 percent of the commercial rafting activity in Colorado. The river's corridor comprises more than 150 miles of the state's best whitewater, spanning four counties from Granite to Cañon City, within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.



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Rafting on the Arkansas River. Courtesy Photo

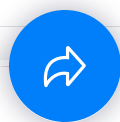
From upstream to downstream, the most popular whitewater sections on the Arkansas River are Pine Creek (Class V), Numbers (Class IV-V), Narrows (Class III-IV), Browns Canyon (Class III-IV), Bighorn Sheep Canyon (Class II, III-IV) and Royal Gorge (Class IV-V).

I've rafted several stretches of the Roaring Fork and Colorado River, but the Arkansas is different. I chose Browns Canyon for the tales of both its challenge and beauty. This stretch takes guests through 10 miles of Browns Canyon National Monument. Its granite walls provide a narrow, fast-moving, and technical aspect I'd never encountered, mainly through Class III sections like Zoom Flume and Pinball.

AVA Rafting is part of the Arkansas River Outfitters Association (AROA), which supports certified professionals guiding companies "dedicated to offering world-class outdoor recreation on one of the most popular rivers for rafting in the United States."

Rafting boosts local economies

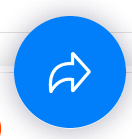
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The organization recently released the initial fiscal reports from the Arkansas River 2021 rafting season, noting that AROA outfitters ran 262,357 commercial trips on the river last year. Those trips generated nearly \$43 million in total visitor expenditures – including one in six hotel rooms booked and one in ten restaurant tables reserved and spending on retail sales and photography services – an approximate 52 percent increase over the \$28 million generated in 2020.

120 days of river fun

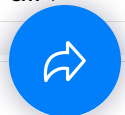
Hopefully, my half-day on the Arkansas is just the first of many trips exploring this epic stretch of river. At times it was heart-stopping and jaw-droppingly beautiful. And while May and June might be the best months for big rapids, the Arkansas River employs the Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) to manage water releases to meet multiple needs, including recreational boating and fishery health. That means the entire summer on the Arkansas is prime for adventure. While flows and thrills may be muted in later summer months, this is a perfect time to bring out younger kids who may not have the skill to approach more technical sections of the river during peak runoff.

Rafting # Colorado # Arkansas River # Browns Canyon # Adventure

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Amiee White Beazley is a travel, food and wine journalist whose stories, essays and photography have been featured in publications such as The Washington Post, Departures and Travel + Leisure.

📍 Aspen, CO

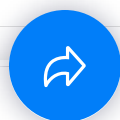
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Aspen, CO 26 days ago

Discover the spot where the ultra-rich can enjoy ranch life in Aspen



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Tucked away from the mid-summer frenzy of downtown Aspen is a small ranch community just a few minutes past Woody Creek Tavern, the old haunt of Hunter S. Thompson and George Stranahan.

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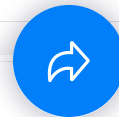
The Broadmoor hotel in Colorado Springs is one of the most revered hotels in the world and one of only four five-star, five-diamond properties in the Centennial State. The Broadmoor is the longest consecutive recipient of both awards in the world. But lesser known are The Broadmoor's all-inclusive Wilderness Collection properties, smaller, cozier, and more rooted in their collective surroundings.

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Towns throughout the Mountain West are reassessing tourism. Heeding feedback from residents who call these communities home, Destination Management Organizations (DMO) throughout the region are searching for sustainable ways to benefit the local community, the economy and the visitor.

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Carbondale, CO 2022-06-04

Cedar Ridge Ranch pairs glamping with sustainable agriculture

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We arrived at Cedar Ridge Ranch, a 67-acre ranch and organic farm high in the Elk Mountains Range near Carbondale, Colorado, for different reasons – one to finish writing a novel, another for peace and solitude, and a newly married couple on their first trip to Colorado. We all came for the sweeping views of Mt. Sopris, for the luxury farm accommodations – a yurt, three safari-style tents, a farmhouse and a well-appointed cabin at 6,700 feet – and connection with nature and the people around us.

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Telluride, CO 2022-05-28

Travel to Telluride: Luxury hotel options for a fabulous weekend away

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I've been exploring a lot of Colorado lately and recent travels have taken me to one of my favorite towns – Telluride. Summer is my favorite season in Telluride. It's also festival season – the summer months when Town Park is green and full of live music with the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Blues and Brews and the Ride Festival, among others. In anticipation of this summer's concerts, I've been scoping the best places to stay in Colorado's coolest town for those who desire alternatives to camping.

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Glenwood Springs, CO 2022-05-27

After Grizzly Fire, and last summer's debris flows, Hanging Lake to reopen June 25

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After of year of closures, Glenwood Spring’s iconic trail to Hanging Lake is set to reopen in June. In August of 2021 when the Grizzly Creek Fire devastated the steep, red rock walls and 30,000 acres of the White River National Forest, there was tangible fear that Hanging Lake, an area designated as a National Natural Landmark in 2011, had been destroyed. Miraculously, it survived, the fire burning much of the area above the lake and trail, without actually reaching the lake itself.

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Grand Junction, CO 2022-05-23

Discover Grand Junction's standout boutique “teaching hotel”

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Grand Junction is a Colorado city on the verge of discovery. With excellent hiking and biking, affordable housing prices and drop-dead views of Mt. Garfield and the Colorado National Monument, it is quickly becoming one of Colorado's most sought-after destinations for travel and relocation.

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Colorado State 2022-05-19

New travel guide helps families explore Colorado's wide-open spaces

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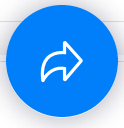


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Anyone who has explored the state of Colorado knows there is enough to do, see and experience to fill hundreds of guidebooks – which there are. But

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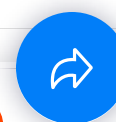
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Aspen, CO 2022-05-14

Food & Wine Classic in Aspen returns June 17-19 for 39th glorious year



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About Creators

(Aspen, Colo.) June is a fantastic time of year for locals who live in Aspen. Trees and flowers have bloomed, the bears are awake roaming the trails, and the



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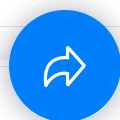
by a group of culinary experts and visionaries, have brought the pages of Food & Wine magazine to life.

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Aspen, CO 2022-05-13

Former Aspenite follows in Bourdain's footsteps on CNNs 'Nomad'



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(Aspen, Colo.) Master Sommelier Carlton McCoy ran the wine program at the five-star The Little Nell hotel from 2011 to 2019 in Aspen, overseeing a staff of 15



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