



Rivers of the Alps

Switzerland, Austria, Italy



For the first time ever, private rafters can come explore the rivers of the Alps. For many years we have run expedition trips all over the world for private rafters but unfortunately in Europe we do not have multi day river trips so we designed a program called "World Rivers" where we run as many spectacular rivers as possible during the time we have. On the Rivers of the Alps trip, we run 12 of the best river trips in Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

Due to laws in Europe, we can only run a maximum of 6 rafts at a time so our group size our small. We need a minimum of 4 guests and a maximum of 6 guests. Private rafters or kayakers.

We invite you on a perfect white-water adventure in Europe...



Day One:

Arrive into Zurich International Airport where you will be met by Alex and Ceci who will transfer you to the hotel. At 6pm we will meet in the Lobby of the hotel for a small orientation meeting followed by dinner.

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Day Two:

After breakfast in the hotel, we start our adventure by driving out of the city and over the Brunig pass and down to the Simme River. An easy class 2 / 3 river that is continuous and located in the beautiful Simmental valley. We will be on the river for a good 3 hours and once at the take out we will have a short drive to our camp sight Manor Farm located on the shores of Lake Thun. In the evening we will drive to the town of Interlaken for dinner.

Manor Farm campsite, B.L.

Day Three:

After Breakfast at camp, we will challenge ourselves to the mighty Black Lutschine river that comes straight of the North Face of the Eiger. After lunch we can either take some time to participate in some of the optional activities that Interlaken has on offer or we can challenge ourselves to one of the best white-water kayak runs in the Swiss Alps the White Lutschine river.



This river would be too narrow for oars so we would R2 our mini rafts of 10ft down this incredible alpine paradise. Class 4 + white water

Manor Farm campsite, B.L.

Day Four:

After breakfast at camp, we load up our trailer and drive for 4 hours to the town of Ilanz where we will prepare our boats for an incredible scenic trip down through the Rhine Gorge, also known as the Grand Canyon of Switzerland. The trip will take us a good 3 hours and at the take out it's a short drive back to the town of Ilanz where we will check into the hotel Ratia where we will have dinner.

Hotel Ratia, B.L.

Day Five:

We have breakfast at the hotel and then drive for an hour to the start point of the Landquart river. The trip will take us a couple of hours and its extremely continuous class 3 white water the whole way. We will have lunch at the take out and then drive onto a train which take us through the mountains in the Veriena tunnel and spits us out into the Engadin valley where we make our way to the Sur En campsite to set up camp for the night. We will drive to the town of Scuol for dinner.

Sur En Campsite, B.L.

Day Six :

Today is a big river day as we tackle the class 3 and 4 rapids of the Inn River, classified as one of the top five commercial runs in Europe. In the morning we will navigate the rapids around the town of Scuol and after lunch we will make our way through the famous Garsun gorge.

Sur En Camp site, B.L.

Day Seven :

After breakfast we drive for an hour and a half into Austria and check into the camp site Fink located in the town of Imst. We have some lunch and then prepare for some high-volume class 3 rapids in the Imster gorge.

Fink Camp, B.L.

Day Eight:

Another challenging river day as we take on the class 3 rapids of the Sanna river in the morning and the Oetzal gorge in the afternoon. The Oetz is a full-on section of great class 4+ white water, where the annual Oetz trophy-extreme kayak championships- are held. We will definitely create memories of Alpine White water.

Fink Camp, B.L.



Day Nine:

We start our day with a drive of around three and a half hours into Italy and to the Valle of the Sun. We set up camp and after lunch we run the upper section of the Noce River back to camp. This is a very continuous class 3 section of river.

Dímaro Camp site, B.L.

Day Ten:

After breakfast we will pack up camp and run the famous class 4+ rapids of the Noce River, finishing up in the lake where we have lunch and load up our bus and trailer to start our drive to the city of Milan where we check into the Hotel Idea. After a well-deserved shower we will head out for our farewell dinner.

Idea hotel, Malpensa, Milan, B.L.D. End of trip

Day Eleven:

Today you can either catch your return flight home or spend the day to explore the city of Milan.

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Costs:

Europe is an incredibly expensive place and we have tried our best to keep the costs down as much as possible.

CHF 2950 per person

Minimum 4 people and maximum 6 people

Dates: June 2nd to 12th 2024

July 7th to 17th 2024

July 21st to 31st

August 18th to 28th 2024

Single supplement chf 150 pp

Included:

- All hotels and campsites
- Tent and air bed
- All transport and fuel in a mini bus with driver
- All rafts, frames, oars, first aid, rescue kits, pumps etc
- A professional river guides
- All meals marked B.L.D.

Not Included:

- International Airfare.
- Airport taxes, excess baggage, visas, flight and travel insurance
- Sleeping bag
- Personal river equipment, wetsuit, dry suit, thermals, pfd, helmet
- Any meals that are not mentioned in the itinerary marked B.L.D.
- Any optional activities
- Returnable damage deposit of usd 300
- Gratuities to the guide team

How can you sign up for the trip:

- Simply download the reservation form from our website, fill it in and send to us via email
- Make a deposit of CHF 800 to secure your spot
- Ceci will confirm your booking with you once she receives your reservation form
- Ceci will then send an information booklet with all the info that you need to know about your journey through Rwanda, including a packing list

Breakfast Lunch and Dinner:

Each day we prepare breakfast and lunch at camp and in the evenings, we go to dine in cheap restaurants to try the local food. Dinners are on your own account.

Camping and Hotels:

We will be staying in a few really nice campsites that have all the facilities like toilets, showers, WIFI, bars / restaurants. MRE will provide everyone with a tent and an air bed so that all you need to bring is your sleeping bag and head torch.

On our first night and last night and one night in between, we will be staying in hotels. All hotels are based on double occupancy. If you desire to be in a room by yourself a single supplement charge will be applicable.

European Laws:

Europe has a lot of restrictions when it comes to extreme sports and as the rivers are technical You can only have a maximum of 5 rafts on a river trip at one time so that the 1st boat can always see the last boat. Due to this we can only have five rafts on the river at a time. Its not a problem to have a couple of kayakers on the trip. Its also possible to R2 some of the rivers.

Rivers:

Most of the rivers that we will be boating on are classified as Glacial rivers. This means the rivers are narrow and technical, shallow and very fast moving with continuous rapids and unfortunately cold. The average water temperature is between 6 and 10 degrees Celsius.

Rafts:

We have Five rafts of 12 ft all rigged with centre frames and either cataract or Carlisle oars of 7 or 8ft. We also have three rafts of 10ft which are perfect to simply R2 on the more technical runs like the White Lutschine river.

Kayaks:

We have a fleet of eleven kayaks for you to be able to choose from. PYRANHA, 9r or shiva. DAGGER, Rpm, Nomad 8.3. WAKA, Tuna 2, Tutea. SPADE, ace of spades, Bliss. DRAGAROSSO, Kush, DRX. ZET cross. If you are kayaking then you should bring your Skirt and paddle with you as we only have a few, that we bring as spares.

PPE:

Personal Protective Equipment. There is a law in Switzerland that any activity taking place on a river or lake where the water temperature is below 13 degrees Celsius then you must wear either a wet suit or a dry suit.

River Skills:

Alex is an assessor for three different organizations and an instructor for rescue 3. He loves to pass on his knowledge to any river enthusiast and while scouting rapids he will show you the best lines and boost you with enthusiasm to just go for it while providing you with safety.

World Rivers Program:

For years we have run expedition style river trips all over the world, but unfortunately Europe does not have any multi day trips so in 2021 Alex Aitken and John Yost came out with the World Rivers Program. This basically means that in countries where we cannot run a multi-day river trip, we run as many rivers as possible in the countries that we visit. Our nights are spent in either campsites under the stars or in 3-star family run hotels and our evening meals will be in restaurants.

Who is MRE

MRE is short for Mini Rafts Europe, powered by Alex Aitken and his partner Ceci Kuchen.

Alex has rafted and kayaked his way around the world for 40 years and has lead expeditions in nearly 60 countries. In 2020 he started MRE with the idea of introducing the sport of private rafting to Europe. Teaching new river enthusiasts how to row, designing and selling quality rafts and gear and running adventure trips to all his favourite rivers.

Ceci has spent the past 20 years working in the tourism industry and dedicates to administration and logistics. Whenever possible she joins Alex on his river adventures around the world and after four 35-day trips down the Blue Nile in Ethiopia she is known as the queen of the Nile.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

www.miniraftseurope.com

Mini Rafts Europe, powered by A. Aitken. CHE-456.056.210 Via Principala #70, Schluein 7151, Switzerland. Tel: +41 76 207 97 49, +41 76 778 3735 e-mail: miniraftseurope@gmail.com