



American River Rafting Guide

A Lifestyle Guide to Auburn & the Foothills



Presented by
Alexandra Hastings Homes
REAL – Gateway Properties

Welcome to Life in Auburn

Auburn isn't just a place to live—it's a gateway to some of the most incredible outdoor experiences in California. Just minutes from home, the American River offers world-class white water rafting ranging from peaceful scenic floats to adrenaline-filled Class IV rapids.



This guide highlights the top rafting companies and river experiences so you can fully enjoy the lifestyle that comes with living in the Sierra Foothills.

Understanding the American River

South Fork American River

Class II–III – The most popular stretch. Perfect for families, first-timers, and fun group outings.

Middle Fork American River

Class IV – A step up in adventure with iconic features like the Tunnel Chute. Ideal for thrill seekers.

North Fork American River

Class IV+ – Technical, fast-moving water for experienced rafters. Typically spring season only.

Lower Middle Fork

Class I–II – Calm, scenic floats with beautiful canyon views.

Top Rafting Outfitters

Raft California

One of the largest outfitters offering trips on all forks of the American River with options for every skill level.

Tributary Whitewater Tours

Known for high-end, curated rafting experiences with strong safety standards.

American Whitewater Expeditions

Excellent for families and first-time rafters with a wide range of trip options.

All-Outdoors Rafting

Classic South Fork trips with a perfect mix of scenery and excitement.

WET River Trips

Specializes in multi-day wilderness rafting adventures with riverside camping.

H2O Adventures

Local Auburn outfitter offering full-day and specialty trips on both South and Middle Forks.

OARS

Nationally recognized outfitter delivering premium rafting experiences.

American River Recreation

Budget-friendly rafting with flexible half-day and full-day options.