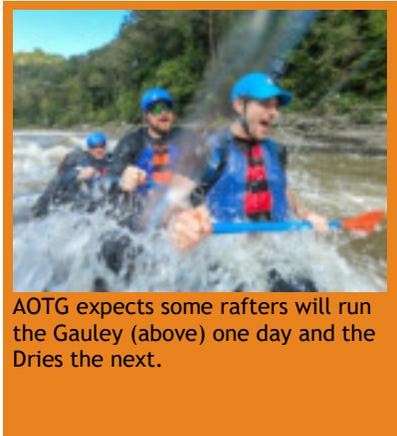




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Free-flowing water will allow for rafts instead of just kayaks.



AOTG expects some rafters will run the Gauley (above) one day and the Dries the next.

For Immediate Release  
Photos Available

## Southern West Virginia's New River Dries Section Flowing Freely this Fall to Create Once-in-a-Lifetime Rafting

FAYETTEVILLE, W.Va., Sept. 1, 2020 - Guests at [Adventures on the Gorge](#) (AOTG), Southern West Virginia's leading whitewater rafting outfitter, will enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity this fall.

An upcoming inspection of the Hawks Nest Tunnel on West Virginia's New River means that water will flow freely through the New River "Dries" section of the river just below the Hawks Nest Dam, starting Sept. 8



Rafting the Dries with free-flowing water will be similar to running the Lower New River.

through the end of October. AOTG will offer these rafting trips Sundays and Mondays from Sept. 20 through Oct. 19.

The result will be a rafting experience similar to the “Lower” section of the New River with rapids up to Class IV.

“Since the lake created above the dam will be empty for the first time in 82 years, I am pretty confident in saying we will not be rafting the Dries in this free-flowing situation again in our lifetimes,” said Roger Wilson, CEO of AOTG. “The word is out in the rafting community, and now we want to let our guests - many of whom will be coming for Gauley Season - know that we have a second opportunity to make their experience even better.”

Wilson said he envisions guests rafting both the Gauley and the Dries on successive days.

“These are two different experiences, and I predict our guests will realize that much of the fun will occur when they start comparing and contrasting the two trips,” he said. “We rafters love to talk about the various rivers we’ve run and adding the Dries this year will be something we will brag about for a long time.”

#### **About the Dries**

The Dries is a 5½-mile stretch of the New River below the dam where water is diverted through a three-mile tunnel to generate power. The dam was built during the Great Depression as part of a project to provide electricity for the metal-smelting plant in the town of Alloy.

Whitewater rafters and kayakers have enjoyed controlled releases on nine days annually since 2018 as part of the agreement between dam owner Brookfield Renewable and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to create Class II and III rapids and make commercial navigation viable. Instead of predictable flow ranging from 150 to 300 cubic feet per second (cfs), however, the levels this fall will be dependent upon rains to the south as the New River makes its way north where it meets with the Gauley River to create the Kanawha River.

Trips through the Dries are more technical in nature than the region’s famed rafting and are typically taken in kayaks with numerous boulders and rock outcroppings creating scenic channels. The upcoming rafting will feature significantly larger flows than the controlled releases and will allow for rafts - instead of just kayaks - to navigate rapids up to Class IV. Because the tunnel inspection will coincide with Gauley Season when the nearby Summersville Lake is drawn down during the day on weekends, guests will have the opportunity to raft both the Gauley and New Rivers on successive days.

#### **Gauley Season**

The Gauley River is famed for its high-adrenaline whitewater featuring 97 named rapids - including nine Class V - in a 25-mile stretch. The Upper and Lower sections of the river feature the world’s best rafting when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases water at a controlled 2,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Summersville Lake Fridays through Mondays every September and October. These releases draw down the lake to control for potential flooding, but scheduling them during the day on weekends allows for rafters and rafting outfitters to plan their whitewater excursions.

[Release dates](#) this year are Sept. 11-14, 18-21, 25-28 and Oct. 2-5, 9-12 and 17-18.

For more information on rafting the Dries or the Gauley and for other activities, visit the website or connect with the resort on [Facebook](#),

[Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TripAdvisor](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#) and by signing up for AOTG [e-newsletter](#).

Reservations can be made [online](#) or by calling 1-855-379-8738.

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**What to know about Adventures on the Gorge**

Named one of the top six adventure resorts in the country by [U.S. News & World Report](#), Adventures on the Gorge is located on more than 250 acres along the rim of the majestic New River Gorge near Fayetteville, W.Va. The resort provides an array of outdoor experiences including whitewater rafting on the New and Gauley Rivers, aerial adventures, rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, mountain biking and hiking. There are also restaurants, bars and shops as well as a small-group conference center. Visitors can choose from a variety of [accommodations](#) and [vacation packages](#).

Related hashtags:

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