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Rafting the Gauley River is an exhilarating experience.



The riverside Canyon Doors Campground is perfect for friends groups.

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Photos Available

Friends Groups Push Limits During Gauley Season

FAYETTEVILLE, W.Va., August 18, 2020 - Whether they are “Guys’ Weekends,” “Girls’ Getaways” or “Couples Book Clubs Gone Wild,” tenacious friends groups from throughout the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Midwest will soon be heading to Southern West Virginia for a challenging whitewater rafting adventure on the Gauley River during the annual “Gauley Season.”

The Gauley River is renowned worldwide for its almost-100 rapids - including nine Class V - spread out over just 25 miles. The river features the world’s best rafting when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases water from Summersville Lake Fridays through Mondays.



Canyon Doors Campground staff prepare gourmet meals for Gauley River rafters.

Gauley rafting is broken down into two sections - the Upper and Lower. The Upper Gauley starts just below Summersville Dam and drops more than 335 feet in fewer than 13 miles, creating the most intense whitewater on the river and one of the most challenging whitewater experiences in the world. The 12-mile Lower Gauley is slightly less intense, but still extremely challenging, with 70 rapids.

These releases on 22 days each fall 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.

“The predictability of such stunning whitewater rafting has benefits beyond knowing what lines to take to tackle big rapids,” said Roger Wilson, CEO of [Adventures on the Gorge](#) (AOTG), a pioneering rafting outfitter and adventure resort. “We see many familiar faces of returning friends’ groups who reward themselves with a weekend on the river.”

Gauley Season Packages

AOTG offers several [packages](#) for rafters who want to experience the “Beast of the East.” Examples include the [Upper Gauley 2-Night](#), [Lower Gauley 2-Night](#) and [Gauley Reverse 2-Night](#). Additionally, some rafters choose to run both stretches as part of the [Gauley Marathon 2-Night](#) while others will take on the Upper Gauley twice in one day as part of the [Double Upper Gauley 1-Day 2-Night](#) package.

The resort also offers a variety of accommodations such as freestanding cabins and campgrounds. There are other adventures too, including [rafting on the New River](#), [TreeTops Zipline](#) Canopy Tour, [Bridge Walk](#), [rock climbing](#), [TimberTrek](#) Adventure Park and more.

Camping on the Gauley

One of AOTG’s more popular options features is a two-day Upper and Lower Gauley rafting experience broken up by [camping at Canyon Doors](#), a permanent campground on the river featuring a wood-fired hot tub, hot showers, bathrooms and gourmet meals prepared by an expedition chef. For more information on these and 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](#).

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