

Safety FAQ's

What if someone does happen to get hurt?

We spare no expense in case of an injury, and we make every effort to ensure a safe trip. However, these are risk and injury may occur to you or to your personal belongings. We do carry limited first aid supplies and are trained in first aid and CPR. We carry communication devices and can usually call for an evacuation if necessary. Costs of evacuation, especially via helicopter or ambulance, are the responsibility of the injured. We provide no medical or evacuation insurance.

Will we have to sign waivers?

Yes. Everyone will sign an unaltered waiver, or you won't be permitted to go on the trip. Waivers almost identical to Sunshine Trails Hospitality's have been upheld in the Federal Court in West Virginia and in the U.S. Southeast Court of Appeals. The waivers should be carefully read. The trip leader will explain any part of it that you may not understand. Minors must sign their own waivers, and both parents must also sign.

Is the trip safe?

While there is always inherent risk with any adventure, choosing an outfitter that has trained and experienced guides with up-to-date equipment is the key. It minimizes risk while giving you the greatest fun factor. Remember, too, that the New and Gauley rivers are wild rivers with many rocks and varying currents. Your guide is there to help keep you in the boat and direct you away from hazards. It is your responsibility to act on instructions provided by your guide. Make sure when booking your trip that you adhere to the age restrictions and suggested experience guidelines.

I can't swim. Can I still go whitewater rafting?

Many of our guests can't swim but everyone will be wearing personal flotation devices at all times while on the river. These Coast Guard approved devices are designed to float you face up.

Are your employees drug tested?

We actively drug test all employees engaged in safety-related positions. All bus drivers and pre-employment guides are tested. Once on staff, all guides are subject to random drug testing.

Do you carry telephones?

Sometimes we carry cell phones, but we have found that two-way radios are more effective. Several radio repeater towers have been installed for river usage and we operate over four of these towers. Cell phones do not yet provide the coverage of radios in the gorges.

What if I am pregnant?

We have taken pregnant women on the river but only with doctor's consent. Women who are in an advanced stage of pregnancy should not even think about going on the river.

I am in a wheelchair and have no use of my legs. Can I go?

We have taken pregnant women on the river but only with doctor's consent. Women who are in an advanced stage of pregnancy should not even think about going on the river.

I am blind. Can I go?

Yes! It is best if you come with a group of friends. We have one blind guest that comes every year. You should arrange to go during normal flows. Avoid the high water in the spring.

Can you accommodate my medical condition?

Please reconsider your decision to come rafting if you have heart, lung or back problems, asthma (cold water is a severe hindrance to breathing), brain surgery, obesity, or osteoporosis or any bone weakening disease. Most other medical problems can be accommodated but you will be responsible for your own medication. We will not supply any medication including aspirin.

Are you licensed by the county or state?

Sunshine Trails Hospitality holds multiple licenses from the State of West Virginia and permits from the National Park Service for mountain biking and climbing. The county issues licenses (and inspections) for our kitchen and dining facilities, bathing beach, and campground. The State Alcoholic Beverage Commission regulates liquor or beer sales.