

Know before you Go, WORD Ordinances and Safety

1. Know before you go:
 - a. No Pets
 - b. No Kids under 5
 - c. Watch the weather forecast, hill country rainstorms can produce flash flooding and you may not be able to hear the flood siren
 - d. Have a meet up plan in case you are separated
 - e. Most cell phones have bad reception on the river
 - f. If you observe any unusual hazard or safety issue, immediately bring it to the attention of our staff
 - g. We do not recommend that you float alone. If you chose to do so let someone know where you are going for the day. Provide them with the name of the business, the phone number and website
 - h. All equipment must be returned by 7pm.
2. WORD Ordinances
 - a. Children under 12 must wear life jackets
 - i. Life jackets are available for free to paying customers
 - b. No Trespassing – all river properties are privately owned. You must have a pre-determined entrance and exit – We will set that up for you when you check in.
 - c. No littering - water trash bags are provided
 - d. No Styrofoam
 - e. No Glass
 - f. No Jumping from bridges, dams, trees, or cliffs
 - g. No Plastic Containers 5oz or less, \$250 fine per each offense, this includes small airline liquor bottles. Yes, law enforcement does patrol the water ways.
3. Safety
 - a. There are No Lifeguards on duty, use caution, think safety first
 - b. People with Medical Conditions and Pregnant Women should consult their Doctor before going tubing /rafting
 - c. You will encounter rapids, rocks, fast-flowing water, and deep areas where you aren't able to touch the bottom
 - d. If you end up out of your tube in river, keep your feet crossed and pointed downriver so you can push off obstacles. Having your body in this downstream position can help prevent you from getting a foot or ankle wedged in rocks or vegetation which can lead to a joint strain or broken bone.
 - e. If you have a cooler tube, always send it through the rapids first
 - f. Water shoes are highly recommended due to sharp rocks, broken glass and other debris (flip flops are not recommended).
 - g. Sunscreen is highly recommended. You know how it's normally your shoulders that get sunburned first? When you're tubing, you lay on your back, so there are new parts of your body being exposed to sunlight that don't normally get it. Be sure to lather up everywhere. Don't forget your legs and feet. And remember to reapply!
 - h. Hat and sunglasses with straps are highly recommended

- i. DO NOT wear clothing that will tangle and/or restrict your ability to swim, which could cause you to drown. DO NOT wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, scarves, coats, jackets, long dresses, large, baggy, loose or heavy clothing of any type. Make sure your arms and legs have free movement at all times while you are tubing or when you are in the water.
- j. Don't drink and drive; or drink too much. Always have a designated driver.
 - i. NOTE: Texas State Law - NO Public Alcohol Consumption or Public Drinking on Sundays between the hours of 2:15am and 12 noon, (that is Saturday night after midnight going into Sunday morning until 12 noon for clarification). To legally start drinking on Sundays, wait until 12:01pm!
- k. Pack plenty of drinking water
- l. Short ropes can be used to tie gear together or to a float tube, but never tie things together with a long length of rope in between. Dangling ropes can get snagged on obstructions in the riverbed and cause a safety hazard.
- m. Secure valuables. If you left a vehicle, you certainly don't want to lose the key in the river. Think about securing it with a safety pin or lanyard that's hard to slip from a soggy pocket. If you have expensive jewelry that you'd be sad to lose, leave it at home (not in your car where thieves might seek it).
- n. Don't float with a new tattoo. Safety also means avoiding sickness. River water, while cool and beautiful, can contain bacteria that isn't friendly to open wounds, which includes tattoos. If you've gotten new ink in the last 4 weeks, you'll want to hold off on heading to the river, ocean or even pools and hot tubs.
- o. Eyes peeled for wildlife. Snakes can appear on riverbanks, turtles on warm rocks or even the occasional nutria. You probably won't come face to face with anything with a taste for river floaters, but you shouldn't presume, either.
- p. Watch out for anglers. Traffic on the river can include anything from rafts and kayaks or even those casting a line or two. Try not to float where someone's got a fishing line out, or you might be the one caught in a hook!
- q. Helmets are recommended when rafting.

4. Fun

- a. We suggest a hard-plastic cooler
- b. You might want a nylon rope to keep up with your cooler tube
- c. Waterproof speakers
- d. Water toys are always fun
- e. Rash guard-style shirt
- f. Bring some food/snacks
- g. We wished we were going with you!!

Every day tubing the river people lose cameras, phones, sunglasses, wallets – and then their dignity. Even with a dry bag and being careful, accidents can happen. Be prepared for the fact that anything you bring with you could potentially end up at the bottom of the river.