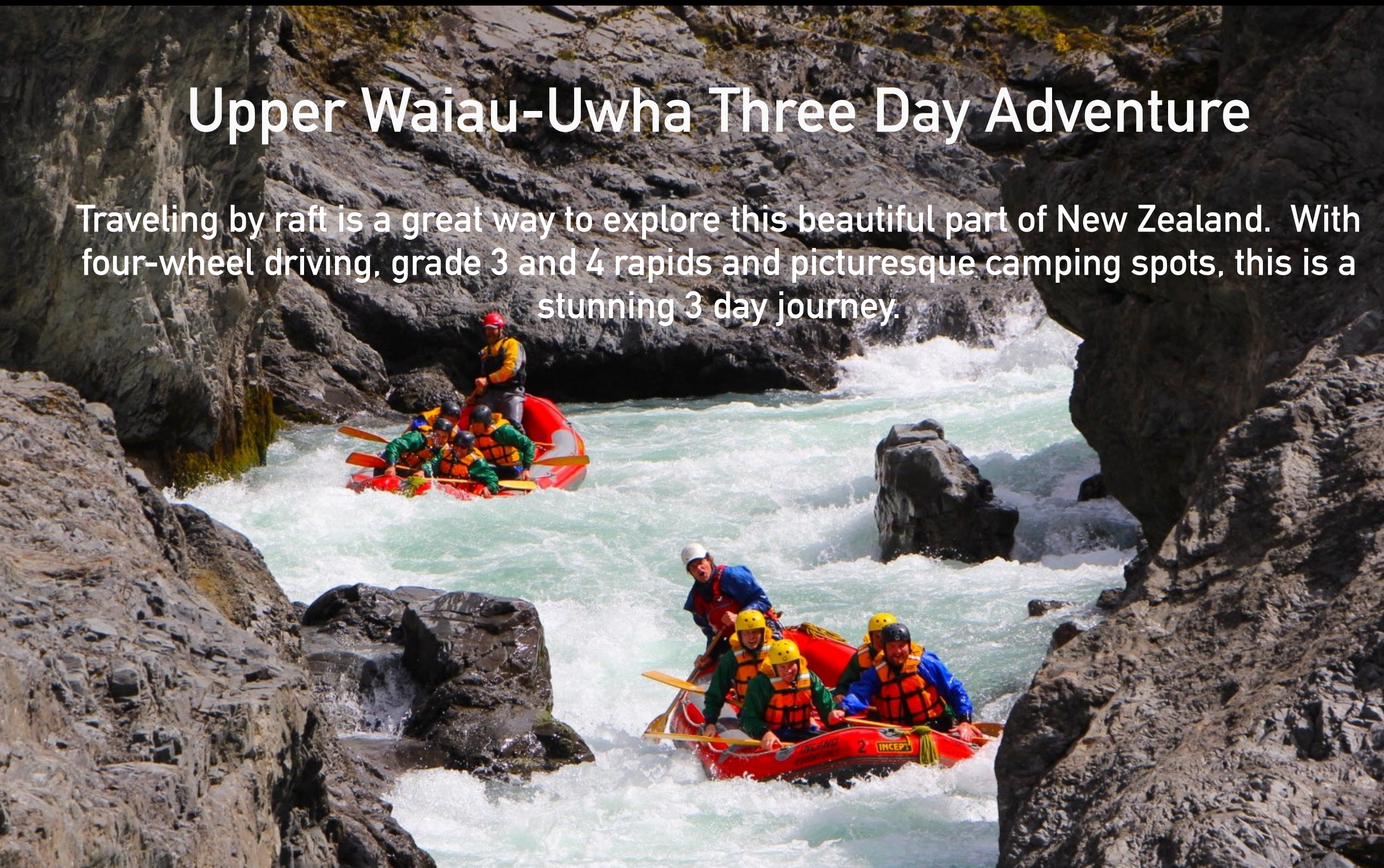


Upper Waiau-Uwha Three Day Adventure

Traveling by raft is a great way to explore this beautiful part of New Zealand. With four-wheel driving, grade 3 and 4 rapids and picturesque camping spots, this is a stunning 3 day journey.



The Waiau-Uwha

The name Waiau translates to river of swirling currents and on this journey you will soon see why, particularly on the second day. In Māori lore this female river and the male river Waiau-Toa (the Clarence River) are lovers. At their head waters these rivers are close together but they separate as they flow toward the Pacific Ocean. Floods on the river occur when Waiau-Uwha mourns for her lover and her tears melt the snow at her source.

Waiau-Uwha begins in the Spenser Mountains. This mountain range forms a natural border between the East and West Coast of the South Island.

The river flows through the St James Conservation Area and out to the Lewis Pass road where it is joined by the Hope River. What is now the Saint James Conservation Area, was one of the largest sheep/cattle stations in New Zealand dating back to the 1860s.

The Conservation Area now gives us access to stunning, rough East Coast landscapes of towering mountains, narrow gorges, tussock valleys and pure clean water.

Waiau-Uwha is a technical river with lots of rocks to maneuver around and a few little drops; it is mostly grade three rapids with a few grade fours.

This is Inland Adventures' most challenging trip!



Day One

We meet in Hanmer Springs to park personal vehicles and load up gear in the four wheel drive vehicles before setting off to the river. The drive takes just under two hours; from Hanmer Springs we head towards Lake Tennyson and over Mailing's Pass. You can hike or bike into the river if you would prefer to "stretch the legs" before going rafting. For more information on these options please contact us.

After lunch beside Waiau-Uwha it is time to get ready to raft. Inland Adventures provides all river equipment for multi-day rafting so all you have to do is transfer your camping clothes into a big dry bag that is provided, get dressed into the gear and listen to a comprehensive safety briefing. Then we set off on our adventure downstream. No previous rafting experience is needed as our guides will teach you everything you need to know before we start.

The first stretch of river meanders through a big open valley where the Ada homestead is located. This means we start the trip sitting back in the raft looking at the mountains that surround us. The last hour of the day is full of excitement; we put our rafting skills to the test as we tackle the first part of the rock garden section. We pull into one of our favourite campsites where we set up the tents, have a meal cooked over the open fire and share some laughs before heading to bed.



Day Two

After breakfast it's time to pack up camp and set off in the rafts again. This is an awesome day with a lot of rapids.

Straight away we have some fun in the second half of the rock garden section before we raft a grade two stretch of river leading down to the Narrows. The valley opens up and the views of the Spenser mountains, the source of the Waiau-Uwha river, are spectacular.

The Narrows is a part of the river where the walls close in and leave just enough room for the rafts to squeeze through, it's a very unique landscape. The guides love this section of water but they all make sure their shoelaces are securely fastened before they crack into it! So much water in such a tight space makes for exciting rafting!

Later in the day we arrive at our second camp area. By this time you will have a good idea of how the tent goes up and you will be looking forward to a well deserved meal.



Day Three

A beautiful gorge that has it all, steep rocky walls, tall waterfalls and pockets of green bush, make the start of the day a photographer's dream.

The grade three rapids are entertaining with lots of wave chains and on hot days there are plenty of opportunities to go for a swim. The river flows out to Lewis Pass road. The Hope and Waiau-Uwha rivers meet and we keep following the river down another nine kilometres to the take out.

We are normally back in Hanmer Springs by mid afternoon so there is plenty of time to drive back to Christchurch or to the West Coast.



Camping and Food

Each night we choose a campsite with stunning views of the surrounding area. While we prepare the food, you can take time out to swim, try your luck with a fishing rod, chat to your guides or just sit back and take in the scenery.



All food is supplied for the trip: three lunches, two dinners and breakfast both mornings. If you have any special dietary requirements or any strong food preferences please let us know in advance. Some on-river snacks will be supplied but feel free to bring some of your own favourites. You can also bring some wine/beer for the evening at camp. If you decide to bring beer please bring cans or plastic bottles rather than glass.



The Basics

Pick up times: 9am in Hanmer Springs
or 7.30am from Reefton

Duration: 3 Days

Age limit: 12 years and above

Cost: \$1500 per Adult
\$1300 per child (12-18yrs)

Please don't hesitate to call us for more
information.

You need to bring

For Camping

Sleeping bag (supplied on request, \$40 hire fee)

Warm clothes for camp

Warm hat

Raincoat

Small torch

Shoes and socks to wear around camp

Towel

Insect repellent

Toiletries

For the River

Swimwear/underwear for under the wetsuit

(two piece for ladies recommended, a one piece is hard to toilet in)

Thermal top (if you have one)

Old running shoes (separate pair from your camp shoes)

Sunscreen, sun hut, sun glasses

Personal medication i.e. asthma inhaler, epi pens

Don't forget to pack your sense of adventure!

Inland Adventures will supply

Helmets

Life jackets

Wetsuits

Splash jacket

Thermal top

Wetsuit socks

Small dry bags for sunscreen etc

Big dry bags for clothing etc

Tent

Camping mattress



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