

Class 2 - Recreational
Rafting
Training Information
2011

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FUN AND ADVENTURE

There's no better way to spend part of your summer than on a river. British Columbia is becoming recognized world wide for our variety of wild rivers, from small technical rivers to large volume rivers, people from around the world flock to BC every summer to whitewater raft.

Rivers are truly magical, and our Recreational Rafter Course was developed to create safer, knowledgeable rafters with the ability to navigate easy whitewater and includes entry level whitewater safety training. Most Trainees who attend our Class 2 Recreational Rafting Course do so either for the fun and adventure in the course and go on to enjoy whitewater rafting as a life-long hobby, or are taking the course to meet the minimum industry standards for drift fishing and float tours.

History

Kumsheen Raft Adventures is Western Canada's premier and most high-end whitewater rafting company. We pride ourselves in giving our rafting guests a professional experience which exceeds their expectations, and we treat our guide-school trainees with that same goal.

Back in 1975, Kumsheen offered the first Guide Training Course in Canada when Bernie Fandrich, founder of Kumsheen Raft Adventures Ltd (1973), taught a River Running Course through the Continuing Education Centre at Langara College in Vancouver, B.C. Recognizing the need for and importance of formal guide training, he began an in-house training program each spring at Kumsheen's headquarters in Lytton, B.C. The Kumsheen Raft Guide Training School has been in operation ever since. 2011 marks our 36th year of commercial whitewater raft guide training and our 38th year of rafting operations.

A Respected Guide School

Kumsheen's Raft Guide Training School is known and respected the world over.

We're proud to say that graduates of our 12-Day Raft Guide School are working around the world as commercial rafting guides, including in all parts of Canada, in the USA, New Zealand, Chile, Iceland, Australia, Zimbabwe, Italy, Nepal, Indonesia, Japan, and beyond.

Top Equipment and Finest Facilities

At Kumsheen, we pride ourselves in having the top equipment in the rafting industry. We use the same superior equipment for our Guide School as for our commercial rafting trips; in the case of the school, most days are spent on 16-ft AIRE rafts and our AIRE cataraft.

Another thing which sets Kumsheen's Raft Guide Training School apart from the others is the use of our resort facilities during the course. Resort facilities include a swimming pool and giant hot-tub, beach volleyball courts, 3-on-3 basketball courts, disc-golf course, and the licensed Cutting Board Restaurant and poolside bar. All indoor classes are held in "The Loft," our onsite classroom/meeting room.

Being comfortable while off the river enables you to focus on learning.

Top Instructors

Our Guide School Instructors pride themselves in their jobs, and are truly professional guides. All of our Instructors work full-time as whitewater rafting guides, are Trip Leaders at Kumsheen, and have a genuine "love of the river."

Our 2011 Guide School Instructors are Ryan Gray and Braden Fandrich.

Braden Fandrich rafted for the first time at age three, and he has followed the rivers everywhere since then. Braden is a former sponsored whitewater kayaker, and has travelled, filmed, and competed on rivers around the world. His photos and articles have appeared in many whitewater magazines, and he has been featured in numerous kayaking videos and on television as a kayaker and rafter. Braden's guiding career began with passing his BC Government Raft Guide Exams in 1994 at age fourteen, and then working seasons rafting and safety kayaking at a dozen other rafting companies around the world. Braden is also recognized as a Swiftwater Rescue Instructor, as a Raft Guide Examiner for the BCROA, and was formally a Raft Guide Examiner in accordance with the 2002 BC Provincial River Rafting Regulations (while that legislation was in effect).

Adam Forseth is our former Head Instructor and both developed and led our Raft Guide Training School for many years. He was also a Kumsheen Trip Leader and our River Safety Manager; he is still a consultant for our guide training program and is a Swiftwater Rescue Instructor. He started his rafting career as a graduate of Thompson Rivers University Outdoor Recreation Program, and began working for Kumsheen in 1997. Adam is currently recognized as a BCROA Guide Examiner and formerly as a Provincial Raft Guide Examiner (while that legislation was in effect). He now works full-time as an ambulance paramedic and still manages to work part-time at Kumsheen as a raft guide.

Ryan Gray is our Head Instructor. Ryan grew up in New Zealand and started his whitewater rafting career there in 1995. He first came to British Columbia and Kumsheen in 1999 and for a number of years worked year-round as a whitewater rafting guide, following the summer seasons. Ryan was formerly the River Operations Manager at a major rafting company in New Zealand; he has now immigrated to Canada and works at Kumsheen for 10 months of the year as our River Safety Manager and our top Trip Leader. Ryan has also worked internationally at rafting companies outside of New

Zealand and Canada, and is as at home rafting the 20-foot waterfalls of the Kaituna (NZ) as the 20-foot waves of the Fraser (BC).

Andrew Hoar has been a Kumsheen Rafting Guide since 2001 and has worked the BC summers rafting at Kumsheen since then. He is originally from the UK, travels in the winters, is fluent in Spanish and French, has a degree in marketing, and is also a PADI Scuba Instructor. He's an avid rock climber and loves rope work and mechanical advantage, and he has also worked seasons as a rafting guide in both Costa Rica and Chile. Andrew is the enthusiastic Head Instructor for our motor-raft training course.

Ben Richet began his whitewater rafting career working in the campground and restaurant at Kumsheen in 1996 at age 13. He rafted every opportunity he could and by the time he was old enough to guide commercially, he had literally hundreds of river trips already under his belt. He quickly aced his Provincial exams and began his guiding career at Kumsheen, and he has worked here ever since. With the exception of two part-time seasons to explore other career paths directly related to his degree in Business, Ben has been a full-time River Guide and Trip Leader, and his love of being on the rivers is obvious.

Government Rafting Regulations and Licensing

British Columbia has been recognized as a world leader in the whitewater rafting industry since implementation of Provincial Standards in 1989. Upon completion of Kumsheen's 5-Day Recreational Rafting course, the student is issued a Certificate of Competency stating that they have taken Kumsheen's 5-Day course and met the BC Provincial Rafting Standards (dated April 2002) for Restricted Class 2 Whitewater guides. This is the minimum industry standard for drift fishing and float trips on BC Rivers.

Course Material

A comprehensive Training Outline & Study Package is provided to you after submission of your payment.

Specific topics covered in the program are:

- River dynamics and "reading" whitewater
- Safe river navigation and boat control
- River safety and river rescue
- General knowledge of rafts and equipment
- Understanding the whitewater industry

This is accomplished primarily through daily on-river practice. Additionally, dry-land training, classroom lectures, and briefing and debriefing sessions occur regularly. Our goal is to graduate skilled, knowledgeable and marketable whitewater guides with the confidence to run rivers safely.

The past 35 years of raft guide training have shown us that the best way to teach guiding skills is to focus solely on the individual students. Rather than students doing tag-along trips with commercial trips, our course is run by itself; freedom from the trip's time schedule allows us to take the time to customize the material to each individual student and ensure thorough comprehension.

Course Fee Includes:

- 5 on-river training days with a focus on practical skills
- Instruction on a minimum of 2 different rivers
- Off-river lectures and lessons
- lunches daily for the entire course
- Accommodation in a cosy Cabin Tent while onsite at the Kumsheen Resort
- All training manuals and literature
- Shuttle transportation during the course
- Use of the Kumsheen Rafting Resort amenities
- Subsidized First Aid and River Rescue Training

2011 Course Fee for the Recreational Rafting course is \$929 plus tax

Schedule for 2011

We are offering two Recreational Guide School courses for 2010. The training time includes five days of on-the-water instruction. Typically, training days start at 8 am in the classroom and end after a river session, usually between 5 and 6 pm.

Rafting practical training occurs mainly on the Thompson, Nicola, Nahatlatch and Chilliwack rivers; location is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructors.

COURSE DATES

May 2 - 6	Recreational Rafting Course #1
June 3-5	Swiftwater Rescue (\$295 trainees/employees (\$395 retail))
June 10-12	Wilderness First Aid + CPR (\$195 trainees/employees (\$275 retail))
June 15-19	Recreational Rafting Course #2

EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY

Kumsheen's Recreational Rafting school is a great opportunity to try your hand at Raft Guiding and to determine if you'd like to do it commercially. It is an industry leading course and graduates of our course are sometimes able to find employment within the industry in "support positions" where they can further their rafting skills. Generally most whitewater rafting companies have a need for a few new guides every season and taking Kumsheen's Recreational or Commercial Raft Guide Schools gives you a strong advantage for being hired by Kumsheen other rafting companies in BC. Kumsheen only hires graduates of our 12 day Commercial Raft Guide School to be river guides.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at Kumsheen for the Recreational Rafting course is in one of our deluxe Tent-Cabins, a canvas body built on a wooden structure complete with two double beds. The Tent-Cabins come completely furnished with antiques, cozy duvets and sheets, and are lit up at night with a propane lantern.

Another nice part about the accommodation during the Recreational Rafting course is that it's at the Kumsheen Resort, and you are able to use all the amenities (including the hot tub).

Prerequisites

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- You must be a competent swimmer and comfortable in the water
- You must be in good physical condition

Registration

To register for the Kumsheen Raft Guide Training, call our office at 1-800-663-6667 or email rafting@kumsheen.com. A deposit of \$500 CDN is required to confirm your booking. The balance of the registration fee is due 30 days prior to the commencement of the Guide School.

Cancellations

Deposits are fully refundable if cancelled in writing up to 30 days prior to the commencement of the Guide School. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FOR ANY REASON FOR CANCELLATIONS REQUESTED AFTER THE 30-DAY DEADLINE.**

More Information

For more information on Kumsheen's Raft Guide Training School, don't hesitate to email Braden Fandrich at braden@kumsheen.com or call our office at 1-800-663-6667. We look forward to seeing you at the Resort in the spring.