



River & Trail Outfitters

River & Trail Outfitters offers trips on the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers and Antietam Creek.

River & Trail's Lee Baihly. "There are also lots of opportunities for watching birds and nature."

The Potomac is gentle along this stretch, perfect water for beginners to try their hand at paddling. "People have a misconception about floating a river," continues Baihly. "They've been exposed to too many ads on television. Eighty-five percent of our touring is recreational and geared for beginners. Only 15 percent is actual whitewater."

"We pass Herter Island," continues Baihly. "It's hard to believe that this used to be the edge of the frontier. There was a Native American village on the island and a trading post. There are also ruins of an old ferry crossing further down the river."

Floating this scenic stretch of river takes about three hours, with the voyage finishing back at Tarara Winery. After an opportunity to change in to dry clothing, paddlers get to taste award-winning wines in the privacy of an outdoor pavilion. Linen tablecloths and eight different wines set the stage for a comprehensive wine education, including samples of several premium wines. Choose a full glass of your favorite and enjoy it along with cheese and crackers. Tarara's staff also conducts a 15- to 20-minute tour of the wine-making cave.

Following the tasting, you can purchase catered deli items, desserts, and Tarara's wine to enjoy a picnic dinner. Just as you finish dessert, the evening's concert begins. Tucked in the woods on Tarara's 475 acres, the concert stage stands next to Shadow Lake

and creates the perfect venue for a summer evening concert. Bring a blanket and lie under the stars as you enjoy the featured bands.

River & Trail recommends that paddlers pack a lunch to eat along the river and carry at least 32

ounces of water per person, along with a plastic bag or watertight container. Bring a bathing suit, T-shirt, and quick-drying shorts because you will get wet. Wear old sneakers, water shoes, or strap-on sandals.

If the weather is below 80 degrees, avoid cotton and wear synthetics, wool, or fleece. Also bring a windbreaker or rain jacket, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, a change of clothes and shoes, and a towel to leave in your car for after the trip.

By Reed Hellman

FOR MORE INFORMATION

River & Trail Outfitters: 888-446-7529,
www.rivertrail.com



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