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Six Continent Whitewater Adventure

***A diehard’s ultimate challenge with MTS co-founder and world-
 renown rafting pioneer John Yost***

TRIP LEVEL
Strenuous

TRIP DETAILS

25 days ~
 16 days moderate to
 strenuous whitewater
 rafting class III-V rapids
 (mostly paddle boats with
 occasional oar options.)
 8 nights camping, 11 nights
 hotels, 5 nights overnight on
 train or plane.

DATES

May 9, 2013 - Jun 2, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Raft Class III-IV rapids through six continents—a diehard’s ultimate challenge with MTS co-founder and world-renown rafting pioneer John Yost*
- *Join a revolving cast of all-star guides with intimate local knowledge in every country we visit: U.S.A. (California), Ecuador, Spain, Kenya, India, and Australia*
- *Play hard, paddle hard, travel hard: get a lift from a helicopter to your put-in, run rapids until your smile hurts, camp along the edge of some of the world’s mightiest rivers, and jump on an overnight train or plane and do it all over again!*
- *Discover a cavalcade of exotic wildlife as you journey around the globe*
- *Enjoy some hard-earned down time in Barcelona, Nairobi, and Delhi, and catch your breath on a long, scenic drive through the Himalayas*

Six Continent Whitewater Adventure

A diehard's ultimate challenge with MTS co-founder and world-renown rafting pioneer John Yost

Overview

Adrenaline-junkies, beware: our Six-Continent Whitewater Adventure is the ultimate double-dog-dare of any of our expeditions. Spearheaded by one of the greatest rafting pioneers of all time, MTS co-founder John Yost, this unprecedented departure is more than an experience of a lifetime—it's a lifetime of experiences in just 25 days! Nine rivers and six continents make for a fast pace, but the exhilaration is downright addictive, and river guides don't get any more legit than John Yost. In addition to co-founding the first adventure travel company in the United States with Richard Bangs in 1973, he has led more than forty first descents down the world's greatest rivers—the Pro of the pros.

With sixteen days of paddling Class III-IV rapids, we'll take full advantage of overnight plane and train rides to move us along quickly. We'll enjoy eleven nights in comfortable hotels and seven peaceful nights camping near the rivers. To make it all flow smoothly, we'll be fully supported by revolving cast of some of MTS' all-star guides in each of the countries we are visiting. Their professional know-how will make our transition between time zones, languages, climates, and cultures easy, informative, and fun. As you race from one exciting river to another, you'll come to find your rhythm in the pace. If there's one lesson the river teaches it's to go with the flow.

In California, we'll raft the Kings River in the Sierra Nevadas, known for its exhilarating, rollercoaster rapids; and then we'll bob and weave through boulders and run "the Slickies" down flumes of solid granite on the Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park. We'll get in one more river before we leave the U.S. on the swift waters of the Upper Kern... Now off to Ecuador, where we'll float through a cloud forest and catch glimpses of toucans on the Río Toachi; then put-in at its confluence with the Río Blanco to meet thunderous waves! Before you know it, we're catching the plane for Spain, where we'll shuttle to the Noguera Pallaresa, some of Europe's finest whitewater in the heart of the high Pyrenees. With a free day in Barcelona to enjoy some hard-earned down time, we'll kick back that last glass of sangria before boarding the plane for Kenya, home to the great Athi River.

Easy, Class II rapids on the Athi will slow us down long enough to take in the best game viewing of the trip...that is, before jostling us to attention with two big Class IV drops! You'll have a free morning in Nairobi to see a game park, buy souvenirs, or visit a museum before we depart for India. Once in India, we'll take a connecting flight to Dehra Dun—the high Himalayas. A five-hour, scenic drive to the Tons River will give us some quiet time to marvel at the world's greatest peaks. The sapphire waters of the Tons will push us through gorges and offer up some great, technical paddling. An overnight train to Delhi later, we'll have a half day to explore the city before jetting off again to Australia. A helicopter will pick us up in Cairns to drop us off in the gorge at Mungalli Falls and the North Johnstone for four days of world-class whitewater. We'll ride this volcanic gorge through the virgin rainforest of North Queensland—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—where we'll finish our adventure with some of the hardest river running yet.

If you've read this far, then maybe you're ready for the challenge. Come join the best of the best on MTS' most epic and utterly thrilling expedition around the world in 25 days! After all, if you want to be a legend, you need to roll like one.



Day 1: Arrival in Fresno

This is it—the river trip of a lifetime begins! When you arrive in Fresno, you'll catch the free airport shuttle to the Holiday Inn Airport and check in to your room. At 6 pm we will meet in the lobby of the hotel for a brief pre-trip orientation, and then enjoy a group welcome dinner.

Dinner

Day 2: Kings River

We'll begin with a hearty breakfast, and then our van will take us from the hotel to the put-in for the Kings River. The Kings is Class III, a good warm-up to shake off a winter without rafting. The largest river in the Sierras, the Kings River is famous for its long, exhilarating roller-coaster rapids. During the high water typical of May and early June, wave trains with waves as high as 10 feet provide long, thrilling rides. This is an idyllic whitewater rafting wonderland with over 40 Class III rapids. At the end of a great day, we'll head for our camp at Three Rivers for happy hour and a big river-style dinner!

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Day 3: Kaweah River

After a camp breakfast we'll head out for more rafting in the area of Sequoia National Park. Running the Kaweah, we'll push at high speed down narrow reed-lined passageways. Again and again we'll burst upon fast, wild, class IV+ rapids throbbing with swift current, big drops, and chunky boulders, requiring strong paddling and expert maneuvering. In places, the Kaweah River has its quiet moods, and we'll stream down living corridors of willow, sycamore, cottonwood, and alder. In an area known as the "Slickies," the whole river glides down sensuous flumes and waterslides of solid granite that have been polished smooth over the eons. After the trip we'll drive south to Kernville and enjoy a comfortable hotel night. Dinner is on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Upper Kern

Breakfast is on your own. We'll board our van once more to the Kern. Depending on water levels, we'll jet down several different sections of the Upper Kern, beginning with a milder one, and gradually working up to stretches packed with sheer heart-thumping excitement. Buses and flatbed raft trailers make transfers from one run to the next smooth and swift. This is a day of Class III-IV rapids with plenty of action for everyone. We'll spend a second night at our Kernville hotel. Dinner is on your own again.

Lunch

Day 5: To Ecuador

Enough with California—it's time to go international! After breakfast we'll drive to LAX to begin our round-the-world travel. Lunch and dinner are served on the flight, and we'll arrive late at night, just in time for a quick pre-whitewater snooze. Our hotel is a classic and beautiful converted monastery in the historic old town of Quito.

Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Río Toachi

The Río Toachi flows eastwards out of the Ecuadorian highlands. Santo Domingo is the nearest town to the starting point at the small village of Alluriquin. Class III and IV rapids provide some excitement, but the real highlight is the incredible cloud forest environment through which this river flows. Virgin forested canyons are interspersed with

small farming villages; an abundance of wildlife completes the tropical picture. River otters live near here, as well as many species of colorful South American birds, including toucans. As the best known whitewater run in Ecuador, the river will lead us through the Toachi gorge, which alternates between exciting, technical class III/IV rapids, and calm pools in which to relax and appreciate the rainforest that fills the steep-walled canyon.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Lower Río Blanco

Starting at the confluence of the Upper Río Blanco and the Río Toachi, the combined flows of these two rivers create over fifteen rapids with enormous waves and thunderous hydraulics. This is a fairly short day, leaving us time to stop off on the way home to clean up, change, and have a bit to eat before driving to the airport for a night flight to Madrid.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / In Flight

Day 8: En route

This is a long hard day of travel, so hopefully we all sleep well on buses and planes. With the time difference, our flight does not arrive in Madrid until evening. We then connect to Barcelona and drive north towards Llavorsi in the Pyrenees where we'll arrive after midnight at our rural hotel. All meals on flights. This is the most arduous day of travel on our trip, but the rewards are well worth the effort.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9: Noguera Pallaresa

Leisurely morning to make up for the tough day of travel. Half day of rafting from Llavorsi to Rialp on the Noguera Pallaresa, a Class III/IV mountain river. This is some of the finest whitewater that Europe has to offer. At the end of the day, we'll drive back to our hotel where our rooms will be waiting for us.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10: Noguera Pallaresa

Raft another half-day section of this exciting river, enjoying the rapids and scenery of the high Pyrenees. In the afternoon we'll drive back to Barcelona and check into our hotel. Dinner is on your own, a chance to slow down for a bit and maybe sample some of the local delicacies.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11: Barcelona and on

At last some free time, and what better place for it than beautiful Barcelona, a lovely city full of soaring cathedrals, and world-renowned museums. Wander on your own and enjoy lunch in one of the city's many fine restaurants before returning to the hotel. If you want an urban experience after our last ten days in the woods, check out the National Museum of Art of Catalonia, or tour the architectural masterpieces of Antoni Gaudí. We'll head to the airport in the early afternoon and board our flight to Nairobi. Dinner will be served on the flight.

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 12: Athi River

Early morning arrival in Nairobi, Kenya. We'll be met by our local outfitter and drive straight to our put-in on the Athi River. The section of the Athi River that we run borders Tsavo National Park to the east. In many ways, this

river is unique. Wonderful scenery, a multitude of terrestrial wildlife, hugely varied and spectacular birds, coupled with a pleasant medium grade whitewater river, makes for a truly unforgettable experience. Bushbuck, giraffe, buffalo and elephant are the most common animals seen. Crocodiles are a certainty, as are monkeys and baboons. The birdlife along the river is spectacular, and to date our guides have recorded over 120 species.

Today after lunch we'll float an easy 10 km section and bed down on a sandy beach. Nobody will blame you if you do a bit of a double-take here; yes, you were eating paella in Spain yesterday, and now you're listening to chattering monkeys on a beach in Africa.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Day 13: Athi River

Early start, so we can be on the river for the best of the game viewing. (Early morning and evening is when the animals mainly come down to drink.) A full day of rafting (30 km) with numerous sections of class II and III white water plus two big Class IV drops. We'll enjoy our lunch on one of the many small islands. Arrive at camp—again a lovely sand bank, in the late afternoon.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Day 14: Athi River & Nairobi

Today is similar to the previous day, but with more exciting rapids and denser vegetation to pass through in the morning. After lunch we'll enjoy an easy afternoon float through the African bush on the Athi, then drive back to Nairobi and our hotel in a quiet suburb of the city. Dinner on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 15: Nairobi and on

Your morning is free in Nairobi. If you have not visited East Africa before, the game park near the city is a must. There is also great shopping and a couple of interesting museums, so your morning can be as busy as you want it to be. Arrange your tour on the spot after you gauge your energy level and see who else in the group wants to do what you are looking for. Lunch is on your own. Our next flight leaves in the late afternoon for Mumbai (Bombay), India and dinner will be served on the plane.

Breakfast, Dinner / In Flight

Day 16: Tons River Camp

We arrive early in the morning in India, in time to connect with a flight to Dehra Dun, high in the Himalayas near Nanda Devi. From there it is a five hour drive to the comfortable fixed camp on the banks of the Tons River, deep in a pine-scented forest. The drive has some great scenery and some exciting roads, to say the least.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Day 17: Tons River

A full day of Class III-IV rafting on the crystalline Himalayan waters of the Tons. This is a rocky and technical river with great granite gorges and lots and lots of whitewater delights. At the end of a great day of boating, we'll return to the Tons River Camp. There's nothing like falling asleep to the sounds of a nearby stream, where we'll stretch out for a second night of riverside camping in India.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Day 18: Tons River and on

A half-day more on this special river will not be regretted. We'll return to the camp for lunch and to change into our city clothes, then spend the afternoon driving back to Dehra Dun. After a great Indian dinner we'll board the Mussoorie Express overnight train to Delhi, where we will sleep comfortably in our berths as the train speeds us across the Indian plains.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 19: On to Queensland

We'll get into Delhi in the morning and have breakfast there. We'll have a couple hours free to shop or maybe squeeze in some sightseeing. But let's face it—this trip isn't about letting the grass grow under our feet, so come early afternoon it's time to transfer to the airport for a flight to Cairns, Australia. Lunch is on your own at the airport. Dinner is on the flight.

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 20: Cairns

We'll have breakfast and lunch on the flight and arrive in Cairns in the early afternoon. From there, we'll head for the Fig Tree Lodge for the night. There will be a few hours of daylight to see a bit of Cairns and pick out your dining spot, or maybe hit one of the bars for which the town is famous.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 21: North Johnstone or similar

Anybody tired yet? Wait, don't answer that...we need your strength for paddling! This will be the highlight of our trip, a departure from our short trips to enjoy one of the world's greatest rivers. The trip starts early with a drive to Mungalli Falls and a spectacular helicopter ride into the river gorge. After a riverside lunch, the rafting begins. This river will require all the skills we have honed during the previous three weeks as it is challenging and fast, four days of world class whitewater.

At the time of writing, the North Johnstone is no longer offered as a commercial trip due to challenging logistics and demand limited by its cost, difficulty and unpredictable water levels. However, our Queensland river outfitter, with a long track record of trips on the river, is working to make it possible for our group to run it anyway. If water levels on the North Johnstone or some other unforeseen complication make it impossible for us to do so, our back-up plan is to run a section of the Herbert River. The Herbert is a bigger river, and it flows through spectacular canyons instead of rainforest, but it is equally challenging and pristine, with excellent rapids and some easy portaging. We may not know which river we'll run until we are en route, but for simplicity the following descriptions of our days in Queensland are based on the North Johnstone."

Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Days 22-23: North Johnstone or similar

The North Johnstone is a steep, natural flowing river that carves its way through a spectacular volcanic gorge. Infrequent departures, small group sizes and stringent National Park regulations ensure that the North Johnstone and the surrounding ancient rainforests are preserved for all time, offering rafters a rare glimpse of a very precious and untouched part of North Queensland's World Heritage Rainforests. From the exhilarating helicopter ride in, through four days of gigantic Class V rapids, breathtaking scenery and unforgettable companions, to the serenity of camping three nights under the stars in riverside rainforest clearings, you'll never experience anything

like it. We'll explore waterfalls (including one 600 feet high!) and creeks, camp in little pockets inside the rainforest, and listen to the songs of the birds as we navigate.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Camp

Day 24: North Johnstone or similar/Cairns

Just one more big day of rafting before we drive back to Cairns, where we'll arrive in the evening. Tonight is our farewell dinner as Australia is the sixth and final stop on our worldwide tour. We can knock back a few cold ones and hone our stories so we're ready to wow 'em back home.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 25: Cairns and Departure for the U.S.

We have a free morning in Cairns to rest and pack for the final push home, or head for the beach. Our long mid-afternoon flight gets into LAX at around 10 pm as we benefit from the International Date Line. You may sleep now.

Six Continent Whitewater Adventure

Departures & Land Costs

Departures

May 9, 2013 - Jun 2, 2013

\$8,695 (6-12 members)

\$650 Single Supplement

\$4695 (US-Kenya portion; May 9-23)

\$5195 (Kenya-Australia portion; May 19- Jun 2)

Round-the-world airfare is not included in the land cost of the trip. Approximate price \$5,500 per person (Economy Class)



Note: We also offer shorter versions of the trip. (May 9-23 starts in Fresno, California ends in Nairobi, Kenya) & (May 19-Jun 2 starts in Nairobi, Kenya ends in Cairns, Australia). Please call for details at 1-800-282-8747.

Payment & Cancellation Policy

Payment

At time of reservation \$800 or 25% of Land/Cruise Cost, whichever is greater

120 days prior to departure 25% of Land/Cruise Cost

90 days prior to departure Balance of Land/Cruise Cost

Cancellation

If written cancellation is received: Cancellation fee will be:

90 days or more prior to departure \$800 or 25% of Land/Cruise Cost, whichever is greater

89 to 60 days prior to departure 50% of Land/Cruise Cost

59 days or fewer prior to departure 100% of Land/Cruise Cost

Tier Pricing

Adventure travel works best with a small group of people. In order to operate these small groups, our trips are priced according to the number of full-price passengers on the trip. (Mountain Travel Sobek staff, trip doctors, and other discounted travelers are excluded from the count for this purpose.) We initially invoice you at the highest tier level price (the smallest group size we can operate). If the price drops due to an increase in group size, you will be refunded the difference.

What's Included

- expert leadership
- accommodations as noted in itinerary (or similar)
- meals as noted in the itinerary
- airport transfers
- sightseeing as noted in the itinerary
- ground transportation

- additional guides and porters where necessary
- tips for lodge, hotel, or camp staff
- entrance fees and permits, unless noted separately in costs
- basic medical and evacuation insurance

What's Not

International airfare; meals not noted on itinerary; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Mountain Travel Sobek, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; excess baggage charges; airport taxes (international—varies by location); cost of medical immunizations; and items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Air Travel

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. In addition, many travelers elect to use their “frequent flyer” miles when traveling with us. **But please check with our staff before purchasing or obtaining your tickets.** We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip.

What you can expect

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you'd never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You'll be in good hands with them every step of the way.

Follow-the-leader trips take you to special places you'd never find on your own, places that a veteran MTS leader has longed to visit. The leader's knowledge of group travel and the expertise of our local contacts will make sure things run smoothly and safely. Although additional guide assignments can change, your lead guide will be John Yost.



John Yost

John is the Co-founder of Sobek Expeditions (now Mountain Travel Sobek) which became the largest international rafting company in the world. He has run over 30 international river exploratories, has run all but a couple of rivers Sobek runs or at one time ran commercially, and has boated most of the rivers in the western US. He has been a consultant with international "eco" lodges around the globe and was recently named a member of the board of directors with Friends of the River, a non-profit organization working to protect California rivers. John is known for his culinary skills in the kitchen, and will make his famous Omo Chicken Curry for you on the trip, which was named during the first descent of the Omo River in Ethiopia in 1973.

The Next Step

Ready to go? Signing up is easy!

Just call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website (www.mtsobek.com). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Then Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice prepared by our consulting physician (an expert in wilderness medicine), and other details.

Why Mountain Travel Sobek is Your First Choice for Adventure

Mountain Travel Sobek is the pioneer in active adventure travel. No other adventure travel company can lay claim to that title. We were the first to take Americans trekking in Nepal, raft the wild rivers of Africa, and open up many previously inaccessible corners of the world to curious travelers. We set the standard for adventure travel and have a strong reputation for excellence that we do everything we can to maintain. Since we are the leading adventure company, we have a lot to live up to, so we make sure we provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our passengers.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.mtsobek.com.

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change. Please read the Limitation of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form. You can find all this information on our website at www.mtsobek.com/faq and the form itself at www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf.

Terms & Conditions

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our terms and conditions including the Limitation of Liability Clause. The full Terms and Conditions can be found at www.mtsobek.com/faq/#liability or call 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) for a copy. These are partial conditions. Your participation is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms specified in the four-page Participant Information Form (www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf). Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to the Terms and Conditions, to any literature concerning this trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in San Francisco, California, according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive California law (but not procedural law) without regard to the California Arbitration Act.

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