

About Us

Ben and Michelle Kvanli have 40 years of combined paddling experience that they would like to share with you!

Founders of The Red River Racing Team, they set out on a Journey Thirteen years ago, that began with their own competition careers in whitewater slalom, and coaching Junior athletes in the sport. This love and experience evolved into their passion to share the paddling with as many people possible!

Today, through KayakInstruction.org, Red River Racing teaches hundreds of people to paddle each year, coaches junior and senior level whitewater slalom athletes, and works with disabled veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The programs are run out of their base at the David and Debbie Power Olympic Outdoor Center in San Marcos, Texas, on the pristine springs of the San Marcos River. The River runs a constant 72 degrees, and this warmth makes it the perfect place to learn! Ben and Michelle also helped the City of San Marcos to convert the failing Rio Vista Falls Dam into three wonderful class II-III drops that provide an incredible learning environment!

Both Ben and Michelle want to share all that they have learned through their own journeys. Ben competed in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and Michelle most recently became the 2009 National Champion in Whitewater Slalom.

Give us a call, we want to get you out on the water 512.203.0093!



Winter Escapes



David and Debbie Power
Olympic Outdoor Center
PO Box 984
San Marcos, Texas 78667



Are you looking for a great way to keep paddling, but stay WARM this Winter?

We have the perfect solution! Here at KayakInstruction.org, we have been seeking out great river trips in Mexico for the last five years! What we have found has been spectacular! Beautiful spring-fed rivers, amazing waterfalls, great people, and awesome food!

Just imagine.... It's Thanksgiving, 80 degrees out, and you are overlooking El Mecco, a teal green 180 foot travertine waterfall, while dining at one of the regions best restaurants, after having run the Salto, a pristine class III with plenty of runnable waterfalls to put you in heaven!

We live it, We love it, and keep coming back for more!

Mexico, namely the state of San Luis Potosi, that we are so fond of, has a fantastic supply of warm, clean water that provides excellent opportunities to both push yourself and delight yourself with what is possible. A myriad of rivers ranging in class II-V are available, and each of our trips is designed to be tailored to the skills of our group, so that everyone enjoys a fantastic time!



The Rivers

The rivers that we will be running are located in the San Luis Potosi region of Mexico! You can learn more about San Luis Potosi on the official Visit Mexico website: <http://www.visitmexico.com>. *To be sure it is a paddlers paradise.* Not only is it in the heart of a beautiful culture, but it is full of springs, and waterfalls that just beacon you to slide off the edge!

The Cascadas Micos:

The Cascadas Micos has seven runnable waterfalls, each formed by deposition of calcite from the mineral-laden water. The accumulation of these minerals results in the development of huge travertine features, typified by shield and dam formations. The calcite in the water is also responsible for the striking turquoise blue color.

The Micos offers a novel way to scout drops: you literally by paddle up to the lip and step out of your boat and pick a line. The Micos is the perfect setting to learn how to run bigger drops as it is remarkably non-technical, with the largest drop around thirty feet! The put-in is directly at the base of a gorgeous seventy foot waterfall, named La Miradora!

After running the main cascades, there is a local marketplace, where you can buy great tacos, and roasted chicken, and interact with the locals while doing a bit of shopping, all within the best view of the last drop! After lunch, we usually put back in to run a lower class II-III section of river back to our campground, that has some fun slides, play waves, and gradient drops!



The Rio Salto:

El Salto (directly translated as "The Waterfall") is an upper run on the Rio Valles, approximately sixty kilometers upstream of [Cascada Micos](#).

Much like the the Micos, drops on the El Salto section are formed by travertine dams, creating large shields and pool-drop ledges. The impeccable visibility of the water offers a fascinating glimpse into the underwater development of these unique features. The Salto section is a small step up from the Micos, offering remarkable drops, intriguing double hydraulics, and boof lines through trees leading to clean landings! However, the biggest of drops can be walked and enjoyed with a camera by those who don't feel ready!

The run is punctuated with numerous travertine drops, too many to name. Similar to the Micos, many of these drops are boat scout-able at the lip. The nature of this run offers the opportunity to take in the majestic scenery and cool flora and fauna. Trees literally grow out of the creek-bed and turtles and fish can be seen darting below the waters surface! After this run, we are able to take in the view while enjoying one of the best restaurants in Mexico at the take out! The restaurant is located right at the overlook for El Mecco, a 180 foot cascading travertine beauty, that just has to be seen!



Rio Tampaon:

The Rio Tampaon is a fun class III, III+ run located in the heart of San Luis. Just outside of Ciudad Valles, you will plunge into a canyon that the local Huastecan's revered as the Point of the Gods! With more gradient drops, big waves, and lots of surfing, the Tampaon provides plenty of play, and push, while you explore this remote experience off the beaten path.

There are 5 main rapids, with the third being the longest, continuing on for about a mile. At the end of the run, you will see lush jungle walls revealing hidden cascades, as the river disappears under a massive land bridge of Travertine. This is the "Puente del Dios" that the locals believed was sacred. We can explore the area, with an easy take out just around the bend. Afterwards, we usually find some great food at a restaurant in Ciudad Valles. A favorite place of ours is owned by a wonderful Venezuelan woman, who also has a fantastic way with desserts!

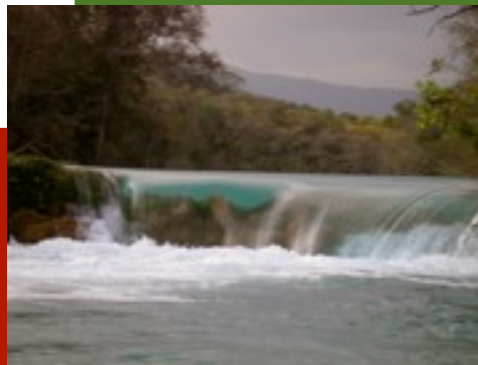
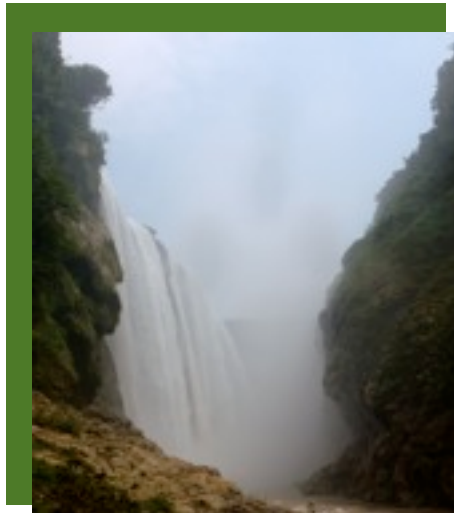


Rio Gallenas, and Cascadas Tamul:

One of the most spectacular sites, that simply can't be missed is the Rio Gallenas as it forms the Cascadas Tamul! The Gallenas River is formed by the Ojo Frio and St. Nicholas rivers, and travels a considerable amount of miles before plummeting 345 feet into the Santa Maria River down below!

We hike into this spectacular location, tracing the travertine slides until they plunge right over the edge! The hike to the falls is an easy to moderate, walk with a few inclines and boulders, while a more challenging hike down to the bottom where it collides

with the Rio Santa Maria is available and provides for even more spectacular photo opportunities!



Cultural Experiences:

While we do enjoy our time on the river, we very much appreciate the chance to get out and experience the culture! We try to eat most of our dinners in local towns, or campgrounds that excel in preparing the local cuisine!

There are also a few locations that are really special. Two of our favorites are "Las Pozas" the surrealist sculpture gardens of Sir Edward James tucked away on 33 acres of Jungle near the mountainside town of Xilitla. Not only are the sculpture gardens a strange and fantastic, but Xilitla is a town of artisans and classic Spanish architecture. The church is the largest structure in the town and is located on one edge of the main plaza. On Sundays, the market day, the town fills with people and energy and welcomes people from surrounding communities who come to buy and sell their agricultural and commercial products.

Our other favorite place to visit is the local market in the town of Aquismon. Here you can walk the market place with goods sold from locals who hold dear to the Huastecan culture, and still wear the traditional Huastecan garb. Aquismon, is also just a stones throw away from one of the largest open pits in the world, the "Sotano de los Golondrinas," or Pit of the Swallows that plunges 1,000 feet (it is the second deepest entrance drop in the world!)



Price:

The price for our Mexico Trip is \$600 for the week!

The first \$300 of the trip counts toward a membership in our local non-profit the Red River Racing Team. This membership gives you a full year of bonuses including:

- 1) All instruction at reduced rates of \$10/ hr from Olympians, National Level athletes, and great ACA certified instructors
- 2) Free boat and gear rental for the year!
- 3) It serves as the downpayment for any of our future adventure trips in Mexico, Guatemala, or the US the rest of the year!!

** Membership fees into Red River Racing team are used to help support Junior and National level slalom and freestyle athletes continue to pursue their dreams in the sport, and veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan get into paddling as a way to get back into life!! You can learn more about Red River Racing here at: www.redriverracing.org!*

Trip Dates:

Check the Calendar at www.KayakInstruction.org for our Full List of Adventure Trip Dates!

Trips to Mexico are given in October, Early November, Thanksgiving, New Years, and January EVERY YEAR!!!!

Please call Michelle or Ben with any questions that you might have

512.203.0093!

As an added bonus!!

Join us on any of our Adventure Trips and receive 20% off a pair of awesome Spokiz shades! Check them out at: Teamspokiz.com



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