

Trip Report – Angela Goldsmith, Timber Rafting on Klarälven, July 2019

We spent a fantastic day building our raft. Hard work that's for sure but the 4 of us (including our daughters 12 & 14) dug in... it was a real family effort. The guides help the minimum amount so they are there if you are stuck (or desperate!) but basically left us to get on with it, which was actually brilliant.

It's heavy work and I would say not suitable if you have back or mobility problems ... and definitely take working gloves as the timber is natural. It took us most of the day, about 6 hours, building and then we loaded up with our tent/food etc and we were off. There's a lovely camaraderie and we got a great send off.

The feeling of living on something you built from logs and ropes second to none.

The following 3 days and nights the weather was amazing, the river was warm and we even got the hang of manoeuvring the raft. The kids loved jumping in the river and swimming, exploring the river bank in the canoe. We cooked on the raft with camping stove and felt truly back to nature. Just brilliant.

Finding camping spots for a night is tricky; the team at the rafting centre don't give much information which is actually really nice as was down to us to use our skills to find a suitable spot by heading off in the canoe: no sandbanks so the raft doesn't get stuck, as mozzie free as possible, flat enough to erect a tent, and all in time to bring the raft in.

It was a very sad time when on the last day we dismantled our raft and sent the logs down river to the timber trap: it's much easier to dismantle and took no longer than an hour.

Our only regret was not doing the longer trip!

