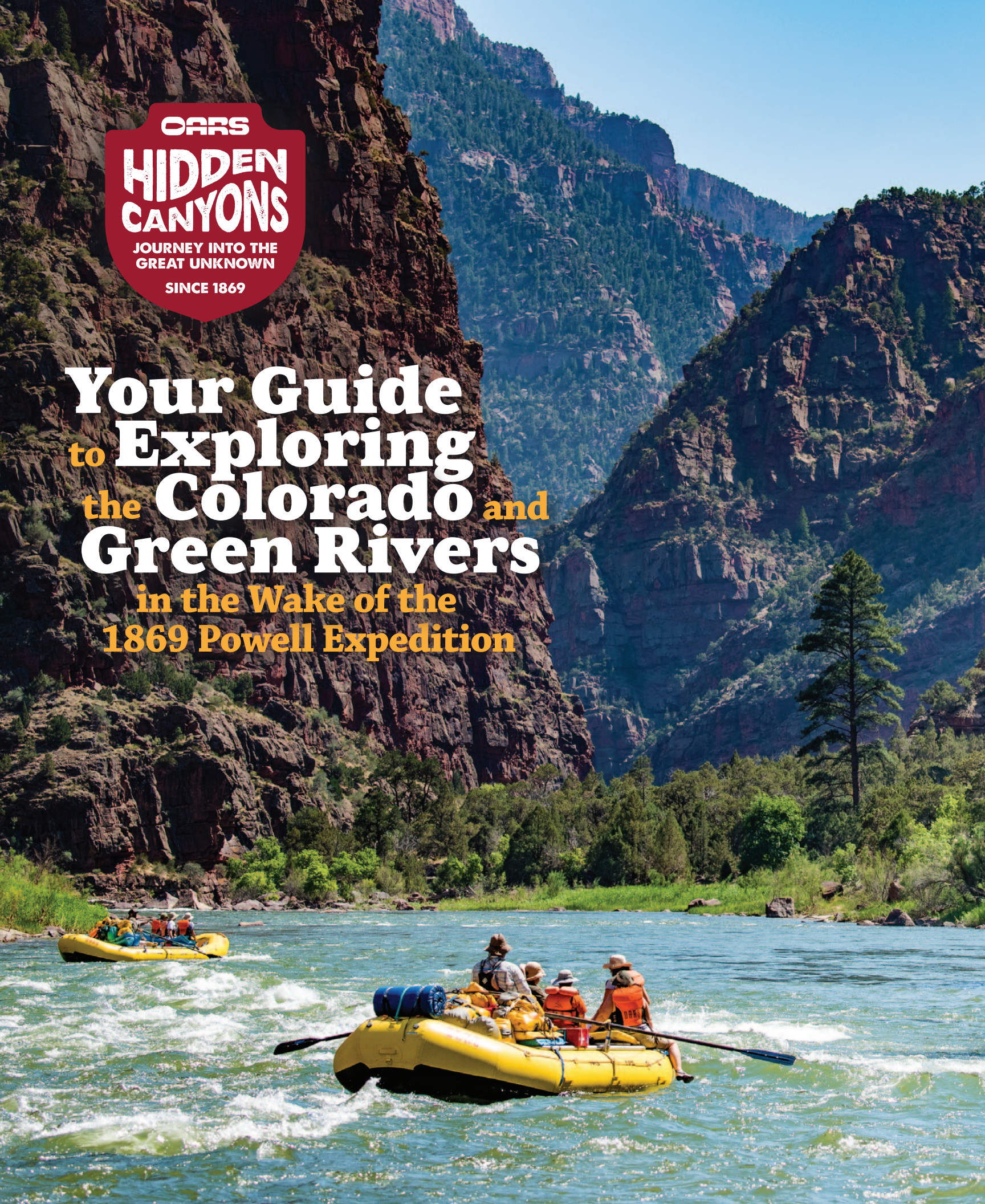




Your Guide to Exploring the Colorado and Green Rivers in the Wake of the 1869 Powell Expedition





In 1869 John Wesley Powell and a crew of nine men set out to explore the uncharted Green and Colorado Rivers from Green River Station, Wyoming to the “impassable” Grand Canyon. Today, that expedition is considered one of the greatest American adventures in history. To think back 150 years to that era, and the spirit of exploration

into the unknown, is more than a little inspiring.

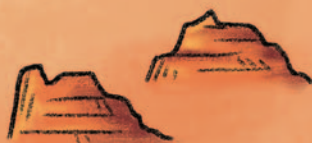
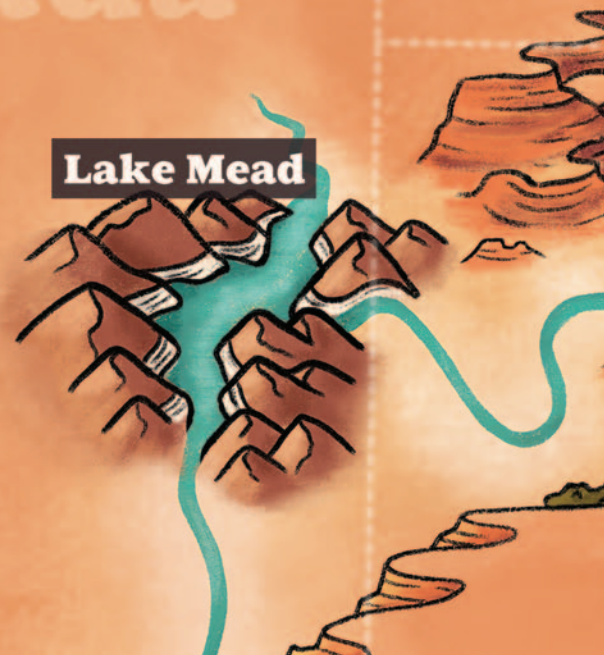
We invite you to grab hold of a piece of Powell’s legacy and join OARS for an exploration into your own undiscovered canyons. For 50 years, since our early days of running trips through Grand Canyon where we were the first exclusively oar-powered outfitter, our family-owned company has been committed to sharing wild places with our guests the “right” way—allowing time for immersion, exploration, and revelation.

And thanks to our unique collection of permits on the Green and Colorado Rivers, OARS is the only commercial outfitter that can link together a number of the canyons that Powell first encountered. We offer multi-day whitewater trips on the Green River through Flaming Gorge, Gates of Lodore and Desolation Canyon, as well as on the Colorado River through the turbulent waters of Cataract Canyon and Grand Canyon. Every expedition we run through these dramatic and storied canyons is a beautiful remembrance of a time when there were still uncharted territories on maps of the western United States.

This time around, the journey into the great unknown is yours. A secret world of hidden canyons awaits for you to make your descent. Discover spectacular scenery, disconnect from daily life as you know it and splash through America’s canyons less traveled at the heart of the Colorado Plateau. We guarantee it will be a transformative and memorable experience.



Lake Mead





Flaming Gorge Reservoir

FLAMING GORGE

GATES OF LODORE

Dinosaur National Monument

Green River

Arches

Colorado River

Canyonlands

CATARACT CANYON

Lake Powell

Colorado River

GRAND CANYON

HIDDEN CANYONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Map of Hidden Canyons | 1 |
| Table of Contents | 2 |
| The OARS Experience | 4 |
| 5 Things You Don't Know About a River Trip | 10 |
| Rating the Rapids | 11 |
| The OARS Fleet | 12 |
| Why Our Brains Need Multi-Day Wilderness Trips | 15 |
| Grand Canyon, AZ | 18 |
| - Lees Ferry to Lake Mead | 20 |
| - Lees Ferry to Phantom Ranch | 22 |
| - Phantom Ranch to Whitmore Wash | 24 |
| - Whitmore Wash to Lake Mead | 26 |
| Cataract Canyon, UT | 30 |
| Desolation Canyon, UT | 34 |
| Gates of Lodore, UT | 38 |
| Flaming Gorge, UT | 42 |
| Gear Up: Packing for a "Canyons" | |
| River Trip | 46 |
| The True Cost of an Exceptional River Trip | 48 |
| Essential Eligibility Criteria | 50 |
| General Information | 51 |
| Explore the World of OARS | 52 |

On the Cover: Entering the Gates of Lodore. Photo
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*"I have never had a more PERFECT,
MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE! There is
nothing I believe needs improving. It shows
that you love the Canyon and the River and
love to share your love of these beautiful
places with those of us lucky enough to
tag along!"* —MAREN COLEMAN, SEATTLE, WA



THE OARS EXPERIENCE

NEW TO TRAVELING WITH US? HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT ON A MULTI-DAY RIVER TRIP WITH OARS

As a leader in rafting and adventure travel since 1969, you could say we know a thing or two about providing unforgettable vacations. If you're considering a multi-day rafting trip for your next vacation, trust us, it's one of the best decisions you could ever make. Let us walk you through the experience...



"The guides made this trip just spectacular. Their knowledge of the area, the river, geology and history was an added bonus to an amazing trip." – JANELLE H.

01

WELCOME TO VACATION. WE'LL HANDLE THE DETAILS.

The OARS multi-day adventure experience is so much more than a river trip. It's about losing track of what time it is, or even what day of the week it is. It's about leaving emails and text messages and social media at home. It's about drifting off to sleep on a beach under a canopy of stars, and then waking up the next morning to watch the sun rise over the canyon rim. An OARS multi-day trip is getting the chance to leave behind the hustle and bustle of everyday life so you can sink into the simple rhythm and joy of life on the river. The best part? All you have to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the ride downstream while we take care of the rest.



02

YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS.

Our guides, who are the single-most complimented component of our organization and recognized as some of the best in the industry, will greet you and explain in detail what you may expect throughout your trip. Trained in CPR and First Aid, swiftwater rescue, Wilderness First Responder, and Leave No Trace principles, our guides are professional, playful and ever mindful of your wants and needs. After all, we want our guests to have a fun and memorable experience.



03

MEET YOUR RIVER FAMILY.

Speaking of guests, our group size for river trips is generally no more than 25 people, but on average is around 16 people. And sure, these fellow travelers will be strangers at first, but the magic of a river trip is the amazing bonds and connections that are forged when you disappear into the wilderness together for a week or more. So don't let the thought of spending your vacation with others deter you from finding your own river family. We can't tell you how many notes and messages we've gotten over the years about the friendships that have been made on the river and are still going strong many years later.



04

THE OARS FLEET. YOU'VE GOT OPTIONS.

OARS' boats and equipment are top-of-the-line and well-maintained. Depending on which river you choose, water levels and group interests, you may encounter several types of boats in your destination. From paddle rafts and dories to inflatable kayaks and stand up paddleboards, each ride in the OARS fleet offers a different experience. So whether you want to challenge yourself or just chill out, you've got options.



05

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS.

Before you hit the river, you'll hear a detailed safety talk from our guides and be decked out in the appropriate gear. Now the real fun begins. Get ready for some whitewater!

As you float downstream, taking in the scenic river canyon, its wild-life and unique geology, you'll encounter thrilling wave trains, big splashes and fun drops as you conquer the rapids the river has to offer. Just a few hours downstream, you won't be able to remember the last time that you laughed this hard and life back home will already start to seem like a distant memory.



06

SETTLE INTO RIVER TIME.

After a morning of river running, your guides will find a sandy beach or otherwise appropriate place for lunch—the first of many moveable feasts you'll have on your trip. As they prepare lunch—the most incredible deli spreads and salads you've ever seen in the wild—you might recall the morning highlights with friends, family and fellow travelers before returning to the rafts for another thrilling ride to camp.

In most cases, you are on the river for no more than +/- 6 hours per day—just a quarter of your day—which leaves a lot of time for hiking, exploring, fishing, reading, napping and relaxing on the beach.



“Everything was totally amazing—competent and patient staff, eye on safety, fun, beauty unsurpassed, kid-friendly, good food, I cannot say enough. I do not think there is any way to improve the experience, it was top notch.” – MONIKA MIRA



07

CAMP LIFE MADE EASY.

Our guides are experts at finding the best camp spots away from other groups. You may often feel as though you are the only people on the river. Camp may be at a still, sandy alcove on the water's edge, or a sunny, green clearing among mammoth cedars and towering cliff faces. There are often trailheads, fishing hideaways and swimming holes just a few steps away.

When you arrive at camp each day, the guides will handle all the heavy lifting and set-up. This includes a kitchen, “living room” area, and the portable potty affectionately referred to as the “groover” that’s placed in a discrete location at each camp. We also bring plates, bowls, utensils and a souvenir Klean Kanteen mug for each guest so you can enjoy all the yummy goodness coming out of the OARS riverside kitchen. Plus, comfortable camping chairs for everybody. Seriously, you might be surprised what other outfitters do or don’t supply!

All you have to do is pick the perfect place to pitch your tent, carry your bags over (we provide two waterproof dry bags to keep your gear protected from the elements), and set up your tent for the evening.

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS IN COMFORT.

Whether you're a seasoned camper or more likely to opt for the room with a view, we want sleeping under the stars to be as comfortable as it is memorable. On all OARS multi-day adventures we provide a roomy 3-person, free-standing dome tent on a shared basis for two people, plus a ground tarp to keep your home-away-from-home tidy. Tucked up in a secluded spot away from your trip mates or placed near the water's edge, you can set up your tent where you want it.

Sleep kits are supplied on some trips, or in most cases available to rent for less than the cost of checking a bag on your flight. Sleep tight in a clean and cozy sleeping bag, freshly-laundered sheet, pillow with pillowcase (no rolled up sweatshirts here!) and a deluxe 3-inch thick air-filled sleeping pad.

More than anything, it's our goal to make sure your trip with us is super comfortable and completely stress-free. After all, this is your vacation and you deserve the best.



"The food was fabulous, hikes were great and helped us work off all the gourmet food. Equipment was top notch too. A fabulous vacation and one we would do again with OARS...This was a great family trip."—GAIL SMITH ~ STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO

09

LIFE IS BETTER BY THE CAMPFIRE.

After dinner, as some of the guides clean up (we do all the dirty work so you don't have to), and the day winds down, one of the guides may break out a guitar or recap the day with a larger than life tale from the river. Evenings might include a star talk, a campfire, cowboy poetry, a joke telling competition or quiet time to contemplate a brilliant, unhindered night sky.

As you curl up in your cozy sleeping bag for the night, you'll fall asleep smiling knowing you get to do it all over again the next day.



10

ENJOY REST & RELAXATION.

In camp, the afternoon and evenings are yours to enjoy, whether you choose to play a game of horseshoes or bocce ball on the beach, join a guided interpretive hike, enjoy a good book or get to know your fellow travelers and guides better. Now is the perfect time to enjoy the pleasure of a cold beer or soft drink after a hot day on the river or savor a glass of wine from a local winery. The choice is yours.

For reservations and information call 1-800-346-6277

11

MOVEABLE FEASTS.

One of the most surprising aspects of a multi-day rafting trip with OARS is often the food.* Expect to eat as well—or better—than you do at home, without having to do any of the work. That means hearty and sumptuous meals, complete with fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the entire journey (even on 18-day Grand Canyon expeditions!).

Wake up to pancakes, omelets, or eggs cooked to order, complemented by bacon or sausage, juice, and plenty of fresh-brewed coffee, tea and cocoa. Sate your appetite at lunch with a delicious spread of cold cuts and cheese on assorted breads, hummus and veggies in soft pitas, or tasty taco salad wraps. At the dinner table, our guides' cooking skills truly shine. You may snack on hors d'oeuvres while waiting for vegetables, pasta, rice, and the main course: steak, grilled salmon, Baja tacos, sizzling fajitas, or perhaps delicious Dutch oven lasagna. And, if you can find room, there will almost always be something for dessert.

*If you have food allergies or restrictions, please let us know at the time of booking and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.



OARS HIDDEN CANYONS 9

5 Things You Probably Don't Know About a River Trip

By Tricia Slavik



Considering an overnight river trip?

Here are five good-to-know nuggets from an everyday Jane who's been there, done that.

1. River guides are no joke. Seriously

Before my first river trip, I had a pretty vivid picture in my mind of what our guide would be like: Someone college-aged in board shorts and a floppy hat who took his shirt off too often and said “dude” too much. Someone whose overpowering young, outdoorsy hipness would shine a big, fat spotlight on my age and ineptitude.

But I was wrong.

River guides are hard-working, talented, well-educated professionals. I have had a guide who enthralled us for hours (yes, hours...enthralled!) with the history, geology and biology of the river. His subtle sense of humor made things like “Morgan formations” and “merganser ducks” seem like stand-up comedy. Plus he made a mean breakfast frittata.

2. A boatload

The engineering feat that goes into packing a week (or more) of supplies for 20-plus people in a boat is absolutely mind-boggling. All the essentials, including drinking water, life vests, food (beer!), comforts like tents, Paco Pads, chairs and three square (and delicious!) meals per person per day gets stored in the bottom of a river raft. On our 5-day, 4-night trip that meant 375 meals in total.

You'll be glad it's all there. And glad you're not one of the guides who's packing it all in! So pack light. You can practically live in a bathing suit and a pair of quick-dry shorts. Really.

3. Stranger danger

I was more than a bit apprehensive about hanging with two dozen strangers for five days. But the sense of community and camaraderie with my fellow travelers became one of the highlights of my experience. Even my kids would tell you what they remember most was the evenings around the campfires telling stories and playing games.

4. It's polite to stare

On my trip, I sat and stared for hours on end—at the majestic canyons of the Yampa River, at the clouds, at the ripples of water moving ever-toward the shore, at the tops of my feet as they skimmed the river currents...and more frequently than I would like to admit, at the inside of my eyelids.

It was a much-needed mental break from everyday life letting my eyes glaze over and fixate on the tranquil beauty all around me.

5. Taking care of business

Everyone wants to know. But nobody actually wants to ask. I mean, you can't hold it the entire time (especially with that ever-present sound of rushing water).

So here's the deal: It's part of OARS' commitment to sustainable travel to Leave No Trace in the delicate environments where they operate. So, while guides provide completely private privies, you must learn to pee and poo in two different locations—both of them outside.

Basically, liquids go in the river, while solids are along for the ride (see #2 above, but try not to think too much about it). Without TMI, I can tell you that the views from the groover are so outstanding that they almost take your mind off the task at hand.

RATING THE RAPIDS

CHOOSING THE RIGHT LEVEL OF WHITEWATER IS THE FIRST STEP IN MAKING YOUR ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE A SUCCESS.



LAVA FALLS in the Grand Canyon is rated as a 10.

STANDARD RIVER SCALE

GRAND CANYON SCALE

CLASS
V

Intense and violent rapids with steep drops, waterfalls, massive waves and extremely constricted channels. Rapids may require “critical” maneuvering above dangerous hazards. Prior Class IV experience may be required. Participants should be in good health, capable swimmers and physically fit. A swim practice may also be administered by our guides at the river.

CLASS
IV

Powerful rapids featuring boulder gardens, large waves and/or small waterfalls. Quick and precise maneuvering is essential for successful runs. Prior Class III experience is recommended, although aggressive first-timers looking for a challenge are generally accepted. Minimum ages will vary from 12 to 16 years.

CLASS
III

Moderate rapids with irregular, medium- to large-sized waves. Waves large enough to cause a boat to capsize may be present but normally can be avoided. Quick maneuvering may be required to avoid obstacles. Generally, children seven years and older may experience Class III rapids.

CLASS
II

Easy rapids with wide-open channels and medium-sized waves. Some maneuvering may be necessary to avoid obstacles. Generally, children four years and older may experience Class II rapids.

CLASS
I

Swift current with riffles and small waves. Few obstacles, all obvious and easily avoided.

NOT SURE WHICH
TRIP IS RIGHT
FOR YOU?
TALK TO AN
ADVENTURE
CONSULTANT.
800-346-6277

10

9

8

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1

WHAT'S YOUR ADVENTURE LEVEL?

All OARS trips are active participatory adventures by nature and involve some level of physical exertion. Most often, our trips take place in remote settings where exposure to the elements—including cold water, heat, sun, wind and rain—is a given. And, frankly, we wouldn't have it any other way. What we offer isn't a bus tour, a shore excursion or a theme park ride. We take you off the beaten path to places you might struggle to access on your own

and it's our goal to immerse you in the beauty of a region.

Adventure level varies from trip to trip, but even an “easier” trip can become “challenging” under the right conditions—weather, water level, and even your personal choice of boat and/or hiking options can contribute to just how adventurous your OARS experience will be.

For each of our trips, we've tried to provide an approximation of what adventure level (from easier to challenging) you should expect to encounter under typical circumstances. Many trips are suitable for reasonably-fit first-timers, but all our trips are made more enjoyable by a certain degree of personal fitness and an adventurous spirit.

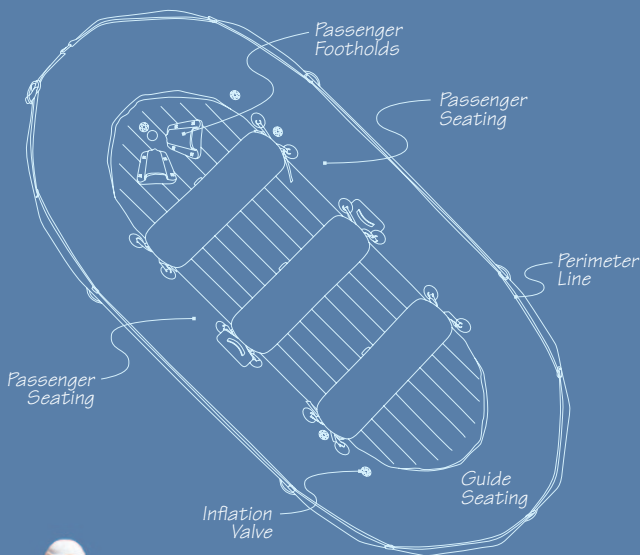
THE OARS FLEET

PADDLE RAFT

SPECS:

- Capacity: 1 guide / 6-8 guests
- Length: 12 - 16 ft

The sportiest crafts we put on the water, everybody handles a paddle while the guide steers from the rear. Helmets are required.

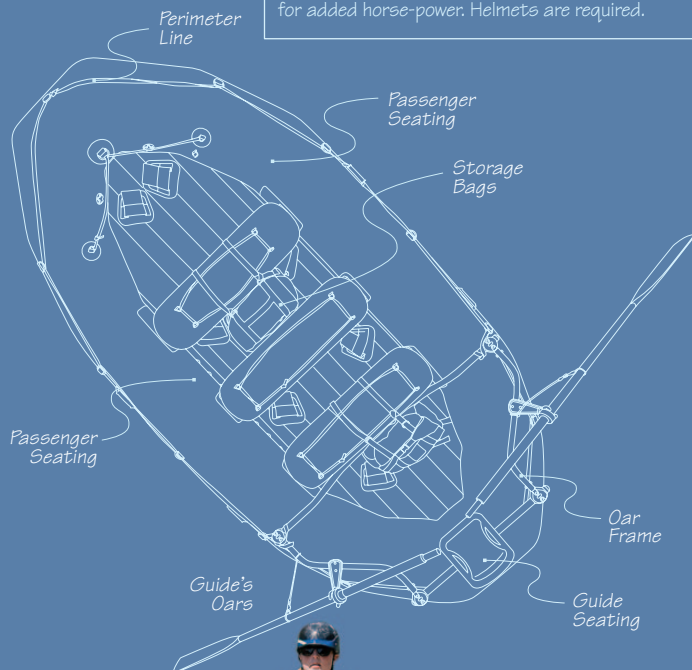


PADDLE RAFT WITH OAR-ASSIST

SPECS:

- Capacity: 1 guide / 4 - 6 guests
- Length: 14 - 16 ft

The most agile boat in the fleet, your guide powers the raft with two hefty oars on a rear-mounted frame, while the crew paddles up front for added horse-power. Helmets are required.



SNOUT RAFT

OAR RAFT

SPECS: • Capacity: 1 guide / 4 - 5 guests
 • Length: 14 - 18 ft

Oar rafts carry the bulk of the gear on most of our multi-day adventures. Your guide pilots the raft using long oars while ample deck space allows for seating fore and aft. Sturdy weight and width give your guide confidence to hit the big waves head-on.



DORY

SPECS: • Capacity: 1 guide / 4 guests
 • Length: 17 ft

Dories are the kings of big volume rivers like the Colorado and Salmon. Hard-hulled and ultra-buoyant, dories shoot through rapids and make wave trains feel like roller coasters.



INFLATABLE KAYAK (IK)



STAND UP PADDLEBOARD (SUP)



Why Our Brains Need Multi-day Wilderness Trips



By day five of my first rafting trip down the Grand Canyon, time started to slow and protract in a funny way. My senses seemed to sharpen, becoming almost granular. I shed the anxiety I had experienced going into the trip, and instead pondered the immeasurable journey that the sand had taken to reach the beach at my feet, noticed every bend of light as it spilled over the rim each morning and watched with great interest as the smear of stars grew brighter against the night sky.

Each splash of cold river water, ray of hot sun on my skin, scuttle of lizard, conversation with a trip-mate and song of canyon wren seemed so defined. Everything too important to overlook.

I went on to have the trip of a lifetime, coming home, like so many do, with the post river-trip glow, the bliss hangover and the strong desire to go right back.

Turns out, there's good reason behind the bliss. Duh, you may rightfully respond. River trips are a blast. A time to unplug and unwind, to test your mettle in the rapids, explore side hikes, spend quality time away from devices and gaze into the campfire at the end of the day before sleeping under the stars. Pretty self-explanatory why people love them.

But there's more to river trips than just fun. There's also a host of physiological benefits and changes in brain behavior that come with time spent in nature, and specifically when that time lasts several days. We've intuitively known this for a long time, but in recent years, researchers have assembled a growing body of evidence on the issue, building a case for why multi-day wilderness trips can be an important part of the toolbox for leading long and healthy lives and giving you all the more reason to make that river trip a mandate.

As the author of *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*, journalist Florence Williams has spent years digging into this subject. She says research shows that immersion in nature can lower our heart rate, reduce the release of stress hormones in the blood and give our prefrontal cortex—which is taxed by daily distractions like emails, text notifications, shopping lists and deadlines—a much-needed rest.

When we go out into nature, Williams says, “our brains shift in a way that’s really good for our mood and health.”

The results of even short excursions into nature—like taking a walk in a park or sitting next to a river—range from decreased anxiety to improved creativity. And longer multi-day wilderness trips are believed to produce persisting positive changes in attitudes, moods and behavior.

“We seem to be giving our prefrontal cortex a break, so our thinking brain is quieting down and given a rest,” Williams said. “So that can refresh our creativity and allow for mind-wandering. People’s self-concept seems to change, too. It’s just this kind of wonderful gift to have that time and space to think about those things.”

When the attention network is freed up, Williams says, other parts of the brain appear to take over, including those associated with sensory perception, empathy and productive day-dreaming. And even more so with longer excursions. Williams noted the so-called “three-day effect,” a term coined by Utah bookseller/river runner Ken Sanders, who realized that after being on the water for three days on a rafting trip, things really started to change. The group dynamic, sense of time, awareness of surroundings and perception all seem to shift.

Sanders relayed his observation to cognitive neuroscientist David Strayer—a leading researcher in nature’s effects on the brain—who had also personally experienced a difference in qualitative thinking after two or three days of disconnecting in the wild. Strayer tested the theory by giving word games to people before and after they went on long backpacking trips, and the results were significant: subjects performed nearly 50 percent better after spending time in wilderness.

Williams also noted that being around water appears to create more alpha waves and is good for our parasympathetic nervous system. And sleeping outside according to



natural light patterns helps us reset our circadian rhythm, aiding sleep. Then there's the awe factor.

"In wilderness, we experience a lot of awe...just experiencing that sense of awe tends to make us feel more connected to the natural world and to each other," Williams said.

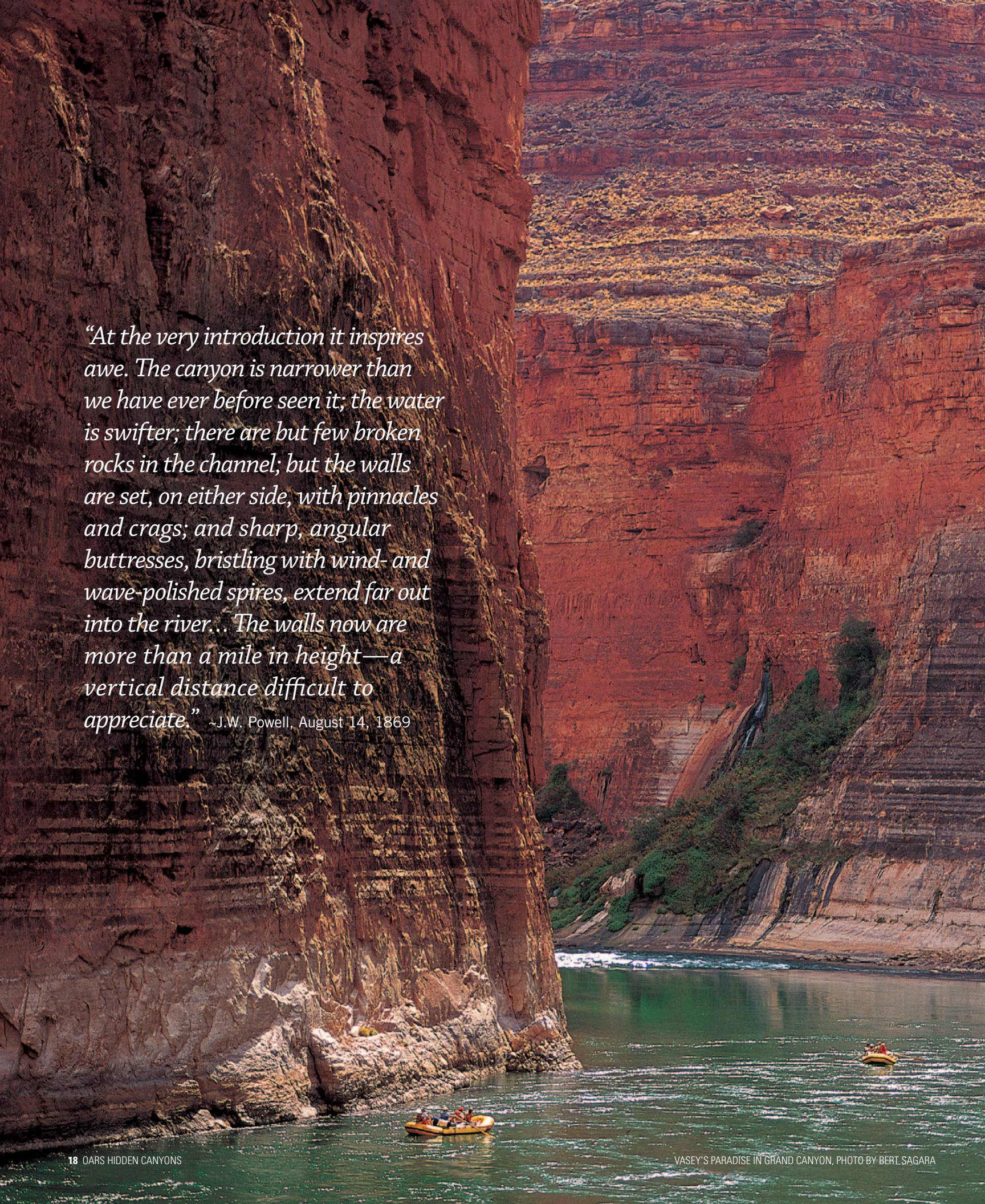
Williams tries to get out on at least one river trip per year, and says she never gets tired of watching how people transform on the river. "It's really amazing to watch the transformation happen where

you really see people come out of their shells and open up to their sensory environment, socialize more and engage in laughter and good times. And then watching the sense of beauty sort of knock them over."

So do your brain a favor, and start planning your next river trip now. Your health depends on it.

Katie Klingsporn is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor who lives in southwestern Colorado.



A photograph of the Grand Canyon. The image shows a wide river with two yellow rafts carrying people. The canyon walls are steep and layered with red rock. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“At the very introduction it inspires awe. The canyon is narrower than we have ever before seen it; the water is swifter; there are but few broken rocks in the channel; but the walls are set, on either side, with pinnacles and crags; and sharp, angular buttresses, bristling with wind- and wave-polished spires, extend far out into the river... The walls now are more than a mile in height—a vertical distance difficult to appreciate.” ~J.W. Powell, August 14, 1869



Grand Canyon, AZ

Our roots run deep in Grand Canyon National Park. George Wendt, the company's late founder, first rafted through this renowned American landscape over five decades ago. Later, in 1969, George was granted the first exclusively non-motorized rafting permit to run commercial river trips in Grand Canyon.

To this day, OARS proudly remains a renowned authorized concessioner of the Park and offers a greater variety of river trip options than any other outfitter—offering a choice of dory or raft expeditions that range from a short 5-day “sampler” to full canyon trips of 14 to 18 days.

This is the ultimate river trip on the planet. We're talking some of the most mind-boggling scenery in the world—a layered rainbow of ancient rock, sheer walls and geologic wonders—combined with epic hiking, legendary whitewater and the chance to unplug for weeks at a time. We invite you to immerse yourself in the depths of Grand Canyon on an adventure that will forever transform you.



FULL GRAND CANYON

LEES FERRY TO LAKE MEAD

It's all here—the glories of Marble Canyon, the mysteries of the Inner Gorge, terrific side hikes and Native American ruins, crystalline creeks and waterfalls, cactus gardens, and whitewater galore. For nearly 300 miles, the river has cut a chasm over a mile deep through a rainbow of ancient rock. Nowhere on earth is there a more complete or dramatic geologic storybook. This full canyon trip gives you time to stop, to look, to listen, and explore the treasures this wonderland has to offer. You won't be “seeing Grand Canyon”—you'll be living it.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hike to scenic overlooks, seasonal waterfalls & explore hidden side canyons
- ▶ Raft 280 miles, the full length of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon
- ▶ Explore Redwall Cavern, Elves Chasm, Blacktail Canyon, Deer Creek Falls & more
- ▶ Hike to Nankoweap, Matkatamiba & into Havasu Canyon
- ▶ Raft all the best Grand Canyon rapids, including Lava Falls, Crystal, Sapphire, Turquoise & Ruby



THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers in Flagstaff for a pre-trip meeting to ask last-minute questions and receive waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings that evening.

YOUR TRIP BEGINS:

After a 2 ½-hour drive to the put-in at Lees Ferry, your guides will present a safety talk and orientation to the boats and gear before embarking. We splash through Badger and Soap Creek Rapids before we reach camp late afternoon. After a delicious dinner we stretch out in our sleeping bags and drift off to sleep.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES:

Over the next two weeks, the river twists between rising cliffs, offering new vistas at every bend. Relaxed drifting occupies much of our days accented with hikes and thrilling rapids.

At North Canyon we hike to a polished, funneled canyon, then our afternoon of lazy drifting is enlivened by the “Roaring Twenties” rapids.

The vibrant colored walls of Marble Canyon tower overhead as we continue past the fern-fringed springs of Vasey’s Paradise before a stop at the vast, half-circular chamber of Red-wall Cavern. A few miles downriver we explore Nautiloid Canyon where we find fossils exposed in the smooth rock canyon floor.

A stop at Nankoweap gives us an opportunity to climb to Ancestral Puebloan granaries perched high on a cliff overlooking the Colorado River. If we are lucky, the Little Colorado will be flowing with opaque turquoise water, which will invite us to stop for a swim.

For a few miles the canyon opens up, revealing the cliffs of the South Rim before we challenge the rapids of the Inner Gorge. We’re drenched in turn by the big waves of Unkar, Nevills, Hance, Sockdolager and Grapevine rapids before arriving at Phantom Ranch.

Sensational rides are found in Granite, Hermit and the “Jewels”—Crystal, Sapphire, Turquoise, Ruby and Serpentine rapids. We camp after a refreshing swim in the pools at Shinumo Creek.

The emerald paradise of Elves Chasm invites us to explore and swim. The cool, narrow slot of Blacktail Canyon offers a close look at the Great Unconformity.

Walls of jet black schist enclose us for a few miles before Bedrock and Dubendorf rapids. We drift through Granite Narrows (a mere 75’ wide!) and soon come to Deer Creek Falls, a 125’ cascade that tumbles almost directly into the river. A hike above the falls reveals hand-prints on the side canyon walls—evidence of ancient canyon visitors.

From here, we glide through some calmer stretches of river on our way to Matkatamiba Canyon for a hike to an overhanging amphitheater. Back on the river we conquer Upset Rapid and then stop to camp.

An early start gives us time to enjoy the blue-green pools and waterfalls of Havasu Canyon. After dinner our guides tell harrowing tales of tomorrow’s excitement: Lava Falls.

The following morning, each boat is swept into the churning power of the largest and most

storied rapid in Grand Canyon. Battered by huge waves and flushed into calmer waters, we beach below the rapid to laugh and celebrate.

From Whitmore Wash, the canyon opens up as we cross into the Hurricane fault zone and then head west where 205, 209 and 217 Mile rapids offer a delightful day in fun-filled whitewater.

On our last full day on the river, we pass Diamond Creek and enter the lower Granite Gorge. We make our final camp near Separation Rapid.

THE LAST DAY OF YOUR TRIP:

After an early breakfast, we’ll load our gear into a jet boat for a 1.5-hour ride down river to the take-out point at Pearce Ferry. A final drive back to Flagstaff offers time to reflect on this life-changing experience.

Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 14 - 17 days

Departures: April - October

Trip Price: from \$5458 to \$5813 per person. **For current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com**

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Flagstaff, Arizona

Minimum Age: 12 years

Best For: Anyone who has dreamed about going off-the-grid for 2+ weeks and wants to experience some of the best sights, hikes & whitewater the planet has to offer.

Activities: Rafting/dory, hiking

River Rating: 47 major rapids rated 5 or above on the Grand Canyon scale of 1-10

River Miles: 280

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft or dory

Sleep Kit: \$50

Tent Rental: Included

Additional Costs \$20 GCNP entrance fee

**See page 28-29 for more detailed info about our Grand Canyon trips, including answers to some commonly asked questions*



UPPER CANYON LEES FERRY TO PHANTOM RANCH

This 87-mile section of river is an excellent introduction to the canyon as the rapids progress from moderate to extra large and the cliffs and rock layers rise higher and higher. We see some of the most striking and vibrantly colored limestone cliffs as we pass through Marble Canyon. At the end of the week we overnight near Phantom Ranch before making the dramatic 9.7-mile hike up to the South Rim.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Raft the first 87 miles of the the Colorado River through Grand Canyon
- ▶ Explore Redwall Cavern & Nautiloid Canyon
- ▶ Hike to Nankoweap & explore Native American ruins
- ▶ Raft 19 major rapids like Unkar, Hance, Sockdolager & Grapevine
- ▶ Conquer the legendary Bright Angel Trail on the hike out of the canyon



THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers in Flagstaff for a pre-trip meeting to ask last-minute questions and receive waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings that evening.

YOUR TRIP BEGINS:

After a 2 ½-hour drive to the put-in at Lees Ferry, your guides will present a safety talk and orientation to the boats and gear before embarking. We splash through Badger and Soap Creek Rapids before we reach camp in the late afternoon. After a delicious dinner we stretch out in our sleeping bags and drift off to sleep.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES:

For the next several days, the river twists between rising cliffs, offering new vistas at every bend. At North Canyon we walk across folded layers of sedimentary rock which leads to a pool trickling down from the polished funneled canyon. Our afternoon of lazy drifting is enlivened by the rapids of the “Roaring Twenties.”

The vibrant colored walls of Marble Canyon tower overhead as we continue our float past the fern-fringed springs of Vasey’s Paradise for a stop at Redwall Cavern. A few miles downriver we scramble over short, steep rock formations into Nautiloid Canyon where we find a unique display of fossils exposed in the smooth rock canyon floor.

Relaxed drifting occupies much of our days interspersed by sizeable rapids. A stop at Nankoweap Canyon gives us an opportunity to climb to the Ancestral Puebloan granaries that rest high on the cliff overlooking the Colorado River and offer a spectacular view. If we are lucky, the Little Colorado will be flowing with opaque turquoise, which will invite us to stop for a swim.

For a few miles the canyon opens up before we head into the Granite Gorge. We then go through a series of challenging, big wave rapids like Unkar, Nevills, Hance, Sockdolager and Grapevine.

Our river adventure ends when we reach the boat beach near Phantom Ranch where we will overnight before embarking on our hike out of the canyon the following morning.



THE LAST DAY OF YOUR TRIP:

We’ll rise just before first light and after breakfast we will begin the challenging six- to nine-hour hike to the South Rim.

Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 6 - 7 days

Departures: April - October

Trip Price: from \$2755 to \$2945 per person. **For current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com**

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Flagstaff, Arizona

Minimum Age: 12 years

Best For: Folks who can’t commit to the whole experience, but want an exciting & challenging adventure, concluding with a demanding 9.7-mile hike out of the canyon

Activities: Rafting/dory, hiking

River Rating: 19 major rapids rated 5 or above on the Grand Canyon scale of 1-10

River Miles: 87

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft or dory

Sleep Kit: \$50

Tent Rental: Included

Additional Costs \$20 GCNP entrance fee

**See page 28-29 for more detailed info about our Grand Canyon trips, including answers to some commonly asked questions*



LOWER CANYON PHANTOM RANCH TO WHITMORE WASH

Beginning at the South Rim, your hike will cover 9.7 miles into the canyon down the beautiful Bright Angel Trail. The river guides meet you at the river's edge and after repacking your gear, we immediately head straight into some of the most celebrated rapids. Horn Creek, Granite, Hermit, and Crystal are all packed into the first two exciting days. Spectacular side hikes pierce the shadows of the deep Inner Gorge—the emerald paradise of Elves Chasm, the 100-foot drop of Deer Creek Falls, limestone chutes of Matkatamiba Canyon, blue-green pools and numerous waterfalls of Havasu Canyon, and many others. We finish off by running notorious Lava Falls—North America's most renowned big drop. On the final day, a helicopter whisks us to the rim to continue back to Las Vegas.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hike 9.7 miles into the canyon on the Bright Angel Trail
- ▶ Explore Elves Chasm, Deer Creek Falls, Matkatamiba & Havasu Canyons
- ▶ Raft the biggest whitewater on the Colorado River through the deepest section of the canyon, including Hermit, Lava Falls, Crystal and Granite rapids
- ▶ Enjoy a scenic helicopter flight out of the canyon





THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

Arrive at the South Rim to deliver your duffel to the Livery Barn for mule transport. Purchase your breakfast and snacks for your hike before the pre-trip meeting later that evening where you'll meet your hike escort, others on your trip, and can ask any last-minute questions.

YOUR TRIP BEGINS:

The group will gather and meet up with the hike escort before first light to hit the trail early. You'll spend the next several hours descending through layers of time before reaching the waiting rafts at the boat beach near Phantom Ranch.

After a safety talk, we'll load the rafts, slip into life jackets and start down the river. Immediately in big water, we are drenched and exhilarated. The desert's warmth quickly dries us again before we pull over to camp.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES:

Sensational rides and dramatic pictures are produced in Granite, Hermit and the rapids of the "Jewels"—Crystal, Sapphire, Turquoise, Ruby and Serpentine. We camp after a refreshing swim in the pools and waterfall at Shinumo Creek.

Those with sharp eyes and quick cameras may be rewarded with shots of desert bighorn sheep in this portion of the canyon. The emerald paradise of Elves Chasm, with its chain of pools and waterfalls, invites us to explore and swim. A sand and gravel floor meanders through the cool narrow slot of Blacktail Canyon. Here we have an up-close look at the Great Unconformity where ancient erosion removed millions of years of rock to create a gap in the canyon's geologic record.

Fluted walls of jet black schist enclose us for a few miles before Bedrock and Dubendorf rapids. We drift lazily through Granite Narrows (a mere 75' wide!!) and soon come to Deer Creek Falls, a 125' cascade that tumbles almost directly into the river. A hike above the falls brings us to an oasis with a huge open patio. En route, handprints on the side canyon walls provide evidence of those that visited this canyon centuries ago.

From here, we glide through some calmer stretches of river as we marvel at the walls towering overhead. At Matkatamiba Canyon we may venture up the narrow limestone slot canyon into an overhanging amphitheater and relax in the coolness of its grotto. Back on the river, we conquer Upset Rapid then stop to camp.

An early start gives us a long day to enjoy Havasu Canyon. Some may linger all day at the



blue-green pools near the river while others may hike to see the falls several miles away. After dinner the evening stars pale as our guides tell tales of the Colorado's most legendary stretch of whitewater, Lava Falls.

The following morning, each boat is swept into the churning, spitting power of the largest and most fabled rapid in Grand Canyon, battered by huge waves and flushed into calmer waters. Knuckles still white, we beach below the rapid to laugh at our fears and relive each shudder.

THE LAST DAY OF YOUR TRIP:

This morning, we'll reach Whitmore Wash where a helicopter will arrive to lift you to the rim followed by a short plane ride and then van transport to Las Vegas.

Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 8 or 9 days

Departures: May - August

Trip Price: from \$4188 per person.
For current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park

Minimum Age: 12 years

Best For: Adventure seekers who can confidently hike 9.7 miles into the canyon before taking on the biggest whitewater in North America

Activities: Rafting/dory, hiking

River Rating: 19 major rapids rated 5 or above on the Grand Canyon scale of 1-10

River Miles: 100

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft or dory

Sleep Kit: \$50

Tent Rental: Included

Additional Costs \$20 GCNP entrance fee

**See page 28-29 for more detailed info about our Grand Canyon trips, including answers to some commonly asked questions*

GRAND CANYON SAMPLER WHITMORE WASH TO LAKE MEAD

This 5-day sampler is ideal for those with time constraints who want to “get their feet wet” in Grand Canyon. We meet you in Las Vegas and transport you by van and small plane to Bar 10 Ranch for an afternoon of ranch activities, including horseback riding, ATV, horseshoe pitching, hiking, skeet shooting, and more, finishing with an evening of country entertainment. The next morning you fly by helicopter into the canyon where your guides await your arrival at Whitmore Wash. Covering 93 river miles in the lower Grand Canyon, this section offers fantastic scenery, relaxed floating, hiking and some fun whitewater. The trip ends with a jet boat ride down river to the take-out point at Pearce Ferry before returning to Las Vegas.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Fly from Las Vegas to Bar 10 Ranch for some good old-fashioned country-western hospitality
- ▶ Hike, horseback ride and skeet shoot at a working ranch
- ▶ Enjoy a scenic helicopter flight into Grand Canyon, landing on the banks of the Colorado River
- ▶ Tackle fun whitewater, ideal for first-timers



DAY 1: LAS VEGAS & BAR 10 RANCH

The trip starts in Las Vegas with a short flight to Bar 10 Ranch. Once there, enjoy lunch before taking in all of the fun activities the ranch has to offer. Finish the day with some country-western entertainment.

DAY 2: BAR 10 RANCH & WHITMORE WASH

The aroma of a country breakfast gently awakens you. Following breakfast, you'll fly by helicopter to the river's edge at Whitmore Wash where your river guides will be awaiting your arrival. After repacking your gear into water proof bags and a safety talk, we'll load the rafts, slip into life jackets and start down the river. Whitmore Rapid soon whets your appetite.

DAY 3: GRAND CANYON

Your whitewater hunger is soon satisfied in the churning waters of 205, 209 and 217 Mile rapids which discount the Grand Canyon myth that all the good whitewater occurs above Whitmore Wash. We spend a delightful day discovering these splashy, fun-filled rapids. More than just whitewater, however, the trip affords an opportunity to hike and explore this exquisite desert wonderland.

DAY 4: LOWER GRANITE GORGE

Today, we slip past Diamond Creek and then enter the lower Granite Gorge. We make our final camp near Separation Rapid. As we set up our last campsite, we celebrate the journey —our adventure is coming to a close. The stars seem extra lovely tonight.

DAY 5: LAKE MEAD & LAS VEGAS

In the morning, we'll board a jet boat for the final stretch down river to the take-out at Pearce Ferry. From here, you'll travel by coach (approximately 3-hour ride) back to Las Vegas.



Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 5 days

Departures: June - August

Trip Price: from \$2491 per person.

For current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Las Vegas, Nevada

Minimum Age: 7 years

Best For: Families with young kids or anybody short on time who wants to taste a little bit of Grand Canyon magic.

Activities: Rafting/dory, hiking, horseback riding

River Rating: 5 major rapids rated 5 or above on the Grand Canyon scale of 1-10; cold water with low to moderate flip/swim potential; moderate hiking

River Miles: 93

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft or dory

Sleep Kit & Tent Rental: Included

Additional Costs \$20 GCNP entrance fee

**See page 28-29 for more detailed info about our Grand Canyon trips, including answers to some commonly asked questions*



The OARS Grand Canyon Experience

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Will I see the entire canyon?

The Colorado River through Grand Canyon flows over 280 miles from Lees Ferry to Lake Mead with a river speed ranging from 2-4 mph in the smoother sections to 10-15 mph through the steeper rapids. Since our trips are human-powered, with our guides rowing the entire length of the canyon, a commitment of two-plus weeks is necessary to provide a more leisurely, immersive experience in Grand Canyon.

Shorter, partial canyon trip options are available, but due to Park Service regulations, once the boats have departed Lees Ferry, the river is accessible to river trip guests at only two other points—Phantom Ranch (by foot or mule) or Whitmore Wash (by helicopter)—before the take-out at Diamond Creek/Lake Mead. The only automobile access is found at the beginning or the end.



Raft or dory?

Our expeditions on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon use two different types of oar-powered boats: inflatable self-bailing rafts or hard-hulled dories. Both vessels hold four passengers plus a guide who pilots the boat with a long pair of oars. They each provide an exciting adventure, with some particular differences to consider. Because rafts are inflatable, they ride on top of the water and have a certain amount of “give.” Therefore, in big whitewater,

they tend to flex a little and plow through the tops of waves. They are self-bailing boats, meaning all the water that splashes in drains out through holes between the inflatable floor and the side tubes, no bailing required. Dories are sleek, double-ended boats made of fiberglass, wood and foam. Being a hard-hulled boat, a dory has no “give,” so when a large wave hits, it is lifted, providing a somewhat more pronounced, up-and-down ride through the rapids. As a passenger in a dory, you will assist in bailing the water out of the boat using a handheld bucket, and you need to be agile enough to quickly shift your weight to the “high side” of the boat when called upon by the guide, to help keep the boat from tipping over. The dory itineraries tend to run a day or two longer than the raft itineraries, which allows for extra time for hiking.

What are the water and whitewater conditions like?

The whitewater varies in intensity from mild to wild. Whitewater in Grand Canyon is rated on a scale of 1-10 (unlike most rivers, which generally utilize a scale of I-VI). In Grand Canyon, a “1” is flat water and a “10” is the most difficult rapid still considered runnable. The water levels are regulated by releases from Glen Canyon Dam, and variability in those releases means the height of the river can fluctuate up and down several feet within the day. Because the flow is dam regulated, the water levels remain fairly consistent, even in a drought year, with the higher flows coinciding with summer temperatures and the resulting increase in demand for hydro-electricity. Water releases are pulled from the bottom of Lake Powell, meaning the water temperature in Grand Canyon stays cold year-round at close to 50°F.

Do I have to do all of the side hikes?

On average we spend 3-5 hours per day traveling downstream on the boats, with the rest of the time hiking and exploring side canyons and points of interest, eating, or relaxing in camp. The easiest hikes are no more difficult than negotiating a few yards of beach sand or stepping over a few rocks. Others may go for several miles or more over a rough trail, climb steeply up a hot hillside, require use of both hands to ascend over cliff edges or boulders, and demand caution as you totter on a narrow trail above a steep cliff. Our guides are happy to help novices with hand- and foot-holds and reassurance. Many times their helpfulness enables the timid and inexperienced to get to special places that the other groups pass by. All exploratory side hikes are optional. Trips beginning or ending at Phantom Ranch, however, require guests to hike in or out of the canyon.



How difficult is the hike in or out of the canyon?

The Bright Angel Trail hike between the South Rim and the river is a serious, long (9.7 miles), and strenuous hike. It takes you in or out of one of the deepest canyons in the world with an elevation increase/decrease of more than 4,500 feet. Anyone considering hiking in or out of Grand Canyon must engage in focused physical conditioning prior to departure. Hiking out of the canyon is a cardiovascular workout, whereas the hike into the canyon is very punishing on one's joints, knees, and legs. They are both equally demanding, but in different ways. Our guests often underestimate the extreme challenge of hiking downhill for nearly 10 miles. The other elements that can make this hike difficult are the potential for extreme heat, carrying a daypack (including water), the length of the trail, and elevation. The bulk of your personal gear is transported by mule. The hike down to the river generally takes 4-7 hours, while the hike out to the South Rim generally takes 6-9 hours. As required by the National Park Service, a hiking escort accompanies our guests on hikes in and out of the canyon. Please note: This hike is not recommended for anyone in poor general health, the elderly, those with heart or lung disease, or those who are overweight or not physically fit.

How many people are on each trip?

On most departures, we travel as a group of up to 16 passengers, 4 guides and 4-5 additional crew members. Occasionally, groups may be made up of 18 - 20 guests, 5 guides and 4-5 additional crew members.

Other questions? Just give us a call and one of our knowledgeable adventure consultants will be happy to help you.



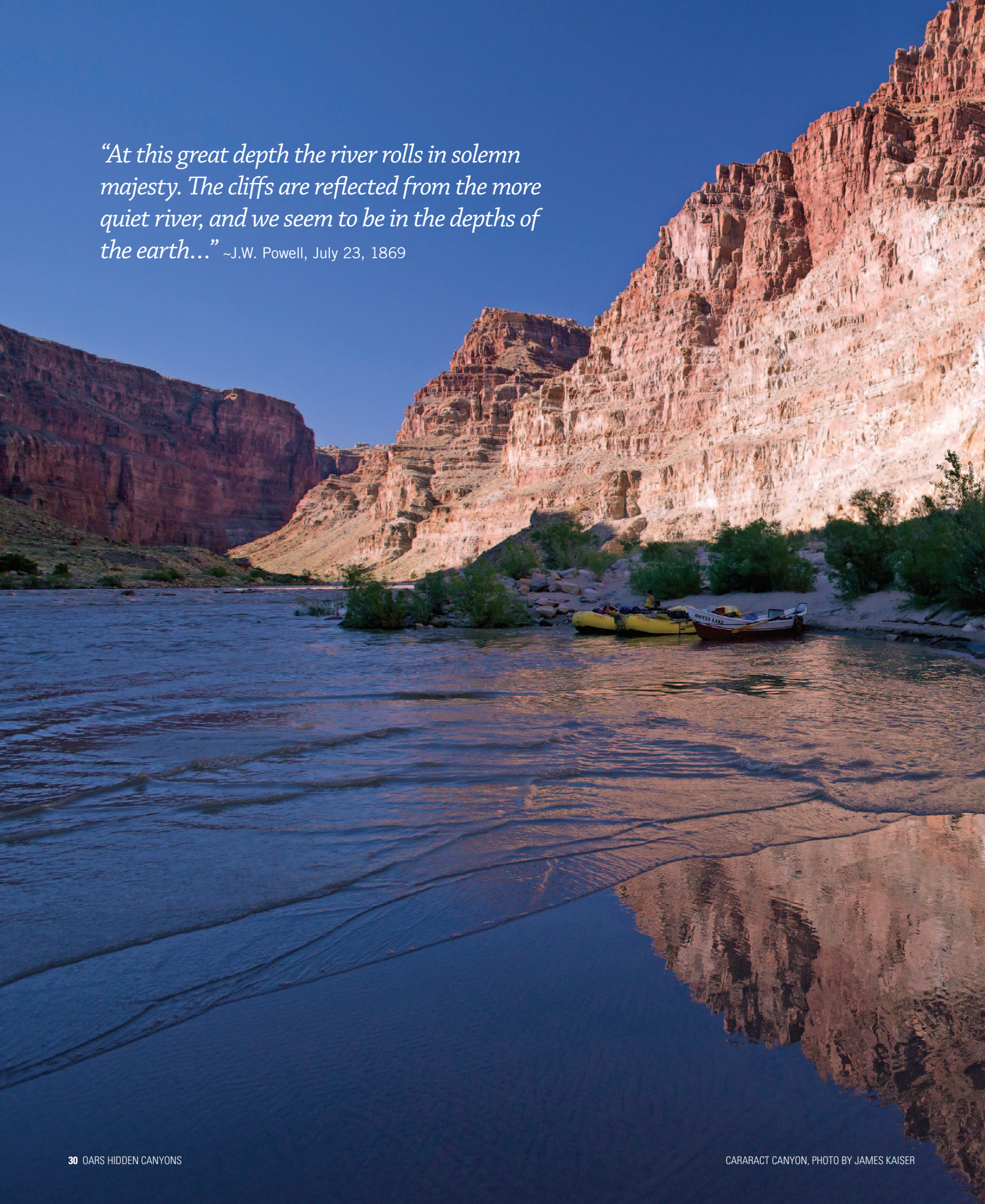
What kind of food and beverages can I expect?

Just like our other wilderness adventures throughout the West (see the OARS Experience on page 9 for further detail), the meals we serve in Grand Canyon are hearty and delicious, complete with fresh ingredients and a variety of foods. We also provide ample non-alcoholic beverages, but due to National Park Service regulations, we are not allowed to provide alcoholic beverages on Grand Canyon trips. You can, however, order alcohol from the beer/wine order form we'll send to you in advance of your trip. Alcoholic beverages are only allowed in moderate amounts during evening hours in camp.

When is the best time to go?

There is no "bad" time to be in Grand Canyon. Our early and late trips (April, September, and October) are longer, which allows for a more flexible schedule with possible layover days. The April trips usually catch the peak wildflower and cactus bloom. October is the "yellow" season with numerous yellow plants blooming and oblique lighting ideal for photography. The milder spring and fall temperatures create a comfortable environment for side canyon exploration. Also, in April and October we are sometimes able to have a campfire in the evenings. The summer months are the hottest and most crowded. Temperatures can soar to over 115 degrees in late June and July. There are likely to be some clouds and thundershowers in July and August (historically known as the monsoon season). During this time, localized thunderstorms can turn the Colorado River muddy and create spectacular red and brown waterfalls.

*“At this great depth the river rolls in solemn
majesty. The cliffs are reflected from the more
quiet river, and we seem to be in the depths of
the earth...”* ~J.W. Powell, July 23, 1869





Cataract Canyon, UT

Rafting the Colorado River through Cataract Canyon has it all: breathtaking scenery, multiple days of easy floating followed by wild Class III-IV whitewater. Add to that a range of hiking options in Utah's dramatic canyon country and you have a rafting adventure suitable for the whole gang. Explore Canyonlands National Park and get a taste of the wild waters of the Colorado River.

Feeling fearless? Then crank your adventure up a notch with a trip down Cataract Canyon in late spring. Snowmelt from the Rockies can yield big runoff and massive Class IV-V rapids and some of the country's most exciting whitewater in late May and June. Ask your adventure consultant if high water is right for you!

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to scenic overlooks, seasonal waterfalls & explore hidden side canyons
- Discover prehistoric ruins and rock art panels
- Camp in a Gold-tier International Dark Sky Park
- Fly over Canyonlands on a scenic return flight to Moab





THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP...

Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers in Moab for a pre-trip orientation. You'll also receive waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings in advance.

DAY 1: MEANDER CANYON

After a short drive to the put-in on the Colorado River, your guides will present a safety talk and orientation to the boats and gear. Once on the water, your mind will start to unwind as we cover some mileage before stopping for a short hike to see 250-million-year-old petrified wood. At camp, watch afternoon turn to evening as the guides prepare dinner and the sun sets behind towering canyon walls.

DAYS 2 - 4: MEANDER CANYON & THE CONFLUENCE

Each morning begins with a coffee call from the kitchen. Grab a hot drink and enjoy a hearty breakfast while watching the sunrise play out on the cliffs above you. As we venture further down the Colorado, the river meanders peacefully, each new bend revealing stunning views of eroded canyon country. Incredible side hikes beckon us along the way and we may visit the Lathrop archaeological site or explore Indian Creek Canyon, where ancestral Puebloan ruins and a stunning seasonal waterfall await.

Further downstream, the Colorado winds through the Loop—an exceptional example

of the river's convoluted twists and turns and a venue for another great hike—before we reach the confluence with the Green River. Here, the current picks up, signaling the beginning of Cataract Canyon. We try for one of the great campsites in the upper reaches of Cataract Canyon where a mesmerizing spectacle of a billion bright stars awaits us.

Camp location and weather permitting, the active hikers among us may have an early morning opportunity to hike up to the Doll House area of Canyonlands National Park.



DAY 5: CATARACT CANYON

Today, we roll into the depths of Cataract Canyon to challenge the Big Drops and the big wave excitement of the mighty Colorado. After a day of drenching whitewater, we make camp and toast to thrills and spills with new friends. On the final night, revel at the river's edge before enjoying a farewell feast.

DAY 6: CATARACT CANYON, NARROW CANYON & LAKE POWELL

After a delicious breakfast, we wind through the final dramatic miles of Cataract Canyon, where lofty cliffs rise 2,000 feet above us. There may be a few fun rapids to tackle before we reach Lake Powell and our take-out at Hite Crossing. The grand finale to the trip is a scenic flight back to Moab that retraces our path through the canyon from high above, giving us a bird's-eye perspective of the beautiful landscape and time to reflect on the journey.



INTERESTED IN A SHORTER ADVENTURE?

Our 4-day Cataract Canyon rafting trip travels the same stretch of river on paddle rafts, but the first 50 miles is motorized to help us reach the heart of the canyon (and thrilling whitewater) more quickly. You won't miss a thing in this land of looming sandstone and rugged beauty first explored by John Wesley Powell in 1869.

Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 4 or 6 days

Departures: April - October

Trip Price: from \$1649 to \$1799 per person based on the regular adult rate.

For youth rates, current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Moab, UT

Minimum Age: 9 years (16 at high water)

Best For: Adventurous beginners and thrill seekers

Activities: Rafting, hiking, stargazing

River Rating: Class III-IV rapids (Class V possible in May and June); cold water with high flip/swim potential during peak flows

River Miles: 84 miles of scenic flat water + 12 miles of Class III-V whitewater (depending on water levels)

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options:

6-day: Oar raft, dory, inflatable kayak, SUP, snout raft

4-day: Paddle raft, oar raft, snout raft

Sleep Kit: \$40

Tent Rental: Included

The OARS Cataract Canyon Experience

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

What types of boats are used in Cataract Canyon?

The variety of boats on our trips may vary based on water levels, the number of participants and other factors we take into account when planning your adventure. We can't guarantee exactly which crafts we bring, but trust us to provide you with the best possible mix for you and others on your trip. Inflatable, self-bailing oar rafts are our flagship boats and carry 3-5 passengers, along with the bulk of gear on most of our multi-day adventures. Ample deck space allows for lounging in calm stretches, while sturdy weight and width make them more stable for taking big waves head-on. For most trips, we bring a small outboard motor that we can attach to an oar raft to help the group efficiently make downstream progress in long, flat-water stretches. On 4-day trips, we typically bring a paddle raft for the rapids, while on our 6-day trips we bring inflatable kayaks and stand up paddleboards for guests to enjoy on calmer sections. At some water levels, we may also launch a hard-hulled dory, which is a sleek, aluminum or fiberglass boat that provides a more pronounced, up-and-down ride through the rapids. Motorized snout rafts are often used on our 4-day Cataract Canyon trips to efficiently get us through the first leg of our adventure which is a calmer section of the Colorado River. In some cases, you may see these boats on a 6-day trip to accommodate extra gear, or more frequently, during high water conditions when motorized snout rafts can provide additional safety. Snout rafts are 22-foot pontoon crafts with a stand alone motor rig designed for whitewater. They are more maneuverable on the river and relatively stable in big water compared to rafts or dories and can accommodate up to 8 guests. Ride up front for the biggest hits, or sit in the rear for a drier ride. Due to their motor and size they're able to "catch" a raft mid-stream, and can help retrieve people or gear in big water.

What is the whitewater like?

The Colorado River, which is born from the snowpack high in the Rocky Mountains and largely undammed above Cataract Canyon, can exhibit extreme variations in water levels at different times of year. In the typical high-water season of May and June, experienced whitewater enthusiasts delight in the huge waves and the famous "Big Drops," which at times can make even Grand Canyon's Lava and Crystal Rapids seem tame. At peak flows, this can be some of the biggest navigable whitewater in the U.S. Later in the season, typically from July through October, Cataract Canyon becomes a more moderate run with less intimidating rapids, great for active adults and families with kids as young as nine.

When is the best time to go?

April trips are often before peak flows and can offer incredible wildflower displays and mild temperatures ideal for hiking. May and June trips during high water are more adventurous, with daytime temperatures ranging from 80 to 90 degrees and evening temps in the mild 50s. The summer months are the hottest and busiest time on the river. Temperatures can soar to over 100 degrees in July and August. This period is also known as monsoon season when localized thunderstorms can turn the Colorado River muddy and create spectacular red and brown waterfalls. September and October again offer mild temperatures and ideal hiking conditions, but daylight hours are fewer.

Will there be hiking opportunities?

On average, you'll spend 4-6 hours per day on the boats. The rest of the time will be spent hiking and exploring, eating, or just relaxing in camp. While there is ample opportunity for the curious to explore the area at length, we generally plan at least three guided hikes on each trip (more on 6-day trips). Weather permitting and depending on camp locations, active hikers may have the opportunity to make an early morning, 1,500-foot vertical hike up to the Doll House area of Canyonlands, which offers astounding views in all directions. Due to the strenuous nature of the hike, however, we're typically unable to undertake it during the intense heat of mid-summer. Other hikes may lead to ancestral Puebloan ruins, seasonal waterfalls, scenic overlooks or into hidden slot canyons. If you are an avid hiker, remember to bring extra water bottles and good shoes. All hikes are optional and you can always choose to relax, play beach games or read a book instead.


What kind of food & beverages can I expect?

Just like our other wilderness adventures throughout the West (see the OARS Experience on page 9 for further detail), the meals we serve on Cataract Canyon trips are hearty and delicious, complete with fresh ingredients and a variety of foods. We also provide ample non-alcoholic beverages, including drinking water and an assortment of soda, sparkling water, fruit juices and lemonade. In Utah, commercial outfitters may not provide any type of alcohol for guests. However, you may bring your own supply of beer, wine or liquor in non-glass containers, which can be enjoyed in moderate amounts during evening hours in camp.

How many people are on each trip?

For Cataract Canyon trips, average group size is 16, but we can take up to 24 passengers, with one guide for every 4 - 5 guests.

Other questions? Just give us a call and one of our knowledgeable adventure consultants will be happy to help you.



“A succession of rapids, or rather a continuous rapid with a succession of cataracts, for 20 miles kept our nerves drawn up to their greatest tension.” ~Powell Crew Member George Bradley, July 9, 1869



Desolation Canyon, UT

Named by John Wesley Powell during his historic descent of the Green and Colorado Rivers in 1869, this underrated stretch of the Green River is far from desolate. Dramatic red rock walls tower as high as Grand Canyon in some places and a verdant ribbon of riverside foliage, cottonwood groves, and big sandy beaches define this stretch of river. Inside the canyon walls you'll find remnants of past visitors, from ancient rock art and stone ruins left by the Fremont Indians to abandoned homesteads and outlaw hideouts. This 84-mile stretch of river also boasts ample family-friendly whitewater along with peaceful stretches, perfect for contemplation, paddling an inflatable kayak, or trying out a stand up paddleboard. This journey through a true hidden canyon is nothing short of majestic.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Enjoy a bird's eye view of Desolation Canyon on a flight to the put-in
- ▶ Splash through 50+ fun, Class II-III rapids and try a wide variety of boats
- ▶ Camp on sandy beaches or in cottonwood groves with great access to hiking
- ▶ Watch for eagles soaring overhead, bighorn sheep, bears, and even bison
- ▶ Marvel at thousand-year-old ruins and petroglyphs & explore abandoned homesteads





THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP...

Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers in Moab for a pre-trip orientation. You'll also receive waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings in advance.

DAY 1: SCENIC FLIGHT FROM MOAB & DESOLATION CANYON

The trip begins with a scenic flight from Moab where we have the opportunity to get a bird's eye view of the desert landscape en route to the put-in. After a thorough safety talk, we'll hike 1.5 miles down into the canyon, where our boats and crew will be waiting to begin the journey.

Today, we float a calm stretch of the Green River, and depending on water levels, may use a motor assist to cover enough miles to reach our first camp. This is the perfect opportunity to watch the gorgeous desert panoramas develop.

After a delicious picnic lunch and early afternoon of floating, we stop and make camp. Grab your bags and set up your tent while the guides take care of the rest. Nap, take an exploratory hike, play beach games or just sit back and laugh with friends and family as the guides prepare dinner. Before long, we'll be savoring pleasing hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a satisfying feast. The evening is yours to cozy up next to the fire (if permitted), share stories or jokes with the group, or just relax to the whisper of the river under the clarity of the big, star-filled sky.

DAYS 2 - 3: DESOLATION CANYON

Grab a hot drink and enjoy a hearty breakfast as the morning light paints the canyon walls with brilliant shades of desert colors. After packing up camp, we continue downstream for the next several days, exploring along the way. This portion of the river was home to the ancient Fremont Indians. We may stop to see intriguing petroglyphs like the ones at Flat Canyon, or unravel our pioneer past at sites like Rock Creek Ranch.

The frequency of thrilling whitewater begins to pick up, and as we float further into this deep canyon, we encounter 40 million years of geologic time. Rock walls begin to soar up to the sky above. At points Desolation Canyon is deeper than Grand Canyon at the Bright Angel Trail.

By late afternoon, we look for a nice sandy beach or cottonwood grove where we can make camp for the night. There may be a hiking opportunity, or perhaps you'd rather just relax and wait for dinner—always a trip highlight. From here, we gather around the camp "living room" for nighttime conversation and laughter.



DAY 4: GRAY CANYON

As we find ourselves fully relaxed and in-tune with life on the river, the looming red rock walls of Desolation Canyon suddenly transform to lower and sparser cliffs of gray, brown and white signaling the start of Gray Canyon.

The whitewater increases with each passing day, and today, we may encounter a few of

the more technical rapids like Joe Hutch (Cow Swim), Three Fords and Coal Creek.

Back at camp, we enjoy a farewell feast together as we recount the thrills of the day and wait for the billion stars above to put on their show for the night.

DAY 5: GRAY CANYON & RETURN TO MOAB

After a delicious breakfast, we wind through the final miles of Gray Canyon, tackling a few more fun, splashy rapids and one last delicious lunch before we reach our take-out at Swasey's Boat Ramp.

Here, you'll say goodbye to your guides and soak in the last glimpses of the river before boarding a shuttle for the trip back to Moab.

Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 5 days

Departures: May - September

Trip Price: from \$1649 per person based on the regular adult rate.

For youth rates, current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Moab, UT

Minimum Age: 7 years (11 at high water)

Best For: Everyone from first-timers to experienced paddlers

Activities: Rafting, hiking

River Rating: Class II-III rapids; cold water with low to moderate flip/swim potential during peak flows

River Miles: 84 miles

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft, inflatable kayak, SUP, paddle raft

Sleep Kit: Included

Tent Rental: Included

Additional Costs: \$25 BLM Fee

The OARS Desolation Canyon Experience

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

What types of boats are used in Desolation Canyon?

The variety of boats on our trips may vary based on water levels, the number of participants and other factors we take into account when planning your adventure. We can't guarantee exactly which crafts we bring, but trust us to provide you with the best possible mix for you and others on your trip. Inflatable, self-bailing oar rafts are our flagship boats and carry 3-5 passengers, along with the bulk of gear on most of our multi-day adventures. Ample deck space allows for lounging in calm stretches, while sturdy weight and width make them more stable for taking big waves head-on.

For Desolation Canyon trips, we may also attach a small outboard motor to one of our oar rafts to help the group efficiently make downstream progress on day one. On our smaller and sportier paddle rafts, everyone (4-8 passengers) handles a paddle while the guide steers and gives directions from the rear. Typically, in Desolation Canyon we'll bring a combination of oar rafts and a paddle raft, along with inflatable kayaks and stand-up paddle boards, which our guests can pilot on their own. At some water levels, we may also bring a hard-hulled dory.



What is the whitewater like?

This section of the Green River offers splashy Class II-III rapids. You will encounter more than 50 rapids along with calm stretches that inspire swimming, watching wildlife or just gazing at the breathtaking canyon scenery.

When is the best time to go?

Peak runoff through Desolation Canyon usually occurs between mid-May and mid-June. High-water conditions, colder water and cooler temperatures during this period typically offer a more intense whitewater experience, and a higher minimum age. Outside of the high-water window, Desolation Canyon serves up plenty of excitement for seasoned boaters and is ideal for first-time rafters and families. In the weeks immediately following high water, mosquitoes may be bothersome so come prepared.

Will there be hiking opportunities?

On average, you'll spend 4-6 hours per day on the boats. The rest of the time will be spent hiking and exploring, eating, or just relaxing in camp. While we generally plan at least three guided hikes on each trip, there is ample opportunity for the curious to explore the area at length. All hikes are optional, and you can always choose to rest, read a book or play beach games instead.



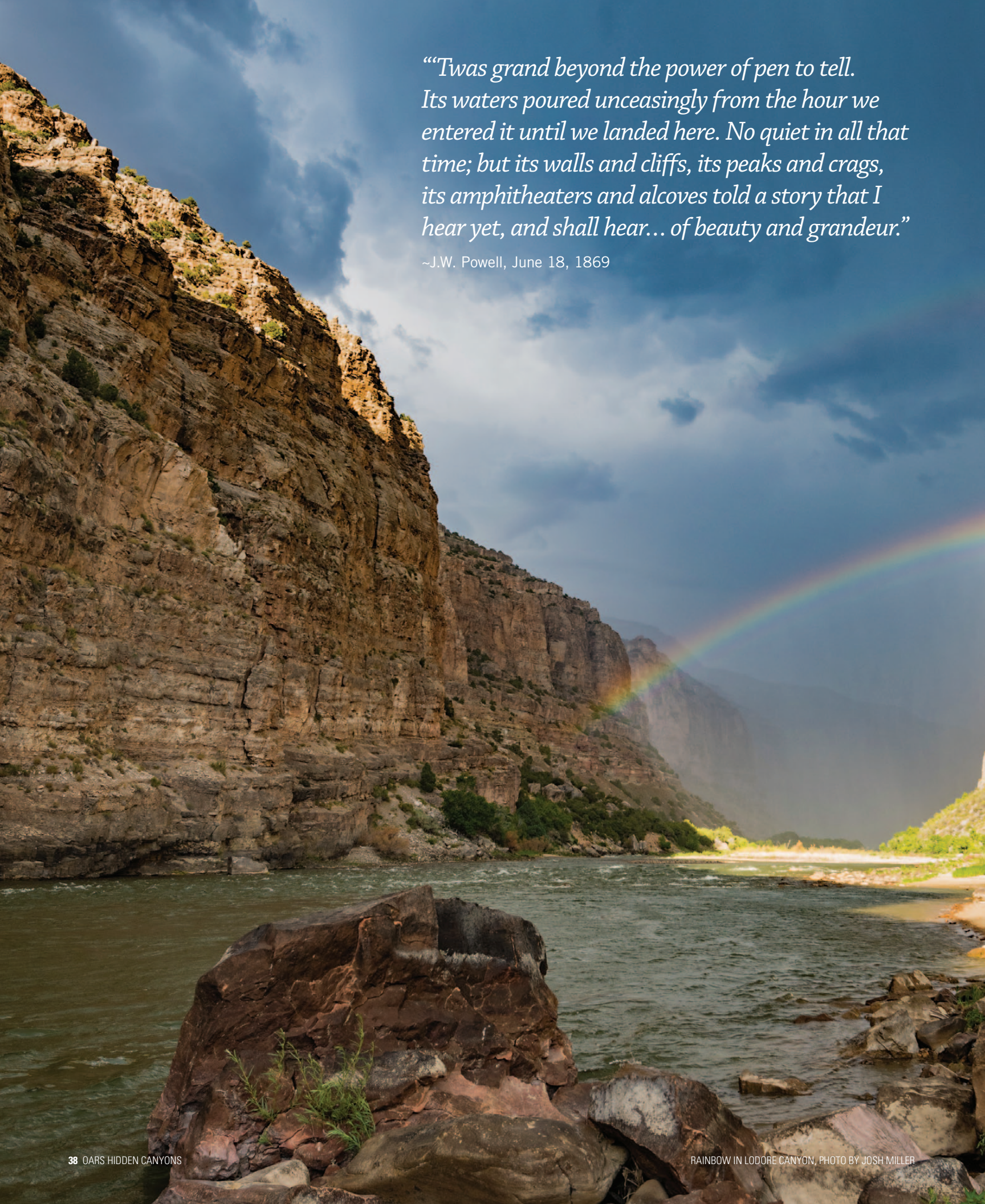
What kind of food & beverages can I expect?

Just like our other wilderness adventures throughout the West (see the OARS Experience on page 9 for further detail), the meals we serve on Desolation Canyon trips are hearty and delicious, complete with fresh ingredients and a variety of foods. We also provide ample non-alcoholic beverages, including drinking water and an assortment of soda, sparkling water, fruit juices and lemonade. In Utah, commercial outfitters may not provide any type of alcohol for guests. However, you may bring your own supply of beer, wine or liquor in non-glass containers, which can be enjoyed in moderate amounts during evening hours in camp.

How many people are on each trip?

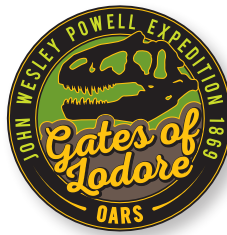
For Desolation Canyon trips, average group size is 16, but we can take up to 25 passengers, with one guide for every 4 - 5 guests.

Other questions? Just give us a call and one of our knowledgeable adventure consultants will be happy to help you.



*“Twas grand beyond the power of pen to tell.
Its waters poured unceasingly from the hour we
entered it until we landed here. No quiet in all that
time; but its walls and cliffs, its peaks and crags,
its amphitheaters and alcoves told a story that I
hear yet, and shall hear... of beauty and grandeur.”*

~J.W. Powell, June 18, 1869



Gates of Lodore, UT

Dinosaur National Monument is an open-air archive of ancient Native American sites and far-out fossils. Within the Monument, the river twists through scarlet canyons, yawning valleys and lush ledges of piñon pine and box elder, offering paddlers scenery that rivals Grand Canyon. Beyond its striking geology, this laid-back rafting trip on the Green River offers gorgeous side hikes, exciting whitewater and beach camping at its best. It's an adventure worthy of rounding up your crew of friends or family.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Wind through stunning red rock canyons where steep walls rise dramatically from the river
- Splash through friendly, big-wave rapids that inspire non-stop smiles and laughter
- Trek to hidden waterfalls, beautiful oases and lush side canyons
- Discover prehistoric fossils, Fremont petroglyphs & Wild West hangouts preserved in a geologic time capsule
- Relax on beautiful sandy beaches, perfect for games, campfire chats & stargazing





THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP...

Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers at the OARS warehouse in Vernal, Utah for a pre-trip orientation and to receive waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings in advance.

DAY 1: GATES OF LODORE

The trip begins with a scenic drive from Vernal to our put-in at the Gates of Lodore, where your guides will present a safety talk and orientation to the boats and gear.

Once on the water, we pass through the spectacular “Gates,” where the striking scenery of the canyon immediately grabs our attention. The whitewater also starts off with a bang as we challenge some of the river’s most exciting rapids: Winnie’s Rapid, Upper and Lower Disaster Falls.

Our first day generally sets the pace for our time on the river. Typically, we spend a few hours on the water in the morning, sometimes stopping for a great hike or a refreshing swim.

At lunchtime we pull over to a sandy beach and enjoy a delicious picnic and perhaps a game of Frisbee or horseshoes. Following lunch, it’s back to the boats where we can watch the desert panoramas slowly develop in between bursts of thrilling whitewater before stopping late-afternoon to make camp.

At camp, grab your bags and set up your tent while the guides take care of the rest. This is the perfect time for you to lounge on the beach with a book, nap, or challenge your friends and family to some raucous beach games as the guides prepare dinner. Grab a beverage of your

choice, and before long you’ll be savoring hors d’oeuvres and a satisfying feast.

The evening is yours to spend however you wish. Maybe music, stories or jokes will bring us together around the campfire (if permitted), or perhaps the whisper of the river and the clarity of the big, star-filled sky will encourage silent reflection on the amazing wilderness that is, for now, our home.

DAY 2 - 3: LODORE CANYON & WHIRLPOOL CANYON

Grab a hot drink and hearty breakfast as you enjoy the glory of the awakening river before we pack up camp. Back on the boats, we continue downstream in a similar pace to the previous day. Harp Falls, Triplet Falls, and Hell’s Half Mile are just a few of the first rapids that will provide plenty of big thrills, yet there are enough calm sections to allow us time to sit back and soak in the remote splendor of Lodore as we travel through some of the oldest exposed rock in the world.



One of the best hikes of the trip awaits us at Rippling Brook—the perfect place for a cooling shower. From here, we pass the confluence of the Yampa River, winding around iconic Steamboat Rock and into Echo Park.

On this stretch of the trip, we may stop to visit some intriguing Fremont petroglyphs, hike to Whispering Cave, or follow the trail alongside beautiful Jones Hole Creek to amazingly well-preserved panels of prehistoric pictographs and petroglyphs.

By late afternoon, we make camp, again finding ourselves on a pristine sandy beach. You can take this opportunity for a self-guided walk, to join a game of volleyball or just kick and relax before another scrumptious meal. Following dinner, we inevitably gather for an evening of conversation and laughter with new friends.

DAY 4: SPLIT MOUNTAIN CANYON

We enjoy our last serene riverside breakfast, before our final day on the river.

Following a bit of flat water, we enter Split Mountain Canyon, where the river’s gradient becomes considerably steeper. Four major rapids will deliver plenty of whitewater excitement before we reach our take-out point at Split Mountain and board a shuttle for a short ride back to Vernal.

Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 3, 4 or 5 days

Departures: May - September

Trip Price: from \$849 to \$1299 per person based on the regular adult rate.

For youth rates, current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Vernal, UT

Minimum Age: 7 years (12 at high water)

Best For: Families and laid-back vacationers

Activities: Rafting, hiking

River Rating: Class III

River Miles: 44 miles

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft, paddle raft, inflatable kayak, stand up paddleboard

Sleep Kit: \$40

Tent Rental: Included

Additional Costs: \$15 NPS Fee

The OARS Gates of Lodore Experience

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

What types of boats are used on Gates of Lodore trips?

The variety of boats on our trips may vary based on water levels, the number of participants and other factors we take into account when planning your adventure. We can't guarantee exactly which crafts we bring, but trust us to provide you with the best possible mix for you and others on your trip.

Inflatable, self-bailing oar rafts are our flagship boats and carry 3-5 passengers, along with the bulk of gear on most of our multi-day adventures. Ample deck space allows for lounging in calm stretches, while sturdy weight and width make them more stable for taking big waves head-on. On our smaller and sportier paddle rafts, 4-8 passengers handle a paddle while the guide steers and gives directions from the rear. Typically, for Gates of Lodore trips you may see a combination of oar rafts and paddle rafts, along with inflatable kayaks and stand-up paddle boards, which our guests can pilot on their own.



What is the whitewater like?

This section of the Green River offers thrilling Class III rapids, interspersed with calm sections that inspire swimming, watching for wildlife, and gazing at canyon scenery. Despite these slower stretches, the whitewater is consistent and you'll challenge major rapids each day, plus lots of smaller waves and riffles that can be extra exciting in inflatable kayaks.

When is the best time to go?

Peak flows on the Green River usually occur between mid-May to mid-June, depending on when the controlling agency at Flaming Gorge Dam releases water upstream to make room for inflow. High water conditions and colder water during this period typically offers a more intense whitewater experience, ideal for experienced paddlers and thrill seekers. Outside of this high-water window, typically during prime summer months, Lodore's bouncy, big-wave rapids serve up plenty of excitement for just about everyone, including first-time rafters and families with children as young as seven.

Will there be hiking opportunities?



On average, you'll spend 4-6 hours per day on the boats. The rest of the time will be spent hiking and exploring, eating, or just relaxing in camp. While we generally plan at least three guided hikes on each trip, there is ample opportunity for the curious to explore the area at length. All hikes are optional, and you can always choose to rest, read a book or play beach games instead.

What kind of food & beverages can I expect?

Just like our other wilderness adventures throughout the West (see the OARS Experience on page 9 for further detail), the meals we serve on Gates of Lodore trips are hearty and delicious, complete with fresh ingredients and a variety of foods. We also provide ample non-alcoholic beverages, including drinking water and an assortment of soda, sparkling water, fruit juices and lemonade. In Utah, commercial outfitters may not provide any type of alcohol for guests. However, you may bring your own supply of beer, wine or liquor in non-glass containers, which can be enjoyed in moderate amounts during evening hours in camp.

How many people are on each trip?

For Lodore trips, our average group size is 16, but we can take up to 25 passengers, with one guide for every 4 - 5 guests.

Other questions? Just give us a call and one of our knowledgeable adventure consultants will be happy to help you.

“It enters the range by a flaring, brilliant red gorge, that may be seen from the north a score of miles away.” ~J.W. Powell, May 26, 1869





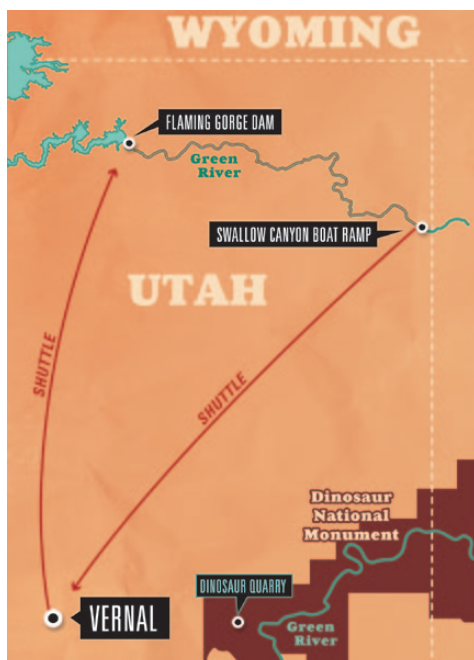
Flaming Gorge, UT

Brilliant red-hued cliffs and fun, splashy waters await you on a Flaming Gorge rafting trip. Not far from Dinosaur National Monument, this crystal-clear stretch of the Green River offers no-stress whitewater, interspersed with calm sections that inspire swimming, watching for wildlife and gazing at the stunning canyon scenery. The river is also teeming with trout, which has earned it the reputation as one of the country's finest trout fishing streams. Ideal for young families and first-timers, this ultra-scenic adventure is a crowd-pleaser.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Enjoy striking desert panoramas & bouncy Class II whitewater suitable for even the youngest paddlers
- ▶ Fish for rainbow, cutthroat & brown trout in the cold, clear waters that flow from Flaming Gorge Reservoir
- ▶ Play games, swim or just sit back and laugh with friends and family at camp
- ▶ Step back into a forgotten era and get a glimpse of pioneer life at the Jarvie Historic Ranch
- ▶ See an impressive array of wild animals and bird life as you float toward Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge





THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TRIP...

Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers at the OARS warehouse in Vernal, UT for a pre-trip orientation and to receive waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings in advance.

DAY 1: RED CANYON & FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The trip begins with a scenic drive from Vernal to our put-in below the Flaming Gorge Dam, where your guides will present a safety talk and orientation to the boats and gear.

As we float into the heart of Ashley National Forest (Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area), the first day is full of frolicking white-water, including Anticipation Rapid, Roller Coaster Rapid and Mother-in-Law Rapid.

We may stop for an exploratory hike or swim, and at lunchtime we'll pull over to a sandy beach and enjoy a delicious picnic and perhaps a game of Frisbee or horseshoes. Following lunch, we make some more miles before stopping late-afternoon to make camp.

At camp, grab your bags and set up your tent while the guides take care of the rest. This is the perfect time to lounge on the beach with a book, nap, fish or just sit back and laugh with friends and family as the guides prepare dinner. Grab a beverage of your choice, and before long you'll be savoring hors d'oeuvres and a satisfying feast.

The evening is yours to spend however you wish. Maybe music, stories or jokes will bring

us together around the campfire (if permitted), or perhaps the whisper of the river and the clarity of the big, star-filled sky will encourage silent reflection on the amazing wilderness that is, for now, our home.

DAY 2: FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA & BROWNS PARK

Grab a hot drink and enjoy a hearty breakfast as the morning light paints the canyon walls with the colors of sunrise.

Back on the boats, we continue downstream in a similar pace to the previous day. As we settle into river life, take the opportunity to try an inflatable kayak or stand up paddleboard, or just kick back and bask in the sunshine and stunning landscape.

By late afternoon, we make camp, finding ourselves among lodgepole pines and junipers. The guides might arrange a hike, or you can take this opportunity to relax before dinner. Following dinner, we inevitably gather around the campfire for an evening of conversation and laughter with new friends.



DAY 3: SWALLOW CANYON & BROWNS PARK WATERFOWL REFUGE

We enjoy another serene sunrise and breakfast, before hopping on the boats for our last day on the river.

Today, we may stop to spend time at the world-famous Jarvie Ranch, a BLM-restored historic site offering visitors a glimpse into turn-of-the-century pioneer life, before tackling our final whitewater.

As we descend into Browns Park, swift currents will carry us through Swallow Canyon

and into the Browns Park Waterfowl Refuge where we'll quickly reach our take-out point and board a shuttle for the return trip to Vernal.

Short on time, but still want to experience idyllic canyon country on a quick and fun whitewater adventure? OARS also offers 1-day Flaming Gorge rafting trips on a 7-mile scenic stretch of the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir.



Reserve Your Trip

Trip Length: 1 or 3 days

Departures: June - August

Trip Price: from \$119 or \$799 per person based on the regular adult rate.

For youth rates, current pricing or to reserve your trip today, call 1-800-346-6277 or visit oars.com

Quick Facts

Meeting Place: Vernal, UT

Minimum Age: 4 years (7 at high water)

Best For: First-timers and families

Activities: Rafting, hiking, fishing

River Rating: Class II

River Miles: 27 miles

Lodging: Comfy catered camping

Boat Options: Oar raft, paddle raft, inflatable kayak, stand up paddleboard

Sleep Kit: \$40

Tent Rental: Included

The OARS Flaming Gorge Experience

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

What types of boats are used on Flaming Gorge trips?

The variety of boats on our trips may vary based on water levels, the number of participants and other factors we take into account when planning your adventure. We can't guarantee exactly which crafts we bring, but trust us to provide you with the best possible mix for you and others on your trip.



Inflatable, self-bailing oar rafts are our flagship boats and carry 3-5 passengers, along with the bulk of gear on most of our multi-day adventures. Ample deck space allows for lounging in calm stretches, while sturdy weight and width make them more stable for taking big waves head-on. On our smaller and sportier paddle rafts, 4-8 passengers handle a paddle while the guide steers and gives directions from the rear. Typically, for Flaming Gorge trips you may see a combination of oar rafts and paddle rafts, along with inflatable kayaks and stand-up paddle boards, which our guests can pilot on their own.

What is the whitewater like?

The Flaming Gorge section of the Green River offers splashy Class II rapids, interspersed with calm sections that inspire swimming, watching for wildlife, and gazing at canyon scenery. Despite these slower stretches, the whitewater is consistent. You'll challenge minor rapids plus dozens of smaller waves and riffles that offer plenty of excitement for the whole family.

When is the best time to go?

With trips departing mid-June through August, there is no bad time to raft Flaming Gorge. We put in just below Flaming Gorge Dam, typically after spring releases from the dam and peak flows on the Green River. During these prime summer months water conditions are ideal for first-time rafters and families with children as young as four years, as well as fishermen hoping to cast a line. While afternoon thunderstorms occasionally pop up, hot daytime temperatures ranging from high 80s to low 90s inspire plenty of swimming in the river's chilly waters.

Will there be hiking opportunities?

On average, you'll spend 4-6 hours per day on the boats. The rest of the time will be spent hiking and exploring, eating, or just relaxing in camp. While we generally plan at least three guided hikes on each trip, there is ample opportunity for the curious to explore the area at length. All hikes are optional, and you can always choose to rest, read a book, fish or play beach games instead.

What kind of food & beverages can I expect?



Just like our other wilderness adventures throughout the West (see the OARS Experience on page 9 for further detail), the meals we serve on Flaming Gorge trips are hearty and delicious, complete with fresh ingredients and a variety of foods. We also provide ample non-alcoholic beverages, including drinking water and an assortment of soda, sparkling water, fruit juices and lemonade. In Utah, commercial outfitters may not provide any type of alcohol for guests.

However, you may bring your own supply of beer, wine or liquor in non-glass containers, which can be enjoyed in moderate amounts during evening hours in camp.

How many people are on each trip?

For Flaming Gorge trips, our average group size is 12, but we can take up to 16 passengers, with one guide for every 4 - 5 guests.

Other questions? Just give us a call and one of our knowledgeable adventure consultants will be happy to help you.

The Insider's Guide to Packing for a River Trip in Canyon Country

You've been booked on your rafting trip for months—or in the case of Grand Canyon, maybe closer to two years—but now the wait is over. The time has come to embark on one of the greatest adventures of your life. So, let's get packing! Joy Parades, OARS Grand Canyon Adventure Consultant, shares the ins and outs of packing for a rafting trip in canyon country.

The List

Don't wait until the last minute. You'll just get stressed out. Start planning early by reading the trip information that was emailed to you. The itinerary includes a detailed packing list and description of what to wear and how to pack. All of the items are on the list for a reason. I personally do not like to pack gear that I may not use, but I would rather be prepared instead of miserable on my vacation.

Waterproof Bags

"My stuff won't fit in the waterproof bags!" If you bring what is on our packing list, I assure you, there will be room for everything. Your gear will be divided between two large waterproof bags (one for clothing and personal items and one for your sleep kit), daypack and small waterproof bag. The large waterproof bags are your "checked luggage" and only available from when you arrive in camp each afternoon until you pack up the next morning. The daypack and small waterproof bag are your "carry-on luggage" and will be with you on the boats to access during the day. These bags should have such items as rain gear, hiking shoes/socks, camera, eco-friendly sunscreen, lip balm, medications, extra layers of clothing and any small things you don't want squished in your large bag.

Packing Tips

If you bring something with you that won't be used on the river, pack it at the bottom of your large waterproof bag—travel clothes, valuables (wallet, car keys, etc.) and collapsible duffel (if you are doing a partial Grand Canyon trip). Our bags are cylindrical in shape like a tube standing on end, so whatever you put in the bottom will stay there.

I use one- or two-gallon Ziploc® bags to organize my gear. They allow you to easily see what you have and keep everything clean. In each individual Ziploc® bag categorize your gear like toiletries, camp clothes, underwear/long underwear, book/notebook, etc. I like to put a basic "outfit" in one bag with my swimsuit, shorts and a long-sleeve shirt. Bulky items like a fleece top or bottom can be packed directly into the waterproof bag.

For your daypack, I recommend putting everything in a plastic bag first and then into the pack. There's a good chance your daypack will get wet while going through rapids.

Pack Light and Reuse

Plan on wearing your clothes for multiple days. Clothing can easily be washed out in the river with eco-friendly biodegradable soap like

Campsuds or Dr. Bronners. The climate in the desert is extremely dry, so laundry dries out quickly.

Synthetic Layering

This is one of the most important elements of dressing and packing for a river trip in a desert climate. Instead of bringing one heavy top and bottom, you want to have several pieces of synthetic clothing to layer. This gives you the ability to adapt to a variety of weather conditions. Clothing made of synthetic fibers will wick the moisture away from your skin and keep you warm, even if wet.

Only when you have hot, dry days on the river, is cotton preferred. You can douse your cotton shirt in the river and the soaked cotton will have a cooling effect. With that said, July and August can be very hot, but these months are also traditionally known as monsoon season. Thunderstorms this time of year can produce heavy downpours causing the temperature to plummet for a of period time. Raingear will only keep you dry, but a fleece top and bottom can take the chill off until the storm subsides and it warms up again.

For spring or fall trips, I would suggest bringing two sets of long underwear, as well as fleece. If you have a cooler day, you will want to wear one set on the boats, but still have a second dry set to wear in camp.

Rain gear

Rain gear is very important no matter when you float down the Colorado River and its canyons. It's not just for rain. A waterproof jacket and pants protect you from rain, splash from the rapids and wind and they can be that one last bit of insulation you need to stay warm. Note the key word is waterproof, not just water-resistant.

Function over Fashion

And my last piece of advice is that your river clothes should serve a function. Depending on the season, they will be your sun protection, keep you dry from rain and rapid spray or provide warmth. Functionality should take precedence over fashion. In camp you will want to take off your river clothes and get comfortable. This is where you might want to mix it up with something fun and fashionable. Maybe a colorful sarong, printed happy pants, Hawaiian shirt or tie-dyed sundress. Have fun with it.

It's your amazing adventure!



THE TRUE COST OF AN EXCEPTIONAL ADVENTURE

WE UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE MANY OPTIONS WHEN CHOOSING A RAFTING OR NATURE-BASED ADVENTURE. HERE'S WHY WE FEEL OARS IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOUR NEXT TRIP...

A Family Affair

Late OARS founder and president, George Wendt, left behind what may be one of the largest outfitting companies in the world. Still, our roots as a family-owned and operated company since 1969 remain the same. Today, George's sons Tyler and Clavey Wendt, along with numerous dedicated staff and guides, some of whom have been with us for decades, carry on the long legacy of providing people with unforgettable experiences in some of the most beautiful places in the world.

Just Ask Around

More than 70% of OARS travelers each year are repeat guests or were referred by a past OARS traveler. You'd be hard-pressed to find many people who'd say they didn't get good value for the money they spent with us. That's why it's no surprise that a national poll recently found that **OARS tops the adventure travel industry in: professionalism, organization of trips, as well as guides & operations staff.** Additionally, more than **83% of people surveyed said that OARS trips were better to far better than other trips** they've taken.



The Guides Make All the Difference

In the 50 years OARS has been in business, sure, we've learned a few things about operating fun and hassle-free trips for our guests. But the real magic happens because of the extraordinary guides you'll find working on your trip. We are proud to have earned the reputation for having **the most-experienced, professional and customer-focused crews on the water.** Not to mention, fun and family-oriented. No other company's guides do as much as ours to ensure you're having the trip of a lifetime. And it's not unusual for our guests to report back that a guide has transformed their life, or their child's life, in a meaningful way.

We operate 100% of our trips in the U.S. using guides trained and employed by OARS at regional outposts throughout the West. On international trips, we partner with expert local guides and outfitters that have been thoroughly vetted by our operations staff. OARS believes it is a fundamental part of eco-tourism to work with local guides, while at the same time bringing our wealth of experience to the table.

"I was incredibly impressed with the professionalism, organization, and safety demonstrated by the OARS guides. They really go above and beyond to make sure that you are enjoying every minute of your trip. They provide an unbelievable experience that you will not get anywhere else." -Matt, Petaluma, CA

Year-round Office & Private Trips Staff

Our year-round office staff and adventure consultants have more than 150 years of combined experience in the industry. We've been there: over 1,000 river trips amongst us (hey, it's one of the perks)! We're available to answer your questions all year and anxious to match you up with the trip that best suits your personal interests. Want your own private trip? Call our Private & Charter Trips manager to start planning your personalized adventure today.

Guest Ratio & Group Size

OARS trips offer an average **guide-to-guest ratio of one-to-four** with generally no more than 24 people per trip (average group size is 12 – 16 guests). On our Grand Canyon trips that ratio is closer to one guide for every three travelers and on trips where we offer paddle rafts, we stick to one guide for every six or seven paddlers. Our group sizes allow travelers to develop lasting friendships and connections and guests often say they feel like family by the end of their adventure.

You've Got Options

We have trips exclusively for adults, women, and families (**more than 10,000 families have trusted us with their vacation in the last 10 years**). We have gourmet trips with table linens and exploratory trips that will push the boundaries of your comfort zone. With a broad range of itineraries and dates to choose from, we have something for just about everyone. And regardless of which adventure you choose, you can count on OARS trips to provide a crucial connection to nature, wilderness and the outdoors that allows guests to disconnect from daily stresses and reconnect with family and friends in a meaningful way.

Investing in Our Staff

Our guides earn competitive wages and OARS sponsors the cost of training for swiftwater rescue, Wilderness First Responder courses, Leave No Trace and on-river seminars in regional geology, history and flora & fauna. In many areas, we offer no-cost employee housing for guides and we have a travel fund to encourage guides to experience trips in other areas. Further, because we genuinely care about our employees, returning guides are offered **healthcare cost reimbursement and a 401(k) retirement package with a company match.** And because we like our guides looking sharp, we work with partner companies to supply our staff with a complimentary gear package every spring.

"The guides, the office staff, the pilots, the bus drivers, the food packers etc. were professional, courteous, and willing to go the extra mile no matter what it took! We have been on numerous rafting trips, but this was our first with OARS. I can guarantee it won't be our last! Thank you to you all for running a first rate trip and making our river time special." -Hiker Girl, Peoria, AZ





Moveable Feasts

OARS prepares fresh, high-quality, healthy food (often with organic ingredients), providing you a diverse menu and well-balanced meals that demonstrate our attention to detail. Whenever possible, foods and goods are purchased locally, supporting local businesses and farmers. You can expect to eat as well or better than you do at home—without having to deal with the mess or cleanup. Our focus on wilderness gourmet and the caliber of the meals our guides prepare is an area that continually impresses our guests. When surveyed, more than half say we do better than the competition.

“Great campsites (go for the OARS sleep sets with the 3-inch thick pads and sleeping bags with cotton liners that both put the “comfy” in “comfy catered camping”). Food was fresh, tasty and well-prepared and my vegetarian wife was also nicely accommodated. Can’t say enough about this trip and these fine guides who give OARS its well-deserved reputation.” ~Dan, Central CA

Equipment

OARS uses top-of-the-line equipment that’s well-maintained. That means the best rafts, dories, kayaks and stand up paddleboards on the water; top-notch oars, paddles & helmets; lofty sleeping bags, **comfy (three-inch thick) mattress pads & roomy tents** and waterproof bags to keep your stuff dry. Plus, we bring camp chairs for everyone.

Safety

Whitewater rafting is an adventure sport plain and simple; it is not a carnival ride and there are some inherent risks. But it’s also exceptionally fun. **OARS has been in the river running business for 50 years and that is no accident.** What better way to moderate the risks than choosing to travel with one of the most-experienced outfits on the water today? We pride ourselves on a level of professionalism from our staff that demonstrates our commitment to training and preparation. We also produced an industry-leading whitewater rafting safety orientation video, which we ask all passengers to watch.

“One of the things that impressed me the most was the stewardship of the canyon that all of the guides were a part of. They made sure all of us understood the fragile nature of the canyon and how to best take care of it for those who followed us. The fact that they really love the ‘place where they work’ impressed me. Keep up the good work and the awesome stewardship...” ~Jeff Weber, San Jose

Sustainable Travel

Environmental stewardship is nothing new to OARS. We’ve been at it for five decades. We utilize alternative energy sources, such as solar power, along with fuel-efficient vehicles and support vessels whenever possible to reduce our carbon footprint. We supply reusable insulated mugs on all of our multi-day river trips, follow Leave No Trace principles and guests are continually impressed by not only the company’s commitment to conservation, but our guides too, who are just as passionate about protecting the places we operate in as we are. It’s also hugely important to us to support local communities, and in partnership with our guests, **we have contributed more than \$5 million in donations and fees toward the preservation of the environment and to conservation initiatives.**



Don’t Just Take Our Word For It...

In recent years, OARS was named the **“Best River & Sea Outfitter on Earth”** by *National Geographic Adventure* and one of the top two outfitters in the world by *Outside* in its annual Active Travel Awards recognition program. Additionally, OARS trips are routinely recognized as “best in class” by *Conde Nast Traveler*, *AFAR*, *Outside*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Sunset*, and more.

Essential Eligibility Criteria for River Trips

The following are the physical and mental eligibility criteria for all participants on any OARS river trip:

- Ability to remain seated and balanced while in a whitewater craft while holding on with at least one hand.
- Wear a Type V Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (maximum chest size of 56 inches). Wearing leg straps may be required to ensure proper fit. Where required, properly wear a helmet.
- Ability to independently board and disembark a boat four to ten times each day. This may require stepping into the boat, and then maneuvering your body over and across tubes and fixed objects into a seated position.
- Ability to independently navigate shoreline terrain, including safely maneuvering around and across boulders, rocks, and slippery and uneven surfaces, under low branches, and around vegetation. This includes the ability to maintain your balance near precipitous ledges or cliffs.
- Ability to independently swim in whitewater or swift currents while wearing a PFD. This includes being an active participant in your own rescue, including having the ability to (a) keep your airway passages sealed while underwater, and regain control of your breathing when being submitted to repeated submersion under waves or currents; (b) orient yourself to new “in-river” surroundings; (c) reposition yourself in the water to different swimming positions; (d) swim aggressively to a boat or to shore in white-water; (e) receive a rescue rope, paddle, or human assistance, and possibly let go of the same; (f) get out from under an overturned boat.
- Ability to swim 100 yards in flat water while wearing a PFD.
- Ability to assist another passenger who has fallen out of the boat by pulling them back in.
- Ability to follow both verbal and non-verbal instructions given by guides in all situations, including during stressful or dangerous situations, and to effectively communicate with guides and other guests.
- Ability to carry personal dry bags and other personal gear (as heavy as 20-30 pounds) uphill from the boats to your camping location and back the next morning, independently, or with the assistance of a friend or family member. (This only applies on multi-day trips).
- Ability to manage all personal care independently, or with the assistance of a friend or family member.
- If taking prescription medications, have the ability to maintain proper dosage by medicating independently, or with the assistance of a friend or family member.
- Ability to remain adequately fed, hydrated, and properly dressed so as to avoid environmental injuries such as hypothermia, heat related illness, sunburn and frostbite.

These criteria, if not met, will disqualify a person from participating in a river trip with OARS. The criteria exist for your own safety and that of all trip participants. None of the criteria are meant to discriminate on the basis of any physical or mental disability, and are applied uniformly to all potential trip participants, irrespective of the presence or absence of any disability. OARS is committed to making reasonable modifications to any trip for any persons with a disability, so long as they do not fundamentally alter the nature of the trip.

Further Information About Our Expectations of Trip Participants:

The following paragraphs are meant to further inform all potential participants of the expectations for all participants in order to promote a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone on a trip. There may be requirements, whether physical or mental, that are not specifically applied “essential eligibility criteria”, but that help our guests understand the reality of being on a wilderness river trip.

Our primary goal is to minimize the risks associated with adventure trips in a wilderness environment. The trip involves physical exertion and exposure to the elements, including cold water and the potential for heat, sun, wind, rain and snow. We have experience accommodating people with a wide range of physical disabilities and/or health conditions. However, individuals who are overweight, lack conditioning, or have other physical limitations or ailments that interfere with the realistic encounters on a wilderness river can endanger themselves, other guests, and the guides. Please consult your doctor if you have medical or health conditions that could impact your ability to participate in this outdoor adventure.

It is very important that each trip participant take an active role in their own safety. You will likely encounter wilderness conditions that you are unfamiliar with, and those conditions may change rapidly. It is critical to pay attention at all times, to be aware of your surroundings, and to avoid taking unnecessary risks. Even a non-life threatening injury in a wilderness setting can become a major emergency for you, and can endanger the entire group. Swimming alone or hiking alone is discouraged. Excessive alcohol consumption or illicit drug use is not tolerated. Using common sense, and following both the explicit instruction and the lead of your guides can go a long way towards keeping yourself and the group safe. Some obvious things to avoid in camp and on shore (by way of example) are: walking around without shoes in camp, approaching wild animals, not paying attention to what is above or around your tent site that could harm you, not paying attention to hazards such as poison ivy and rattlesnakes, and walking near precipitous ledges.

River trips, particularly those involving whitewater, are inherently risky. While the risk of a trip is part of what makes it an exciting adventure, you must be entirely respectful of the

risk that such a trip poses. It is important that you are confident in your swimming ability, and your ability to stay calm in the event you become a non-voluntary swimmer. Your odds of becoming a non-voluntary swimmer change with the classification of a rapid, boat selection and environmental factors. On class IV and greater whitewater, the probability that you will become a non-voluntary swimmer is significant. A swim in whitewater is much more difficult and physically draining than swimming in flat water. Swimming in cold water can cause a gasping effect on your respiratory system. This can be overcome by focusing on your breathing and calming yourself down. Swimming in cold water will also much more quickly sap your energy and decrease muscle function than swimming in warmer water. While our guides are highly trained and will do their absolute best to rescue you, a successful rescue is greatly hampered by a swimmer who is unprepared for a swim in whitewater, who fails to actively participate in their own rescue, and who is not able to follow directions while under stress. You will receive a detailed orientation talk at the start of your river trip, but you can get a better idea of what to expect by watching a version of an orientation talk here: www.oars.com/videos/oars-whitewater-orientation.

Due to the physical nature of this trip, we highly recommend that you engage in regular exercise for at least three months prior to departure to ensure preparedness. No gym membership required! Simple exercises like push-ups, sit-ups and squats go a long way to improving core fitness. Start with these exercises and do three sets of ten repetitions each, three to four times per week. Aerobic training is also easy to accomplish without expensive equipment. Take 30 – 40 minutes two to three times a week and go for a brisk walk, easy jog or bike ride around town. If you have access to a pool, lake or the ocean, swimming is obviously an ideal choice for aerobic exercise. It provides a full-body workout and is training that is useful in the event of an involuntary swim in a whitewater rapid. It is important to push yourself in the months leading up to your trip by increasing your strength training repetitions and the pace of your aerobic training. Check with your doctor prior to beginning any exercise program to be sure you are medically safe to participate. Starting an exercise program that is more strenuous than you are ready for may result in injury or risk exacerbating existing health conditions. Getting in shape will certainly add to your enjoyment of the trip.

General Information

OFFICE HOURS: Our regular office hours are: Monday–Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Pacific Standard Time. For your convenience, we offer weekend hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., PST May through September.

RESERVING YOUR TRIP: Call us at 1-800-346-6277 to talk to one of our experienced, friendly Adventure Consultants or e-mail a trip request to info@oars.com. You can also reserve your trip at www.oars.com through our real-time online reservation system.

To reserve space, we require a deposit ranging from \$60 to \$1000 per person, depending on the trip. We appreciate payments made by check, money order or with a PayPal account. We also accept debit cards, and Visa and MasterCard credit cards. Generally a portion of your deposit is refundable up until 60-90 days prior to departure (less an administrative handling fee), but we recommend checking the specific cancellation policy when you reserve your trip. For some trips all payments are nonrefundable. The balance of your trip cost is generally due 30-90 days prior to departure. Upon request, we can automatically charge your credit card when the balance is due.

Once you've made your deposit, we'll send you a confirmation e-mail with links to our detailed "Before You Go" information and to our online registration and release forms. It is your responsibility to read and understand all of the pre-trip information that we send to you.

TRIP PREPARATION: On an OARS trip, we supply all meals and rafting and expedition equipment along with knowledgeable, experienced guides. Tents are generally provided and sleeping gear is available to rent, or in some cases, included in your trip cost. All you have to bring is a sense of adventure along with your clothing and personal items as outlined in your Packing List.

If you need gear, a great place to shop is online at www.oars.com/OARStore. We can outfit you from top to bottom for any kind of conditions. The OARStore also has a great selection of duffels, packs and miscellaneous accessories like binoculars, sunscreen, sunglasses and water bottles.

Our outdoor adventures are active participatory trips. Most of our rafting, kayaking, hiking and multi-sport itineraries are suitable for reasonably fit first-timers. It is your responsibility to understand the rigors of the trip and to represent to us that you are physically capable of participation. You understand your own health and fitness better than anyone and we will rely on you to provide accurate health information on your registration form. A combination of cardiovascular and resistance training exercises before your trip will help ensure preparedness for an outdoor adventure and will certainly add to your overall enjoyment. If you have any medical conditions that might impact your ability to safely participate, we encourage you to check with your doctor before you reserve your trip.

To increase your safety, we expect everyone to watch our 23-minute Whitewater Orientation video before joining us. Watch at <http://www.oars.com/experience/safety> or call 800-346-6277 to request a free DVD. Please don't leave home without watching.

Be sure to let us know if you will have a birthday or anniversary during your trip. We need to know as soon as possible about any dietary requirements we should consider in planning your trip. If you have food allergies or restrictions, we will do our best to accommodate your needs. However, people with severe food allergies may need to supply some or all of their own food since we can't entirely mitigate the risk of cross contamination*. Additionally, some specific needs can only be met if we charge you a supplemental menu fee to cover our increased costs.

*Note: Pending a detailed discussion about a guest's specific dietary requirements, OARS may determine that a severely allergic person is not suitable for our adventures due to the constraints of preparing food for groups of people in a wilderness setting.

PERMITTING AGENCIES: We are proud to hold permits with various state and federal agencies charged with protecting wilderness areas, allowing us to conduct trips on protected land and water that might otherwise be inaccessible to members of the general public. We are authorized concessioners in Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park and operate by special permit in Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks.

In Idaho, O.A.R.S. Dories, Inc. is a licensed and bonded outfitter and our guides are licensed by the state. On the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Main Salmon River we operate under special use permit in the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Wallowa Whitman National Forest oversees our Snake River permit in Hells Canyon. We operate our Gorges of the Lower Salmon trips under authorization from the Bureau of Land Management: Cottonwood District.

In Oregon, O.A.R.S. West, Inc. has a permit to run our trips on the Rogue River from the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, along with the U.S. Forest Service in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. In California, the Stanislaus National Forest has granted us a permit to run our Tuolumne River and North Fork Stanislaus River trips, and we operate on the Klamath River under permission from the Klamath National Forest. On the Merced River, we operate under authorization from the Bureau of Land Management.

Trips are provided by individual subsidiaries of O.A.R.S. Companies, Inc. or affiliated companies as identified in the Terms and Conditions section of the "Before You Go" document for your trip.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, OARS is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write:
USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights,
Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
or call (202) 720-5964

PRICING: All prices are in U.S. Dollars. Prices for trips in National Park units are subject to National Park Service final approval. Prices are valid at the time of printing and may change without notice. You can always find the most current prices on our website or by calling us.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Please understand that our trip dates and capacities are limited by the managing agencies, and when we accept your reservation, we may be turning others away from booking that trip. If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. You can telephone, but we also need a written notice. Cancellation penalties can range up to 100% of the trip cost, depending on the date and particular trip on which you've been holding spaces. We regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge you to purchase a travel protection plan (see "Travel Protection" below). If you have any questions regarding our cancellation policy for a specific trip, please consult your pre-trip materials or contact one of our Adventure Consultants.

TRANSFER FEE: You may transfer from one trip to another during the same season for a nominal administrative fee. Transfers on multi-day trips that are requested after full payment is due will be treated as cancellations. Transfer fee policies are most stringent on Grand Canyon and Middle Fork Salmon trips and those run by affiliate companies.

MEDICAL: Please visit <http://www.oars.com/experience/safety> to review our essential eligibility criteria. Weight restrictions may apply, particularly during periods of high water when the probabilities for non-voluntary swims are increased. More strenuous trips require higher levels of physical fitness. People who are obese, pregnant, have heart trouble or other medical conditions should have their physician's approval before joining an OARS trip. People with disabilities are welcome, pending an advance discussion of all special requirements.

The trip leader has the right to disqualify a guest at any time during the trip, or at the pre-trip meeting, if she or he feels the guest is physically or mentally incapable of participation or if the guest continuing on the trip will jeopardize the safety of the individual involved or the group. Refunds are not available under such circumstances.

TRAVEL PROTECTION: Although our intention is for a safe trip for all, we strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. For multi-day adventures, OARS offers an optional travel protection plan that combines trip cancellation and interruption coverage, baggage loss protection and medical coverage along with emergency medical evacuation coverage. A travel protection plan can cover non-refundable payments for cancellations due to covered medical reasons. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on a wilderness trip, evacuation can be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Baggage and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and we accept no responsibility for lost, damaged or delayed property.

TRIP FORMS: All participants are required to complete their registration forms and sign a standard liability waiver or assumption of risk before the trip, acknowledging awareness and acceptance of some risks associated with adventure travel.

FOREIGN TRAVEL: Our international trips are operated by independent suppliers arranged through O.A.R.S. International, Inc. We have no right to control their operations and therefore make the described travel arrangements upon the express condition that O.A.R.S. Companies, Inc., its subsidiaries, agents and employees, shall not be liable for any delay, mishap, inconvenience, expense, irregularity, bodily injury or death to person, or damage to property occasioned through the conduct or fault of any company or individual engaged in providing these services. Proof of medical evacuation insurance is required for all of our international adventures.

RESPONSIBILITY – AN IMPORTANT NOTICE: Payment of your deposit represents your acceptance of the following conditions: O.A.R.S. Companies, Inc., its subsidiaries and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agents for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however caused, in connection with any service, including, but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit over which we have no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings, and other factors. Prices and dates subject to change without notice.

OARS trips occur in areas where unpredictable environmental conditions are to be expected. To avoid dangerous situations for our guests and guides, it is important that all travelers obey the rules and regulations as determined by the managing agencies and the Trip Leader and demonstrate reasonable consideration for other guests and OARS employees. We reserve the right to remove any guest from a trip if, in our opinion, that guest's actions or behaviors pose a threat to the safety of her/himself or others, or if those actions or behaviors compromise the enjoyment of the trip for others. Should a guest be asked to leave a trip, there will be no refund for the unused portion, nor will OARS be responsible for additional expenses incurred by the guest for accommodations, return transport, change fees, etc.

TIPPING: Our guides work very hard to please you and provide an excellent experience. They appreciate whatever feedback you care to give them, including a gratuity if you so desire.

GUIDE REQUESTS: OARS is proud of the fact that we can sometimes bring clients together with their favorite guides. However, guide requests are often not possible and cannot be guaranteed for a variety of reasons. We will do everything we can to schedule you with the guide you have requested, but in the end, please understand that accommodating your request may not be feasible.

HOW WE PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION: We use many safeguards that include both technical and physical measures to protect your information. These safeguards are continually updated and maintained by our information security professionals.

For online transactions, we use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology which encrypts your information automatically, and digital security certificates that guarantee your information is being transmitted in secure form directly to our web servers, and not to an unauthorized server. Due to the nature of our services, it is necessary to collect and store a certain amount of personal and financial information. By submitting your information to us, you consent to the storage of this information for a period of time deemed appropriate by us. Our internal computer systems are protected with anti-virus/spyware protection and firewalls that block unauthorized access by individuals or networks. O.A.R.S. Companies, Inc. is a PCI Compliant company.

PRIVACY POLICY: OARS sends out a monthly e-newsletter and occasionally area or activity specific news that we think you'll want to hear about, but you can count on us NEVER to sell or share your email address with any third party company and you can unsubscribe at any time. Additionally, all address, personal and financial information is strictly protected. For more information on our privacy policy, feel free to call us at 1-800-346-6277 or email us at info@oars.com.

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GO BEYOND THE HIDDEN CANYONS...

Don't see the experience that's right for you? We offer guided adventures throughout the American West and around the world. Here's what people are saying about some of our other popular experiences:



1 Middle Fork of the Salmon River

6 days | May – Sept | From \$2599

Go for: More than 100 rapids in 100 miles, beautiful forest scenery and granite canyons, waterfalls, hot springs and epic hikes through the largest wilderness in the lower 48.

"My wife and I are both in our 60's and had to decide if we wanted to get off the 'GRID', raft down a pristine river, see fabulous scenery, eat fantastic food, sleep in a tent and meet people that became our friends. Guess what...probably the best trip we ever took!" ~flopuz, IL



2 Yampa River

4 or 5 days | May – July | From \$999

Go for: Fascinating geology and striking canyon scenery, exciting Class III-IV whitewater, Native American & outlaw history and the chance to explore Dinosaur National Monument.

"This river journey through Dinosaur Natl Monument is a perfect mix of daily river excitement, hiking opportunities, and time at camp to play or relax that is well suited for all ages, groups and families alike."
~Jeff C., CO



3 Grand Canyon Hiker

4 or 5 days | April - October | From \$1899

Go for: Epic hiking, Native American relics, lodge-based accommodation including a night in the exclusive Phantom Ranch - all in the sublime setting of the glorious Grand Canyon.

"The Grand Canyon rim to rim hike is an awesome experience! Our guide made it educational, fun, and went above and beyond to make sure we all enjoyed it. Make sure to do the suggested preparation, it's a challenging hike." ~Carol, MO

4 Tuolumne River

2 or 3 days | April – Early Sept | From \$549

Go for: High adventure with 18 miles of back-to-back Class IV whitewater, several waterfall hikes and backcountry camping just outside of Yosemite National Park.

"Overall, the trip was remarkable in every regard and is easily the best experience we have ever enjoyed together. Beautifully isolated and majestic, the Tuolumne River offers a spectacular natural setting cradled by the splendor of stone cliffs, river meadows, sandy beaches and lush hillsides. The 18 mile float offers abundant rapids as well as calm waters to take in the scenery and history of your surroundings." ~My Boy Blue, AR





5 Patagonia Hiking: Torres del Paine W Trek

7 days | October - April | From \$1865

Go for: The hiking adventure of a lifetime in Chilean Patagonia's most iconic landscape along the famous W Trek with cozy camps and refugios.

"This trip exceeded every expectation, it was truly an experience that I am so grateful to have been a part of. It's now the trip at the top of my list to out - do!!"
~Hiker13, CA



6 Main Salmon "River of No Return"

6 days | June - Sept | From \$1849

Go for: Mile upon mile of pristine wilderness, low-stress Class III rapids (Class IV in early summer), gorgeous beach campsites, and great fishing.

"The sandy beaches were unmatched...and spending days rafting, relaxing, soaking in an awesome hot springs, swimming, and kayaking in the Idaho 'outback' was like a dream." ~Elin, MT



7 Yellowstone, Grand Teton Explorer

5 or 6 days | June - September | From \$1549

Go for: An intimate exploration of the wild side of these iconic national parks with sea kayaking, rafting and visits to the key sites within both parks.

"Our guides were excellent in all areas which made for a relaxing adventure. The mountains and rivers were beautiful, plus the multi-sport aspect makes for a new experience each day." ~L. Comunale, CA



9 Galápagos Islands Explorer

11 days | January - May | From \$5699

Go for: Exotic and abundant wildlife and classic Galápagos sites—without the crowds—as we island hop around the Archipelago on a deluxe 12- to 16-passenger yacht.

"This was an extraordinary experience. Accommodations, both on land and on board, were excellent. Our ship crew was delightful, responsive, and efficient. Food was exquisite; very plentiful, but not excessive. The experience was amazing, definitely met and exceeded our expectations." ~Wendy, CA

10 Machu Picchu Explorer

7 days | March - December | From \$2749

Go for: Jungle zip-lining, rafting, community service and a guided tour of the incomparable Machu Picchu with nights in comfortable lodges.

"My extended family and I went on the incredible excursion. It was not only highly educational but incredibly fun. This trip was organized to a tee which is a must in a foreign country where you don't speak the language." ~Maury, RI



8 Rogue River

3, 4 or 5 days | May - Sept | From \$774

Go for: The classic rafting experience with picturesque pine-forested canyons, one-of-a-kind rapids, beach camping, fun side hikes, waterfalls, historic sites and abundant wildlife.

"We highly recommend the 5 day trip as it allows time to experience the Rogue through short hikes to waterfalls and water slides, canyoneering in Mule Creek, and plenty of stops for swimming and cliff jumping in the river. Wildlife were abundant and we saw bears, deer, bald eagles, osprey, geese and a variety of waterlife." ~The Johnson Family, AZ





OARS is proud to be an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service and a permitted outfitter under the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. OARS is an equal opportunity provider.

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