



# SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES ACROSS NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

## TRIP DOSSIER

# Grand Canyon Rafting



### Tour Itinerary

Departs Las Vegas hotel at 04:30 hrs.

- 1 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 2 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 3 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 4 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 5 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 6 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 7 Colorado River/Grand Canyon NP
- 8 Colorado River >> Las Vegas

NP = National Park

### Included Highlights

- ✓ 8 days rafting the Grand Canyon
- ✓ Rafting guide/boatman, camping fees/equipment and transportation
- ✓ Gourmet meals prepared daily on the river
- ✓ Round trip transportation Las Vegas - Grand Canyon/Colorado River
- ✓ Scenic walks and hikes
- ✓ National Park - Grand Canyon

### Pre-Tour Meeting

There will be a pre-tour orientation meeting in the lobby of the Residence Inn by Marriott hotel at 20:00 hrs the night before the tour begins. You will meet your group and discuss any questions relating to the upcoming adventure on the river.

### Tour Overview

Grand Canyon offers the most spectacular geological extravaganza on earth. This grandest canyon of them all stretches 280 miles in length, measures from four to 18 miles in width and averages a mile in depth. Erosion relentlessly attacks its primeval floor and its age-old walls, carving bizarre land forms. A veritable rainbow of hues is displayed from its two billion-year-old base of black Vishnu Schist to the dazzling white Kaibab Limestone at its rim, and in between, every colour found on nature's palette.

Though this is a desert setting, plants and wildlife nonetheless abound. Cactus and wild flowers dot the river's shores. Cool glens where waterfalls tumble to the river can be seen, lush with ferns. Bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyotes, and ringtail cats may be seen along the banks and in tributary canyons, while overhead, many species of birds may be observed, including hawks, golden eagles, falcons, great blue herons and egrets.

Due to the length of river that will be covered on this tour, we will be using specially crafted motorised rafts. These rafts allow us to bring ample supplies for the entire journey. Motorised rafts are roomier and more stable than rowed boats, so travellers of all fitness levels can enjoy this incredible experience.

Beyond the beautiful Canyon sunrises, surreal sunsets and brightly starlit skies, one of the most appealing aspects of a Grand Canyon Colorado river trip is that you need to bring very little with you to be comfortable. The climate in the canyon is mild, and just a few changes of clothes are needed. Travel light, travel happy! We supply all camping equipment, waterproof river bags, and waterproof camera boxes, so that you can focus on enjoying the sights and sounds of the Colorado River, its hidden trails and secluded riverside campsites.

### Is This Tour For Me?

Rafting and camping along the Colorado River makes this tour the ultimate way to explore the Grand Canyon. With a relaxed pace and tranquil surroundings, this tour is perfect for experiencing the great outdoors and observing wildlife in their natural habitat.

No previous rafting experience is required; however, we do suggest that you are confident in and around water and that you are willing to live without a mobile phone signal for the duration of the trip! Can't Swim? No problem. We will supply U.S. Coast Guard approved life preservers, and each person is required to wear one at all times when aboard the boats.

### Tour Matrix

Please find below our Tour Matrix, designed to rate the focus of this tour. We hope this will help you to choose the tour that is right for you.

Grand Canyon Rafting	Mild Focus	Moderate Focus	High Focus
National Parks Visited			
Hiking Opportunities			
Native American Culture			
Adventure Level			



# Grand Canyon Rafting

## GRAND CANYON & COLORADO RIVER

Although first afforded Federal protection in 1893 as a Forest Reserve and later as a National Monument, Grand Canyon did not achieve National Park status until 1919, three years after the creation of the National Park Service. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site that encompasses over 1,218,375 acres and is located on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona. It currently receives close to five million visitors each year - a far cry from the annual visitation of 44,173 which the park received in 1919. However, very few of these visitors ever explore the river itself. For more information about the park, please visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

## A TYPICAL DAY ON THE RIVER

7:00 a.m. We waken to the aroma of fresh-brewed coffee. Although the sun will not flood our camp for some time, tops of the Grand Canyon's walls already are aglow with sunlight. Somewhere a canyon wren is singing reveille. While eggs, sausage, and muffins cook, sleeping bags are being packed.

9:00 a.m. We enter a series of rapids. A great blue heron takes off down-river, wings pumping. Both bird and its surroundings seem somehow prehistoric.

10:00 a.m. We stop to explore a narrow, beautifully sculptured wash named Shinumo. In shadow all but fleeting moments each day, its polished silver walls shed a light of their own. To see the sky, you must tilt your head back with great effort.

11:00 a.m. South Canyon intersects the river, signaling that Vasey's Paradise is just ahead. A paradise, indeed! Sunlight seems to explode from the fountains of water gushing from the Grand Canyon's wall. Lush growths of moss and ferns in this "paradise" seem strangely out of place in such a desert setting. We drift close to the gushing water, giving everyone aboard a welcome shower.

12:00 noon Our boats stop for lunch in the shade of Redwall Cavern. Inside this great cave, there's room enough for a game of softball!

2:00 p.m. As two golden eagles soar lazily overhead, we drift quietly and our boatman tells us the story of Bert Loper's historic river run in 1949. We feel the heat, but soon a roller coaster rapid refreshes us.

4:00 p.m. We sight moon lilies, abloom at the mouth of Saddle Canyon. A hike to explore Saddle is topped off with a cold soda.

6:00 p.m. We make for Nankoweap, site of ancient Indian ruins, and our campsite tonight.

8:00 p.m. After a dinner of filet, dutch-oven potatoes, green salad, and cherry cobbler, we hike to the ruins, and view the river below.

9:00 p.m. Those who cannot stay awake find their sleeping bags. Bed tonight is beneath the Milky Way, and a canopy of stars that dwarfs even the Grand Canyon.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum is 14 passengers, plus 2 rafting guide/boatman.

Passengers come from a range of countries worldwide (average of 4 nationalities per group) and many will be solo travellers. You will find you have many things in common with your fellow trekkers, including a passion for adventure and a strong interest in exploring the national parks of North America. It is possible that our local operator's raft may accompany the Grand American Adventures group with family members along the river.

## GATEWAY HOTEL

TOUR STARTS & FINISHES AT RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT

Residence Inn by Marriott located at:  
370 Hughes Center Drive, Las Vegas, NV. 89169  
Tel: +1 (800) 583 0079 (from USA)  
+1 (702) 650 0040 (worldwide)

Transfer: Take a taxi from the airport. It should take 10-15 minutes and will cost approximately \$15 USD.

Grand American Adventures is currently unable to book the Residence Inn by Marriott on your behalf. In our opinion, this is the best hotel to stay at prior to the trip, considering their ability to store your excess luggage and their early breakfast service prior to the 05:00am departure. We encourage you to book directly with the Residence Inn by Marriott.

However, Grand American Adventures can offer alternative pre and post hotel accommodation nearby at a favourable rate. Please ask your sales representative for more information.

Please note: If you choose to book alternative accommodation, it is your responsibility to meet the group at the Residence Inn by Marriott for the evening pre-tour meeting and the early morning departure.

## STARTING THE TOUR/PRE-TOUR MEETING

There will be a pre-tour orientation meeting in the lobby of the Residence Inn by Marriott hotel at 20:00 hrs the night before the tour begins. You will meet your group and discuss any questions relating to the upcoming adventure on the river.

## FINISHING THE TOUR

Mid-morning on the eighth day, we are met by a speed boat which transports guests across the calm headwaters of Lake Mead to South Cove, Arizona, at which point we say farewell to our tour guides. While not compulsory, we recommend a tip of approximately US\$75-125 per person to be given in cash to your tour leaders.

We'll return you by coach to the Residence Inn by Marriott, arriving late in the day. The driving time from South Cove is approximately 3 hours. As arrival time can vary, we suggest return flights home be scheduled no earlier than 8:00 p.m. Upon debarkation at South Cove it will be necessary for you to unpack your clothing, camera, and personal articles from the waterproof bag and camera case we've provided. Our company representative will meet you at trips end and supply you with a clear plastic bag in which you may transfer your belongings for the trip back to Las Vegas. This clear plastic bag is necessary to meet the requirements imposed by Hoover Dam Security. On your return to Las Vegas you will cross Hoover Dam. The camera case and waterproof bag will be emptied prior to boarding the bus.



# Grand Canyon Rafting

## CAMPING ACCOMMODATION & WATERPROOF EQUIPMENT

We supply sleeping equipment (including sleeping bag, 3/4 length foam pad, ground cloth packed in a waterproof bag)- we camp open air under the stars; a second waterproof bag for your personal gear (12x18x10 - about the size of a large paper grocery bag); a waterproof metal camera case (5 1/2 x 7 x 11") suitable for camera equipment or personal items you wish to have accessible during the day; all dishes, eating utensils, meals and cold beverages. We also have camp chairs for everyone.

## MEALS

All meals on the river are prepared by our guides/crew and included in the price of the tour.

We furnish lots of good, fresh food on our river trips and anticipate hearty eaters. Meals consist of a variety of balanced dishes. Aiming for universal appeal, we avoid highly spiced foods.

Breakfasts are bacon or sausage, eggs with muffins, pancakes or french toast. Fruit and cereal, juice, coffee, cocoa and tea are available each morning. Lunches are picnic style. They consist of a selection of delicatessen meats and cheeses, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, and olives. You make your own sandwich with a choice of breads. Chips, cookies, fruit, nuts, and candy are served and a choice of drinks (juice, soda pop, water) are available.

Dinners are filling, as they should be after an activity-filled day. Main dishes include filet mignon, halibut, Mexican dinner, shrimp, pork filet, chicken, and pasta. Each night we serve a salad, either tossed green, fruit or vegetable. We also serve a cooked vegetable such as corn, carrots, zucchini, tomatoes, and potatoes. Desserts consist of Dutch-Oven cakes or cobblers, pound cake, fruit and cookies. A selection of cold beverages is always available.

If you must remain on a special diet during your river trip, feel welcome to bring special food or beverages, medication or whatever you need. We can provide an extra duffle bag or other storage if necessary. Be sure to let us know at time of booking or at least one month prior to departure.

## PASSPORTS & VISAS

This tour visits the USA only and it is your responsibility to obtain the proper passport and visa(s). More details are provided in our Trek Tips pre-departure information at [http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/tour\\_info\\_online.html](http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/tour_info_online.html)

## HOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

Contact Grand American Adventures by telephone, email or via our website to check availability on the tour you want to join. We can normally hold you a seat on 'option' for up to 3 days to allow you time to finalise your flight arrangements and send us your booking form with a deposit payment.

If you are ready to book and pay your deposit, we have a secure, online booking facility where you can pay in most major currencies with a credit or debit card. Check availability early to avoid disappointment.

Check Availability at:

<http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/>

## PAST PASSENGERS SAY?

When asked, "what was the best part of the tour", passengers said:

*"The hike into Havasupai Canyon and the waterfalls were incredible."* - L. Andersson, Sweden

*"We loved seeing all the amazing sights whilst walking in the canyon."* - H. Jones, England

## CANYON TEMPERATURES

Temperatures in the canyon vary depending on location, season, and year. Here's what you can anticipate on the average: ( Fahrenheit)

Average High / Low Temperatures in Farenheit (°F)					
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun-Aug	Sep
Daytime	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-110	80-90
Night-time	40-50	50-70	60-70	60-80	60-80

Celsius / Fahrenheit Conversions:

-10°C = 14°F / 0°C = 32°F / 10°C = 50°F / 20°C = 68°F / 30°C = 86°F / 40°C = 104°F

Even during the warmest months of the season, you will find that it is not hot on our expeditions. The dry climate of the Grand Canyon combined with swimming and frequent rapids will keep you comfortable.

The water at Lees Ferry is quite cold (55 degrees) because it is released from the bottom of Glen Canyon Dam (Lake Powell) just 15 miles upstream. Sunny days and incoming side streams help increase water temperatures as you travel downstream.



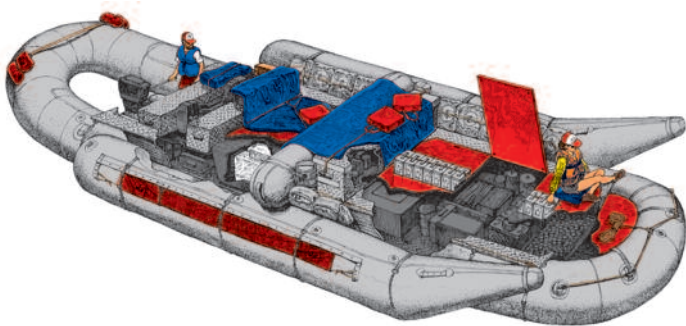
# Grand Canyon Rafting

## SUGGESTED CLOTHING & OTHER EQUIPMENT TO BRING

- Two-piece rain suit
- Sweatshirt or sweater
- Sleepwear
- Windbreaker or Jacket
- 2 or 3 pair of ankle socks (good sun protection)
- 1 or 2 swimsuits (more if you want to wear one everyday)
- 1 pair long slacks, jeans or sweats
- 3 pair shorts, cut offs (nylon shorts dry quickly)
- 3 shirts or blouses (1 with long sleeves)
- 2 pair rubber-soled shoes (wear 1 pair while other dries in the evening)
- Shampoo and Soap
- Towel, Washcloth (thin ones dry quickly)
- 2 hats or caps with brim and ties (1 for spare)
- Sun screen (generous supply)
- Hand and body lotion - 16 oz per person (sun, water, and heat dries your skin quickly.)
- Lip balm (with sun screen is best)
- Flash light or heat lamp, extra batteries
- Pocket-size packages of Kleenex
- 8 Zip-Loc plastic bags, quart size 7"x8" (for personal trash, photo supplies, etc, during the day)
- 1 water bottle (1qt, minimum to carry water while hiking)
- Sarong

### Optional Items

- Camera, film, extra money cards, and padding for camera case, sunglasses.
- Plus one spare pair, glasses, retainer for eye glasses, extra pair of prescription glasses if you wear them.
- Bandanna or scarf, insect repellent (rarely needed)
- Fanny pack or small backpack
- Cotton sheet (for sleeping on top of sleeping bag in hot weather)
- Small inflatable pillow, or small airline pillow
- Gloves (lightweight cotton-for hiking or climbing)
- Wet wipes (individual packets)



## ALTERNATIVE TOURS

If you would prefer to join a different Grand American Adventures tour, we have several other camping tours and a variety of lodging, walking and specialty tours as well as family adventures for you to choose from. Click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.grandamericanadventures.com/>

## NATURALLY RESPONSIBLE

We ask that all travellers contribute a local payment of \$1.00 per person per day to support the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund - a non-profit organisation working directly with worthy conservation groups such as Friends of the River, Grand Canyon Trust and others to further research and protect the Grand Canyon.

## ADVENTURE TRAVEL

All details are provided in good faith. Due to the nature of travel, this information can change and should therefore be taken as an indication only and not as a contractual obligation on the part of Grand American Adventures. If you have any questions, please contact us.