

Inflatable Kayaks in Desolation Canyon on the Green River

*As featured in Parents Magazine and AAA Today Magazine
National Historical Landmark*

5 Days / 4 Nights

What's Special: Fun, playful rapids, western history of homesteads and outlaw hideouts, sandy beaches for riverfront camping, scenic airplane flight.

Mindset: A total river camping experience, hassle free. Relax! Enjoy! Play!

Rapids: I - III (Easy to Moderate)

Hikes: Easy to Moderate (you choose)

Ages: 12 and up

Rafts: Inflatable Kayaks (With oarboats to carry camp and gear)

Beautiful Scenery, Great Fun, Miles of Fun Rapids, A Kayaking Adventure That Begins Where Civilization Ends

Desolation and Grey Canyons, 84-miles of remote canyons, are just perfect for five days of active kayaking. No prior experience is necessary as inflatable, self-bailing kayaks are easy to paddle and comfortable to travel in. Your guides will be instructing and encouraging you from their own kayaks and you'll be maneuvering yours like a pro in no time.

The Green River, the sister to the famous Colorado River, averages more rapids per mile than most other western river vacations (over 50 rapids in total.) These rapids are full of big rolling waves, not technically difficult but exciting and great fun, and they increase in size and excitement each day. Just perfect for learning to kayak.

These river canyons are also known for their great hikes to sites of cowboy legends like the homestead that hid out Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

World Class Destination: An Adventure that Begins Where Civilization Ends.

The Great Southwest is one of the few places left that has large wilderness areas uninhabited by people. This section of the Green River, Desolation Canyon, is the only river canyon that is a Registered National Historic Landmark.

The clean air that magnifies the crystal blue sky also turns the night into a spectacular show of stars. The canyons remain as they have for millions of years, slowly eroding into the mighty rivers. They have been carefully isolated from modern civilization: no roads, no traffic jams, no faxes and of course, no cell phones. se,.

Get the most from your vacation.

Experienced naturalist guides conduct the entire expedition. They know and love this country and will be sharing their experiences, skills and background.

There is a guide for every 5 people to provide personal attention throughout every aspect of the trip. The crew sets up each campsite, prepares all the meals, and arranges the day's events. Your time is spent playing in nature, learning from her and sharing the experiences with old and new friends. On the river, the body naturally slows down to a peaceful rhythm, moving with the flow of the water. A few days in these remote canyons rejuvenates mind and spirit. You'll take the peace and serenity of the canyons back with you to your daily life.

Type of Rafts: All of our equipment is top quality, state of the art and carefully maintained and serviced. This is an inflatable kayak trip. Oarboats accompany the kayaks to carry the full camp set up and personal gear.

Never Rafted or Camped Before?

Those new to the river and first-time campers are encouraged to join us. Our campsites along the riverbank are rustic. However, we bring everything we need with us (on the oar boats) and set up a new camp and kitchen each evening. We take care of you and make it all easy. The guides prepare fresh meals while you relax and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. We'll teach you about living in the great outdoors, setting up camp and moving at the pace of the river. We're at home in the outdoors. In fact, it's our way of life.

Is this Trip for Me?

This river trip is for anyone wanting to kayak through some spectacular river canyons, with the incredible scenery changing constantly as you move downstream. We are accompanied by oarboats that carry all the comforts of a full-scale camp, leaving the kayaks light and easy to maneuver. This fun trip offers everyone the opportunity to enjoy some of the world's most beautiful wild areas, in comfort and well fed, with some of the finest people you will ever meet. There is quiet time, interaction and reflection time, time to learn about our backcountry, and lots of time to play.

Everyday You'll Enjoy:

The River: Rafting down the pristine and warm Green River. The days drift by and the river speeds up as the gradient continues to drop. The rapids increase in size and are in faster succession. The rapids alternate with calm stretches, allowing you time to dry off, enjoy the sun, and the camaraderie.

Kayaking: As you are learning to maneuver your kayak, there is a guide paddling along side of you, providing instruction if you want it and safety awareness throughout.

Hiking and Walking Time is set aside to walk to historical and geological sites. We explore the wonders of these canyons, including Ancient Indian ruins and petroglyphs, to Outlaw legends.

Learning and Interpretive Time: Our guides are Naturalists with great depth of knowledge about these Canyons, the history, the geology, the wildlife, and the legends. They know the 'secret'

places that only exploration and experience reveals. They share it all, connecting you to this incredible country too.

Dinner Time and Camp Time: Camp is on sandy beaches where the portable kitchen and dining area is set up. The crew prepares fresh abundant and tasty western dinners as you relax by the river's edge. Stargazing is a favorite evening activity as the clean air and remote setting provide a star show usually reserved for astronomers and their telescopes. Remote campsites and hiking trails offer unparalleled photographic opportunities.

Historical Features: The ancient Fremont Indians first inhabited these canyons over 700 years ago. They farmed, hunted and made their homes here, leaving behind their ruins and their ancient rock art. The river borders the Uinta and Ouray Indian reservations, where today they still farm and ranch. In the late 1800's the homesteaders and trappers began to move in. They soon began sharing this country with the Outlaws, who could easily elude their trailing posses in the many side canyons. The Ranch still stands, where the McPhersons befriended *Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch*, trading with them for food, fresh horses and a place to hide. The current cowboys and ranchers along these canyons claim these infamous Westerners as their ancestors. Time is set aside to explore these homes and legends.

Wildlife is abundant here, though it takes an observant eye to see them. In the heat of the day you'll see eagles and hawks floating along the canyon walls on the thermal airstreams. Early morning and evening, deer, muskrat, beaver, coyote and the great blue heron move along the river's edge. Too warm for trout, the Green River is good for catfish, the endangered Colorado Squawfish and the Humpback Chub.

Geologic Features: Desolation and Gray Canyons are a geologist's delight. The river has sliced through 300 million years of rock formations and left the layers exposed down the canyon walls, which tower overhead, giving this area the spectacular 'Grand Canyon' look. Guides share their geologic expertise during hikes through the canyons.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Meet at Moab's Canyonlands Airport early in the morning and board a charter airplane for a spectacular flight to a mesa above the river. We'll walk down to the river and load our gear onto the oarboats. After the safety talk and some basic kayaking instruction, we'll push off. The river is moving slowly and the kayaks leisurely drift along. We easily slip into "river time", where the river current dictates each hour's rhythms. Buffet lunch is on the riverbank and your guides will prepare a great western dinners while you relax on the beach.

Day 2, 3 and 4: Your guides will prepare hearty breakfasts each day as you enjoy the morning sunrise. Spend the days kayaking, interspersed with hiking to the sites of cowboy legends and ancient Indian petroglyphs on the canyon walls. The rapids increase in size every day and occur in faster succession. Your kayaking skills also improve dramatically each day, so you'll be ready for the big rapids when you get to them

Last Day: The biggest rapids, like Rattlesnake and Coal Creek, are a fitting end to a memorable river expedition. You'll still be drying off as we pull off the river and drive back to Moab's Canyonlands Airport, arriving about 5:00 p.m.

The Details:

Water Levels: The character of a river varies with each change in the water flow. Some rapids are most challenging at high water, while others require greater skill at low water. This river has rapids rated I, II and III (on the scale of I-VI). In mid to late August, the water level can drop dramatically and the river becomes very mellow with mild rapids.

Weather: The weather is usually warm and sunny and very user friendly. In May and June the day temperatures are in the 90's, with days in the high 90's and low 100's common in July and August. Evenings are comfortable in the summer, though cool in the spring and fall. It is a very dry climate, so the heat is not the sweltering kind. Besides, the best part about being too warm is getting in the river to cool off. Brief afternoon showers are very common, so bring your rain gear.

Our Guides: Our service professionals take your safety seriously while they offer you fun and excitement. They have had years of experience on the river, in the outdoors and with people. Each is literally a 'jack-of-all-trades.' They are skilled enough and strong enough to navigate the rapids, have Emergency Medical Training and CPR certification, as well as wilderness medicine and river rescue training, prepare great meals in Dutch ovens and over the grill, and are well versed in the ecology, geology and history of the Canyon. Most of all they want to show this country to you, and share with you what they have discovered here. After all, this is their backyard.

What Is Included:

Orientation the evening before the river trip.

Transportation from Moab over the canyons of the Green River to the launch site. (Flight cost is listed separately on your statement.)

Full Days on the River: We begin early the first day and return you the last day at day's end.

Experienced Licensed Guides trained in the art of river running and customer service. All of our guides have Emergency Medical Response, CPR and river rescue training. We are one of the few companies that train this extensively.

All Rafting and Safety Equipment: Rafts and related equipment, life jackets, safety equipment, personal dry bags and boxes for your gear, kitchen, dining and toilet equipment.

All Meals beginning with lunch the first day through lunch the last day. Our menus are healthy, creative and are prepared fresh daily by our guides. Many of our fruits and vegetables are locally grown. Dinners always begin with hors d'oeuvres. The entrées are grilled, the salads freshly tossed and the sides are seasoned to a zesty western flavor. Breakfast and lunch are equally tasty with varieties of foods to choose from. Every meal is balanced and there is always plenty. We can accommodate different diets and food restrictions.

Transportation is provided to and from Moab's Canyonlands Airport, by airflight at the beginning and van transport at the end.

Our Office Staff: Our well-trained office staff is personally committed to helping you plan your river vacation to meet all your desires and expectations. Michelle, our Director of Guest Services, has arranged guests' vacations throughout the western United States for years

We'll make you comfortable in the wilderness:

- Your safety and comfort are our #1 priority.
- Your days will be filled with nature and fun.
- Rapids for fun and anticipation.
- You'll be with compatible people.
- You'll learn something new.
- Portable bathrooms to alleviate concerns of personal hygiene, cleanliness, and privacy.
- You can bathe in the warm river.
- We'll teach you everything you need to know to be 'at home' in this natural setting.
- This National Historic Landmark is very remote, which means no roads, no faxes, and of course, no cell phones. The only sign of civilization you'll see is the occasional jet crossing the sky.

Environmental Awareness:

We have proven that Businesses Can Be Socially and Environmentally Responsible

Environmental responsibility is an ethic that everyone in the company believes in and adheres to. We recycle and reuse all that we can and use recycled products wherever possible. We make our voices heard politically and contribute financial support to many conservation causes. We volunteer for many community boards and service programs. Sheri Griffith is actively involved in a number of Conservation Boards, donating hundreds of hours yearly to environmental issues. We incorporate Earth awareness in all our river trips and "take only pictures and leave only footprints."

What makes the Expeditions' Difference?

Professionalism and dedication to excellence. *We are committed to making a difference in your life.* It's your vacation, those valuable days that you dedicate to improve the quality of your life. We are grateful for the opportunity to share them with you.

Call now to reserve your Summer Expedition

*Hidden Trails 1-888-987-2457
rafting@hiddentrails.com*

Fax (604) 323-1148