

## GREEN RIVER/DESOLATION CANYON 5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS

(Itinerary subject to change based on weather & water level)



Thank you for choosing Adrift Adventures! We are excited to share Desolation Canyon on the Green River with you. Adrift Adventures takes great pride in our equipment.

We take great pride in our equipment, as it's the finest in the business. Our boats are designed for passenger comfort and safety and our food is known for being among the best on the river! Juicy steaks, barbecued chicken, halibut or salmon, stir fry, fresh salads and more. Our experienced and friendly guides are proud to be your hosts and they will help provide a vacation you'll talk about and remember for years to come.

It is **mandatory** that you stop by the evening before your trip to pick up your river bags. Our office is open until 7:00 pm each evening and is located at 378 N Main St. in Moab. Our phone number is 435-259-8594 or you may call toll free at 800-874-4483. Meeting time the morning of the trip is 6:15 a.m., Rocky Mountain Time. If you are flying to Moab, please advise our office.

Desolation Canyon is perhaps our most popular family river vacation. A less-known national treasure, Desolation is one of the most scenic, historic and colorful waterway areas on the western rivers. Its brightly colored formations are monuments to the force of Mother Nature. Wildlife thrives: you may see mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, prairie dogs, or waterfowl and desert birds, along with yucca, sage, numerous cacti and wildflowers. Huge cottonwood trees over untouched beaches offer exquisite campsites. Feel the power of the river pull as your oar or paddle raft drifts along the calmer sections of the Green. Desolation Canyon has an abundant supply of rapids; over 60 on this 84-mile trip. The trip includes a scenic charter flight from Moab to the trip's put-in site at Sand Wash.

**Day 1:** Trip meets in Moab, Utah at our office, 378 N. Main, at 6:15 am. The morning of the trip you'll be transported to the Moab Airport and board a charter flight, approx. 45 minutes to Sand Wash, the river put-in site. Please be sure to contact our office if your beverages exceed one case per group. We must maintain weight restrictions on charter planes, so large amounts of beverages must be taken in the day before with the Adrift Crew via truck. The truck will leave the office approximately 11:00 a.m. the day before your departure date. After your scenic flight into Sand Wash you'll load onto our rafts for a pleasant day of floating the Green River. Spend the evening camping on the river's shore. Horseshoes, volleyball, hiking and just plain relaxation for the evening! Lunch and dinner included.

**Day 2:** Today is the day for a journey in time. With spectacular rock formations, abundant Indian dwellings, pictographs, petroglyphs...you're floating one of the most colorful waterways of all the rivers. Sandy beaches and huge cottonwoods offer exquisite campsites. Camp at the river's shore for another exciting evening! Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

**Day 3:** By now you'll be through the rapids of Range Creek, Rattlesnake, and McPhersons... all having increased from size from the beginning to the end of the trip. Camp at river's shore for yet another exciting evening! Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

**Day 4:** After a healthy breakfast, you're off once again on the river. Short hikes to ancient Indians dwellings that range from a five-minute walk to half an hour break up your days' events. Camp at river's shore for one more exciting evening! Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.

\*Please note that all itineraries are subject to change depending on: water levels, weather conditions, road conditions, time of year, and any other unforeseen factors that may affect the trip in any way.

**Day 5:** For your last day, enjoy additional hiking and a day on the river! Breakfast and lunch included. At the end of the trip you will be transported back to Moab.

- **Dates:** May through September
- **Size:** Maximum limit of 25 persons
- **Miles Floated:** Approximately 100 miles
- **Temperature:** Lows and highs in Green River, Utah: May 44°- 88°; June 51°- 91°; July 59° - 98°; Aug. 56° - 95°; Sept. 47° - 87°. All temperatures shown are in Fahrenheit and may be slightly cooler in the canyon.
- **Precipitation:** Rainfall totals in Green River, Utah in inches: May .50; June .41; July .48; August .82; September .69, rain fall in the canyon may be slightly higher.
- **Elevation:** 4780' at Sand Wash launch site. 4120' at Green River, Utah take out. Canyon rims reach 10,285' at Bruin Point on the west and 9,496' at the head of Rattlesnake Canyon on the east side of the river.
- **Geology:** The strata from the Tertiary (36 million years ago) and Cretaceous (140 million) periods gradually rise southward and upward from our launch site then abruptly descend to open plains near our take out at Green River, Utah. These great systems of linear cliffs are known as the Roan Cliffs and the Book Cliffs. The Book Cliffs are carved mainly from marine Cretaceous sandstone; the Roan Cliffs of Paleocene and Eocene river and flood plain deposits.
- **Vegetation:** Plant life ranges from the upper Sonoran Zone to the Subalpine Zone. Cottonwood and Box Elder trees along with Tamarisk and Willow crowd the river's edge in the upper and lower sections of our float. In the middle section, cottonwood groves give way in succession to forests of Pinion Junipers, fir and spruce-aspen at mountain top. Bottoms are dominated by grasses, Greasewood, Rabbit Brush, Box Brush or Sage. Ledges and ridges are homes to Cliff Rose, Buck Brush, Serviceberry, Mahogany and Oak. Fields of grass and Sage cover the plateau tops.
- **Wildlife:** Several species of birds and other animals make Desolation Canyon their home. The Green River is filled with Catfish and is a fly way for migrating waterfowl. The Green River may possibly have the densest population of Mule Deer, Mountain Lion, Black Bear, Golden Eagle, and Redtail Hawk in the state. The Ute Indian tribe, whose land borders the east side of the Green River, has created a game preserve for Elk and Rocky Mountain Sheep which was reintroduced into the area several years ago. The African Mouflon Sheep has found its way into the Book Cliffs and is often seen in the vicinity of the Price River. Trout inhabit the side streams and the rare Peregrine Falcon also makes its home in Desolation Canyon.
- **History:** Although no one lives in Desolation Canyon now, it has been home to Ute Indians, ranchers, outlaws, moon-shiners and draft evaders. Rock art and ruins from the Fremont and Ute cultures are scattered throughout the canyon. There are amazing stories to be told about the canyon, which make your trip all the more enjoyable.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is a river trip strenuous or dangerous?** You will be more active than normal day-to-day activities. However, if you are in reasonably good physical condition you shouldn't have any problems. We ask that you always follow instructions given by your river guide to ensure safety. If you have any health issues, please consult a doctor for immediate advice.

**What if I can't swim?** No problem! Many people who can't swim can go rafting. We supply Coast Guard approved life jackets which are required to be worn at all times, unless instructed otherwise.

**What types of weather should I prepare for?** Be prepared for a wide variety of weather conditions. Rain can come in fast and it can clear up just as quickly. Temperatures can range from 50°-100° Fahrenheit, on average, in a 24-hr. period. For current and forecasted weather conditions, go to [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and type in our zip code: 84532.

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**What are the camping conditions?** All campsites are remote; you will, however, have access to portable chemical toilets. We suggest that you use camping time to relax and socialize. Our guides will handle the rafts and meal preparations. However, you will need to set up your own tents and sleeping bags, along with helping keep the camps free of litter.

**Can I bring a camera?** Yes. We provide ammo cans for your cameras; you may also want to have a waterproof case or plastic bag to keep your camera in. We do not guarantee our ammo cans to be waterproof.

**What beverages are provided by Adrift Adventures?** Throughout the day we will provide water and lemonade. During breakfast we also have juice, coffee and tea. Our truck departs for the river put-in site approximately 11:00 a.m. Any tents, camping gear or beverages that can be trucked-in are welcome, rather than weighing down the plane. If you are bringing any bottled wine please feel free to hand carry those items directly to the raft that morning.

**What can we read to become more informed about the area?** “Canyon Mesas” The American Wilderness Time-Life Books; “River Runners Guide to Canyonlands National Park and Vicinity” by Felix E. Mutschier; “Geology of Canyonlands and Cataract Canyon” by D.L. Baars and C.M. Molenaar; “The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons” by John Wesley Powell.

Moab general information can be found on line at [www.discovermoab.com](http://www.discovermoab.com)

***\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU HAVE A MANDATORY IN PERSON CHECK IN WITH OUR OFFICE THE DAY/EVENING PRIOR TO 7:00 P.M. THE DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE!***

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