



LABYRINTH CANYON / GREEN RIVER RAFT, KAYAK, STAND UP PADDLE BOARD 5 DAY/4 NIGHT

Thank you for choosing Adrift Adventures! We are happy to share Labyrinth 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 and camera box. Our office is open until 8:00 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.

This section of the Green River has no rapids. Depending on the time of year, length of trip, land, and water flows, the trip is approximately 48 to 68 miles in length. Trip put-in site is either Green River State Park, or Ruby Ranch, with a take out at Mineral Bottom. This journey begins near the town of Green River, Utah, where the Green River flows gracefully into Labyrinth Canyon, the longest stretch of un-dammed flat water in the Southwest. The river progresses slowly through white, yellow, brown, and red canyon walls, with hairpin switchbacks and towering buttes and mesas rising 1,500 feet above the river. 150 years ago, trappers roamed this canyon and now you have the opportunity to enjoy the peace and solitude. No experience is necessary, as touring kayaks are easy to paddle and comfortable to travel in and very stable. Your guides will be instructors throughout the trip offering paddle techniques, zero impact camping and safety instructions. Kayaks may be single or two person, as well as the opportunity to ride in the gear boat if you don't want to kayak. Along with our Sea Kayaks, Inflatable Kayaks, and Sit-On Kayaks, you also have the choice of the newly popular Stand-Up Paddleboards.

Day 1: Starting The Adventure

The expedition begins early in the morning at the Adrift Adventures office, located at 378 N. Main St. We then drive to the launch site near Green River, Utah. After a safety talk and some basic kayak instruction we launch. We will float through an open valley and begin a descent of about a foot and a half every mile. There are no rapids on this portion of the river, only a few riffles just below the town of Green River.

Today we will have the opportunity to explore Crystal Geyser~ a cold water geyser whose eruptions are fueled by pressurized carbon-dioxide gas. The first eruption recorded was in 1936 when Glenn Ruby was drilling for oil and hit the pressurized pocket that activates the geyser. Years of accumulation of minerals brought up by the eruptions have left a beautiful copper colored formation around the geyser.

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By late afternoon we'll pull into a secluded campsite where we will enjoy exploring while our guides prepare a delicious dinner.

Note: Meals are served from a set daily menu, please tell us in advance if there are particular things you would prefer not to have.

Potential Hiking Opportunities: Crystal Geysir,

Day 2: Entering the Canyons

After a hearty Breakfast we pack up and start the paddling!

The river progresses slowly through white, yellow, brown and red canyon walls with hairpin switchbacks accented by towering buttes and mesas rising 1,500 feet above the river. Labyrinth Canyon's walls are cut with long side canyons, where guests of all skill levels can explore and ponder ancient Indian writings and trapper's inscriptions.

Our guides are naturalists with great depths of knowledge about the history, geology, wildlife, and legends of the canyon. They know the 'secret' places that only exploration and experience reveals, and they share it all, connecting you to this incredible country. We will pass the San Rafael River today along with several working ranches.

In the afternoon we will come to Trin-Alcove, named for the three canyons coming into the Green River. Be sure to watch for wildlife. This part of the canyon has many animals including deer, elk, and beaver. We will pull over to camp by late afternoon.

Potential Hiking Opportunities: Trin Alcove, Anvil Bottom

Day 3: Hiking the Green River

For the second morning in a row you'll wake to fresh brewed coffee, hot cocoa, and tea. The scenery begins to change as the river leaves the open desert and cuts its way into the rising plateaus of Utah's Canyon Country. This is Labyrinth Canyon, named by John Wesley Powell when he was here on his historic expedition in 1869. The canyon becomes deeper as Sandstone walls of the Wingate Formation rise hundreds of feet on both sides. Orange and reddish brown cliffs drip with a darker brown and blue-black known as "desert varnish." Formations of tan Navajo Sandstone, purplish-red Kayenta towers, and brown Wingate cliffs, continuously unfold above.

We will stop and look, hike several of the wonderful side canyons in Labyrinth Canon. We will also pass the river register where early river runners left their signatures.

The sandy beaches in Labyrinth provide for wonderful camping. Our guides are amazing river chefs who do all of the work of preparing the highest quality, healthy meals made with fresh ingredients. We can accommodate a variety of diets from Kosher to vegetarian and everything in between.

Potential Hiking Opportunities: Ten Mile Canyon, Hey Joe Mine, Keg Spring Canyon

Day 4: Paddling the Green River

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After and another wonderful Morning, we will pack up our kayaks and head downstream. We will hike "Bowknot Bend" where the river makes a seven and a half mile loop back onto itself. We will hike up to the saddle which provides an incredible view of the desert. There will be ample time each day for hiking and exploring the canyon's rich history and geology.

The Fremont Culture were a semi-nomadic people who inhabited these canyons (500-1275 A.D.). They left petroglyphs on the rock walls that can be spotted today. You will also see the inscriptions left by the crew of the Launch Marguerite, a stern-wheeler river boat which traveled on the Green and Colorado Rivers between the towns of Green River and Moab during the early 1900's. Denis Julien was a trapper and fur trader who left inscriptions on the rocks in a number of places. All of his inscriptions are dated 1836. How Julien got into the canyons is still a mystery. It is not known if he came by boat or if he walked in from the rim.

Potential Hiking Opportunities: D. Julien Inscription, River Register, Hey Joe Mine site

Day 5: Coming out of the Canyon

Today we will see more and more evidence of the uranium mining that once took place in these canyons. Tailing piles and abandoned mining equipment can be seen from the river below.

We will also stop at another 1836 Denis Julien inscription. Our river adventure ends at Mineral Bottom. We'll load the kayaks and gear for the spectacular drive back to Moab which begins with a steep climb up an old mining road. We will arrive at the Adrift Adventures office approximately 4:00-5:30 p.m. (MDT).

Potential Hiking Opportunities: Hell Roaring Canyon, Bowknot Bend

- **Craft:** Choice of Sea Kayak, Inflatable Kayak, Sit-On Kayak, or Stand-Up Paddleboard
- **Included:** Camping Gear (sleeping bag, 2-person tent)
- **Additional Costs:** Depending on which tour there may be a \$25 usage fee. Guide Gratuity (optional)

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions. For updated weather please go to www.weather.com and punch in our zip code of 84532. For hotel, park and a list of things to do and see go to www.discovermoab.com.

A Little Labyrinth Canyon History:

On July 15, 1869, while near Bow Knot Bend, John Wesley Powell named Labyrinth Canyon. Located just south of Green River, Utah and bordering Canyonlands National Park, this "tortuous" canyon is famous for its inspiring walls and dramatic bends in the river. The colorful history of Labyrinth Canyon includes Native Americans, trappers, miners, river runners, steam boaters, ranchers and moon shiners.

The first unique geologic feature is the Crystal Geyser. This cold water geyser and its distinctive yellow/orange sheen was caused in the 1930's when geologist Glen M. Ruby was drilling for oil. After passing the Crystal Geyser you will pass through Mancos Shale, the Morrison Formation (Jurassic time period), and the Somerville Formation. The Somerville Formation forms Dellenbaugh Butte (or the Inkwell or Anvil) named for the youngest member of Powell's second expedition in 1871. As you wind deeper into Labyrinth the 1,000 foot walls are made-up of Entrada, Navajo, Kayenta, and Wingate Sandstones. The Chinle formation just under the Wingate sandstone is where uranium is found.

Prior to the Fremont Indians, the Native American history dates back to the pre-Columbian time period. Evidence from this era can be viewed many miles up Horseshoe Canyon. The Fremont Indians, who at one time occupied

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a large portion of Utah, spent time in the canyons of Labyrinth. Because of their sudden disappearance, 750-800 years ago, and with no written history, very little is known about these people. A part of their story is carved into the canyon walls of Labyrinth for us to admire and to speculate.

Before this territory was acquired by the United States, the Spanish fathers came through in the 1770's to explore and set up missions. Trappers such as Dennis Julien followed in the early 1800's. Dennis Julien left two inscriptions in this canyon that imply he was moving upstream. John Wesley Powell's expeditions of 1869 and 1872 enjoyed the calm pace of the river through Labyrinth Canyon before traveling through Stillwater Canyon and into the rapids of Cataract Canyon.

In the early 1900's, ranchers began moving in along the river, trying to make themselves a life. One ranch called "Peacharosa" had about 40,000 peach trees in 1910. The Ruby Ranch went through eight different owners, each trying to make it living in harsh conditions. These and other ranches were typical of the Wild West with gunfights, moon shining and tales of outlaws. Outlaws frequented the rough canyon trails on their way to their hideout at Robbers Roost. Steam boaters also made their marks all along the canyon walls. In 1891 the Major Powell steamboat made it all the way to the Confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, to potentially set up a "hotel." Steamboats such as the Marguerite, the city of Moab, the Undine, and the Utah were just a few who also ran this canyon. In the 1950's the Uranium boom hit Moab and Labyrinth Canyon.

Throughout Labyrinth Canyon old equipment and mines can still be seen. The road into Mineral Bottom (part of the old Horse Thief trail) was built to access some mines. River runners such as the Kolb's, Holmstrom & Burg, White & Aleson, and Norm Nevills frequented the canyon adding to its history. Today, Labyrinth Canyon is not nearly as busy, giving the current river runners a sense of solitude and time to enjoy the history of Labyrinth.

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