



Canyon Voyages Adventure Co. Rental Office
211 N. Main Street, Moab, Utah 84532
(435) 259-4121

WELCOME RIVER RUNNERS!

Thanks for contacting Canyon Voyages. We offer the finest and most complete boat rental packages in southern Utah and the Four Corners area. Plus, our boating store is well-stocked with gear and accessories available for purchase so your river trip will run smoothly.

In this brochure, you'll find brief descriptions of the most popular river segments in our area. Following the descriptions is information regarding permit applications or requirements, and shuttle services. If you need additional information or if you would like to make reservations, please call us.

Fisher Towers — Colorado River

These trips begin upstream from Moab near the majestic Fisher Towers. Rapids are mild as boaters drift down through spectacular scenery that has been a popular filming area for recent Hollywood productions. This river section makes a great one or two-day trip.

Skill Level: Beginner & intermediate

Mileage: 14 to 30 miles (depending on put-in and take-out points, 1 or 2 days)

Rating: Class I and II (one class III rapid)

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts, kayaks, and whitewater canoes

Permit: Not required

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Maximum above 30,000cfs – technical.

Moab Bridge to Potash Ramp — Colorado River

This section is the beginning of Meander Canyon. Gentle waters below towering canyon walls make this a wonderful area for canoes and touring kayaks. Not far downriver from the Moab Bridge, you can drift by the Nature Conservancy wetlands, which is a haven for birds and other varieties of wildlife. Gold Bar Campground, 11 miles downstream, has a gravel ramp. 7 miles further downstream, brings you to the Potash Boat Ramp. There is no ramp or road access below Potash. Boaters continuing past the Potash boat ramp on to the confluence with the Green River will need to arrange a jet boat pick-up to return to Moab.

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: 11 to 64 miles (depending on take-out, 1-4 days)

Rating: No rapids

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks and rafts

Permit: Not required

Min./Max. Water Levels: N/A.

Horsethief — Ruby Canyons — Colorado River

Upstream from Westwater, this 26-mile section is a beautiful one or two day calm water stretch. Soaring sandstone walls make this section popular among river runners. Watch out for the tricky hydraulics at "Black Rocks" during high water. A railroad track follows approximately two-thirds of this section. Wave to the engineers!

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: 26 miles (2 days)

Rating: Class I, watch Black Rocks area for technical currents

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks and rafts

Permit: Not required, register at put-in

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Maximum above 10,000cfs
Blackrocks – Technical.

Westwater Canyon — Colorado River

This exciting section of the Colorado is called a miniature Grand Canyon. Experienced river runners enjoy both the calm water sections and the exciting whitewater of this spectacular canyon. Westwater trips are usually one or two days in length, but can be extended for longer periods. This is the most popular whitewater section in Utah!

Skill Level: Advanced intermediate & experts

Mileage: 18 to 44 miles (depending on put-in and take-out points, 1-4 days)

Rating: Class III and IV

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts and whitewater kayaks

Permit: Grand Resource Area BLM office (see permits)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum below 2,000cfs – technical for small rafts and kayaks.

Maximum above 12,000cfs – large hydraulics, dangerous currents, prolonged swims/rescues.

Cataract Canyon — Colorado River

At high water, this section offers some of the biggest whitewater in America along with some truly awesome scenery. The majority of this trip involves calm water with just 16 miles of rapids, but they're guaranteed to wow you!

Skill Level: Advanced intermediate & expert

Mileage: 105 to 123 miles (depending on put-in, 4 to 6 days)

Rating: Class III, IV and V

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts and whitewater kayaks

Permit: Canyonlands National Park (see permits)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Maximum above 20,000cfs – technical & dangerous.

Desolation/Gray Canyons — Green River

Beginning at Sand Wash, Desolation/Gray trips offer fun for the whole family. This section combines both calm water and small-to-medium rapids within a deep desert canyon setting.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Mileage: 84 miles (4 to 6 days)

Rating: Class II, III, IV (one class IV+ rapid)

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts and kayaks

Permit: Price Resource Area BLM office (see permits)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum for rafts 1,000cfs. Maximum above 20,000 – technical.

Labyrinth Canyon — Green River

Named by John Wesley Powell in 1869, this remote desert canyon offers inviting solitude, historical and archaeological points of interest.

This segment is great for beginners, families and adventurers alike.

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: 44 to 67 miles (depending on put-in, 3 to 5 days)

Rating: Class I, no rapids

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks and rafts

Permit:BLM permit issued at Canyon Voyages office

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Maximum above 15,000cfs – technical currents.

Stillwater Canyon — Green River

This canyon begins where Labyrinth Canyon leaves off at Mineral Bottom. And like Labyrinth, Stillwater Canyon features fascinating geology and archaeological sites. This canyon ends at the confluence with the Colorado River. And from here, the only way out is downriver through Cataract Canyon, or upriver via jet boat to Moab.

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: 51 miles (3 to 5 days)

Rating: Class I, 2 rapids

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks and rafts

Permit: Canyonlands National Park (see permits)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Maximum above 15,000cfs – technical currents.

Upper San Juan River — Utah

This popular section begins near Bluff, Utah, and it features excellent scenery, numerous indian ruins and interesting geology. Another great family river that has a fairly steep gradient and small to medium-sized rapids.

Skill Level: Beginner and intermediate

Mileage: 27 miles (2 to 3 days)

Rating: Class I and II (one class III rapid)

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts and kayaks (touring and whitewater)

Permit: San Juan Resource Area BLM office (see permits)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum for rafts 800cfs. Maximum above 10,000cfs – technical.

Lower San Juan River — Utah

This section continues below Mexican Hat, Utah, as the river enters entrenched meanders known as the Goosenecks. Great side canyon hikes are a highlight as are the beautiful river camps.

Skill Level: Beginner and intermediate

Mileage: 54 miles (4 to 5 days)

Rating: Class I and II (one class III rapid)

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts and kayaks (touring and whitewater)

Permit: San Juan Resource Area BLM office (see permits)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum for rafts 800cfs. Maximum above 10,000cfs – technical.
(<500 take-out very muddy.)

Other Rivers and Creeks (Partial List)

Canyon Voyages reserves the right to limit or deny use of its rafts and kayaks on the following:

Dolores River	Muddy Creek
Animas River	Dirty Devil
Cottonwood Creek	Escalante
Huntington Creek	San Rafael
Ferron Creek	Price River

Lake Powell

An emerald oasis in the desert or the sunken tomb of beautiful Glen Canyon on the Colorado River? Regardless of your point of view, the dam is here for now. And paddling the lake's narrow side canyons transports you to another world. Touring kayaks and canoes are the perfect boats for exploring these tranquil waters. Be aware that you'll be sharing the lake with motorized craft as well. High cliff walls can make landing difficult. Strong wind and waves can flip boats.

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: unlimited

Rating: Not rated, lake

Season: March through November

Boats: Touring kayaks and canoes

Permit: Glen Canyon NRA Entrance/Use Fees

River Running – Keeping Your Head and Gear Above Water

River running offers a unique way to explore the outdoors. Day trips require very basic planning: equipment, food, water and shuttle. Multi-day adventures demand more planning – however the magic of drifting down Mother Nature’s liquid highway day after day can’t be beat.

Many beginner river runners learn by accompanying more experienced friends. They pick-up navigational skills along with camping and safety techniques. We recommend that beginners and intermediates hone their skills on easier, short river sections before tackling challenging weeklong expeditions.

Leadership responsibilities are generally increased on longer river trips. A trip leader should be appointed to coordinate menus, equipment, logistics, all boatmen skill levels, and daily mileage schedules. Once you launch your boat, civilization for additional food, gear or medical help can be a day or a week away. **As a trip leader, are you competent at performing first-aid, organizing a rescue or evacuation, making boat and equipment in-the-field repairs and navigating the type of river hazards you will encounter?**

Basic River Trip Planning

Rafts, Kayaks and Canoes – Review how many passengers can be accommodated, how much gear can be carried and how it will be rigged or stowed.

Plan your trip shuttle of boats, gear and people in advance. Are pick-up trucks available, do cars have roof racks; can a utility or flatbed trailer be used? How will we get our vehicles to the take-out area? Should we hire a shuttle service?

Review contents of your first-aid kit. Is it adequate for your group size and trip length? Which members of your group have medical or first-aid training and could assist in an emergency?

Evaluate kitchen needs for the type of menu you’ve planned. It’s important to bring the right equipment but not three of everything. Equipment and personal gear planning lists are available, just ask for one.

Sanitation on river trips is very important. Plan a 3 or 4 bucket or tub dish wash system. Sample 4-bucket system: 1- trash, scrape off plates/bowls; 2- hot water wash (biodegradable soap); 3- hot water rinse; 4- bleach/cold water sanitizing (one capful/gallon, 60 second rinsing). Use strainer to strain each bucket for residue. Place residue in trash. Discuss the importance of hand washing before preparing food and after using the toilet.

Speaking of toilets, plan on carrying one or using Restop or Wag Bag for waste. They are required for our area rivers. River canyons generally confine boaters to the same camping areas. Plus, the dry climate keeps wastes from washing away or breaking down quickly. Proper desert river etiquette is to urinate in the river. Human waste must be contained and carried-out in an approved river toilet or bag. Toilets can be dumped after the trip at an RV camp park dump station. Bags can be disposed of in the trash. Toilets and bags are easy to use and are much safer than the multiple cathole, toilet paper gardens of the past

Low water or high water may make your planned river trip unsafe or unfeasible for the length of time available. Keep this in mind when planning the time of year and type of boat you’ll use on your trip. Is an alternate river section available as a backup possibility?

A great comprehensive guide on river running is The Complete Whitewater Rafter by Jeff Bennett. Look for purchase information for this and area river guidebooks in the back of the pamphlet.

PERMIT INFORMATION

Most of our area rivers require permits, which are allocated by lottery each spring. Call early each year for a permit application. Even if you don't draw a permit, you can apply for cancellations (available on a first-come, first-served basis for those able to plan trips on short notice). Yes, permits are a hassle, but they keep our rivers in a less crowded wilderness state. For more information on permits, contact the appropriate Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service administration office listed below.

Colorado River, Westwater Canyon

BLM/Grand Resource Area
82 East Dogwood Avenue
Moab, Utah 84532
-7012
www.blm.gov/utah/moab

Colorado River, Cataract & Stillwater

Cyns.
Canyonlands National Park
2282 South West Resource Blvd.
Moab, Utah 84532
(435)259-3911
www.nps.gov/cany/reserve

San Juan River

BLM/San Juan Resource Area
435 North Main Street
Monticello, Utah 84535
(435)587-1544
www.blm.gov/utah/monticello/river

Green River

Desolation/Gray and Labyrinth Canyons
BLM/Price & San Rafael Resource Area
125 S. 600 W.
Price, Utah 84501
(435)636-3600
www.blm.gov/utah/price/labyrinth

Green River

Lodore Canyon
Dinosaur National Monument
4545 Hwy 40
Dinosaur, CO 81610
www.nps.gov/dino/

SHUTTLE INFORMATION

Shuttle services are listed as a convenience to our clients. Canyon Voyages Adventure Co. does not endorse any particular service and is not responsible for any vehicle or equipment damage, or theft when using these services. Arrangements for shuttle services should be made directly with the operators listed below.

General Shuttle Service (All SE Utah Rivers)

Coyote Shuttle 435-259-8656

Roadrunner Shuttles (435) 259-9402

Green River - Labyrinth/Stillwater Canyons

Tag-A-Long (800) 453-3292 (435) 259-8946

Tex's Riverways (435) 259-5101

Colorado River - Confluence jet boat

Tag-A-Long (800) 453-3292 (435) 259-8946 (Confluence pick-up)

Tex's Riverways (435) 259-5101 (Confluence pick-up)

San Juan River

Recapture Lodge (435) 672-2281

Valle's Trading Post (435) 683-2226

Water levels - best time of year

During the early season (March/April) and late season (Sept./October/ November) low water may restrict the use of larger rafts. High water usually occurs from early May to mid June. High flows may decrease the number of campsites and will increase the intensity of some rapids while others may become easier.

Flows vs. Recommended Boats

Canoes & Kayaks . . . 250+ CFS

Canoes, Kayaks & Small Rafts . . . 750+ CFS

Rafts larger than 12 feet . . . 1500+ CFS

Recommending a best time of year is tough. It depends on where you're going, what type of boat you're using and what type of adventure you're looking for. As a general rule, in March and April you can expect lower, colder water (40 to 50°), cool days (50 to 70°) and cold nights (20 to 40°). May and June bring peak run-off, warmer water (50°), pleasant daytime temperatures (70 to 80°), and cool nights (40 to 50°). July and August see receding warmer water (65 to 75°), hot days (90 to 100°) and warm nights (70 to 80°). Water temperatures in September and October taper off into the 50's, days are warm (70 to 80°) and nights are cool (40 to 50°).

River flows are available on-line at www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/ or <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ut/nwis/current/type=flow>

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS

Canyon Voyages Adventure Co. maintains a large fleet of boats and equipment. Some boat sizes and models are more in demand than others, so we urge early reservations whenever possible. A 50% deposit is required at the time of your reservation, and the balance is due the day of the rental.

CANCELLATION POLICY AND SECURITY DEPOSIT

Rental deposits will be refunded, minus a 10% processing fee, for cancellations received more than 30 days prior to the rental date. For

cancellations received 15 to 30 days prior to the rental date, deposits will be refunded minus a 25% processing fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations received less than 15 days prior to the rental date or for early returns. We require a security deposit of \$500 for each kayak and \$1000 for each raft. (Note: The security deposit applies to the first \$500 or \$1000 of value only. If equipment is damaged, lost or destroyed, you are responsible for 90% of the retail replacement cost.) Deposits will be refunded after equipment has been returned and inspected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

Prior to receiving any rental equipment, renters will be required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Release form. Renters should understand that river running activities contain inherent risks including but not limited to: risk of death, hazards from weather conditions, and water conditions, equipment conditions, physical infirmities whether known or unknown to me, and the negligence of others, including Canyon Voyages Adventure Co., River Runner Sports and its employees.

TRIP PLANNING GUIDEBOOKS

The best way to get psyched up for your trip is to read the guidebook for whatever section of river you plan to run. The guidebooks listed below contain detailed descriptions of flora, fauna, natural history, access points, rapids, and a variety of valuable information. All these guidebooks may be ordered by phone from Canyon Voyages Adventure Co. 435-259-4121. Please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling. Utah residents, add 7.8% sales tax.

Colorado River

Canyonlands River Guide (Belknap) \$19.95
(Westwater, Fisher Towers, Meander & Cataract Canyons)

Green River

Canyonlands River Guide (Belknap) \$19.95
(Westwater, Fisher Towers, Meander & Cataract Canyons)
Desolation River Guide (Belknap) \$18.95
(Desolation and Gray Canyons)

San Juan River

San Juan River Guide (Kearsley) \$17.95
Guide to the San Juan (Vishnu Temple Press) \$22.95

Dolores River

Dolores River Guide (DeVries) \$16.95

Lake Powell

Boaters Guide to Lake Powell (Kelsey) \$19.95
The Complete Whitewater Rafter (Bennett) \$16.95

(Informative How-To-Guide Good for Rafting & Canoeing)