



Canyon Voyages Adventure Co. Rental Office  
211 N. Main Street, Moab, Utah 84532  
(435) 259-6007

## **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 requirements and shuttle services. If you would like to make reservations or need additional information, 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), high water class III

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts, hard shell kayaks, inflatable kayaks and whitewater canoes

Permit: Not required

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

### **Big Bend Campground to Moab Bridge – Colorado River**

Gentle waters below towering canyon walls make this a beautiful, scenic calm water trip. This is the most popular section for Stand-Up-Paddle boards, canoes and recreational or touring kayaks. The eddylines can be more challenging at high flows. This section is approximately 7 miles.

### **Moab Bridge to Potash Ramp – Colorado River**

The calm water continues on past the Moab Bridge; 11 miles down brings you to Gold Bar with a gravel boat ramp. Seven miles further downstream is the Potash Boat Ramp, there is no ramp or road access below Potash. Boaters continuing past the Potash boat ramp (Meander Canyon) on to the confluence with the Green River must get a [Flat Water river permit](#) from Canyonlands National Park and arrange a jet boat pick-up to return to Moab.

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: 7 to 71 (depending on take-out, 1-5 days)

Rating: No rapids – just a small bit of quick water at Big Bend put-in.

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks, rafts and SUP's

Permit: Not required (unless travelling down to the confluence)

Min./Max. Water Levels: N/A

### **Ruby- Horsethief Canyons – Colorado River**

Upstream from Westwater Canyon, this 27 mile section is a beautiful 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: 27 miles (2 days)

Rating: Class I and II, watch Black Rocks area at highwater

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks, rafts and SUP's

Permit: BLM Grand Junction Field Office (970) 244-3000

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Max above 10,000cfs  
Blackrocks area – 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 & expert

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: You must call the BLM office 8:00am - Noon (Mon - Fri): 435-259-7012

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum below 2,000cfs – technical for small rafts and kayaks. Max above 12,000cfs – large hydraulics, dangerous currents and 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 – High water flows traditionally mid May – mid June

Boats: Suitable for rafts and whitewater kayaks

Permit: Canyonlands National Park: [Cataract Canyon River Permit](#)

Min./Max. Water Level: Minimum N/A. Max 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 and III (two class IV rapids)

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts, kayaks and inflatable kayaks

Permit: BLM Price, UT website: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

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

### **Labyrinth Canyon – Green River**

Named by John Wesley Powell in 1869, this remote desert canyon offers inviting solitude along with 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, rafts and Stand-Up-Paddle boards

Permit: BLM permit issued at Canyon Voyages office or download in advance:

[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Max 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 back Moab.

Skill Level: Beginner

Mileage: 51 miles (3 to 5 days)

Rating: Class I, no rapids

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for canoes, touring kayaks, rafts and Stand-Up-Paddle boards

Permit: Canyonlands National Park: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum N/A. Max 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. This is a great family river that has a fairly steep gradient and small to medium-sized rapids.

Skill Level: Intermediate (Beginners traveling with experienced boaters)

Mileage: 27 miles (2 to 3 days)

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

Season: March through November

Boats: Suitable for rafts, inflatable and whitewater kayaks

Permit: BLM river office phone: 435-587-1544 [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum for rafts 450cfs Min for IK's 350cfs. Max above 10,000cfs technical

### **Lower San Juan – 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: Intermediate (Beginners traveling with experienced boaters)

Mileage: 54 miles (4 to 5 days)

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

Season: March thru November

Boats: Suitable for rafts, inflatable and whitewater kayaks

Permit: BLM river office phone: 435-587-1544 [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Min./Max. Water Levels: Minimum for rafts 450cfs Min for IKs 350cfs. Max 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 are the perfect boats for exploring these tranquil waters. Be aware that you'll be sharing the lake with motorized craft as well.

Skill Level: Beginners

Mileage: Unlimited

Rating: Not rated, lake, caution needed for high winds, waves and wakes

Season: March through November

Boats: Touring kayaks and canoes

Permit: Glen Canyon NRA Entrance/Use Fees – website: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

More Information: [Quagga Mussel](#)

## 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 where they can 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 you get your vehicles to the take-out area? Should you 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, 4 or 5 bucket dish wash system. Sample: 1- trash, 2- cold water pre-wash, 3- hot water wash, 4- hot water rinse, 5- bleach/cold water sanitizing (one capful per gallon, 60 second rinse). Use strainer to strain each bucket for residue, then place residue in the trash. Discuss the importance of hand washing before preparing food and after using the toilet.

Speaking of toilets; plan on carrying one as they are required for our area rivers. Proper desert river etiquette is to urinate in the river as our dry climate keeps wastes from washing away or breaking down quickly. Human waste must be contained and carried out in an approved river toilet. Toilets can be dumped after the trip at an RV camp park dump station. Toilets are easy to use and are much better 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.

## 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 E. Dogwood Ave  
Moab, UT 84532  
(435)259-7012  
[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

Colorado River, Ruby/ Horsethief Canyons  
BLM Grand Junction Field Office  
2815 H. Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506  
(970) 244-3000  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

San Juan River  
BLM/San Juan Resource Area  
435 N Main St  
Monticello, UT 84535  
(435)587-1544  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Green River, Labyrinth Canyon  
BLM/Price Field Office  
125 S. 600 W.  
Price, UT 84501  
(435) 636-3600  
[Download Permit](#)

Green River, Desolation/Gray Canyon  
BLM/Price & San Rafael Resource area  
125 S. 600 W.  
Price, UT 84501  
(435) 636-3600  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

## **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 Services (all SE Utah rivers)**

Coyote Shuttle 435-260-2097

Road Runner 435-259-9402

### **Green River – Labyrinth/Stillwater Canyons**

Tex's Riverways 435-259-5101

Tag-A-Long 800-435-3292

### **Colorado River – Confluence jet boat pick-up**

Tex's Riverways 435-259-5101

Tag-A-Long 800-435-3292

### **San Juan River**

Valle's Trading Post 435-683-2226

San Juan Visitors center 800-574-4386

## **Water Levels – Best Time of Year**

During the early season (March/April) and late season (Sept./October/Nov) 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.

## **Flow and Recommended Boats**

Canoes & Kayaks . . .250+cfs

Canoes, Kayaks & Small Rafts . . .450+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, cooler water (50°), pleasant daytime temps (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 temps in Sept and Oct taper off back into the 50's, days are still warm (70 to 80°) and nights are cool (40 to 50°). River Flows are available online at [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

## **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. Full payment for the rental is required at the time of your reservation.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY AND SECURITY DEPOSIT**

- Full payment required at time of booking
- Cancelling more than 30 days prior to rental date money refunded less 10% processing fee
- 15-30 days money refunded less 25% fee
- No refund for cancellation less than 15 days prior to rental date
- No money refunded for early returns