

Westwater Canyon

2 Day Trip



Westwater
Canyon

River Trip Information

This proposed Wild and Scenic River is totally isolated from modern civilization. *National Geographic* joined us in Westwater Canyon to photograph and write of the dramatic scenery and its unique wildlife habitat. The river cascades through the ever-deepening sandstone monuments and into the narrow Black Granite Gorge. Here the river meets opposition from the canyon walls, creating the fast and furious rapids that give Westwater its reputation: Funnel Falls, Last Chance, the Steps, and, of course, the

infamous Skull Rapid.

This trip is designed for adventure seekers and canyon lovers, for those looking for great rapids on a two day river trip. The limited number of people allowed in this canyon each day is strictly controlled.

Whitewater Rafting does include inherent risks, including the possibility of a boat flipping over or a prolonged unplanned swim. Please contact our office for more information about the potential risks of your trip.
800-332-2439

Sample Itinerary

Pre-Trip Orientation: 5:00 pm the day BEFORE departure: We will meet at the Sheri Griffith Expeditions Office, located at **2231 South Highway 191 in Moab.** Here you will learn what to expect and prepare for, receive your dry bags, confirm that you have read and signed our Assumption of Risk forms, and get a chance to ask any additional questions you may have.

Day 1

8:00 AM--Meet at Sheri Griffith Expeditions Office **2231 South Highway 191** in Moab. Your bags will be loaded onto the boats, your cars will be parked safely in our fenced and gated yard, and your valuables will be safely stored before you load into the van or bus for the ride to the put-in.

8:30 am--Depart for Westwater

Canyon. There is a two hour drive from Moab to the Westwater Ranger Station, where we will start our river journey.

10:00 am--We will arrive at the Westwater Ranger Station, where we will put on and size the PFDs (Personal Floatation Devices). We will have a safety discussion and then board the boats and start our journey.

Mid-day--We will stop for a "Build Your Own" Sandwich Buffet lunch at one of the beaches along the river.

4:00 pm--We'll pull over for the evening and set up camp. You will be assisted in setting up your own tents and sleeping gear while the guides work on setting up the kitchen and "living room" and then start dinner. Once camp is set up, you are welcome to play games, go hiking, or relax.

Overview

- Orientation: 5:00 pm on the evening prior to departure
- 2 Full Days: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Class II – IV whitewater (water level dependent)
- 17 River Miles
- 15 Named Rapids
- Oarboats and Paddleboats (Water Level Dependent)
- Tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads and chairs are all included

The Sheri Griffith River Expeditions Mission:
Enhance and Enrich People's Lives through Outstanding Outdoor Adventures.



The Vishnu Schist of Westwater Canyon is a beautiful contrast to the red rock above. Meals are healthy and plentiful!



Tips From the Pros:

Packing for a river trip can be daunting. Here are some items that our guides highly recommend:

- Disposable Moist Towelettes
- Small Day Pack or Fanny Pack
- Skirt or Sarong
- Travel Pillow
- Garbage Bag or Stuff Sack—for soiled clothing
- Journal or Notebook with Pen or Pencil
- Goggles—If you wear contacts
- Personal Alcohol (Please Limit Glass)

Other Handy Items:

- Ziplock and Trash Bags
 - Useful for separating personal items such as medications, shampoo, soap, wet items and dirty laundry
- Extra Snacks
 - We Provide snacks throughout the day, but it is a good idea to bring extra snacks for children, for individuals who have snack preferences or for those who have special dietary needs.
- Wet Wipes
 - Great for washing your face, wiping your hands and cleaning dirt and sand off of personal items.
- Rain Gear
 - Not just for rain! When riding through the rapids, rain gear can provide extra protection and warmth when being splashed by cold water.
- Carabiners
 - Very handy in the outdoors and at home. Easily clip personal items nearby.

Sample Itinerary (Continued)

Day 2

7:00 am- First Coffee Call. Everyone starts working on waking up and then packing up your personal items and breaking camp.

8:00 am- Breakfast is served. After breakfast we will finish breaking camp and load the boats.

10:00 am- Before we leave for the day, the guides will re-check the PFDs, and one guide will go over important safety details and instructions for when we traverse the whitewater.

*Rafting includes inherent risks, including the possibility of a boat flipping or an unplanned swim.

Possible Hiking Opportunities

Rattlesnake Canyon
Mee Canyon
Little Dolores Creek

Mid-Day- We'll stop for a delicious lunch and possibly a hike or two.

4:00 PM--** Arrive at the Cisco boat ramp. The guides begin to secure and load the rafts onto the trailers.

4:30 PM--** Depart Cisco as we return to Moab. The drive from Cisco to Moab takes approximately one and a half hours.

6:00 PM--** Arrive at the Sheri Griffith Expeditions office in Moab.

**The take-out and return times are approximate. Water Conditions, weather and other factors may lead to a later or earlier return time

We may use a motor when traversing lower water levels.

Little Hole Canyon
Outlaw Cave
Miner's Cabin

What to Bring, What to Wear

Each guest will receive two water proof dry bays at the orientation. One bag is approximately 20" x 20" x 27". **Your sleeping bag will come already packed in this bag.** You may want to pack your items in an athletic bag for easier access. The second is a smaller dry bag which is approximately 10" Dia x 20" H and should be used for day-use items.

The Essentials

- ☐ Rain Jacket and Pants—Not just for rain
- ☐ Fleece or Sweatshirt—For cool mornings and evenings
- ☐ Water Bottle with Strap or Carabiner
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Chums—or other Sunglasses retainer
- ☐ Sunscreen—SPF 30 or greater
- ☐ Chapstick—SPF 15 or greater
- ☐ Hat or Visor
- ☐ Hat Clip—to keep you hat from flying or washing away
- ☐ Flashlight or Headlamp—extra batteries are good
- ☐ T-Shirts or Lightweight Shirts
- ☐ Swimsuits—We suggest two piece for women
- ☐ Lightweight Pants—Zip-off pants are GREAT!
- ☐ Quick Dry Shorts
- ☐ Long Sleeve Shirt—to keep the sun and bugs off
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ River Sandals—Or other shoes that can get wet (NO flip-flops)
- ☐ Sarong—For women AND men
- ☐ Toiletry Kit:
 - Toothbrush and Toothpaste
 - Biodegradable Soap and Shampoo
 - Medications—Prescription, and over the counter
 - Comb and/or Brush
 - Small Towel and Washcloth
 - Feminine Hygiene Products
 - Small personal first aid kit

Highly Recommended Items

- ☐ Hiking Shoes and socks
- ☐ Moisturizing Lotion
- ☐ Waterproof Camera
- ☐ Sun Umbrella
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Bandanas—prevents PFD Chafe

Cool Weather Items

- ☐ Wool or Fleece Jacket and Pants (2 sets)
- ☐ Wool or Fleece Hat
- ☐ Extra Wool or Fleece Socks
- ☐ Wool Gloves
- ☐ Polypropylene Long Underwear
- ☐ Neoprene Gloves and Booties
- ☐ Extra Shoes
- ☐ Extra Set of Warm Clothing for the Evenings



Oarboats and Paddleboats are options on this river stretch



Whitewater

Depending on snow pack and time of year, Colorado River water levels will vary dramatically, creating diverse rafting conditions. Some rapids are more challenging at high water, while others require greater skill at low water. Different flows have their appeal, and we provide specific watercraft that will make the most of each water level. Westwater Canyon rapids are rated II-IV

Boats

All of our equipment is carefully maintained and serviced. Our Westwater Canyon trips are run with Oarboats and Paddleboats by request. **Oarboats:** These are inflatable rafts (approx. 18 feet in length) with guides that maneuver them with a set of oars secured to a frame in the middle of the raft. **Paddleboats:** These are inflatable rafts (approx. 16 feet in length) manned by guests and their paddles. The guide gives instruction and navigates from the back of the boat. (Water level dependent)

Weather

You can expect warm, sunny, delightful days in Southeastern Utah. In April through June, high temperatures range between 70° and 90°. July and August high temperatures typically range between 90° and 100°, with September and October temperatures ranging between 70° and 80°. The climate here is very dry with little humidity.

Getting to Moab

Moab, Utah, is located on Highway 191 about 30 miles south of Interstate 70. It is approximately a two hour drive from Grand Junction, Colorado and a four hour drive from Salt Lake City, Utah. There are also flights available into the Moab Airport (CNY). Both cities have commercial airports with rental cars and vans as well as shuttle companies.

More Details

River Camping

The private camps in which you'll stay are mobile-tented river camps. After you depart, the entire camp is broken down and the campsite returns to untenanted wilderness again.

Camping Equipment

We provide top quality tents that sleep two or three persons comfortably. The tents used on the rafting programs are "4-Man" tents that we assign as double occupancy. We also provide comfortable sleeping bags and pads. Sleeping bags are professionally laundered prior to each trip.

Food and Drink

Riverside meals, prepared and served by your guides, are delicious and varied. Meals are served buffet style. You may bring your own beer, wine or hard liquor and we will be happy to store it and keep it chilled. Please avoid bringing glass. Bring beer in aluminium cans and transfer hard liquor and wine into plastic containers. **Please note:** Please remember we are in remote areas, usually in a mixed group, and far from medical assistance. We trust our guests will not endanger themselves, offend others, or evoke a guides' intervention by over drinking.

If you have **a special dietary requirement**, please advise Sheri Griffith Expeditions of your needs at least three weeks prior to departure. Every effort will be made to comply with your request.

Bathing and Toilets Facilities

In camp, there are shared bathroom facilities for men and women. Due to environmental impact issues, bathing facilities are limited to areas in, or directly adjacent to the river. If you choose to bring your own soap/shampoo, we suggest they be biodegradable products.

Our Sanitary system is a sealed container with a regular toilet seat attached. Hand washing stations will always be located near toilet and dining areas and all guests and guides are required to use them regularly.

Electrical Power

There is no electrical power in the camps along the rivers. It is suggested that you carry a supply of additional batteries for your camera and any battery-operated appliances you are taking along. Mechanical or electronic devices that are noisy and which may disturb other guests "wilderness experience" are discouraged. NO drones are allowed on our trips.



Westwater Canyon offers the best 2 Day Rafting trip in the Moab area. Exciting whitewater and beautiful scenery combine for a great short rafting get-a-way.

SAFETY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND, INSURANCE:

Safety is our number one priority. However, all outdoor experiences involve risk and we all must recognize that accidents or illnesses may occur. We cannot guarantee your safety.

We place final responsibility for your safety firmly on your shoulders where it belongs. You have to pay attention to what you are doing. Mother Nature controls the water level, the weather and the elements, so there is a risk involved in rafting and camping. Before your trip departs, **you will be asked to sign an**

Assumption of Risk and Release Form. If you have questions regarding this document or would like request and additional copy, please contact our office. We assume no responsibility for injury to trip members, their personal belongings or, for time and expense incurred. **We strongly recommend Travel Insurance, which covers vacation losses and accidents and provides a refund if you have to cancel your trip.**

Time Zones

Utah operates on Mountain Standard Time (Note Arizona does not have Day Light Savings time)



Some Final Notes and Details Regarding Your Trip

HEALTH ISSUES

If you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying any of our trips. It's not necessary to be an athlete to participate in a river expedition. However, It is several hours to the nearest medical center. If you take medication you should bring a good supply and inform your guide of all medication that you are taking. When you meet your guide, you should discretely explain any medical conditions you may have or be concerned about including allergies to bee stings, etc. Each guide carries a first aid kit and will need to know if specific medicines should be stored. It's also helpful to know about other health issues when planning activities for the day. Pregnant women and anyone with heart trouble should have their physician's approval before taking a river trip. If you have concerns about your suitability for this trip, please contact your physician.

Cancellation Policy

We require a deposit of \$100 per person to secure your seat. The remaining balance is due 45 days prior to departure. Since you have reserved space for which we have a limited number of seats, **our non-refundable policy applies in every instance. There are no exceptions for any reason, so we highly recommend that you purchase Travel Insurance to protect your vacation investment. A link for Travel Insurance is:**

www.travelinsure.com/affiliate/selectthigh.htm?32219.

We make every effort to follow through on our plans. However, we reserve the right to make changes in the itinerary or possibly cancel a trip if necessary including but not limited to weather conditions, water fluctuations, insufficient reservations, changes in international relations, or other factors beyond our control. If cancellation is necessary, your money will be refunded. Our financial liability shall be limited to the amount actually paid and shall not be extended to cover any other costs incurred by the trip member.

Photography

Generally, when travelling, you'll want to bring all the film, camera batteries and other equipment you will need. If you plan to travel with digital photographic and/or video equipment, make certain to pack extra energy banks, as there are no outlets on the river.

We also suggest that you take into account the amount of data storage of each unit when determining the amount (if any) of additional memory cards to pack.

Bring a protective sports pouch to protect it from water. Participants will be able to store cameras in a shared drybag. If you are bringing a variety of lenses, please have a waterproof container of your own. Keep in mind we cannot take responsibility for the safety of your personal property. An old river adage is "don't bring it on a river unless you can afford to lose it."

Waterproof/disposable cameras are a great idea.

GRATUITIES

Guests often ask whether gratuities are appropriate, and in what amount. If you feel your guides have provided an excellent outdoor experience, a gratuity may be left with the trip leader and will be shared among the crew. The customary gratuity is between 15% and 20% of the trip cost. Gratuities can be paid in cash, by check or by credit card.