

# Westwater Canyon 1 Day Trip



Westwater  
Canyon

## River Trip Information

**This proposed Wild and Scenic River is totally isolated from modern civilization**, a canyon of serene solitude. *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, and, of course, the infamous Skull Rapid.

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

## Sample Itinerary

**7:00 AM**—Check-in at Sheri Griffith Expeditions Office **2231 South Highway 191** in Moab

**7:10 am**—Pre -departure orientation.

**7:25 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.

**9:15 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. After lunch, the

guides will re-check the PFDs, and one guide will go over important safety details and instructions for when we traverse the whitewater.

**3:00 PM**\*\*--Arrive at the Cisco boat ramp. The guides begin to secure and load the rafts onto the trailers.

**3:30 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

## Overview

- 1 Full Day: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Class II – IV whitewater (water level dependent)
- 17 River Miles
- Oarboats, and Paddleboats (Water Level Dependent)

## 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.

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



Oarboats and Paddleboats are options on this river stretch



## What to Bring/Wear

- ❑ **Water bottle w/ strap or carabiner** we suggest 32 oz.
- ❑ **Sunglasses** with a retainer
- ❑ **Sunscreen ~ SPF 30 or greater**
- ❑ **Lip moisturizer ~ SPF 15 or greater \***
- ❑ **Bug Spray**
- ❑ **Hat or visor** with hat clip to attach to life jacket
- ❑ **T-shirt**
- ❑ **Quick dry shorts**
- ❑ **River sandals or water shoes (NO flip-flops)**
- ❑ **Rain jacket & pants**

## Cool Weather Trips

(March, April, September, October)

Early and late season trips can have very cold temperatures. We will provide wetsuits and splash gear when conditions warrant them, or upon prior request.

### What to Bring/Wear

- ❑ **Fleece/Synthetic Layers**
- ❑ **Paddling gloves**
- ❑ **Neoprene Socks**
- ❑ **Extra Socks**
- ❑ **An extra set of warm clothing to change into**

## More Details

### 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

Summer days are typically warm, sunny and delightful in Southeastern Utah. In May and June, high temperatures range between 80° and 90°. July and August high temperatures typically range between 90° and 100+°. March, April, September and October temperatures typically range between 70° and 80°, but can also have very cold weather, including rain and snow. The climate here is typically 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. Both cities have commercial airports with rental cars and vans as well as shuttle companies.



Westwater Canyon offers the best 1 Day Rafting trip in the Moab area. Exciting whitewater and beautiful scenery combine for a great day of rafting.



## **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 to request an 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 a rafting trip, please consult your physician.

### **Cancellation Policy**

We require full payment to confirm your 1 day rafting trip. 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/selecthgh.htm?32219](http://www.travelinsure.com/affiliate/selecthgh.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 additional power banks as there are no power sources 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 dry-bag. 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.