



Yampa River 4-5 Day

Dinosaur National Monument

SAMPLE ITINERARY

We say the Yampa is WILD, and it is. **Each trip will be different depending on weather, the interests of our passengers, assigned campsites, and the need to be considerate of other river users.** This sample itinerary illustrates a four-day trip on the Yampa River. In June, due to lower water levels, we lengthen the Yampa trip by one day and follow this general itinerary.

Day 1: Please arrive at Holiday's headquarters in Vernal, Utah, at **8:00 a.m., Mountain Time**. We will issue your waterproof bags, show you how to pack them, and give you time to buy any last minute items from our on-site store (*see our packing checklist for items you can find at our store*). From Vernal, it's a 90-minute van ride to the put-in at Deerlodge Park in Colorado. After preparing the rafts and getting you oriented, we'll push off and begin to move on river time. We'll enter Yampa Canyon almost immediately, and encounter several fun, splashy rapids. Lunch may be on a beach near a historic cabin. Make camp and fall asleep to the sound of rushing water.

Day 2: Hike to a wide cave where ancient indigenous people left signs of their presence. Follow the river's entrenched meanders past the 1,200-foot Grand Overhang. Listen for the screech of hunting peregrine falcons that nest on the canyon rim. Carefully kiss the Tiger Wall: it's sure to bring good luck for your run through Warm Springs Rapid, the biggest of the trip.

Day 3: This morning may include a silent float as we approach the confluence with the Green River at Echo Park. Dip your toes into the place where the rivers meet and watch the different colored-water flow side by side for a surprising distance. The geology changes dramatically as we float through the Mitten Park Fault and into Whirlpool Canyon. Spend the afternoon at Jones Hole Creek: fishing, hiking, petroglyphs, bighorn sheep, and waterfalls are all possibilities.

Day 4: Choose to paddle an inflatable kayak through the last several miles of calm water in Island Park. We'll follow the river as it makes a sharp left turn and cuts its way into the aptly named Split Mountain. The river drops an average of almost 20 feet per mile for the last eight miles. Enjoy your last several rapids before we pause for lunch and finally arrive at the boat ramp. We'll load the boats and then transport you the final 35 minutes back to our warehouse in Vernal. We typically plan to arrive back at our headquarters by approximately **4:00 p.m.**

*Our **five-day** Yampa River trip follows the same general itinerary with minor changes depending on campsites and water flows. Your second day may not yet find you at an ancestral site but rather on a hike to a stunning overlook or historic cave. On the third day your route will begin to resemble the four-day itinerary more closely.*

Please remember that this is a **sample itinerary**, not an exact description of your trip. Our goal is simply to give you an overview of what the trip may entail. We invite you to embrace the inherent changeability of a wilderness river trip and come prepared to have fun and go with the flow!

Getting Here...

(If you need assistance with your travel arrangements, please ask your Holiday River Expedition reservation agent)

We meet for your trip in Vernal, Utah at Holiday River Expeditions headquarters ([713 S 1550 E Naples UT, 84078](#)), the morning your trip begins. If you arrive in Vernal by bus or plane, call our office ahead of time (801-266-2087) to make arrangements to have you and your gear transported to our headquarters the morning of the trip. Also please give any last-minute updates to our headquarters directly at (435) 789-4586. If you are driving, your car can be left at our headquarters. *(Please only use Google or Apple Maps to find us.)* If you cannot use Google or Apple maps, use these written directions:

Coming from either direction on I-40 head East onto 500 South; follow for 1 block until the 1st stop sign, then turn right onto 1500 East ; drive straight until the road bends back towards I-40. Instead of looping back to the main road simply drive straight into a dirt driveway that will veer left and end at our Headquarters.

Flying: While most of our guests fly into Salt Lake City International Airport and rent a car, there are a few options to consider.

- Salt Lake City located 180 miles west of Vernal, Utah (about a 3 hour drive). From there you can rent a car from any of the major rental agencies at the airport and drive to our headquarters.
- You can also now fly from Denver to Vernal directly through [United Airlines](#) and get a taxi or rideshare company to transport you to your hotel; you can arrange for Holiday to pick you up from your hotel the morning if you talk to your Holiday reservation agent ahead of time.

Lodging before and after your trip can be booked at one of these motels:

- [Holiday Inn Express](#) 435-789-4654 (indoor pool, complimentary breakfast)
- [Microtel Inn & Suites](#) (435) 363-0113 (indoor pool, hot tub, continental breakfast)
***tell them you're joining Holiday on a river trip and get our discounted rate of \$69/ night.*
- [Landmark Inn & Suites](#) 435-781-1800 (kitchenette & free hot breakfast)
- [Spring Hill Suites by Marriott](#) 435-781-9000 (indoor pool, hot tub, kitchenette, complimentary continental breakfast buffet)
- [Super 8](#) 435-789-4326 (indoor pool, continental breakfast)
- [Econo Lodge](#) 435-789-2000 (complimentary continental breakfast)
- [Motel 6](#) 435-789-0666 (indoor pool)

BE SURE TO MAKE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS!

If you are camping out, there are camping facilities in Dinosaur National Monument at the Green River Campground, or the Split Mountain Campground (groups only). These campgrounds are a 35-minute drive from our Vernal headquarters and they have tables, fire pits, modern comfort stations, a water system, trailer sites, campfire amphitheater and a nature trail; there is also wood for sale. Reservations are required for the Split Mountain campground, and it cost \$40/site to camp/night and [can be booked on rec.gov](#). The Green River Campground is on a first-come, first-serve basis and it is \$18/vehicle/night to camp. An entrance fee is also required which you have already paid for as part of your river trip! To get your park pass, simply swing by our Vernal Headquarters on your way to the campsites! There is also the Dinosaurland KOA in Vernal (435-789-2148).

Before You Go...

Beginning of the trip: Upon your arrival at Holiday River Expeditions headquarters (**8:00 a.m., Mountain Time**), we will issue your waterproof bags. You can buy any last minute items from our accessories store at this time (see our packing checklist for a list of items you can find at our store). We will then take a one and a half hour van ride to Deerlodge Park, where we will transfer to the boats.

After the trip: We will disembark at Split Mountain Campground in Dinosaur National Monument near Jensen, Utah. From there we will take you back to our headquarters in Vernal, Utah (35 minute van ride). Our expected time of arrival back at our headquarters is about **4:00 p.m.**

Packing The waterproof bags provided will contain all of your belongings except for your tent, poles and if you rented sleeping gear, your pad. Your larger waterproof bag (16" X 2' high) which will hold your sleeping bag, pillow, & most of your clothing/ toiletries for morning and evening use. If you brought your own sleeping pad it will also fit into this large bag. We suggest packing your clothing etc in the bottom of your bag, that way at camp you can empty your sleeping equipment into your tent and not have to unpack the majority of your belongings. The smaller "day bag" (8" X 20" high) will hold anything you need access to during the course of the day on the river: Sunscreen, chapstick, a mug, your favorite book, a rain jacket, maybe a pair of hiking shoes etc. Your tent (rental or owned) will go into a "tent bag" and your tent-poles in a mesh "pole bag". This ensures our water-proof bags are soft, & easy to pack.

Dinosaur weather: In the early and late seasons (May, early June and September) temperatures in Dinosaur average 55 to 70 degrees during the day and 50 to 60 degrees at night. In late June through August, daytime temperatures are between 80 and 90 degrees with nighttime temperatures 60 to 70 degrees. There is always some possibility of rain which can cool temperatures considerably. With this in mind we **recommend** you have a **rain suit, long underwear**, (fleece top and pants are nice in cool weather too) and a **light tent**. If you reserved a rental kit with us when you booked your river trip, we will have a tent and rain gear for you. There will also be sun, so bring a hat and plenty of suntan lotion and/or sunscreens. **Please avoid spray on sunscreen for the health and safety of your guide and fellow-guests*

Bugs, snakes, etc. are generally no problem. In fact, the lack of pesky insects is one of the reasons wilderness camping on the river is so pleasant. Any river trip, however, is subject to an occasional localized insect hatch. During these hatches (most common in June) mosquitoes can be bothersome. Be sure to bring long sleeve clothing and repellent. Insect repellents that contain "deet" are by far the most effective during heavy hatches. Citronella-based products work only in light hatches. We rarely see any snakes, but if the thought of them bothers you, try sleeping on the beaches or in a tent instead of rocky or bushy areas.

Hiking is a highlight of the trip, however, it is strictly an optional activity. There are many interesting short hikes available. Hiking can be done in durable sneakers or lightweight hiking boots. Remember that hiking and other activities vary widely pending time, and what other plans are ahead for the day on the river.

Fishing: On the next to last day we will arrive at Jones Hole, which is a beautiful trout stream. We have the option of spending about three hours here and may even camp. You will need a **Utah fishing license** to fish, and this may be purchased at most sporting good stores, or Smiths in Vernal **prior to the trip**. *Please note that these stores will not be open the morning you meet for your trip*. Only artificial lures and flies are allowed on this stream. If you would like to obtain more information or secure your license in

advance contact: Utah Wildlife Resources, 1596 W. No. Temple, SLC, UT 84116, 801-538-4700, or online at <https://secure.utah.gov/hflo2/hflo>.

Bathing: You can bathe directly in the river using biodegradable soap (like Dr. Bronners or Campsuds). Humans have a big impact on smaller side streams therefore please refrain from bathing in these sensitive areas. Alternately, disposable antibacterial towelettes like baby wipes are a great for cooler weather trips.

Electronics: Often times the best part about the trip is 'unplugging'. The use of electronic devices can often take away from the 'wildness' of your trip. Therefore we ask that you please be mindful of their impact to others and yourself and consider instead truly disconnecting. However, some of our guests travel with their smartphone even though there is no cell service. There is always a risk of water damage to these and other electronic devices, even when they are stowed in a dry bag. We ask that you bring headphones if you intend to listen to music. And remember, were in the back-country and cannot provide a power source.

Beverages: We provide ice water, lemonade, one soda per day per person and ample cooler space. In the mornings we also provide coffee, tea and hot cocoa. If you choose to bring any specialty sodas and/or alcoholic beverages, we have no problem taking whatever you want to bring - within reason. **Don't** bring beer, wine coolers or sodas in glass containers. Wine packaged in a box is ideal. Mark beverages that you bring so they are packed on your boat. **In Utah, wine or liquor is not sold after 7:00 p.m., before 11:00 a.m., or on Sundays and holidays.**

Medical emergencies: Our guides are trained in first aid and carry first aid supplies only. **REMEMBER** to bring your own prescription medicines. **ALERT** our guides to any medical problem you might have such as diabetes or allergic reactions. Wilderness expeditions are a long way from hospitals, doctors, and pain-relieving medicines. Evacuations to modern medical care are uncertain, and protracted. In case of evacuation and/or medical treatment beyond first aid, expenses incurred are the responsibility of the participant.

Cancellation Policy: If cancellations are made prior to 90 days before the trip, monies will be refunded less a \$50.00 service charge per person. If cancellations are made within 90 days and outside of 60 days of the trip date monies will be refunded less a \$100.00 service charge per person. **Cancellations made within 60 days of the trip date are non refundable.** Prior to 60 days to the trip date we will transfer reservations to another trip in the same year with a \$25.00 service charge per person. All policies will be enforced and we strongly recommend trip cancellation insurance. Cancellation of a trip is very unlikely, but we reserve the right to cancel any trip due to river or weather conditions or the lack of sufficient reservations. A full refund will be made if such is the case.

Insurance: Medical Evacuation and cancellation insurance on a vacation plan can be obtained from numerous insurance companies. You are responsible for these potential expenses and we strongly encourage all guests to have this coverage. We offer plans by TRAVEL GUARD that cover evacuation, baggage and cancellation claims. [To get a quote follow this link.](#) It is available to American and Canadian citizens, as well as citizens of another country as long as you have a U.S. address. If you would like a quote or you have questions give us a call. Also, if you are bringing expensive cameras, binoculars, or other items we suggest you have insurance coverage for them (commonly available through Homeowners Policies). In the event of a loss, our insurance will not cover those items.

Tipping the guides: From sunup to sundown your guides strive to make your trip unforgettable. It is customary to tip your guides, especially if you feel they have been instrumental in the success of the trip. A suggested gratuity range is from \$20.00 to \$30.00 per guest, per day (about 10% of trip costs). Please direct your gratuity to the trip leader in the form of cash or check made out to the Trip Leader. They will then distribute it evenly to the other crew-members.

Things to see in the area: Dinosaur Natural History Museum in Vernal (open 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.) www.dinoland.com, Dinosaur National Monument Quarry Visitor Center and the Harper Corner Overlook. Also, nearby are the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Jones Hole Federal Fish Hatchery, Uinta Mountains, and others.

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE PACKING CHECKLIST

IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TRIP, OUR VERNAL HEADQUARTERS NUMBER IS 435-789-4586