



CATARACT CANYON 5-6 Day

Canyonlands National Park

Never in my life have I spent so many consecutive days in a state of wonderment, disbelief, high excitement and continual laughter. The spirit will remain as an everlasting and dominating memory of a lifetime. What an incredible group of humans came together to raft, row and float Cataract Canyon.

Al Hanna, Mortgage Banker, Chicago

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Cataract Canyon trips are true wilderness adventures, and **itineraries vary widely depending on weather, the desires of each group, campsite availability, and the need to be courteous to other groups on the river.** This is a **sample itinerary** intended to provide one example of a five-day trip through Cataract. In July and August, we lengthen our Cataract Canyon trips to six days to account for lower river flows.

The night before your trip: please meet at our Green River, Utah, warehouse for an **8:00 p.m. Mountain Time pre-trip meeting.** You'll meet your guides, receive your waterproof bags and instructions on how best to pack them, and have time to purchase last minute items from our store (look over our *packing checklist* for a list of such items). Please consider dropping off any personal beverages (specialty sodas, beer, wine, etc.) at this time so that we can pack them into our coolers.

Day 1: We'll meet you back at our Green River headquarters the next morning at the time determined during the pre-trip meeting. It's a 90-minute ride to the put-in, first east along the base of the Book Cliffs, then south toward Moab. Hop in an inflatable kayak or onto a stand-up paddle board for some exercise, or settle in on a raft. We'll lunch on a sandbar and maybe take a short hike to an exposed petrified wood boneyard. Look up high to wave to visitors at Dead Horse Point State Park.

Day 2: Morning sun makes the walls glow like red gold. Listen for the descending song of the canyon wren, or paddle your stand-up paddle board along the shore in search of otters and great blue herons. The Colorado meanders peacefully in this section. Swim alongside the rafts or lounge under an umbrella; the afternoon may provide the opportunity to hike to thousand-year-old rock structures built by the Fremont Culture. Learn to spot granaries (ancient food storage structures) on the cliff walls as we continue downstream.

Day 3: Today we'll reach the confluence of the Colorado and Green rivers, believed by some cultures to be the center of the universe. Swim through the line where the two rivers meet and buckle up your personal flotation device! Rapids are just a few miles ahead. Just below the confluence, enjoy a view of the Doll House, a collection of freestanding, sandstone columns: one of the remotest regions of the Maze District of Canyonlands.

Day 4: Conditions permitting, ambitious hikers may start the day with a hike into the Doll House. Ascend steeply to the canyon rim in the Maze District to explore the red and white red rock formations and prehistoric artifacts. Below, the rapids of Cataract Canyon await. We'll stop and scout a few of the big ones, giving plenty of time for the suspense to build. Hold on for the the Big Drops: Little Niagara and Satan's Gut!

Day 5: After a few last rapids, the water calms again, and the canyon walls rise, smooth and majestic. We're now officially in Lake Powell, although depending on the reservoir level, it may still feel like a river for a long distance. When the reservoir is high, we'll get an assist from our "Seldom Seen" motorboat. We'll float under the Hite Narrows Bridge and pull over just beyond the mouth of the Dirty Devil River. A two-hour drive brings us back to Green River. Our expected time of arrival back at our headquarters is from **5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

If you are on a six-day Cataract Canyon trip, you can expect a similar itinerary to this one. However, with lower late-season river flows and an extra day to play, you may take some extra time in the upper canyon exploring artifacts or side canyons and reach the confluence sometime on the fourth day. You may dive into some whitewater rafting on day four but likely will spend that night nestled between mighty rapids in the heart of Cataract Canyon. We'd run the Big Drops on the fifth day and finish up on day six by exploring the upper reaches of Narrow Canyon and the boat-ramp back to the "real" world.

Wilderness river trips are changeable by nature. Please understand that this is only a **sample itinerary**, intended to give an idea of how your time will be spent on the river. You may have the opportunity to do all of the above activities, or you may have a variety of other memorable and exciting experiences. Holiday's motto is "Go With the Flow", and we encourage you to arrive with an open mind, a flexible attitude, and an appetite for adventure!

Getting Here...

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

We meet for your trip in Green River, Utah at Holiday River Expeditions headquarters (2075 E Main St. Green River, UT 84525) **the night prior at 8:00 PM.** Our headquarters is located 1/4 mile east of the Green River Bridge, across the highway from the Motel 6 and behind the Comfort Inn. If you plan on arriving in Green River by shuttle, bus, Amtrak, or plane, call our office ahead of time (801-266-2087) to make arrangements to have you and your gear transported to our headquarters. Also please give any last-minute updates to our headquarters directly at (435-564-3273). If you are driving, your car can be left 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 to Green River:** Salt Lake City located 180 miles northwest of Green River, Utah (about a 3 hour drive). Most guests rent a car from any of the major rental agencies at the airport and drive to our headquarters.
- **Grand Junction to Green River:** Grand Junction is located 100 miles due East of Green River (about a 1.5 hour drive). Delta, United and American Airlines all service Grand Junction Airport. Rental option from GJ Airport include: Alamo, Hertz, Budget, Enterprise and National.
- **Moab to Green River:** Moab is located 52 miles southeast of Green River and now offers one flight a day in and out operated by [United Airlines/ SkyWest Airlines connecting through Denver](#). Moab has rental car service through [Enterprise](#)

*** While rental cars are typically the best transportation option, in rare instances including large groups, shuttles may become a reasonable alternative:

Shuttle Service from Salt Lake City, Grand Junction or Moab airport to Green River include:

- Moab Express Shuttles 435-260-2389 www.moabexpress.com
- Redrock Express 800-259-2869 www.redrockexpress.com
- Road Runner Shuttles 435-259-9402 www.roadrunnershuttle.com

Lodging before and after your trip can be booked at one of six locations:

- [River Terrace Inn](#) 435-564-3401 (locally owned, pool, hot tub, full breakfast, riverside rooms available) *10% discount
- [Comfort Inn](#) 435-564-3300 (inside pool, hot tub, continental breakfast – in front of our headquarters) *10% discount
- [First Choice Inns](#) 435-564-4439 (inside pool, hot tub, continental breakfast – west of our headquarters)
- [Super 8](#) 435-564-8888 (inside pool, hot tub, refrigerator, microwave)
- [Motel 6](#) 435-564-3436 (pool, kids free, lower rates)
- [Sleepy Hollow](#) 435-564-8189 (clean with lower rates)

*When making advance reservations at the River Terrace Inn or Comfort Inn, mention that you are on a Holiday River Expedition trip and you will be extended a discounted rate on your room. You will need a trip invoice at check-in.

BE SURE TO MAKE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS!

If you are camping out, there are two campgrounds in Green River: the Green River State Park (no pool, lower rates and may have mosquitoes – call 435-564-3633 to make reservations), and the KOA Campground (435-564-8195 – across from our headquarters).

Before You Go...

Beginning of the trip: On the morning of your trip, plan to arrive promptly at the predetermined time established at the pre-trip orientation meeting. 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 90-minute van ride to the embarkation point, where we will transfer to the boats.

After the trip: We will disembark at Hite, Utah. From Hite we will take you back to our headquarters in Green River (2 hour van ride). Our expected time of arrival back at our headquarters is 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The best place to eat in Green River is Ray's Tavern. Ray's is a true small town bar rich in atmosphere and good food. They serve incredible hamburgers, pork chops, salads and steaks. The Tamarisk Restaurant offers family dining with riverside seating.

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 you 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.

Weather: In the early and late seasons (May to mid-June and late-August to September) the daytime temperatures are 70 to 90 degrees, with nighttime temperatures 50 to 60 degrees. It seldom rains in, but when it does, it can cool temperatures considerably in May and September. From mid-June to mid-August the days are hot, and temperatures average 80 to 100 degrees during the day and 60 to 75 degrees at night. This is the time of year that swimming becomes a popular activity. This may seem hot but remember the humidity is very low. There will be an abundance of sun, so bring a hat and plenty of suntan lotion and/or sunscreen. **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 to mid-July) mosquitoes can be bothersome. Be sure to bring long sleeve clothing and a generous supply of 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. Please be aware that some of the hikes on this trip can be more strenuous due to heat and elevation gain. 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.

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. 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. The liquor store in Green River, Utah is located in the back of the West Winds restaurant. **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. Information should be enclosed with this package. 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: John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River, Utah. Arches National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Canyonlands National Park, Fisher Towers, Colorado National Monument, Goblin Valley State Park, San Rafael Swell, Capitol Reef National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, and the La Sal and Henry Mountains.

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE PACKING CHECKLIST!

IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TRIP, OUR GREEN RIVER HEADQUARTERS NUMBER IS 435-564-3273