



## Gates Of Lodore 4-Day

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### Dinosaur National Monument

Green River Rafting through Lodore Canyon trips are filled with excitement and beautiful scenery. We will encounter 800-foot canyon walls superbly crafted by Mother Nature of Precambrian Bedrock along with exquisite vermilion rock formations. Many of its exciting whitewater rapids were named by John Wesley Powell, who first discovered the canyon in 1869. Powell's adventures live on in the whitewater rapids he named: Disaster Falls, Triplet Falls and Hell's Half Mile. Set aside as an American treasure in 1938 under the National Park System, the Green River through Lodore Canyon is a sanctuary for bighorn sheep, deer and birds of prey.

### SAMPLE ITINERARY

One of the advantages of a river trip is the flexibility of the daily itinerary. **It can vary widely from one trip to the next based on group desires, Mother Nature, and courtesy for other groups on the river.** This typical itinerary illustrates a four-day trip through Lodore Canyon.

**Day 1:** Meet your party at our headquarters in Vernal, Utah at **7:00 a.m., Mountain Time**. There we will issue your waterproof bags and 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). Watch for raptors and pronghorns on the three-hour drive from Vernal to the put-in at Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge. Enter the canyon through the impressive Gates of Lodore and imagine you're one of John Wesley Powell's boatmen, entering the great unknown. Winnie's and Disaster Falls are the first major rapids we'll navigate: a great taste of what's to come.

**Day 2:** The "Gates" mark the beginning of high desert country—the Colorado Plateau—in what is deemed an ecological transition-zone: a landscape teeming with wildlife. As the canyon narrows, more rapids emerge: Harp Falls, Triplet Falls, and Hell's Half Mile. Hike at Rippling Brook and discover a secluded waterfall.

**Day 3:** At the confluence of the Green and Yampa rivers at Echo Park, the canyon widens before the river circles Steamboat Rock. Here the river enters Whirlpool Canyon. The afternoon may be spent at Jones Hole Creek, a blue-ribbon trout stream with side canyon petroglyphs and a waterfall.

**Day 4:** Peaceful morning in Island and Rainbow parks before entering another massive gorge. The Green's powerful forces cut laterally through Split Mountain's uplifted and colorful core. Rapids abound before the take out and a 35-minute ride back to Vernal. Our expected time of arrival back at our headquarters is about **4:00 p.m.**, where your Lodore Canyon rafting adventure will come to an end.

As mentioned earlier, this is a **sample itinerary** and should not be thought of as the trip you will experience. It is intended to give an idea of what the trip will be like. It could also be exactly what you do. Keep an open mind, be flexible, go with the flow, and enjoy!

## 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 (**7:00 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 three-hour scenic van ride to the Gates of Lodore, 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 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.

**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](http://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