

The Upper Canyon – 3 ½ Day Motorized Trips OR 5 ½ & 6 ½ Day Oar Trip Lee’s Ferry to Phantom Ranch 88 River Miles

On this 3 ½ Day Motor or 5 ½ Day Oar Expedition your journey will take you 88 miles from Lees Ferry to Phantom Ranch (deep within the Grand Canyon). Your only schedule is to arrive at the take-out destination the morning of the last day – so relax and enjoy the grandeur of the upper canyon with its geological changes as the canyon walls rise above the river to heights of 5000 feet.

The Day Before: Please plan to arrive in Page, Arizona the day prior to your trip departure. You will require motel accommodations. Wilderness River Adventures will arrange your motel reservations at Lake Powell Resorts and Marina. Motel confirmations will be sent with your trip instructions. You will be charged at the time of booking. That evening you will attend a “Get Acquainted” orientation at Lake Powell Sport Shop walking distance from the lodge.

The Day of Departure: We transport all members of the expedition to the Colorado River launch point at Lees Ferry, Arizona via chartered bus. The drive takes approximately 1 hour and is 46 miles from Lake Powell Resort.

TYPICAL DAY ON THE COLORADO RIVER: Wake up to the smell of freshly-brewed cowboy coffee – sounds of rushing water mingled with the murmur of sleepy voices echoing through the grotto’s of the canyon walls. Breakfast is hot and hearty – or as light as you want. After breakfast you will be asked to form a “bucket line” to help load the gear back on the boats and then the Colorado River beckons and you are off once again experiencing the rush of adrenaline as you continue on your journey back in time. Enjoy spectacular white water of major rapids, such as House Rock Rapid, Hance Rapid, Sockdolager, and Grapevine – you will see and enjoy dozens of additional sights including Vasey’s Paradise, Redwall Cavern and The Little Colorado, as well as stretches of calm water where you will relax in the warm sun and enjoy breathtaking scenery. Photographic opportunities abound in the upper canyon. Lunch on the Colorado River; build your own sandwiches, with chips, cookies, fruit and soft drinks. Relax, read a book or perhaps hike or fish before shoving off again for an afternoon of thrills and surprises.

Late afternoon finds you at camp for the evening. Again you will be asked to help unload the gear from the boats. As your crew sets up the camp kitchen everyone finds their ideal camp spot and sets up their “home” for the night. Later you relax with a cool drink and hors d’ oeuvres, get better acquainted with your fellow river companions – as dinner sizzles on the grill. After dinner watch the sun set, join in the conversation of the group, and listen to the quiet of the canyon as you settle into your sleeping bag under a blanket of stars. Tomorrow brings another typical day on the Colorado River.

The Last Day: Your expedition terminates deep within Grand Canyon’s inner gorge at Phantom Ranch. Our boats arrive at Phantom Ranch early morning to give you the advantage of the cool morning temperatures. A selection of food and beverages will be provided for your hike out. Water is also provided for the hike. Make certain that you bring two 2-quart water bottles, one for water and one for electrolyte replacement drink. Small backpacks are necessary for this hike. Complete hiking instructions will be sent with your trip instructions. **THIS IS A 10-MILE HIKE. We do not recommend this hike unless you are in excellent physical condition and have done a lot of hiking.** You will ascend over 5000 feet in elevation from the river to the rim. Temperatures can vary greatly; during the summer inner canyon temperatures can reach 120° at high noon. The hike will take from 6 to 8 hours depending on the individual up a maintained but strenuous trail. For an extra charge, mules can be arranged by contacting Xanterra Parks and Resorts, (888) 297-2757.

Transportation Arrangements (Refer to the enclosed Optional Related Facilities and Transportation)

1. If you are flying to Page, Arizona

GETTING THERE: Take a scheduled chartered flight into Page, Arizona from Las Vegas, Nevada arriving the day before your river trip. Complimentary shuttle service is available from the Page Airport to Lake Powell Resorts and Marina.

GOING HOME: Hike out to the South Rim. You will need to make arrangements to fly back to Las Vegas, NV via chartered flight. These arrangements need to be previously arranged by you.

2. If you are driving to Page, Arizona

GETTING THERE: Drive your car to Page, Arizona. Having made prior arrangements, have your car shuttled from Page to Grand Canyon, South Rim by a car shuttle service listed on our Optional Related Facilities and Transportation sheet.

GOING HOME: Hike out to the South Rim where your car awaits you. The shuttle company will advise where they will leave your car in the village.

ITINERARY

THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR TRIP DEPARTS:

7:30 p.m. All passengers will gather in the Orientation Room at the Lake Powell Sports Shop at Lake Powell Resorts and Marina. There you will be welcomed by your Lead Guide or Company Representative. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks will be served. Our Company Representative will introduce himself, your Lead Guide and crew. Your Lead Guide will instruct you on how to pack your river gear, explain our rules and customs while on the river, and answer any questions you may have pertaining to your expedition. He will explain the itinerary for the next day and check last minute details with you concerning your transportation arrangements.

CAR SHUTTLES:

If you have arranged to have your car shuttled to the South Rim – be sure to finalize your shuttle arrangements before the evening of Orientation. You must contact your shuttle driver prior to the date of your trip. Please refer to our Optional Related Facilities and Transportation sheet.

Orientation will last approximately 1 hour. BEER, LIQUOR, WINE, MIXES AND DOWN RIVER GEAR (i.e., clothing, rain gear, water bottles, etc.) may be purchased at the Lake Powell Sports Shop - prior to or immediately following orientation.

THE DAY YOUR TRIP DEPARTS FROM LAKE POWELL RESORTS:

7:45 a.m. (please eat breakfast and check out prior to 7:30 a.m.)

You will take your packed waterproof bags, ammo cans, and personal items for the river to the spot designated by your Company Representative the night prior.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: WE DO NOT transport luggage to the South Rim.

8:00 a.m. You will board the bus at the lodge (with your river gear) and be taken to Lees Ferry where you will board our rafts to begin your river trip. It is 46 miles to Lees Ferry.

THE DAY YOUR TRIP TERMINATES AT PHANTOM RANCH:

Our boats will arrive at Phantom Ranch at approximately 7:00 a.m. or earlier. You will have transferred your clothing and personal articles from our waterproof bag and ammo can to your duffel bag for your hike out. Two quarts of electrolyte supplement should be considered essential, along with a carrying capacity for at least three quarts of water. Wilderness supplies lunch, water and electrolyte replacement drink for your hike out. Adjustable walking sticks are a smart carry – especially for participants over 40 or for anyone with a prior knee, ankle or hip history. Also Ace Wraps required for prior injuries. Relief from inflammation and pain should be in everyone's back pocket. Keep your gear to a minimum for your hike out. Things you do not need you can leave on our boats. Adequate broken-in footgear is recommended and thick hiking socks. Wear a hat.

It is a 10-mile hike from Phantom Ranch to the South Rim. We do not recommend this hike unless you are in excellent physical condition and have done a lot of up-hill hiking. You will ascend over 5000 feet in elevation from river to rim and temperatures can vary greatly. During the summer, inner canyon temperatures can reach 120 degrees at high noon. The hike will take from 6 to 8 hours depending on the individual, up a good but strenuous trail.