



# Canyon Ministries GRAND CANYON TRIP INFORMATION Lees Ferry to Whitmore Wash

## CONTENTS

(Click on an item to go directly to it)

<b>GRAND CANYON TRIP INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Emergency.....	2
Liability .....	2
Special needs .....	2
Fuel surcharge .....	2
One-trip-per-year rule.....	2
Early and late season information.....	2
<b>ITINERARY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Las Vegas.....	3
Marble Canyon.....	3
<b>ITEMS THE OUTFITTER SUPPLIES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PACKING LISTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Items you should bring.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Raingear .....	4
Footwear .....	4
Clothes.....	5
Beverages.....	5
Cameras .....	5
Fishing.....	5
Money .....	5
Gratuities.....	5
Personal items .....	5
Additional Items.....	5
<b>Your Packing List .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Required items .....	6
Suggested clothing items.....	6
Suggested personal items .....	6
Optional personal items.....	6
<b>LODGING .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Las Vegas.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Airport transportation .....	7
Luggage storage .....	7
Car parking.....	7
<b>Marble Canyon itinerary .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Car parking.....	7
<b>ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>EARLY AND LATE SEASON INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>10</b>

### Canyon Ministries Tours

1808 W. Verde Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85015 - Phone 602-254-5798 - Email [Trips@CanyonMinistries.com](mailto:Trips@CanyonMinistries.com)

# GRAND CANYON TRIP INFORMATION

## Lees Ferry to Whitmore Wash

This information packet is for trips that launch on the river from Lees Ferry and leave the river by helicopter at Whitmore Wash. It is aimed at answering most of your questions about the trip; but if not, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 602-254-5798.

There are two meeting locations for this trip: Marble Canyon, AZ or Las Vegas, NV. (See the trip [Itinerary](#) section for details.) Your meeting location of choice is on your confirmation. If in doubt of where you will meet the trip, please give us a call.

This packet is loaded with hints and information to help you prepare for your trip. We suggest everyone going on the trip read it completely at least once. It is also helpful to re-read this packet after you finish packing. Additionally, reading through all of the [Answers to Common Question](#) will likely answer questions you didn't even know you had.

First, a few administrative details. There are 2 forms that **MUST** be completed prior to the trip. These [Visitor's Acknowledgment of Risk](#) and [Trip Participation/Medical](#) forms should be mailed, emailed, or faxed **directly to [Arizona River Runners](#)**, the outfitter for your trip, at least 60 days prior to the trip. Both forms are explained below. **You will not be allowed to launch on the river without them! Please read about them below and do them now.**

**Emergency** - During the season, you may reach Arizona River Runners after business hours or on weekends at their regular toll free number (800-477-7238). You will be directed to call one of their "on call" staff to help assist you questions. This is only for messages that cannot wait until they resume normal business hours.

Please be aware that getting an emergency message to a guest on the river, even in the event of death in the family, may not be possible. The Grand Canyon National Park's policy is to limit the use of helicopters to contact or remove river guests from the river for this type of emergency. The National Park Service feels strongly about this policy and has made very few exceptions. Please give ARR's 800 number to family members not going on the trip, if needed for an emergency, while you are on the river.

**Liability** - Our experience through the years has shown that river rafting trips are fun vacations. You should recognize, however, that there is an element of risk in any adventure or activity associated with the outdoors. Check with your local agent concerning your insurance needs.

The enclosed [Visitor's Acknowledgment of Risk](#) form must be signed by each passenger and received by the time final balance is paid on the trip. Each person 18 years and older must sign their own form. Husbands and wives must sign individually; one cannot sign for the other. If you should need additional forms for anyone in your group, they may be copied or you may contact Canyon Ministries.

**Special needs** - If anyone in your group has any special physical or medical condition or dietary need of which we should be advised, list this information on the enclosed [Trip Participation/Medical](#) form. We make every reasonable effort to accommodate dietary needs, but they must be made known to us on the [Trip Participation/Medical](#) form and received at least 60 days prior to the trip.

**Fuel surcharge** - Fuel prices seem steady at this time and it appears unlikely that fuel will have a large spike this coming summer. However, if prices happen to rise excessively, the charter airline company has the option to collect a surcharge (from \$3-20 per person per flight) when you check in.

**One-trip-per-year rule** - Due to the popularity of Grand Canyon rafting trips, the National Park Service allows only one river trip per person in any calendar year. Therefore, each participant's full legal name, address, and date of birth will be filed with Grand Canyon National Park. They strictly enforce this rule, so if you have already completed a trip this year, please contact us immediately!

**Early and late season information** (March through early May or mid-September through October) - The weather in the shoulder season is usually very pleasant but there is always the possibility of a late or early winter storm. If your trip is during this time, please see our [early and late season](#) additional packing suggestions on page 10.

[Return to top](#)

# ITINERARY

You will be traveling by various means of transportation over many miles on this trip. This itinerary will give you an idea of the times, meeting places, and activities of your river adventure.

## Las Vegas (for those who have paid for the optional flight from Las Vegas):

**The day before the trip** - We suggest you stay at the Desert Rose Resort. The hotel has special rates and also offers luggage storage and parking while you are on your trip. For details on the hotel, see the section on [Lodging](#). For those of you flying in commercially, we suggest carrying the absolute trip necessities in your carry-on, as you would have a difficult time getting things together if your luggage were lost by the airline.

**The first morning** - The hotel will have a limited continental breakfast available in the main lobby. A representative will meet you in the lobby of the hotel at 5:00 AM. It is important you be packed, checked out, and ready to go, as **the bus will leave the hotel promptly at 5:15 AM to make the scheduled flight.**

Adults will need a **government-approved ID** in order to be checked in for your flight to Marble Canyon. **Failure to have your ID can forfeit your space on the plane!** The flight takes approximately 1 hour. A guide will meet you at the Marble Canyon airstrip.

## Marble Canyon (for those who will be meeting the trip at Marble Canyon):

**The day before the trip** - We suggest you stay at the Marble Canyon Lodge, where the trip will be meeting the next morning. For details on the hotel, see section on [Lodging](#).

**The first morning** - Please be checked out of your room and ready to go by 7:30 AM. Car parking is along the fence on the south side of the road; RV parking is behind the rooms on the north side of the road. There is no charge for parking. The trip will meet at the “Old Marble Canyon Lodge” on the south side of the road.

**Day 1 at Marble Canyon:** There will be an orientation meeting at 7:45 AM, where a light continental breakfast will be served. Your guides will be available to show you how to pack your personal gear and answer any last-minute questions. After the orientation, we will take you by van six miles to the launch point at Lee’s Ferry.

**Days on the river:** You will be traveling 190 river miles on your river journey. Each day you will explore the canyon by raft with hikes into amazing side canyons. By late afternoon, you will be setting up camp for the night.

**Last day:** The river portion of your trip will end in the morning with a scenic, 8-minute helicopter ride which will take you from the river to the Bar Ten Ranch. There are showers at the ranch for your convenience. A charter flight from the ranch will return you to your point of origin (Marble Canyon or Las Vegas), arriving around 12:00 noon. You will need to show your picture identification at the ranch before your flight.

If you are going to Las Vegas, transportation will be provided to the Las Vegas International airport or to the Desert Rose Resort. **Flight arrangements out of Las Vegas should not be scheduled before 2:30 PM on this final day.**

## ITEMS THE OUTFITTER SUPPLIES

Following is a list of items we supply on every trip.

- Boats - custom-made, motorized, compartmentalized, and unsinkable
- Life jackets - of special whitewater design
- Meals - expertly prepared and cooked by our guides
- Eating utensils - plate, knife, fork, spoon, and cup
- Camping toilet facilities, toilet paper and supplies
- First aid kit
- Sleeping bag (freshly laundered) with sheet and small pillow
- Cot - for comfortable above-ground sleeping
- Tent & ground cloth
- Beverages - unlimited water, lemonade or punch-type drink, and assorted soda pop
- Water-tight bag for personal clothes and gear - your bag will fit inside if you pack in a soft duffel/canvas gym type bag, no bigger than 24” X 12” X 12”
- Water-tight personal day bag (accessible at all times) for personal articles and camera (round bottom bag, approximately 7” in diameter and 14” deep)
- Foldable chairs - set up in the main kitchen area as a social gathering place



[Return to top](#)

# PACKING LISTS

**Items you should bring:** The following page is a checklist for personal gear you should consider bringing on your raft trip. Though we have tried to be as specific as possible, you should give some consideration to your own personal needs.

Even though our Grand Canyon weather is somewhat predictable, this is still an outdoor experience with variable weather conditions. April & May tend to be warm and sunny, but late winter storms can move through the area. June through mid-July is normally hot and sunny, while mid-July through mid-September is hot and mostly sunny with a strong chance of afternoon or evening thunderstorms. The rest of September and October are usually warm and sunny, with a chance of an early winter storm. The chart below shows the average temperatures and precipitation for the inner Grand Canyon. The humidity is usually very low year-round.

The Arizona sun can be strong, so you need to protect yourself against sunburn. A good hat, chapstick, and lots of suntan lotion with an SPF rating of 30 to 45 is recommended.

With regard to clothes, give some thought to your own personal needs. Are you the first one to get cold or the last? Are you light-skinned, needing more sun protection or do you go all summer in shorts or swimsuits? Do you need to change clothes often or are you comfortable in the same swimsuit or shorts for a couple of days? What type of shoes would work best for you, given the conditions on the trip?

You will need very few warm clothes during the summer months, but please don't go on the trip without a jacket or fleece sweatshirt, raingear, and long pair of pants. The sun is usually hot and the water is *always* cold, which makes it hard to predict what each individual will need. Many guests will be bundled up in their raingear any time they are out on the water, while some will only occasionally wear their raingear. Your best bet is not to go on the trip without good raingear (2-piece) and a jacket or fleece sweatshirt. We have found this combination will keep most everyone warm from both the river and rain.

Water temperatures average about 50-55 degrees all summer long. Since water temperatures are cold, you will probably wear your raingear when running rapids, especially in the morning, on cloudy days, or on early-season trips. Remember to keep your raingear accessible even if you don't think you will need it.

Inner Grand Canyon - Average Temperatures and Precipitation								
	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
<b>Temperature</b> (degrees F)								
Average High	71	82	92	101	106	103	97	84
Average Low	48	56	63	72	78	75	69	58
<b>Precipitation</b> (inches/month)	0.79	0.47	0.36	0.30	0.84	1.40	0.97	0.65

There are a couple of special considerations and these two items that can make a big difference to your personal comfort, and therefore enjoyment, of the trip. Please take a few extra moments to consider these items.

**Raingear - Don't go on your trip without raingear!** It is important to have a set of *quality 2-piece raingear with hood*, not a poncho. The raingear is for keeping warm and dry while going through the rapids and, occasionally, for rainy days. We have found good 2-piece rainsuits available in the \$30 - \$60 range. Make sure it is waterproof, not just water-resistant. We find that suits with elastic in the cuffs and at the pants legs work best. ([Frogg Toggs®](#), made of paper of all things, are inexpensive and seem to work well.)

**Footwear** - We encourage you to bring 2 pair of shoes. Shoes must be worn on the raft and in camp. It's nice to have a dry pair for camp or an extra pair in case of loss or damage. Bring at least one pair of tennis/athletic type shoes. Quality river sandals with heel straps (Texas, Chaco, Alps, Merrill, etc.) are an excellent choice for our river trips as your second pair of shoes. Consider bringing a pair of socks for your sandals, as many people develop sore spots due to the abrasive sand and strap abrasion. All shoes should have good traction, be broken in, and comfortable. If you need the added support hiking boots provide, it is okay to bring those as one of your pair of shoes, but remember that most hikes are in or around water, so hiking boots that cannot get wet are not practical.

Quality raingear and footwear, along with many other river related items, are available from Arizona River Runners' online store at [www.raftarizonastore.com](http://www.raftarizonastore.com).

[Return to top](#)

Additional things to consider before you start packing:

**Clothes** - You will put your gear in our waterproof bags once you reach the river. It will fit easily into the bag if you pack in a soft duffel/canvas gym type bag, no bigger than 24" X 12" X 12". Most people tend to over pack, bringing too many changes of clothes! Keep your clothes to a minimum and in colors that will not show dirt easily, as the river and sand may permanently stain them. Fast-drying nylon shorts and bathing suits are recommended. Even if you plan to wear a bathing suit or shorts most of the time, we suggest you bring a pair of long pants and a long sleeve shirt in a lightweight nylon or cotton fabric for sun protection. You do not *need* a new outfit for every day, as some people wear their clothes more than one day while others are not comfortable doing so. *Pack according to what you think you will need!* Remember, if it should rain, it will likely turn chilly and a fleece or sweatshirt will feel better under your raingear than a wet T-shirt.

For early/late season trips, April and early May, and also in September and October, the weather is cooler, so be sure to pack some warmer clothing. See the [Early And Late Season Information](#).

A note on modesty: As a Christian community, we want to insure none of us are a stumbling block to others. This is especially true in the area of dress. Most people wear bathing suits and/or shorts and a T-shirt on the river. As we all know, these come in varying degrees of exposure. As you pack for the trip, please keep this in mind. For those joining us from other countries, please understand that bikinis and skin-tight Speedos have a very high degree of exposure by American standards and we would prefer you wear something more modest.

**Beverages** - We furnish lemonade or punch-type drink and water. We also provide a mixture of diet and regular soda pop. If you only drink a certain brand, you might want to bring an additional supply (fruit juices, mixes, tonic water, preferred soda, etc.) as some choices may run out. All beverages must be in aluminum or plastic containers. **No glass, please.** You may mark your cans on the top with a permanent marker.

**Cameras** - You will want to capture memories from your trip, so don't forget the camera(s). Bring lots of storage cards and spare batteries, as there is no place to recharge batteries. Most cameras will fit into your personal day bag (7" in diameter and about 14" deep), but we recommend keeping it in a Ziploc bag, even while in your personal day bag. We have found the fine Grand Canyon sand to be as much of a danger to your cameras as the water. A strap on your camera is also a really good idea!

If you are careful with your camera it should be fine, but if you try to take pictures while in the rapids, you will probably ruin it. It is a major disappointment to have your only camera quit working in the middle of the trip. The new disposable waterproof or panoramic cameras work well as a backup and are great for the rapids.

Note: most personal homeowners insurance policies will not cover lost or damaged cameras on your river trip and the river company is not responsible for damage to or loss of cameras during river trips.

**Fishing** - You may bring a small collapsible fishing rod. You may fish from the shore, but not while the boat is underway. You would be fishing mainly for trout. Arizona residents must have an Arizona fishing license. Out-of-state passengers may purchase short-term licenses at Marble Canyon Lodge. Ask the guide about fishing conditions before purchasing your license.

**Money** - You will need to bring money with you on the trip. Besides gratuities, there are opportunities to purchase fishing licenses, souvenirs, and other items at the start or end of the trip.

**Gratuities** - It is customary upon receiving a satisfactory trip to tip your river crew. It is an acknowledgment of a job well done and greatly appreciated. If you feel a tip is in order, the average is generally 5-10% of the trip cost. You may leave it with the trip leader who will distribute it among the crew.

**Personal items** - Passengers should bring their wallets, credit cards, and airline tickets with them on their trip. Don't forget your photo ID. They should be stored in a Ziploc in the bottom of your waterproof bag with your clothes. *Please do not bring expensive jewelry, expensive watches, cell or wireless phones, boom boxes, or other such items with you on the river trip.*

**Additional Items** - Go to [www.raftarizonastore.com](http://www.raftarizonastore.com) website for additional items such as river gear, clothing, hats, eyeglass retainers.

Now, it is time to get packing!

[Return to top](#)

## Your Packing List

The following are the items you should consider bringing. If you need equipment for your trip, quality products are available at [www.raftarizonastore.com](http://www.raftarizonastore.com). Most items are also available at your local sporting goods store.

You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (most need less) packed in a soft duffel/canvas gym type bag no bigger than 24" X 12" X 12". If flying from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon, there are additional charges for overweight baggage. This bag will go with you on the trip. **Please *DO NOT* bring suitcases, or bags with a frame and wheels with you on the river.** For storage options, see [Luggage Storage](#) under for your departure location.

### Required items

- A government-issued photo ID is required for flights at start and end of trips for those 18 and older
- Quality two-piece rainsuit with hood (not a poncho)
- Quart/liter plastic water container, with carrying strap or belt attachment for hiking

### Suggested clothing items

- Fleece-lined jacket or fleece sweatshirt
- At least 1 pair long pants (light-weight, fast-drying material for sun protection)
- Swimsuit or 1 pair fast-drying shorts for every other day (or you can wash them in the river)
- At least 1 long-sleeve shirt for sun protection
- 1 shirt for each day (or you can wash them in the river)
- Undergarments and socks, as needed (socks are good sun and blister protection)
- 2 pair shoes, tennis/athletic or other river-type sandals (see [Footwear](#) section)
- Bandanna, for keeping glasses clean
- Hat, with a retention strap and good brim for sun protection

### Suggested personal items

- Personal hygiene products - toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and shampoo, shaving kit, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products
- Medication or personal first aid items
- Small towel and washcloth
- 6 gallon size Ziploc bags, for storing wet items and keeping things dry
- Small flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- Backup pair of prescription glasses
- Sunglasses with retention strap (consider a spare pair)
- 1 small can insect repellent per family
- Sun protection - 1 or 2 bottles of sunscreen and 1 or 2 tubes of Chapstick
- 1 bottle hand lotion/moisturizer
- Money for gratuities at end of trip and small purchases before or after the trip

### Optional personal items

- Camera and/or waterproof camera, with lots of memory storage and spare batteries
- Fanny pack or small backpack, for hikes and storing things on raft
- Grand Canyon River Guide Book - highly recommended by past guests (available at [www.raftarizonastore.com](http://www.raftarizonastore.com) under Gear and at the Marble Canyon Trading Post)
- Small pillow or pillowcase (to put over the supplied pillow)
- Small packs of Kleenex in a Ziploc
- Solar shower
- Book, playing cards, frisbee, etc.
- Small musical instruments (call us for guitar information if you want to bring yours)
- 1 or 2 small carabineers, for clipping bags and water bottles to raft
- Fishing gear - See [Fishing](#) section for more information

[Return to top](#)

# LODGING

Your lodging accommodations, luggage storage and vehicle parking will be dependent of your departure location. Listed below are the main options available.

## Las Vegas (for those who have paid for the optional flight from Las Vegas):

We suggest you arrive in Las Vegas the day before your trip begins and stay at the **Desert Rose Resort**, a non-casino off-strip facility. It is located on Duke Ellington Way and Tropicana Ave, a 5-minute walk to Las Vegas Blvd (The Strip). ([See map.](#)) ARR guests receive a discounted rate for a one-bedroom suite (king bed). The room has a separate living room with a sofa bed and can sleep 4 people. Two-bedroom suites may be available for an additional cost. If you choose to stay additional nights in Las Vegas before or after your trip, the hotel will honor the discounted rate if they have rooms available. Call the hotel or go online for current room rates.

Las Vegas is *very busy* and the hotel will only hold rooms for our guests for a limited amount of time. Don't wait. Please make your room reservations now.

Reservations should be made directly with the Desert Rose Resort and can be made online through the following link:

- Click on [Desert Rose Resort Online Reservations](#), which will take you to the reservation website
- After choosing your dates, enter special code "AZRxxxx" (xxxx is the year of your trip, ie AZR2013 for a trip in 2103)

You will need to make two separate reservations if booking rooms both before and after your trip.

If you are having trouble booking online please contact them directly at:

### Desert Rose Resort

5051 Duke Ellington Way, Las Vegas, NV 89119

Reservations (888) 732-8099 or the Las Vegas front desk (800) 811-2450

**Airport transportation** - Desert Rose Resort is located less than 2 miles from the airport. Cab fare is approximately \$15 per cab.

**Luggage storage** - Desert Rose Resort will store your non-river luggage while on your trip for \$5 per bag. All bags must have nametags and locks. Stored bags must be brought to the front desk.

**Car parking** - If you are staying at the Desert Rose Resort and have a vehicle, you may leave it there while on your trip. Be sure to inform the front desk and park where they advise. We recommend you not store luggage or valuables in your vehicle. Neither Canyon Ministries, Arizona River Runners, nor the Desert Rose Resort will be responsible for damage to, or loss of, the vehicle, stored valuables, or its contents while on your trip.

## Marble Canyon itinerary (for those meeting the trip at Marble Canyon):

We recommend you stay at the Marble Canyon Lodge. Marble Canyon is about a five hour drive north of Phoenix, on Highway 89A, just west of the Navajo Bridge. ([See map.](#)) Since it is in such a remote area, we strongly recommend you arrive the evening before your departure date. Discounted rates are available. Tell them you are with Arizona River Runners to receive the discount. (Discounted rate not available online.)

Reservations should be made directly with the Marble Canyon lodge by contacting them at:

### Marble Canyon Lodge

P.O. Box 1, Marble Canyon, AZ 86036

800-726-1789 or 928-355-2225

[www.marblecanyoncompany.com](http://www.marblecanyoncompany.com)

**Car parking** - Cars and keys may be left at the Marble Canyon Lodge at no extra charge. The parking area is not an enclosed security area, but is well-lit and reasonably safe. We have been keeping cars at Marble Canyon Lodge for many years without any problems. Neither Canyon Ministries, Arizona River Runners, nor the Marble Canyon Lodge will be responsible for damage to, or loss of, the vehicle, stored valuables, or its contents while on your trip.

[Return to top](#)

# ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

## ***Where and when will I get my river and camping equipment?***

Your waterproof bag, day bag, and cup will be available before you launch on the river. Your sleeping bag, cot, small pillow, eating utensils, and tent will be available at the first night's camp.

## ***Will I need all the things listed on the supply list?***

A lot of care has gone into writing the supply list to cover our varying weather and trip conditions. It is still important to consider if you have any special circumstances or needs. Some people need only a few shirts and one pair of pants and others need a complete change every other day. Please stay within the 25-pound weight limit. You must be able to put everything in just one main bag, a small daypack (optional), and one personal day bag.

## ***What is the menu like?***

We take pride in offering well-rounded meals that are very appetizing, great tasting, and of sufficient quantity for everyone. Our menus have been created from years of satisfied guests.

- Each morning brings a different menu of your favorite breakfast items. Enjoy traditional favorites such as egg cooked to order, omelets, pancakes, and sausage with a glass of orange juice and fresh fruit.
- Lunches are a favorite for many with its variety of deli meats, fresh fruits, and vegetables.
- At the end of the day, you are ready for a hearty meal expertly prepared under a western sky. You'll have fresh salads, chicken, steak dinners, and meals with an international theme, side dishes and, of course, and desserts.

All meals include lemonade or punch-type drink, water, and an assortment of soda pop.

*NOTE: We feel our meals are nutritious, well prepared and will accommodate the majority of guests. If you have a special dietary need, please indicate such on the [Trip Participation/Medical](#) form supplied with this packet so we can determine if we can adjust our meals or make suggestions to make your trip more enjoyable.*

## ***Can we expect rain?***

We never know for sure when it will rain. So, even if you are taking a summer trip, you should bring a two-piece rainsuit as outlined on the supply list. Many people like to wear their rainsuit while running the rapids because the river is always cold. A fleece-lined jacket or fleece sweatshirt is a great item to wear under your raingear. It feels warm even in a damp environment.

## ***What is the Colorado River rated?***

Most rivers are rated on the International Scale of 1 to 6 with a 6 being impassable. The Colorado River is one of three rivers in the world rated on a 1 to 10 scale, individually by rapid. This system of rating is due to the high volume of water that we see in the Grand Canyon, known as a pool-drop system.

## ***Do I have to wear my life jacket all the time, even when we are not running the rapids?***

Yes. Everyone must wear his or her life jacket and keep it buckled up at all times when on the raft. Also, by Park Service regulations, you must wear the life jacket we supply.

## ***What are the toilet facilities on a river trip?***

We take portable toilets, which are clean and comfortable. These facilities are available morning and night while in camp. We have a smaller portable toilet that can be used during the day, but we do not set up facilities to urinate during the day. The National Park Service requires us to have our guests urinate in the wet sand or in the river. This can be a little more difficult for our female guests, so you might want to give this a little thought when making your trip preparations (such as a two-piece swimsuit or shorts instead of a one-piece suit).

## ***Who will be our guides?***

Our Arizona River Runners' guides are whitewater qualified with hundreds of miles of river experience. Each guide is an accomplished outdoors person, with a background in natural history and the ability to make every river trip a special and memorable experience. They also maintain a Wilderness First Responder first aid certification. Each trip will also have Canyon Ministries guide to present the canyon from a Biblical perspective.

[Return to top](#)



### ***Why is the water so cold?***

The river water is released from Glen Canyon Dam which creates Lake Powell, 15 miles upstream from our launch point at Lee's Ferry. The water is taken from deep in the lake and comes out of the dam at around 50 degrees. It only warms up about 1 degree every 20 miles. This is why we stress the importance of quality raingear even though rain is not common and the days can be hot. Many people will wear their raingear in the rapids even on the warmest days.

### ***Is the trip strenuous?***

Since our trip is an outdoor activity with exposure to the elements, we consider our trips to be mildly strenuous, requiring some effort. You are responsible for carrying your personal bags to your camp and setting up your camp area. Our guides will give instructions the first night on how to set up the camping equipment we provide. As with all aspects of the trip, we encourage the guests (with no medical restrictions) to participate in as many activities as possible, including helping the guides load and unload the rafts at camp.

Some of the hikes off the river will require more effort than others. The guides will give you a brief overview of the hike. If you would rather not participate on any hike, you may find a comfortable place to stay near the rafts. You will enjoy the trip more if you have prepared with some walking or exercise and are in better physical shape. If you have any medical questions, consult your own doctor and call Canyon Ministries so we may help answer your questions.

### ***Where will I live and sleep?***

We will set up camp each evening, as there are no improved campgrounds along the river. But you don't need 40 years of wilderness experience to participate in one of our trips; we have many people come on our trips who have never camped a day in their life. They usually find they have been missing something truly enjoyable. This will probably be the most comfortable camping experience you've ever had!

### ***Where will I bathe?***

You will get wet from the rapids, and may swim in many of the side-canyon streams. Some people will find this adequate and will seldom bathe in the main river; others will bathe nightly. Soap is only allowed in the main river. If you bring a solar shower, they can only be used in the main river, not on the beach or sand. Since there are few trees by the river, someone will have to hold it for you. Please bring only one per family, as they are difficult to store on the rafts.

### ***How's the fishing?***

Among trout fishermen, it is widely known that some very good fishing is to be had in the Colorado River! Fishing is best between Lee's Ferry and the confluence with the Little Colorado River, 60 miles downstream. You will need an Arizona fishing license, which can be purchased at Marble Canyon Lodge on full-length trips. The clarity of the water will dramatically impact the fishing, so check with your guide before launching.

### ***Can I wear my contacts on the trip?***

Some guides do. That said, there are things you want to consider. First, blowing sand in camp can be very irritating or may scratch your eye. On the river, you could have waves come over your head in a rapid. On side hikes, sometimes the possibility of swimming exists. If you elect to wear them on the trip, we suggest you bring a small bottle of water for cleaning them to ensure purity, and a pair of glasses as a back-up.

### ***How much time will I spend on the river each day?***

We average 4-5 hours per day on the river plus another 3-4 hours for side hikes and a lunch stop. Some days may be devoted mostly to floating. Other days, when the attraction sites are plentiful, we will spend more time exploring and less time on the water.

### ***Will my cell phone or blow dryer work in the bottom of the canyon?***

No, nor can you listen to the game on your radio.

### ***What about trip cancellation insurance?***

For travel insurance, you might contact one of these companies:

<a href="#">Access America</a>	800-284-8300
<a href="#">Travel Guard</a>	800-826-1300
<a href="#">Travel Insured</a>	800-243-3174

### ***For women only!***

[Return to top](#)

Even if you aren't anticipating your menstrual period, it is suggested that you come prepared for it. Sandwich size zip-lock bags can be used during the day and disposed of when you reach camp. OB's are 1/3 the size of regular tampons, tuck discreetly into pockets and have less paper wrapping. Many women also like bringing a small supply of baby wipes.

### ***What is the Colorado River rated?***

Most rivers are rated on the international scale of 1 to 6 with a 6 being impassable. The Colorado River is one of three rivers in the world rated on a 1 to 10 scale, individually by rapid. This system of rating is due to the high volume of water that we see in the Grand Canyon, known as a pool-drop system. The rapids ratings change with water levels, with some getting bigger in high water and some getting bigger in low water. There are about 150 rated rapids in the Grand Canyon, including 3 10's in the stretch between Lee's Ferry and Whitmore Wash. Between Whitmore Wash and Lake Mead there are about 15 rated rapids.

### ***What about snakes and bugs?***

The Grand Canyon is a very friendly place to camp. Being a desert environment, mosquitoes and flying insects are seldom a problem. Snakes and scorpions are seldom seen. But most trips will thrill to the sight of desert big horn sheep, mule deer, and a large variety of birds.

### ***So how big is the Grand Canyon?***

The Grand Canyon is carved through sedimentary layers of limestone, sandstone, and shale, and into the bedrock of schist and granite. This great chasm stretches 277 miles through the Colorado Plateau, descends over a mile into the earth, and extends as much as 18 miles in width. The Canyon holds within its walls mountains that are taller than anything east of the Mississippi River. So how big is it...REALLY BIG!

**Please call Canyon Ministries with any additional questions at 602-254-5798.**

## **EARLY AND LATE SEASON INFORMATION**

The weather in the early and late part of the season is normally very pleasant, but as you know, weather is unpredictable and uncontrollable. There is always the possibility of experiencing a late or early winter storm. If your trip is in the shoulder season (March through early May or mid-September through October), we strongly suggest you consider the following additional clothing items. Bring them, and be happy if you don't have to use them! Most of these items are available from your local sporting goods or discount store (ie: Big 5 or Wal-Mart).

- Polypropylene or capilene long underwear (tops and bottoms)
- Wool skull or ski cap
- Wool or polypropylene socks
- Wool or water-resistant neoprene gloves
- Fleece or fleece-lined pants

A layered clothing approach works well if it gets cold. The long underwear, followed by fleece pants and fleece sweater or warm jacket and then good quality raingear as the last outer layer should keep you warm. With the addition of hat and gloves, you should be set for any weather surprises.

[Return to top](#)

# *Seeing the Grand Canyon from a Biblical Perspective*



Lee's Ferry to Whitmore Wash

*We look forward to sharing the Grand Canyon with you  
and seeing what the Lord has in store for us.  
See you on the River!*



**Canyon Ministries**

**1808 W. Verde Lane**

**Phoenix, AZ 85015**

**602 254-5798**

**[www.CanyonMinistries.com](http://www.CanyonMinistries.com)**