

Family Rafting Trips in Utah



Highlights

These 5-day family rafting trips in Desolation and Gray Canyon, Utah are a must-do! Tackle the rapids, admire the rock art and visit Butch Cassidy's hide out during the day and camp under the stars at night.

The Green River stretches for 730 miles from its starting point in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming and down into Utah. The river flows through the Desolation and Gray canyons which are the only river canyons to be registered as historic landmarks. Red rock canyons are scooped deep out of the landscape, rock spires twist upwards like stalagmites, and natural arches provide perfect frames for blue skies and a seemingly never-ending desert landscape. Then there's the native American rock art that was scratched and etched into rock surfaces 800 years ago. It's all rather awe-inspiring, and makes the perfect backdrop to a holiday on the river.

With the kids in tow, it's doubtless the real crowd-pleaser on this tour will be the whitewater rapids that you'll tackle. Places like Snap Canyon, Chandler Falls and Belknap Falls will have kids and adults alike screaming with delight. And then there are calmer moments like the swimming at Rock Creek – where there's a natural swimming hole to splash about in. You'll also get to see places where Butch Cassidy hid out, and learn about the human and natural history of this area.

Is it for me?

This is a very family oriented trip. Maximum group sizes are 25, although the average is between 10 and 15. The maximum number of people to an oarboat is 5. This trip is a great bonding experience for families and friends as you'll be spending five solid days together, and also a steep learning curve if you're new to rafting and camping.

Beginners are welcome and there is 1 guide to every 5 people. Children must be aged five and above and should be happy spending time in and around water. Adults must be happy to get soaking wet in whitewater rapids.

Accommodation

The accommodation on this trip is all looked after by the team – and because you'll be camping – all the equipment comes with you wherever you go. However, it's the guides who do all the hard work – like setting up and taking it down – though you're welcome to help. Obviously, in terms of levels of luxury, it's pretty basic. There's no electricity, and you'll only have a portable toilet – but it's better than a hole in the ground.

As for food, the team brings everything with them. You'll have tasty breakfasts, lunches and dinners prepared for you by the guides – who are all great cooks. Expect healthy meals made from quality ingredients. A range of diets can be catered for – just let the team know when you book.

Itinerary

Day One: Canyonlands Field Airport - Green River

Today starts early with a scenic flight over the Green River from Canyonlands Field Airport. You'll then be met by one of your guides who'll load your gear and take it to the boats. You'll then hike down the mesa to the river. The water today is mainly flat, and there's a long way to go before you reach the rapids. There'll be time to swim as well as to learn about the human and natural history of the canyon. In the evening, the guides will show you easy camp techniques and they'll prepare a delicious kid-friendly dinner on the riverbank.

Prices from

622 GBP (5 days) per person

Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ **The Best Local Operators**
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ **Local Price Guarantee**
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ **Secure Online Payments**
Safe and easy online booking



- ✓ **ABTA Bonding for your protection**
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover


ABTA No. L7477

Day Two: Green River - Flat Canyon

This is when the whitewater begins. First off, you'll practice your inflatable kayak skills in fun, small rapids and then set out to find the Flat Canyon petroglyphs. After lunch on a sandy beach where there'll be time for building sandcastles, you'll spend time swimming and playing in the kayaks. In the evening, while your guides prepare dinner, you'll have time for nature programs, building sandcastles and playing on the riverbank.

Day Three: Green River - Rock Creek

More whitewater rapids are on the agenda today. You'll tackle Snap Canyon, Belknap Falls, Chandler Falls and Cow Swim. There'll also be time for swimming at the swimming hole at Rock Creek. Afterwards you can explore the Rock Creek Ranch where Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch hung out. This is the deepest part of the canyon – deeper than the Grand Canyon.

Day Four: Green River - Gray Canyon

Today you get to perfect your new kayaking skills when you tackle two big rapids – Wire Fence and Three Fords. You'll see the McPherson Ranch – another of Butch Cassidy's hideouts. Later on, you'll leave Desolation Canyon and head into Gray Canyon. Traditionally, the last night of the river trip is dress-up night, and if you'd like to join in, you can dress up in whatever. It's a great chance to celebrate your trip.

Day Five: Green River - Nefertiti Rapid - Canyonlands Field Airport

Today you'll have the chance to swim, play in the rapids, and challenge each other to water fights. Later on, you'll pass Nefertiti Rock just after you pass through the Nefertiti Rapid. The trip ends just below Swasey's Rapid and opposite the spectacular Gunnison Butte. After this, you'll drive to Canyonlands Field Airport where you'll arrive about 5.30pm.

Details

Getting there

Fly to Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) or Denver International Airport (DEN). Major airlines that fly to Salt Lake City include Air France, Continental, KLM and BMI. Major airlines that fly to Denver include BMI, British Airways and US Airways. Most require two stopovers, one in Europe, one in America.

From Salt Lake City and Denver you must travel on to Moab, 236 miles away. [Great Lakes Aviation](#) flies direct to Moab Canyonlands Field Airport. Or you can fly from Salt Lake City to [Grand Junction \(GJT\)](#) and from here you can hire a car or take a [shuttle](#) to drive the remaining 2 hours to Moab. Alternatively you can hire a car or take a shuttle from Salt Lake City or Denver airports.

The trip begins at Canyonlands Field Airport, which is in Moab.

Price includes

Price is for an adult, children aged 5-16 get a reduced rate. Price includes taxes and all rafting and safety equipment including lifejackets and dry bags, tents, sleeping bags and sleeping pads, professionally trained and licensed guides, portable toilet and necessities, all meals from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day, shuttle to launch site, iced water, Gatorade and lemonade on boat, soda, coffee, tea and hot chocolate in camp.

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

Pack clothing that you will not mind getting wet and dirty. Fast drying, durable, comfortable clothing is best for rafting. Cotton is recommended for hot weather and synthetic polypropylene or wool clothes for cool weather. All personal items must fit into a 20" x 20" x 27" dry bag.

Recommended kit list Waterproof coat and trousers; fleece/jumper; water bottle (with strap/carabiner); sunglasses; sunscreen (SPF 15+); lipbalm (SPF 15+); hat (with hat clip to attach to life jacket); T-shirts (1 per day); swimwear; 4 pairs of lightweight trousers (zip-off, convertible shorts are recommended); 4 pairs quick-dry shorts; long sleeve cotton shirt; underwear; river sandals/shoes that will get wet and dry quickly.

Additional items Hiking shoes & socks; moisturising lotion (Aloe Vera); waterproff cameras; binoculars; books; toiletries (biodegradable soap; personal medication, etc).

Tips from the guides Small day or bum bag; ziplock bags; skirt/sarong; stuff sack (to keep items dry/separate wet and dry items); journal; duct tape; clothes pegs and rope (for drying clothes); goggles (for people who wear contact lenses); area guide/river map.