



ULTIMATE SOUTHWEST VACATION

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	The Gonzo Inn, 100 W 200 St, Moab, Utah
MEETING TIME:	7:00 PM the night before the trip
RETURN TIME:	12:00-1:00 PM, Sorrel River Ranch, Moab, Utah
RIVER RATING:	Class III-V, depending on water levels
RIVER MILES:	96
PUT-IN:	Potash Boat Ramp
TAKE-OUT:	Hite Marina on Lake Powell
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 7 years / 16 at high water levels
TRIP LENGTH:	6 days with 3 nights on river; 2 nights at Sorrel River Ranch
ACTIVITIES:	Rafting, hiking, 4x4 touring, horseback riding
BOAT TYPE:	Motorized Snout Raft, Paddle Raft, SUP Board

Much of America's desert southwest is defined by one river, the Colorado. Born of snow pack high in the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado River courses its way south and west into the state of Utah, becoming at once a creator and a characteristic of the magnificent scenery of the Colorado Plateau. This region is renowned worldwide for its superior national parks, including Arches, Bryce, Zion, and Canyonlands—vast, rugged terrain of red and tan rock cliffs, sculpted spires and deep canyons.

This area brims with Native American and Old West history, not to mention scores of adventure opportunities: rafting the Colorado, hiking or horseback riding through picture-book settings with dramatic buttes and pinnacles, 4x4 touring Utah's splendid, remote backcountry, and much, much more. Come harness all the local flavor and adventure of southeastern Utah on O.A.R.S. Ultimate Southwest Vacation at Sorrel River Ranch.

AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

BOAT SELECTION

- On our four-day Cataract Canyon trips, we run a “combo” trip, utilizing 22-foot motorized snout rafts for the smooth water and 14- or 16-foot paddle rafts for the whitewater. The first 50 miles of this trip are relatively flat as the river meanders through sculpted red-rock canyons characteristic of the Colorado Plateau, this offers a great chance to test your balance on our new stand-up paddle board. Near the Colorado’s confluence with the Green River, the river channel picks up gradient. We’ll roll out paddle rafts for a hands-on and exciting ride through the famous rapids of Cataract Canyon. ***Please note: Periods of peak high-water, generally mid-May through mid-June, are not suitable for paddle rafts or SUP boards. We think you’ll find riding in the snout raft plenty exciting!***

WHITewater

- The Colorado River is not dammed above Cataract Canyon, and its varying water levels at different times of year provide a whitewater experience for everyone. In the high-water season of May and June, experienced whitewater enthusiasts delight in the huge waves and the famous “Big Drops,” which at times can make even the Grand Canyon’s Lava and Crystal Rapids seem tame. This is the greatest navigable whitewater in the U.S. at certain water levels. Later in the season, from July through October, as the water levels drop, this becomes an outstanding river with less intimidating rapids suitable for all ages and levels of experience.

Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and always flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other trips on the water and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like.

The Day Before Your Trip...

- We’ll meet at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the Gonzo Inn in central Moab for a pre-trip meeting. This is an opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and ask any last-minute questions. Your trip leader will give you a thorough trip orientation, then pass out your waterproof river bags so that you can pack your belongings that evening.

Day 1

- We’ll get going first thing in the morning, taking a short drive to our Colorado River put-in at Potash. Upon arrival at the boat ramp, our guides will present a safety talk and orientation to our boats and gear. We’ll make some miles on the first day, stopping for a short hike at either the Lathrop Ruin or Indian Creek Canyon. Camp will be made on a big sandy beach, watching afternoon turn to evening as your guides prepare dinner and the sun sets behind the towering canyon walls.

Days 2 - 4

- Morning begins with a coffee call from the kitchen. Grab a hot drink and watch the sunrise play out on the cliffs above you. Get a head start on packing up your dry bags, then enjoy a hearty breakfast and some time to relax as we get our gear back on the boats. Heading downriver, the Colorado winds us through the Loop—an exceptional example of the river’s convoluted twists and turns and a venue for another great hike—before we reach the confluence with the Green River. Here, the current picks up, signaling the beginning of Cataract Canyon. We’ll try for one of the great campsites at Spanish Bottom, on the verge of our first major rapid. Wishing to be well-rested for the rapids to come, we won’t let the mesmerizing spectacle of a billion bright stars keep us awake too late.
- The active hikers among us may make an early morning bid to hike 1,500 feet up to the Doll House, with astounding views in all directions. Then we’ll be off into the roiling depths of Cataract Canyon, to challenge the Big Drops and the big wave thrills of the mighty Colorado.

After a day of drenching whitewater excitement, we'll make camp and toast to the thrills and spills with new friends. Revel in a final night at the river's edge as your guides prepare a festive meal.

- After a delicious breakfast, we'll be back on the boats winding through the final dramatic miles of Cataract Canyon, where lofty cliffs rise 2000 feet above us. Soon, we'll reach the impounded waters of Lake Powell, held back by Glen Canyon Dam 180 miles or so downstream. After a final lunch on the river, we'll come to our take-out at Hite Marina and a five-minute van shuttle to the airstrip. Thankfully, the scenic flight to Moab grants a bit of time to reflect, as we trace our path backwards through Cataract Canyon from high above, looking down on the beautiful landscape from a bird's-eye perspective. Van transfer to Sorrel River Ranch.

Day 5

- Following breakfast, we are off explore the area in true western style with a guided horseback ride to Castle Rock Canyon – the same country through which John Wayne rode more than 30 years ago. You may help the wranglers choose horses suitable for your comfort, and even help groom, saddle and prepare the horses for your morning ride. We wind up the trail crossing its namesake stream several times. Dramatic 2,000 foot cliffs tower above the trail, and there's a chance we'll see deer, coyote, rabbit, and smaller animals along the way. We stop back at Sorrel River Ranch for a relaxing, well-deserved lunch on their riverside outdoor patio. We will then head up Shafer Road to start our 4x4 excursion to explore areas of Canyonlands National Park. We will travel through the Island in the Sky District stopping at several awesome viewpoints. Upon returning to the Ranch at the end of the day, we will enjoy a delicious dinner in their renowned fine dining room.

Day 6

- Following breakfast at the lodge, we are off to visit Arches National Park to view many arches such as: Eye of the Whale, Delicate Arch, and Musselman Arch. We will then have the option to take some short hikes to other spectacular rock formations that are not visible from the paved road. After this excursion, we enjoy our last delicious meal at Sorrel before our adventure comes to an end.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 4 days rafting with 3 nights catered camping
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 through lunch on Day 6
- Two nights' accommodation at Sorrel River Ranch, based on double occupancy
- Expedition equipment, including two person shared tent, sleeping bag and liner, sleeping pad, pillow, and waterproof bags
- High quality inflatable rafts and river equipment including paddle and personal flotation device
- Additional activities during your ranch stay as outlined in the itinerary
- All transportation from Day 1 through Day 6, including scenic flight from Hite Marina to Moab on Day 4

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to and from Moab
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Single supplement \$440
- Insurance of any kind, including trip insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Items of personal nature (a complete packing list will be provided)
- Gratuities

SOMETHING VOLUNTARY

- In reviewing your statement, you'll note a \$1/person/day donation to Utah Rivers Council a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to Utah's rivers and clean water sources. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to Utah's rivers and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. Please notify our office if you would prefer to delete the donation from your balance.
- The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit www.oarsfoundation.org to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

Terms & Conditions

Reservations & Deposits

- A \$250/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 60 days prior to departure.

Cancellations, Transfers & Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. The cancellation fee after you've made your deposit can range up to the entire trip cost, based upon the number of days prior to your trip that we receive your cancellation notice. We regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. **For this reason, we strongly urge you to investigate trip insurance** (see Insurance).
- Cancellations 60 days or more prior to the trip earn a full refund less a \$100/person fee. Cancellations 59 days or less prior to your trip are not refundable.
- If you transfer from one trip to another, there is a \$50 per person charge up until 60 days before the trip. Transfers made after this time will be treated as cancellations.

Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying an O.A.R.S. trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

Insurance

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, we strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on an adventure travel trip, evacuation can be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and O.A.R.S. accepts no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed or stolen property.

Acknowledgement of Risk

- Everyone is required to sign a standard Acknowledgement of Risk before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent O.A.R.S. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

Responsibility—An Important Notice

- O.A.R.S. Canyonlands, Inc. and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings (this trip requires a minimum of 4

For more information, call 1-800-346-6277 in the USA and Canada or 1-209-736-4677 outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail info@oars.com

guests), and other factors. There is risk in whitewater rafting, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be

strong and agile enough to “self-help” and “float-it-out” without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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