



**DON HATCH**  
River Expeditions  
**YAMPA RIVER**  
*Itinerary*



<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	Don Hatch Warehouse – 221 North 400 East, Vernal, Utah
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	7:00 PM, the evening before your trip
<b>RETURN TIME:</b>	Approximately 4:00 – 6:00 PM
<b>RIVER RATING:</b>	Class III-IV
<b>RIVER MILES:</b>	71
<b>SECTION:</b>	Deerlodge Park to Split Mountain
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	Minimum age is 7 years / 12 years at high water levels
<b>TRIP LENGTH:</b>	4 or 5 days/ 3 or 4 nights
<b>BOAT TYPE:</b>	Oar Raft, Paddle Raft, Inflatable Kayak

The Yampa River is the last undammed tributary of the Colorado River system, and its free-flowing waters surge through cauldrons of big, untamed Class III and IV rapids. In its natural state, the Yampa also displays sandy beaches, deep, colorful canyons, habitats for native plants and animals, and other splendid features of a river unfettered by man-made obstructions. Its location in Dinosaur National Monument adds an intriguing archeological element, and side hikes along the river reveal ancient fossils, prehistoric Native American ruins, and petroglyphs carved into cliff walls. All these treasures are encased in a strikingly beautiful river corridor whose tall, vertical walls are a canvas of yellow and red, sometimes dramatically streaked with jet-black coloration known as “desert varnish.”

**THE ORIGINAL RIVER RUNNING COMPANY SINCE 1929**

There is no substitute for experience. Known throughout the whitewater rafting world as the “original river running company,” the Hatch name has been synonymous with river running since 1929. Bus Hatch, founder of Hatch River Expeditions and patriarch of the Hatch family, is credited with starting the modern recreational rafting movement. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and

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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 Yampa River trips, we bring oar rafts, and with sufficient interest, an inflatable kayak and/or paddle raft or two. Oar rafts carry our camp gear along with 2 – 4 passengers and are rowed by our guides using a long pair of oars. Inflatable kayaks are 1- and 2-person boats that get you up close and personal with the rapids of the Yampa. Paddle rafts carry 4 – 6 passengers, each of whom wield a single-bladed paddle, working together to propel the raft downstream under the direction of your guide.

### **WHITewater**

- The Yampa’s high-water season is short but sweet – from May to mid-July, snowmelt from the Rocky Mountains thunders down through this deep gorge, creating powerful Class III-IV rapids. This is some of the most exciting whitewater of any river trip in Colorado, thrilling boaters with several major rapids each day, plus many smaller waves and ripples. Challenging as the whitewater is, first-time rafters and children as young as seven (older in higher-water periods) will have no problem running the Yampa.

### **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 for a pre-trip meeting at 7:00 PM the night before your trip at the Don Hatch Warehouse in Vernal, Utah. This is an opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and guides and ask any last-minute questions. Your guides will give you a thorough trip orientation, and then pass out your waterproof river bags so you can pack your belongings that evening.

#### **Day 1**

- We’ll begin our adventure with a scenic two-hour drive from Vernal to our put-in at Deerlodge Park, where your boats and the rest of your Hatch crew meet you. After a thorough safety talk, our journey begins. Today, the Yampa meanders through wide-open desert scenery, quite distinctive from the deep canyons that adorn most of the river corridor. Blooming cactus is among the eye-catching desert flora that we’ll enjoy today as we peacefully float down the river, soaking in the sights, sounds and sensations of our wilderness surroundings.
- Our first day on the Yampa generally sets the pace for the remainder of our river trip. Typically, we spend a few hours on the water in the morning, sometimes stopping for a great hike, a visit to a waterfall or Indian petroglyphs, or a refreshing swim. Come lunchtime, we pull over to a sandy beach and enjoy a delicious picnic. After feasting and relaxing on the beach (and perhaps a game of Frisbee or horseshoes), we get back into our boats and watch the desert panoramas slowly develop as we continue down the river. Today’s whitewater is relatively mild, but over the course of the next few days, the rapids become bigger and more frequent – perfect for trying out the paddleboat and inflatable kayak! Mid- to late-afternoon, we stop and make camp; you grab your bags and set up your tent while we take care of the kitchen and “living room” – camp chairs and the site for tonight’s campfire (if permitted). This is the perfect time for you to lounge on the beach with that book you have wanted to finish forever.

- Our guides might lead a hike to Stubs Cabin, an old cattle rustler homestead dating back to the early 1900s. One hundred years ago, this isolated canyon was used as a hideout by stealthy old-western outlaws, and several abandoned cabins along the river remind us of this shadier side of the Yampa's cowboy history. Other sites we may visit today or tomorrow include Fremont Indian granaries at Mantle Cave, side canyons bejeweled with tumbling streams and waterfalls, and yawning sandstone caves, some of which once housed Pat Lynch, an old hermit who lived out his days along the Yampa River.
- Before long you will be savoring pleasing hors d'oeuvres and the beverage of your choice – delicious as these refreshments are, they always taste better after a day on the river! Nap, take an exploratory hike, or just sit back and laugh with friends and family as we prepare dinner. After another satisfying feast, the evening is yours to spend however you wish. Maybe music, stories or jokes will bring us together tonight; maybe the popping of the fire, the whisper of the river and the clarity of the big, star-filled sky will encourage silent reflection on the amazing wilderness that is, for now, our home.

### **Days 2 – 5 (depending on trip length)**

- Your days on the river will begin with the morning light reflecting the colors of sunrise in the river. Fresh coffee and tea are waiting for you when you get up; grab a cup, sit back and take in the glory of the awakening wilderness. Soon breakfast is served – omelets made to order, blueberry pancakes, sizzling bacon, fresh fruit, toast, and juice are among the treats you'll indulge in each morning. Once you've eaten your fill, you'll pack up your things as the guides break down camp, then our new day's adventure begins.
- As we enter the Yampa River canyon, we leave the flatter desert behind, entering a stunning world where rock walls loom above us, rising to heights of 1000 feet. The whitewater also intensifies as the canyon begins; today we challenge three major rapids, not to mention some small but fun riffles.
- For the first two days, we watched the magnificent canyon walls and striking sandstone formations rise up around us, becoming bigger and bolder around every river bend. On the third day, the fascinating geology of this canyon reaches its apex as we float past some of the most astounding rock marvels of all: Grand Overhang, Cleopatra's Couch, and Tiger Wall. The latter is perhaps the most renowned feature of the Yampa River – a sheer cliff wall of pale sandstone, dramatically streaked with jet-black stripes of manganese oxide, or "desert varnish."
- Not to be outdone by the scenery, the whitewater is also at its best in this area as we run the gigantic Warm Springs Rapid. A relatively new rapid, Warm Springs was formed in 1965 when heavy side canyon floods strew boulders across the river, creating the Yampa's biggest whitewater.
- Much like the past evenings, we'll make camp on a big, sandy beach that likely allows access to a great hiking trail. If our guides don't arrange a hike, you may want to enjoy a self-guided walk, or perhaps you'd rather just relax and wait for dinner – always a trip highlight, as our day's adventures stir up a hearty appetite. Perhaps this evening you'll enjoy grilled salmon with orange zest, wild rice, and a fresh green salad. Or maybe a lean, juicy steak with mushrooms and mixed vegetables will be the main attraction as we watch the twilight turn to dusk above the canyon walls. A savory dessert usually follows dinner – maybe peach cobbler, strawberry shortcake, or something rich and

chocolaty. After our meal is over, the group dynamic of our trip is at its best as we gather around the campfire for nighttime conversation and laughter.

- Reaching the confluence with the Green River, we bid farewell to the Yampa, but not to the beauty and whitewater excitement it offered us – both flourish as we continue down the mighty Green. In fact, with the convergence of the two rivers, the whitewater intensifies and presents us with even more consistently exciting rapids than before.
- Past the confluence, we round Steamboat Rock and continue into Echo Park. Here we may stop to visit the intriguing Fremont rock art near the side of the river. Or perhaps we'll hike to Whispering Cave, passing magnificent sandstone formations along the way. In Whirlpool Canyon, we might take the longest hike of our trip, following beautiful Jones Hole Creek to amazingly well preserved panels of pictographs and petroglyphs.
- After a bit of flat water, we pick up speed as we enter Split Mountain Canyon, the river's gradient becoming considerably steeper. Four or five major rapids deliver plenty of whitewater excitement during our last day on the river. Reaching our take-out point at Split Mountain, we'll take a short ride back to Vernal, returning to the Don Hatch Warehouse between 4 and 6 PM.

#### **What's Included?**

- Skilled, knowledgeable professional guides
- 3/4 nights catered camping
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 through lunch on your last day
- Expedition equipment, including 2-person shared tent, splash jacket (spring and cold weather trips only) and waterproof bags
- High quality inflatable rafts and kayaks, and related river equipment including paddle, helmet and personal flotation device
- Transportation from Vernal to the river and back

#### **What's Not Included?**

- Transportation to and from Vernal
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Sleeping bags and pads (these items may be rented from Don Hatch)
- Insurance of any kind, including travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Items of a personal nature (an equipment list will be provided)
- Gratuities

#### **SOMETHING VOLUNTARY**

- In reviewing your statement, you'll note a \$1/person/day donation to the Yampa River Awareness Project of the Friends of the Yampa, a non-profit conservation organization that strives to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River, its basin, and its tributaries through stewardship, advocacy, partnerships and education. The mission of the Yampa River Awareness Project is to educate the public about the Yampa River, its special attributes, and current water projects and proposals for this river and its surrounding area. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to the Yampa River Awareness Project 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.

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## **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, 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 our participants 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 Don Hatch River Expeditions 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 could be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and Don Hatch River Expeditions 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 with Don Hatch River Expeditions cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

### **Responsibility - An Important Notice**

- Don Hatch River Expeditions, 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 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 may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. 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. 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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