



<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	Radisson Woodlands Hotel, Flagstaff, Arizona
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	7:00 PM, the evening <u>prior</u> to your trip
<b>RIVER RATING:</b>	19 major rapids rated 5 or above on the Grand Canyon scale of 1 to 10
<b>RIVER MILES:</b>	87
<b>PUT-IN:</b>	Lees Ferry
<b>TAKE-OUT:</b>	Phantom Ranch
<b>TRIP LENGTH:</b>	7 or 8 days
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	Minimum age is 12 years old
<b>WEIGHT LIMIT:</b>	245 pounds. If you exceed this weight, please give us a call.
<b>BOAT TYPE:</b>	We navigate the river in 17' hard-hulled dories that hold 4 passengers and a guide. The guide rows the dory with a long pair of oars.

This section of river is an excellent introduction to the canyon. The rapids start out moderate and grow larger each day, allowing you to become familiar with the boat's movement through the rapids. Even though the biggest rapids in the canyon are below Phantom Ranch, this section has more faster moving water overall. The cliffs and rock layers rise at an almost incomprehensible rate, ending at Phantom Ranch where you spend your last night before your hike out of the canyon. Our adventure includes the vibrant colored limestone cliffs of Marble Canyon, visits to Native American ruins, ancient fossils, Redwall Cavern and a visit to the Little Colorado.

**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.

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](mailto:info@oars.com)

## BOAT TYPE

- On our Grand Canyon Dories trips we use 17-foot hard-hulled boats. The dories are elegant, handcrafted vessels which are not only enjoyable to look at, but provide an exciting and responsive ride. They hold up to four passengers. We travel in a flotilla with the maximum group size of 16-20 passengers.

## WHITEWATER

- There are 19 rapids rated 5 or higher on the Lees Ferry to Phantom Ranch section. Whitewater in the Canyon is rated on a scale of 1 – 10 (unlike most western rivers which use the I – VI scale). A "1" is a small riffle, and a "10" is the most difficult rapid still considered runnable. Two of these, Unkar and Nevills produce consistent 6 (sometimes 7) whitewater, and Hance, Sockdolager, and Grapevine rapids are always an 8 or 9. The intensity of all rapids naturally depends on the water level, so readings for low and high water levels may vary slightly.
- Based on various circumstances such as water levels and current flow we occasionally find it necessary to have our passengers walk around certain rapids. The decision is made by the trip leader with the first concern being the safety of each passenger and secondly the ability to run a rapid without damaging the boats. This will give you a great opportunity to take some wonderful photos of the dories as you watch your guides demonstrate their boating skills. When conditions warrant, you may also be asked by your trip leader to wear a helmet. For your own safety, however, you may feel more comfortable with wearing the helmet even more than specifically requested by the trip leader.

## HIKES ALONG THE RIVER

- Each day varies, but on average you'll spend three-five hours on the boats. The rest of the time is spent hiking and exploring side canyons, eating, or just relaxing in camp. The easiest hikes are no more difficult than negotiating a few yards of beach sand or stepping over a few rocks. Others may go for several miles over a rough trail, climb steeply up a hot hillside, require the use of both hands over awkward boulders and demand caution as you totter on a narrow trail above a steep cliff. Our guides are happy to help novices with hand and footholds and reassurance. Many times their helpfulness enables the timid and inexperienced to get to special places that many other groups pass by. Remember, however, all hikes are optional and you can choose to relax and take in a few tanning rays or read a book instead.

## HIKING UP TO THE SOUTH RIM

- The hike from Phantom Ranch to the South Rim is a serious, long (9.7 miles) and strenuous hike. This hike takes you out of one of the deepest canyons in the world with an elevation increase of more than 4500 feet. People almost inevitably underestimate the difficulty of climbing the Bright Angel Trail. Temperatures on the trail can easily reach 110 degrees or more during the summer months. Transport of your personal gear by mule is provided, but you still need to make the hike carrying a daypack holding your water bottles, lunch, camera, etc. The extra weight of your daypack significantly increases the stress and amount of effort exerted. You need to take the time to get into very good physical condition before you begin your trip. The hike to the rim generally takes six-nine hours. ***Please Note: This hike should only be undertaken by those in very good physical condition. It is not recommended for anyone in poor general health, who is elderly, has heart or lung disease, is overweight, or is not physically fit. If you have any of these conditions or are unsure whether you are in good enough shape for this hike, we strongly urge you to get your physician's approval for this trip.***
- As required by the National Park Service, we have a hiking escort accompany our guests on the hike out of the canyon. We use the Bright Angel Trail which has the advantage of water, some shade and easy accessibility. Essentially you hike at your own pace, so you may hike as fast or as slow as you like, although during the summer months you want to complete the hike as early in the day as possible to avoid the greatest heat.

## **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 the occasional effects of the weather. ***Please refer to your confirmation letter for the exact dates of your trip.*** The following is a sample of what your trip might be like:

### **The Day Before Your Trip. . .**

- We'll meet at 7:00 PM at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel in Flagstaff for a pre-trip meeting. 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 that you can pack your belongings that evening.

### **Your Trip Begins. . .**

- At 7:00 AM you'll board our van at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel. By this time your waterproof bags should be packed, luggage stored, cars parked, breakfast eaten and room keys turned in. Our van will drive you to Lees Ferry (2½-hour drive) where we'll load the boats, give a river safety talk and fit you with a personal flotation device (PFD) before putting on the river. Our apprehensions are quickly converted to exhilaration as we splash through Badger & Soap Creek Rapids. The desert's warmth quickly dries us again before we reach camp. After a delicious dinner we stretch out in our sleeping bags to drift off to sleep under a starry sky.

### **The Adventure Continues. . .**

- The river twists between rising cliffs, offering new vistas at every bend. At North Canyon we walk across folded layers of sedimentary rock which leads to a pool trickling down from the polished funneled canyon. Our afternoon of lazy drifting is enlivened by the rapids of the "Roaring Twenties."
- Vibrant colored walls of Marble Canyon tower overhead as we continue our float past the fern-fringed springs of Vasey's Paradise for a stop at Redwell Cavern. This vast half-circular chamber, carved out by the river, offers a cool recess to rest. A few miles down river we scramble over short steep rock formations into Nautiloid Canyon where we find a unique display of fossils exposed in the smooth rock canyon floor.
- Relaxed drifting occupies much of this day interspersed by a few good rapids. A stop at Nankoweap Canyon gives us an opportunity to climb to the Anasazi Indian granaries that rest high on the cliff overlooking the Colorado River for a spectacular view of the river and vibrant canyon hues below. If we are lucky, the Little Colorado will be flowing with opaque turquoise (instead of muddy brown) water, which will invite us to stop for a swim.
- For a few miles the canyon opens up before we head into the Granite Gorge. We then go through a series of challenging rapids. We're drenched in turn by the big waves of Unkar, Nevills, Hance, Sockdolager and Grapevine rapids. After lunch, we arrive at the boat beach near Phantom Ranch where our river adventure ends. The dories will dock on the river bank and you'll unpack your gear from our waterproof bags and repack it into your own duffel bag, which you initially packed in the bottom of your river bags. After everyone has completed this re-packing, one of our guides will lead you to Phantom Ranch which is set back about ½ mile from the river. Overnight at Phantom Ranch.

### **The Last Day of Your Trip**

- You'll rise early (just before first light) so you can get an early start on the trail. After eating breakfast and dropping off your duffel for the mules, most people are on the trail by 5:30 AM. The hike to the rim generally takes six-nine hours. Once at the rim you will need to retrieve your duffel from the Livery Barn (*see Duffel Pick-up below*).

### **Duffel Pick-up at the South Rim**

- Once you have completed your hike and have reached the Bright Angel Trailhead, turn left (heading east) and continue walking along the Rim Trail. Pass the Kolb and Lookout Studios. A little farther along the rim you will see the Bright Angel Lodge on the right hand side. Walk through the Bright Angel Lodge and exit out the other side. Looking straight out, across the railroad tracks, you will see a very large barn and corral with mules. This is the Livery Barn where your duffels can be picked up between 2:30 and 4:00 PM.

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

- Transportation by van from Flagstaff to put-in at Lees Ferry
- Expedition equipment, including highest quality dories, two-person shared tent, personal flotation device (PFD), helmet, waterproof bags, camp chair as well as eating utensils, plates and cups
- Skilled, professional, experienced guides
- Meals from lunch on Day 1 to a sack lunch on your last day while hiking out of the canyon.
- Overnight at Phantom Ranch on last night in a dorm (bunk beds, air cooled, shower, sink and toilet facilities) or continue camping when not available\*
- Transport of one (1) duffel per person by mule from Phantom Ranch to the South Rim

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

- Transportation to Flagstaff and back from the South Rim
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Grand Canyon National Park Entrance Fee
- Sleeping bags and pads (these items may be rented from Grand Canyon Dories)
- Insurance of any kind, including travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Items of a personal nature (an equipment list will be provided)
- Gratuities

**\*Please Note:** Accommodations at Phantom Ranch are extremely difficult to get and occasionally we must modify our trips slightly. On these modified trips you will camp with the group just upstream of Phantom (rather than spending the night in the dorms) – have dinner and breakfast, then be brought into Phantom Ranch very early the next morning so you can drop off your gear for the mules. You'll be given a boxed lunch for the trail by your trip leader. If Phantom is not available on your trip, a special notice will appear on your confirmation letter (and all subsequent letters you receive from us) stating that it **is not** available for your trip.

### **SOMETHING VOLUNTARY**

- In reviewing your statement, you'll notice a \$1/person/river day donation to the Grand Canyon Fund for River Conservation, an environmental trust fund. Your contribution will be deposited with the foundation, through which grants are distributed to organizations such as the Grand Canyon Trust, Friends of the River, etc. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. Please notify our office 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](http://www.oarsfoundation.org) to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

## Terms and Conditions

### Reservations and Deposits

- We require a deposit of \$750 per person for all Grand Canyon trips, by check or money order only.
- \$500 is due in our office within 10 DAYS of your initial reservation; the remaining \$250 must be paid by November 1 of the year prior to your trip.
- If you make your reservation after November 1 of the year prior to your trip, the entire \$750 deposit is due in our office within 10 DAYS of your initial reservation.
- **Please note: We do not accept credit cards for Grand Canyon river adventures.**

### Final Payment

- Statements will be mailed in ample time to remind you of the payment due date.
- Final payment of all trip costs is due in our office, not less than 90 days prior to the departure date of your trip. Accounts on which final payment has not been received 80 days prior to the departure date will be **CANCELLED** without exception.

### Cancellations and 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 from \$250 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).

#### Date of Cancellation

360 or more days prior to your trip  
359 to 180 days prior to your trip  
179 to 90 days prior to your trip  
89 days or less prior to your trip

#### Cancellation Fee\*

\$250/person  
\$500/person  
\$750/person  
Full Fare

\* **If you are traveling as part of a charter group** please note that deposit/cancellation policies differ from those listed above. Charter Policies can be found on the group leader's contract & on the Charter Trip Release Form.

### Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying a Grand Canyon Dories, Inc. trip. People with heart trouble and pregnant women should have their 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 due to illness or injury – yours or that of an extended family member – even at the last minute. Trip participants should realize that in the event you require extensive medical attention and need to be evacuated from the canyon, or in the unfortunate circumstance of the death of an immediately family member and the National Park Service (NPS) is requested to notify you by helicopter – the NPS charges the expense of the helicopter service to the individual involved. Obviously, no one wants or expects a helicopter to become necessary during their trip, but the service can be difficult and expensive. Consequently, we encourage you to secure the insurance that we offer or other alternative insurance that can cover this possible expense. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and Grand Canyon Dories, Inc. accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed or stolen property.

### One Trip per Year Rule

- Grand Canyon National Park Service regulations prohibit individuals from participating in more than one recreational river trip (commercial or non-commercial) per year on the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River. Because of this regulation, Grand Canyon Dories, Inc. cannot accept a reservation from any individual who has or will participate in any other full or partial canyon commercial or non-commercial river trip within the same calendar year. If you have already completed or have plans to participate in any other Grand Canyon river trip during the same year you are traveling with us and would like to go again, please wait until the following year or later for your next trip. Grand Canyon National Park's one-trip-per-year rule is strictly enforced by the National Park Service.

### Acknowledgement of Risk

- Everyone is required to sign a standard Acknowledgement of Risk form 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 and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who

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refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with Grand Canyon Dories, Inc. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

**Responsibility – An Important Notice**

- Grand Canyon Dories, 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 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 245 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 subject to change without notice.

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