



COLORADO RIVER THROUGH CATARACT CANYON

Itinerary



Tamarisk Coalition Trip

MEETING PLACE:	Gonzo Inn, 100 W 200 South St., Moab, UT
DATE:	Sunday, April 17, 2011
MEETING TIME:	7:00 pm the night before your trip (April 16)
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 4:00 - 6:00 pm, to Gonzo Inn, Friday April 22
RIVER RATING:	Class III-V, depending on water levels
RIVER MILES:	96 miles
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/5nights
BOAT TYPE:	Oar Raft, Paddle Assist Raft, J-Rig

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 surges its way south and west into the state of Utah, its rock-shaping power among the defining characteristics of spectacular Canyonlands National Park. The river is mostly undammed above Cataract Canyon—thus varying water levels at different times of the year provide a whitewater experience for everyone. During the high-water, peak snowmelt, 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. In April and then later in the season from July through October, as the water levels drop, it becomes a great family-friendly run, with less intimidating rapids suitable for all ages and levels of experience.

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

BOAT SELECTION

- On our six-day Cataract Canyon trips, we run the river in 18-foot oar rafts, which can carry up to four passengers. Your guide will row the raft from a center-mounted frame using a long pair of oars. The first 50 miles of this trip are relatively flat as the river meanders through sculpted red-rock canyons characteristic of the Colorado Plateau. Near the Colorado's confluence with the Green River, the river channel picks up gradient for the exciting ride through the famous rapids of Cataract Canyon.

THE TAMARISK TRIP

The Colorado River is an incredible force, however it is plagued with an invasive species called Tamarisk. Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) is an aggressively invasive, exotic shrub or small tree infesting approximately 1.6 million acres of riparian land in western watersheds (Zavaleta 2000). Tamarisk establishment has a reputation for using large quantities of water; has devastating impacts on watershed biodiversity and ecosystem health (Carpenter 1998); greatly increases the risks and repercussions of wildfire (Busch and Smith 1992; Ellis 2001; Paxton et al. 1996); and causes immense economic impacts on the western United States (Zavaleta 2000). Researchers and land managers have identified the tamarisk invasion as ...*one of the worst ecological disasters to ever befall Western riparian ecosystems in the United States* (USDA/ARS, DeLoach, et al. 1999).

For this very special trip, OARS has partnered with the Tamarisk Coalition to facilitate for our guests, an experience that will enable a deep understanding of this great river's plight. The Tamarisk Coalition has led in the monitoring and maintenance of the Tamarisk issue, which is one of the greatest ecosystem experiments in the world. Now, we would like to incorporate interested citizens in this fascinating monitoring project.

The biggest element of our project is the remote monitoring of a biological control called the tamarisk leaf beetle. Biological control, or bio-control, uses specific and benign organisms to control an undesirable organism, in this case tamarisk. The tamarisk leaf beetle works to control tamarisk by repeatedly defoliating the plant over several years, stressing it to the point of death. The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Palisade Insectary released the bio-control in 2005, after over 15 years of intense collaborative research by many different agencies and universities. As a result, the tamarisk beetles have defoliated trees along hundreds of river miles. What we have now is the most dramatic case of biological control in history, but more important is the large scale potential for ecosystem change. With the introduction of one small organism we will be able to see changes carried through an entire ecosystem that spans three states and thousands of river miles.

As a guest, you have the opportunity to see first hand, the remote monitoring that is so critical to inform an adaptive management program for the watershed. You will also learn more about the whole process through discussions in camp and endless knowledge available from the Tamarisk Coalitions staff throughout the day. Guests will have the opportunity to help collect data that will inform scientists and managers about potential impacts of bio-control on soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation.

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 meet at 7:00 PM in the breakfast room at the Gonzo Inn 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 and pass out your waterproof river bags so that you can pack your belongings that evening.

Day 1

We'll get going first thing, 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, perhaps stopping for a short hike at Lathrop Ruin. We'll make camp on a big sandy beach, maybe have some tamarisk lessons and watch afternoon turn to evening as your guides prepare dinner and the sun sets behind the towering canyon walls.

Days 2 - 5

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. The river meanders peacefully, each new bend revealing stunning views of eroded canyon country. Today's hiking opportunity may come at Indian Creek Canyon, where fascinating Anasazi ruins and a stunning seasonal waterfall await.

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 days 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 farewell feast.

Day 6

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 5-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.

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- Experts in the field of Tamarisk
- 5 nights catered camping
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 through lunch on Day 6
- Expedition equipment, including 2-person shared tent and waterproof bags
- High quality inflatable rafts and related river equipment including paddle, helmet and personal flotation device
- Transfers between Moab and the river, including the flight from Hite Marina to Moab on the last day

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to and from Moab
- Pre- and post- accommodations and meals
- Sleeping bag & pad (these items may be rented from O.A.R.S. at a cost of \$40 per person)
- 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 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.

A Few Important Details

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 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 pregnant women 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 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 and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with 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 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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