

DETAILS CONCERNING THE RAFT TRIP

The greatest adventure of your life awaits you as you embark on your 182-mile long raft trip through Grand Canyon. Institute for Creation Research has led more than 3,000 people on guided hikes and float trips in Grand Canyon during the last 26 years. As you leave your comfort zone and embark on this wilderness experience, you see God's handiwork and experience His power on a completely different scale. You come to grips with the issue of origins. You recognize that Grand Canyon contains the inside story to the ground beneath your feet. You come to appreciate, in a new way, the historical accounts of Creation and the Flood within the pages of Scripture.

Grand Canyon of the Colorado contains the world's grandest scenery. It is a fairyland of natural wonders and experiences with thousand-foot-high gorges, rims enclosing wide bands of deep blue sky, brightly lit capes, shadowed bays, isolated buttes, sandy beaches, and feathery tamarisk groves. It is common to see bighorn sheep motionless on rocky promontories high above the Canyon floor. Falcons and condors often watch from above. Rocks are everywhere. Fossils are abundant in strata of sandstone, limestone, and shale.

Exciting creationist lectures, uplifting devotions, and the Grand Canyon will be enjoyed in an atmosphere of warm Christian fellowship. Camping, scenic attractions, running rapids, making new friends, experiencing God's grace in different ways, and reflection upon the majesty of your surroundings, all offer an experience which will be stimulating and rewarding. Scientists and educators with extensive experience in Grand Canyon communicate with enthusiasm and simplicity, basic concepts about geology, biology, and human history of Grand Canyon. Scripture is explained in easy-to-understand fashion.

What rafts will we be using?

Our rafts are 37-foot rubber pontoon rafts called "S-Rigs," which are powered by outboard motors. Each raft has a crew of two expert and courteous operators and up to 14 passengers, including ICR faculty. Even the biggest white water can be negotiated with a good margin of passenger safety and comfort. Arizona River Runners, our raft operator, has a reputation of safety, reliability, and is a licensed concessionaire with Grand Canyon National Park. A photograph of our rafts on the Colorado River is in our color brochure describing the tour as well as in this information packet.

Can you describe a typical day on the River?

While you pack your duffle, clean camp, and load your gear, guides prepare a breakfast which includes all the pleasures of a home-cooked meal. Following morning devotions, shove-off brings thrills of running rapids and viewing geological wonders. ICR scientists and river guides explain these natural features and various historical sites.

A stop for lunch finds guides preparing a buffet-type meal of sandwiches and all the trimmings. You will never eat a finer sandwich!

More adventure, thrills, and exploration of a side canyon on the river fill the afternoon 'til time for camp. Guides prepare an unforgettable dinner of chicken, steak or other outstanding meal, complete with salad, vegetables, and desserts, while you have time to fish, explore, take pictures, or relax and prepare your bed site. After dinner, songs, tales of adventure, a time of prayer, Christian fellowship, and testimonies of fellow rafters hold your interest until you decide to turn in.

What kind of food could they possibly feed me on such a wilderness experience?

All meal preparations are carried out to exacting standards by trip leaders, and crew members double as experienced outdoor chefs. Guests simply relax and enjoy!

Breakfasts on the river offer eggs or omelets, French toast or blueberry pancakes with sausage and bacon. Fresh fruits, such as melons, hot chocolate, coffee, and tea are served with every breakfast. Your lunch smorgasbord has been the subject of many campfire conversations. You “build” your own sandwiches from a seemingly endless quantity of assorted breads, pita pockets, meats, cheese, lettuce, hothouse tomatoes, Bermuda onions, spreads, sauces, and preserves. Also, there are pickles, olives, potato chips, in-season fruits, cookies, and plenty of cold lemonade. Seven-course deluxe Dutch-oven and barbecue dinners are a highlight of our river trip. Dinners feature entrees such as steak, barbecued chicken, pork chops, and halibut served with crispy specialty salads, vegetables, Dutch-oven potatoes, rice, scones, or hard rolls, lemonade and coffee. Taste-tempting desserts include cheesecake and pie.

What camping equipment will be provided for rafters?

All necessary camping equipment will be loaned to you and is included in the cost of the trip.

You will be provided with the following:

- Boating equipment (including life jacket)
- First Aid equipment
- Food and preparation of the food
- Plenty of water, softdrinks & lemonade
- Plate, cup, and utensils
- Sleeping bag and liner for bag
- Foam pad
- Two waterproof bags for sleeping and clothes
- Chemical toilet facilities
- Hand-washing station
- Two-person tent for each person or couple
- Water-proof bag (14" deep & 7" wide) to secure to top of load to hold camera and personal articles which you may need during the day.

What clothing and personal gear will I need to bring?

A complete list of necessary items will be provided upon acceptance of your application.

These should be able to be contained in a single duffle weighing 25 pounds.

May I participate in camp chores?

Many raft guests ask about this. We request that everyone help with the loading and unloading of gear at the campsites, and we will certainly appreciate any other assistance one might offer. Everyone is expected to wash his or her dishes and be responsible for his/her own duffle bag, life jacket, water-proof bag, and any other equipment loaned to them. This equipment must be checked in at the end of the trip.

What is the Colorado River like?

Grand Canyon contains world-class whitewater. Our rafts will run about 100 rapids. Many of them are larger rapids, including Soap Creek, Tanner, Unkar, Hance, Sockdolager, Grapevine, Horn Creek, Granite, Hermit, Crystal, Upset and Lava Falls. The longest of the rapids we will run is Hance Rapids (rated 7 to 8 on a 10-point scale by rafters) with a length of about

one-quarter-mile. The steepest rapid we will run is Lava Falls with a 13-foot drop (rated 8 to 10 on a 10-point scale). The stretch of river our rafts will run includes the most geologically interesting and scenic parts of Grand Canyon. Many scenic sites include Vasey's Paradise, Redwall Cavern, Nankoweap Indian Ruins, Deer Creek Falls, Havasu Creek and Vulcan's Throne. Fishing has been described as "world class." Rainbow trout over 20 inches long have been hooked by our guests. You will have an opportunity to buy an Arizona fishing license before we launch.

What is the itinerary for the raft trip?

We will be picked up by a luxury charter coach at the Hilton Garden Inn Las Vegas, before lunch, on Saturday, April 29, and drive to Grand Canyon Village. On Sunday, April 30, we will enjoy a worship service and listen to mini-lectures from the Canyon's south rim. After lunch we will travel to Marble Canyon Lodge near the raft launch site. At Marble Canyon the raft crew will instruct us on using the rafts and the river. Our rafts will launch from Lee's Ferry on the Colorado River on Monday morning, May 1. During our river journey we camp on sandy beaches next to the river. After our float trip of 182 miles, we will meet a helicopter near Whitmore Wash. This will take place during the late morning on Wednesday, May 10. We will take a short helicopter flight off the river to Bar-10 Ranch where we will enjoy a scrumptious lunch and have a chance to "freshen up" before flying fixed-wing aircraft back to North Las Vegas Airport. We will then be transported, by bus, back to the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Las Vegas to enjoy our victory banquet and one last night's stay.

NOTE: Please take your photo ID with you on the river. A government photo ID is required for the fixed-wing flight back to North Las Vegas Airport.

Are there expenses other than those you have told us about?

The only additional expense is the tip for the raft crew and our bus driver. Please take enough cash with you into the Canyon. The usual amount is \$10 per day, per person for the raft crew and \$2 per person, per day for the bus driver.

Who are the faculty on this raft trip?

Our raft trip will be instructed by Drs. Steve Austin and Andrew Snelling who will be teaching geology and biology on an undergraduate college level. Tom Vail, of Canyon Ministries and author of *Grand Canyon: A Different View*, will also be part of the ICR faculty on this trip.

Our short lectures and guidebook will help you interpret many of the Grand Canyon's features from the creationist and catastrophist framework of Scripture. Both Dr. Austin and Dr. Snelling are many-time Grand Canyon rafting veterans. Dr. Austin, a recognized expert on the geology of Grand Canyon, has accumulated more than one year camping experience below the rim of Grand Canyon.



