



PO Box 1324 Moab, UT 84532
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Discover THE DOLORES RIVER

5 D a y s / 4 N i g h t s o r 3 D a y s / 2 N i g h t s

Wild & Scenic River and Wilderness Area

***Spectacular Whitewater!
Rocky Mountain Forests!
Towering Red Rock Canyon
Walls! The Dolores Has It
All!***

Our professional boatmen guide you through thrilling rapids, surrounded at first by the spectacular Rocky Mountains and then by deep, red rock canyon walls. It is a river of contrasts, cascading out of densely forested mountains into beautiful towering red rock canyons. Located in southwestern Colorado, the Dolores River is part of the Colorado Plateau, winding through deeply cut canyons and emptying into the Colorado River just across the border in sunny Utah.

Get the Most from Your Vacation

Experienced naturalist guides conduct the entire expedition. They know and love this country and will be sharing their experiences, skills and background.

There is a guide for every 5 people to provide personal attention throughout every aspect of the trip. Also, the total number of people on each trip is limited. The crew sets up each campsite, prepares all the meals, and arranges the day's events. Your time is spent playing in nature, learning from her and sharing the experiences with old and new friends.

Looking for a Quiet Retreat?

The Dolores River's canyons are a wonderful place to rejuvenate your mind and spirit? Leave civilization behind and join us on the river. Your body naturally slows down to a peaceful rhythm, moving with the flow of the water. A few days in these remote canyons rejuvenates and energizes you, then stays with you as you return to your daily life.



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Never Rafted or Camped Before?

Those new to the river and first-time campers are encouraged to join us. We take care of you and make it all easy. The guides prepare fresh meals while you relax and enjoy hors d'oeuvres by the river. We'll teach you about living in the outdoors and moving at the pace of the river. National Geographic wrote in their Wild & Scenic Rivers Book, "My cares from my life in Washington, D.C., dropped away. I watched the water and how it flowed, and lulled by its rhythms I relaxed. The differing personalities in the boats began to find their resonance with each other, and the magic of the river washed all of us with the power of its purpose."

Is This Trip For Me?

This thrill seeker's rafting trip calls out to the adventurous, to those wanting exploding whitewater rapids and fast flowing water. The Dolores River is only run-able in April, May and early June, relying on snowmelt and dam releases for its water.

Wildlife

Wildlife is abundant here, although it takes an observant eye to see it. The State of Colorado has chosen this section to re-introduce the river otter. In the early morning and late afternoon the deer, beaver, muskrat, coyote, marmot, and others begin moving along the river's edge. The eagles and hawks spend their days spiraling up the canyon walls, keeping a sharp eye down below, while owls use the cover of night for their hunt.

River Rating

The rapids are rated 2-4. However, there is one Class V rapid that, depending on the water level, may be portaged or lined (meaning you walk around it.)

Weather

The Dolores River is at the edge of the Rocky Mountains so the weather can be very unpredictable. In May and June the days are usually warm (70s and 80s) with the evenings dropping to the 30s and 40s in May, and the 40s and 50s in June. We'll provide a detailed clothing and gear list for this trip, as well as wetsuits if needed.

Trip Lengths / Types of Rafts

The 3-day adventure covers 40 river miles, while the 5-day journey continues on for an additional 25 miles. Since the volume of water is so unpredictable, the size of the boats varies from trip to trip. We generally use oarboats, with paddleboats available for the experienced paddlers. We've even taken fleets of inflatable kayaks, to make the most of the water level. The Dolores is an exciting challenge for river-runners. If you're in an oarboat, you'll be busy crashing through the rapids and holding on. Paddleboaters and kayakers, you've met your match!

Natural History

The Dolores River is a geologist's paradise. You can see 190 million years of rock history in one glance. The river has sliced through the rock over eons of time and left it totally exposed for all to examine. The Dolores cut great arcs through the superb cross-bedded sandstone, leaving beautiful protected amphitheaters along its route.



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Everyday You'll Enjoy

The River: A river of contrasts, the Dolores runs for a small window of time in the late spring and early summer. This river provides constant whitewater and technical “pin-ball” maneuvering. The river is fast moving and the rapids are exciting, demanding the complete attention of guests and guides.

Hiking and Walking: Time is set aside to walk to historical and archeological sites. We explore the wonders of these canyons, including Ancient Indian ruins and petroglyphs.

Learning and Interpretive Time: Our guides are Naturalists with great depths of knowledge about these Canyons, the history, the geology, the wildlife and the legends. They know the ‘secret’ places that only exploration and experience reveals.

History

There are numerous prehistoric Indian ruins and petroglyphs along the river, traces of the ancient inhabitants that developed a complex civilization here. These ruins are remnants of the Anasazi Indians and are between 700 and 1500 years old. These canyons were their home and provided them with food, water and protection. We hike to their ruins, sharing what we know of their ancient lifestyles and pondering all that we don't know. The Dolores River was discovered and named by Fathers Escalante and Dominguez in 1776, during their unsuccessful attempt to find a route from New Mexico to California. Since then, mineral discoveries have been responsible for most of the influx of people to this area. Silver was discovered in 1879, followed by gold, and then, later, by uranium ore. The weathered timbers and mine shafts are all that remain of this wealthy era. Now, it's the rich farmland that keeps people here.

Itinerary

Day 1: We'll meet at our office in Moab, Utah. We'll drive to the river, load the gear on the rafts, have a quick talk about safety and “river time” and we're off. Here in the alpine country the rapids are numerous and demand full attention, especially when we challenge the notorious Snaggletooth Rapid. Guides prepare a fresh buffet lunch on the riverbank. There are other stops where we walk to archaeological and historical points of interest. At camp there is time to set up camp, explore, sit by the riverbank and enjoy happy hour and hors d'oeuvres.

Days 2 & 3: The guides prepare a hearty breakfast and then we're back on the river. Remote campsites and hiking trails offer unparalleled photographic opportunities. The river is fast moving and the rapids are exciting, leaving little time to relax on the raft. Lunch stops and walks to points of interest will give you time to catch your breath. The 3-day trip will pull off the river at Slickrock, for the return trip to Moab. (Guests on the 5-day trip camp on the riverbank.)

Days 4 & 5 (On 5 day trips): The river journey continues after a leisurely breakfast. The canyon begins to widen and the scenery resembles a smaller version of the Grand Canyon. The small rapids alternate with calm stretches, allowing time to dry off, enjoy the sun and the camaraderie that develops between people and their chosen surroundings. Campsites are beautiful, remote spots along the river's edge. We pull off the river at Bedrock, and drive back to Moab that evening.



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The Sheri Griffith Expeditions Difference

“Adventure with a Touch of Class”

DISCOVER:

The Quality that is offered only on a Sheri Griffith Expeditions trip. From the first call to last meal the SGE team is the friendliest, most competent and fun group of professional travel associates in the business.

EXPERIENCE:

The Service and Safety that comes from 38 years of showing guests the wonders of whitewater rafting. Our company’s knowledge is passed on throughout our team through extensive training and workshops. You will see the quality of this training in our equipment, food and staff on each trip.

RELAX:

In the Comfort of our cozy chairs, sit-down dining and fabulous meals. Your Vacation is our priority: whether you are a novice camper or a great outdoorsman, our goal is to help each guest enjoy their vacation.

What does "A Touch Of Class" mean?"

It means we provide more amenities and service than any other outfitter. Our goal is to help you feel comfortable in the outdoors. We provide enough civilization for anyone to be comfortable on our river rafting trips. **Great meals, cozy sleeping bags, comfortable chairs and professional service-oriented guides** create a relaxing and comfortable camp setting, complimenting the relaxed pace of the day's river rafting activities.

GROUP SIZE

Sheri Griffith Expeditions believes in protecting the environment and enhancing your vacation. This is why we rarely host trips larger than 25 people. Most of our trips are 10-15 people in size. On our multi-day expeditions there will never be more than 5 guests on each oarboat. With small groups you will get the attention you deserve and the chance to get to know all of the guides and other guests.



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Our Guest Services Staff

All of us at Sheri Griffith Expeditions know what a deeply rewarding experience a river trip can be. Our Guest Services staff is widely recognized as the most helpful and accommodating in our industry. You can rely on us to facilitate a successful trip. Call us with any questions, requests, or for assistance ~ we are happy to help.

What Sheri Griffith Expeditions Provides

- Trip orientation
- Rafting, hiking & camping in style and comfort
- All rafting and safety equipment including lifejackets and dry bags
- Camping Equipment: Sleeping Bags, Pads and Tents
- Professionally trained and licensed Guides
- Portable toilet and necessities
- All meals starting lunch day 1 through lunch the last day
- Shuttle to launch site and back
- Iced water, Gatorade and Lemonade on every boat
- Soda, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate in camp
- Full days on the river
- The best customer service from your first phone call to the actual river vacation experience

Our Guides

Our guides are professional, exceptional people with outstanding talents, who are eager to share their knowledge, experience, and enjoyment of life in the outdoors. They continually strive to perfect their understanding of our wilderness and its secrets. This is their way of life, and it is their passion to share this adventurous way of life with you.

Our guides' objective is to help you have fun. However, you can rest assured that your safety is their top priority. You will observe this in their behavior as well as their expectations of you. They are Red Cross First Aid and CPR certified, and have completed river rescue training. They are required to complete hours of training on each river stretch before they can "guide" our guests. If you are like most people, you will marvel at the quality of their work, while feeling as if you have just made a new friend.

“For me it was a tremendous adventure. I consider it the best remedy against stress and even more, it is a natural one. Afterwards it was very difficult for me to leave the river.”

Voste Albert, Belgium



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Orientation

We hold a pre-trip orientation at 5:00 pm the evening before the trip launches. Here you will meet one of your guides, sign your release forms, receive your dry bags (river luggage), learn what to expect and how to prepare, and ask any questions. The orientation is held at our office in Moab, Utah, at 2231 South Highway 191 (the big blue building).

Environmental Awareness

We demonstrate that businesses can be socially and environmentally compatible. Environmental responsibility is an ethic that everyone in the company practices. We recycle and reuse all we can. We are politically involved in, and contribute to, conservation causes and issues. We incorporate earth awareness in our river trips: "take only pictures and leave only footprints."

Custom Trips

We can help you schedule other activities in Moab around any of our river adventures. There are a variety of things to do in the Moab area including skydiving, Hummer/ATV tours, canyoneering, guided hikes, horseback riding, mountain biking, and scenic flights. Along with your river trip, we are available to help with booking the above activities as well as to assist with booking your lodging and transportation needs while in Moab.

“Our mission is to enhance and enrich people’s lives through outstanding outdoor adventures.”

Most of us earn a few valuable days each year that we use to enhance the quality of our lives. We have created rafting vacations to enhance yours, and are grateful for the opportunity to share them.

“Adventure with a Touch of Class”

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THE DOLORES RIVER

5 days/ 4 nights: \$880 per person

3 days/ 2 nights: \$560 per person