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# *Discover*

## The Ultimate Hiking River Trip

### THE JOHN WESLEY POWELL ADVENTURE

*On the Historic Green River and the Mighty Colorado River*

8 days/ 7 nights or 13 days/12 nights

**Three** Canyons, **Two** Rivers,  
**And One** National Park

## One Amazing Vacation!

The multi-faceted John Wesley Powell Adventure combines magnificent wonder, spectacular whitewater challenge and triumphant personal achievement. It is the ideal balance of serenity, thrill and fascination that will transform your life.

The 8 day hiking adventure begins in serene Stillwater Canyon on the Green River and then transitions to monumental whitewater in Cataract Canyon. The experience culminates at Lake Powell with a breathtaking scenic flight over Canyonlands National Park as you return to Moab. This is an unparalleled adventure vacation experience.

If you're looking for the complete getaway vacation with emphasis on hiking in Canyonlands National Park, then 8-days of exploring along the Colorado and Green Rivers is for you. If you really want to ESCAPE it all, combine our Hiking John Wesley Powell Expedition with our 5 day Sea Kayaking Expedition through Labyrinth Canyon for the perfect 13 day trip. These one of a kind river journeys follow part of John Wesley Powell's historic 1869 exploration down the Green and Colorado Rivers. The full 13 Day expedition combines the serenity of Labyrinth Canyon with amazing hiking in Stillwater Canyon in Canyonlands National Park and the excitement of Cataract Canyon to make one amazing vacation.

### The John Wesley Powell Adventure features:

- 5 days by touring kayaks in [Labyrinth Canyon](#) (13 day trip option)
- 8 days by oar boat in [Stillwater and Cataract Canyons](#)
- Delightful riverside camping
- Outstanding hikes to Ancient ruins & hidden wonders
- Epic adventure and impressive class III-V whitewater
- Return Scenic Flight over Canyonlands (optional)
- Breathtaking canyons that resemble the Grand Canyon
- Unique exposure to Canyonlands National Park



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- Challenging hikes to places very few people get to see



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## The Rafting Experience

### Labyrinth Canyon by touring kayaks

On the 13 day trip the 60-mile Labyrinth Canyon journey begins near the town of Green River, Utah, where the Green River flows gracefully into Labyrinth Canyon, the longest stretch of undammed flat water in the Southwest. The river progresses slowly through white, yellow, brown and red canyon walls, with hairpin switchbacks accented by towering buttes and mesas rising 1,500 feet above the river. Labyrinth Canyon's walls are cut with long side canyons, where guests of all skill levels can explore and ponder ancient Indian writings and trappers' inscriptions.

### Stillwater Canyon

Stillwater Canyon offers unforgettable hiking to places such as Anderson Bottom and the Dolls House. We will spend most of each day during this part of the tour hiking to petroglyphs and ancient ruins. Each night you will camp on beautiful sandy beaches while the guides prepare hearty and delicious meals.

### Cataract Canyon

As featured in *Outside Magazine* and *the Washington Post*

The Green River meets the Colorado River at the "Confluence." Here is where the **world famous whitewater** starts. Shortly after the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers, a series of steep descents and powerful whitewater known as the Mile-Long Rapid begins. Then come the Big Drops: Little Niagara and Satan's Gut. On the last day you meet Lake Powell and your unforgettable river journey transitions to a scenic plane flight over the canyon and river you just explored.

### Journey's End

As we leave the whitewater, the Colorado River slides its way into Lake Powell and we start the outboard motor to continue across the lake to our take-out. Our guides escort the guests up to the landing strip for the return flight to Moab. This is no ordinary flight back, this is a scenic flight over Canyonlands National Park and the river you just rafted ~ the perfect end to the perfect vacation.



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## Camping & Hiking

Each evening we establish camp on the riverbank. While you explore and relax, the guides set up chairs and the kitchen, where they prepare fresh, delicious abundant meals. The clean air amplifies a vibrant blue sky, creating a perfect environment for hiking and unparalleled photographic opportunities. Some time is set aside for hiking to geological and historical sites including Ancient Pueblo ruins and petroglyphs. Each day, as evening yields to night, the sun melts from the sky, and is replaced by a vivid star show that enhances the evolving conversations you will share with the other guests and the guides.

## Whitewater

When we reach the Confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers, you will sense the anticipation of the group rising as the rapids near. The guides take time to teach you how to enjoy the rapids safely, and then the fun begins. Everyone has their place, their instructions, and their camera as the guides focus on running the rapids. For the next day or more, you will experience the thrill of a lifetime!

## Water Levels

The character of the Colorado River varies with changes in water flow. Depending on snow pack, the river fluctuates dramatically from year to year and month to month. Cataract Canyon presents some of the biggest and most challenging rapids in the United States from mid-May to mid-June. After June, the water flow decreases and the rapids become more moderate.

## The Weather

You can expect warm, sunny, delightful days in Southeastern Utah. August high temperatures typically range between 90° and 100°, with September temperatures ranging between 70° and 80°. The climate here is very dry with little humidity and is not oppressively sweltering. Summer evenings are quite comfortable and fall evenings can be cool. Other than an occasional rain cloud, there are few overcast days.

## Geology

Labyrinth Canyon is a maze of red rock canyons, spires and buttes. The river progresses slowly through colorful formations from the Jurassic time period, and highlights include Crystal Geysers and Dellenbaughs Butte. Once you pass the San Rafael River and the Historic Ruby Ranch everything changes as you begin to enter canyon country. As you drift around hairpin turns like Bow Knot Bend, ancient sand dunes are visible in the Navaho Formation and abandoned Uranium mines in the Chinle formation. Each turn tells another story. Further down river, as you approach Stillwater Canyon, the Wingate Sandstone towers over you as you float into Canyonlands National Park. Some people refer to the Wingate Sandstone as the ancient Sahara. The rock formations change and the canyon narrows as we near the confluence.

At the Confluence, Cataract Canyon is a geologist's paradise. 300 million years of rock history are visible at a glance. Throughout time the river has sliced through this rock and left it exposed for all to see. From the spires of the Dolls House to rock formations turned completely on their side to the hard limestone forming the famous rapids, these multi-colored layers of rock sparkle in the warm Utah sun, creating spectacular sunsets and photos.



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## Wildlife

The canyon hosts an extraordinary diversity of plants and animals that live in many climatic environments. Wildlife is abundant in this region, though often shy. One of the West's largest herds of Desert Big Horn Sheep resides in the canyon. During the heat of the day lizards sun themselves while eagles, vultures, ravens, and hawks soar on thermal airstreams along the canyon walls. In the morning and evening, deer, muskrat, beaver, coyote and great blue heron move along the river's edge.

## History

The colorful history of Labyrinth, Stillwater and Cataract Canyons includes Native Americans, Trappers, Miners, River Runners, Steam Boaters, Ranchers and Outlaws. You can spend hours meditating on the human history written in the rock, as you leisurely drift along in this captivating environment.

The Native American history in these canyons dates back to the pre-Columbian time period. More recently the Fremont and Anasazi traveled through these canyons. Though they left no written history, their story is carved into the canyon walls. There are numerous Ancient sites along the river. You will get a chance to ponder the disappearance of these ancient peoples while exploring their 800 year old dwellings and writings

Before this territory was acquired by the United States, the Spanish Fathers came through in the 1700's to explore and set up Missions. Trappers like Dennis Julien roamed these canyons 150 years ago and left records of their progress. There are two 1836 Julien inscriptions on the canyon walls in Labyrinth and one hidden under the silt in Cataract Canyon.

Thirty years later the Green River was the beginning of the John Wesley Powell river expedition. The expedition's goal was to be the first to run and map the largest river system in the Southwestern United States. They ran in wooden boats built specially for the adventure in July of 1869. As Powell and his crew passed through here they named many of the buttes and canyons. Other river runners also left their inscriptions behind while traveling through the canyons and navigating Cataract Canyon's challenging rapids. You will get a chance to see inscriptions from famous river runners such as the Kolb's, Holmstrom & Burg, Georgie White, Aleson and Norman Nevills.

In the early 1900's ranchers began to move into the area to try to make themselves a life. Along with the ranchers came the outlaws. Canyonlands is the home of many legendary outlaw hideouts. One of the most famous is Robber's Roost where Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch would lay low between robberies. During this time the steamboaters also tried to make themselves a life, leaving their marks all along the canyon walls as they traveled down the Green River and up the Colorado to Moab. Steamboats like the Major Powell, the Marguerite and the City of Moab inspired the current Friendship Cruise. In the 50's came the Uranium Boom. You can still see old uranium mines and equipment left along the river.

In the 1930's, the Grand Canyon extended 550 miles from Moab to Lake Mead. In the 1960's the Glen Canyon Dam was built, forming Lake Powell, and Cataract Canyon was separated from the Grand Canyon. Cataract Canyon became part of Canyonlands National Park in 1964. This entire stretch of the Green and Colorado Rivers has some of the most colorful and interesting river history along the entire Colorado Plateau.



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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 to our team through extensive training and workshops. You will see the quality of this training in the equipment, food, and staff on every 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 river 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 while 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**

At Sheri Griffith Expeditions we believe in protecting the environment and enhancing your vacation. This is why we rarely host trips larger than 20 people. Most of our trips are 10-15 people in size. On our multi-day trips 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 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 questions, requests, or for assistance ~ we are happy to help.

### What Sheri Griffith Expeditions Provides

- Trip orientation
- Rafting, hiking & camping at the highest level
- All rafting and safety equipment including lifejackets and dry bags
- All camping gear: tent, sleeping bag and pad
- Professionally trained and licensed Guides
- Portable toilet and necessities
- All meals starting lunch day 1 through lunch the last day
- Shuttle to launch site
- Iced water, Gatorade and Lemonade on every boat
- Soda, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate while 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.

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*"There is one aspect of Sheri Griffith Expeditions that is constantly amazing. The quality of the river guides is ALWAYS extraordinaire"*

**-Scott Harvey, Cataract Canyon**

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## Orientation

We hold a pre-trip orientation the evening before the trip launches at 5pm (MDT). 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 questions. The orientation is held at our office in Moab, Utah, at 2231 South Highway 191 (the big blue building).

## 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.

## 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."

## Food and Diet Restrictions

We provide and prepare fresh all of the meals while on the river. Our guides are great cooks and take great pride in their meals. They do all of the work of preparing high quality, healthy meals made with fresh ingredients. There are a variety of fruits and vegetables, and meat and non-meat choices. The evening meals are grilled and baked to perfection. We can accommodate a variety of diets and will assist with dietary restrictions as well. We have the ability to accommodate almost any meal restrictions as long as we know before the trip is packed.

All meats are from a local butcher in Moab, and almost all our vegetables are either locally garden grown or purchased from the local farmer's market.

**"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.

## **Elevate Your Life!**

**Call (800) 332-2439 or email [Info@griffithexp.com](mailto:Info@griffithexp.com)**

For more information on our **John Wesley Powell** vacation visit  
<http://www.griffithexp.com/trips/Colorado-River-rafting-8d.htm>

**The Ultimate Hiking River Trip**  
**THE JOHN WESLEY POWELL ADVENTURE**