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Discover
E x p e d i t i o n s i n L u x u r y :
SIGHTS OF CATARACT CANYON
ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Through the heart of Canyonlands National Park
Now includes two nights stay at Moab's premier Gonzo Inn!
5 Days / 4 Nights

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

Expect the Outlandish!

From the beginning of the trip, you will find yourself seduced by the pace of the river while absorbing beautiful scenery and enjoying the camaraderie of interesting people. 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 ~ during high water, the waves are gigantic.

This world-class nature tour is breathtaking. Cataract Canyon is the first canyon of the Grand Canyons of the Colorado River. It is historically and geologically amazing; the rapids are dazzling, and the hikes are soul stirring.

This custom rafting expedition starts in beautiful Moab, Utah at the luxurious Gonzo Inn before it takes you through the heart of Canyonlands National Park. Canyonlands is carefully isolated from modern civilization with red cliff walls that tower and appear to touch the flawless Western blue sky. These specialized expeditions allow you to experience the rugged nature of the Colorado River while wrapped in the comforts of a moving hotel.

Spend your days rafting through the pristine Colorado River canyons; as early evening draws near, pull up to a private beach that will be quickly transformed into your river hotel. Relax by the water enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and chilled drinks. While the camp staff finishes setting up your tents, the professionally trained river chef is putting the final touches on a fabulous dinner. All of your dinners will be at linen covered tables with unbeatable views!



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The Expeditions in Luxury Experience

Rafting Cataract Canyon

The expedition begins at 8:00 AM at our office. We then drive a few miles south of Moab and launch onto the mighty Colorado. Within a short time we enter the imposing, humbling landscape of Canyonlands National Park. Camp is on a remote beach, with time to hike and/or relax with hors d'oeuvres and cool drinks as the chef prepares a delightful dinner. Each day as evening yields to night and the sun melts from the sky it is replaced by a vivid star show that enhances the evolving conversations you will share with the other guests and your guides.

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 and family friendly.

You don't have to be an experienced whitewater rafter to enjoy the thrill of the exciting rapids in Cataract Canyon. If you have never rafted or camped before, rest assured that we are professionals at making your trip comfortable, fascinating and safe. Our multi-talented guides are extremely good at helping you enjoy your river vacation.

Camping In Style

Sheri Griffith Expeditions is renowned for combining luxury comforts with the most beautiful nature in the world. By day the raft is the mode-of-travel, drifting you past incredible scenery and historic places. By night the dining is at linen covered tables on sandy beaches. The meals are prepared by our expert chef and served at sunset. Your sleeping quarters are oversized tents erected by camp staff and include comfortable cot beds, tables and night lights.

Our camps are on beautiful sandy beaches. The supply raft arrives at camp and the guides create a river lounge, restaurant and tent bungalows. Our private river chef begins the evening's dining presentation. Enjoy a cool beverage on the riverbank in comfy chairs. Dine at sunset at linen clad, candle lit tables. We depart every morning after a healthy and hearty breakfast. Camp assistants will take down the camp and off we'll go on the day's adventure.

The guides, the chef and camp attendants will do all the work, leaving you time to hike, explore and relax.

From the oversized tents, linen covered tables and gourmet meals prepared by your chef to the mind-boggling vistas and spectacular sunsets of the west--this adventure provides the full enjoyment of the rugged outdoors while wrapped in Luxury. **Indulge.**

Whitewater

By the end of the second day you will sense the anticipation of the group rising as we near the rapids. 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 the guides focus on running the rapids. For the next day or more, you will experience the thrill of a lifetime!



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[The Gonzo Inn](#)

The Gonzo Inn is located in downtown Moab, Utah within walking distance of restaurants, shops and the beautiful Mill Creek Walkway. The Gonzo Inn's eclectic expression of southwest, retro 70's and industrial era décor is entertaining and tantalizing to the senses. All of the rooms are uniquely decorated with superior furnishings, vibrant colors and hand-selected materials.

[Cataract Canyon History](#)

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 to form Lake Powell, and Cataract Canyon was separated from the Grand Canyon. This 100 mile stretch of the Colorado River, south of Moab, has some of the most colorful and interesting river history on the entire Colorado River.

Cataract Canyon became part of Canyonlands National Park in 1964. There are numerous secluded Ancient Pueblo sites along the river. You will get a chance to ponder the disappearance of these ancient peoples while exploring their 800 year old dwellings.

Major John Wesley Powell named Cataract Canyon after his monumental 1869 expedition down the Green and Colorado Rivers. You will get a chance to see inscriptions that he and other early river runners left behind while navigating Cataract's challenging rapids.

Canyonlands is also 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.

The Weather

You can expect warm, sunny, delightful days in Southeastern Utah. In April through June, high temperatures range between 70° and 90°. July and August high temperatures typically range between 90° and 100°, with September and October 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 though evenings in the spring and fall can be cool. Other than an occasional rain cloud, there are few overcast days.

Geology

There are numerous secluded geological sites along the river. Cataract Canyon is a geologist's paradise. You can see 300 million years of rock history in a single glance. Throughout time the river has sliced through this rock and left it exposed for all to see. These multi-colored layers of rock sparkle in the warm Utah sun, creating spectacular sunsets and photos.

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 the great blue heron move along the river's edge.



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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 the last meal, the SGE team is the friendliest, most competent and most 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 our 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

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 8-12 people in size. On our Luxury Expeditions there will never be more than 4 guests per guide. 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

- 2 nights stay at Luxurious Gonzo Inn in Moab, Utah.
- Trip orientation
- Rafting, hiking & camping in style and comfort
- All rafting and safety equipment including lifejackets and dry bags
- Professionally trained and licensed Guides
- Portable toilet and necessities
- All gourmet meals starting with lunch on day 1 through lunch on the final day
- Personal river chef
- Shuttle to launch site
- Iced water, Gatorade and Lemonade
- Coffee, an assortment of teas, hot chocolate, and juices in the morning.
- Sodas, Beer and wine at dinner
- Full days on the river
- The best customer service from your first phone call to the actual river vacation experience
- Large tents, cots, fresh sleeping bags, pillows, and a sheet
- Camp assistants that setup and take down your river lodging

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 has 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.

"Thank you again! Wren & I had a perfectly wonderful time, and are deeply indebted to you. I hope we catch up again soon. Best wishes & again our thanks..."

-Tim Wirth, United States Senator



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Orientation

We hold a pre-trip orientation the evening before the trip launches at 5pm MST. 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 you might have. 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 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 our 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.

Expect the Outlandish!

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For more information on **Luxury Expeditions** visit:

www.griffithexp.com/luxury-expeditions.htm

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The Sights of Cataract Canyon**