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*Discover*  
W o m e n o n A d v e n t u r e :  
**WILD WESTWATER CANYON**  
**ON THE COLORADO RIVER**

**3 D a y s / 2 N i g h t s**

As featured in *O Magazine* and *Shape Magazine*

Enjoy the Great Outdoors with competent women guides.  
This is an active vacation with lots to do; rafting, hiking, camping, and relaxing.

*“Women-only adventure travel is more than a girl’s night out...there’s no better place or time to discover that your better half is not the one you left behind, but the one you found within.”* Sheri Griffith Expeditions **Women on Adventure** guest Carole Jacobs, *Shape Magazine*.

Westwater Canyon is a proposed Wild & Scenic River and combines all the components of a classic river trip: excellent whitewater, charming campsites and great hikes. Part of the time you will drift leisurely at the rivers pace; then there is one day of extremely fun rapids. The Colorado River forces its way into narrow Black Granite Gorge forming renowned rapids like Little Hummer, Funnel Falls, Last Chance and the infamous Skull Rapid.

The first part of this adventure places you in the midst of stark and dramatic desert landscapes. There are two sections to Westwater Canyon with great contrast between the serene solitude of the upper canyon’s sandstone walls and the lower canyon’s black granite walls and impressive rapids. The awesome landscape and exhilarating rapids motivate you to release your busy life and embrace an adventurous positive outlook.

You don't have to be experienced to take this river trip, you just need to be seeking some adventure and a little challenge. In the 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 meals. The clean air amplifies the vibrant blue sky, creating a perfect environment for hiking and unparalleled photographic opportunities. 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 between your fellow guests and guides.

Journey down the river, float through one of the most scenic canyons on earth and re-energize your mind, body and soul. Expand your positive experiences as adventure, nature and other women enrich your life. What an incredible opportunity to bond with women in an atmosphere of fun, adventure, challenge and mutual trust! A great chance to do something women don’t do often enough...play in the outdoors...no experience necessary.



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## The Westwater Canyon Experience

### Rafting Westwater Canyon

The adventure begins at our river complex in Moab. After a short drive to the launch site we load the remaining gear onto the rafts, review river safety, and we're off. The first day is usually a day of leisure and relaxation. Lunch will be on the riverbank where guests assemble their own deli masterpiece. As we proceed downstream, the imposing red sandstone cliffs become the backdrop to shiny black granite walls as the Colorado River descends into Black Granite Gorge. In the early evening, the guides pull to the river's edge to a charming campsite. After camp is set, you can participate in a guided hike or relax in camp. As the hikers return, the hors d'oeuvres are ready, and dinner is on the way.

By now you have succumbed to the pace of the river as you awaken to the smell of coffee and the sound of the river lapping the shore. After a hearty breakfast, the journey continues. The trip leader describes everything necessary to enjoy the rapids safely. Here are the exciting rapids you have been waiting for. In a short time, the guides navigate the rafts down a series of rapids with names like Big Hummer, Funnel Falls, Last Chance, and of course, the infamous Skull Rapid. After the rapids, there will be time to high-five and relive the past few hours with the other guests. This evening is sure to be filled with conversation about the exhilarating run through "Last Chance." The last day we pull out of the river at about 3:30 PM and have you back to our office by 5:30.

### Camping & Hiking

Each evening we establish camp on the riverbank. Time is set aside for hiking to geological and historical sites including Ancient Pueblo ruins and petroglyphs. By the end of the second 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. Then the fun begins. Everyone has their place, their instructions, and their camera as the guides focus. For the next day or more, you will experience the thrill of a lifetime!

### THE ARMADA

All of our equipment is top quality, state of the art and carefully maintained and serviced. Each raft is maneuvered by a highly qualified guide. The rafts we use are 17 foot inflatable oarboats, carrying 5 guests. The guides maneuver the raft with a set of oars secured to a frame in the middle of the raft. This is considered more stable than a paddleboat. Paddleboats are available at certain water levels and by advanced reservation only. Paddleboats are inflatable 15-16 foot rafts manned by guests and their paddles. A guide gives instruction and navigates from the back of the raft.



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## Water Levels

Depending on snow pack and time of year, Colorado River water levels will vary dramatically creating diverse rafting conditions. Some rapids are more challenging at high water, while others require greater skill at low water. Different flows have their appeal, and we provide specific watercraft that will make the most of each water level. Westwater Canyon rapids are rated II-IV

### [Westwater History](#)

A few white men settled here, and few wrote about it. There are lots of legends leaving questions about the facts. Your guides will share the stories the gold miner's cabin, the outlaw cave and the secret grave a half mile from the cave. The Old West comes alive as you walk through these sites and contemplate the legends

### Geology

Westwater Canyon attracts geologists from around the world. Massive faults distributed tons of rock, leaving fascinating formations seen few other places. The black, uplifted rocks in the Black Granite Gorge (metamorphic granite gneiss) represent the oldest exposed formations in eastern Utah (1.75 billion years) and the river has polished it into odd smooth shapes.

### The Weather

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

MOTION PICTURES  
Many production companies used Westwater Canyon to shoot rafting footage for movies, documentaries and commercials. John Wayne filmed here, and the movies "Indiana Jones", "Thelma and Louise", and "Independence Day" were all filmed in this area.

### Wildlife

Wildlife is abundant, though often shy. During the heat of the day lizards sun themselves while eagles, vultures and hawks soar on thermal airstreams along canyon walls. In the morning and evening deer, muskrat, beaver, coyote and great blue heron move along the river's edge. Too warm for trout, the Colorado River supports the endangered Colorado Squawfish and the Humpback Chub. *National Geographic* chose Sheri Griffith Expeditions to guide them through Westwater Canyon to photograph and write of the dramatic scenery and its unique habitat, which are highlighted in their *Wild and Scenic Rivers* book



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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 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 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 know all the guides and other guests.

### **THE LEARNING**

Our women river guides are naturalists and possess knowledge of the history, geology, and wildlife of this area. The Old West comes alive on the river as you learn the stories of outlaws, miners and ancient Pueblo Indians.



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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 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 women 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 in camp
- Full days on the river
- The best customer service from your first phone call to the actual river vacation experience

## Our Women River Guides

Our professional women 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 and their expectations of you. They are Red Cross First Aid and CPR certified, and have completed river rescue training. Furthermore, they are required to complete hours of training on each river stretch before they can "guide" our guests.

Your river journey will be guided by extensively trained and highly personable river women that know this country, and want to share it with people who want nature to be a part of their life. Many people no longer speak the language of the land. It takes someone special to be able to do that. Our guides are professional, exceptional people with outstanding talents who are eager to share their knowledge, experiences and enjoyment of life in the outdoors. They continually strive to perfect their understanding of wilderness and its secrets. It's their way of life, and it is their passion to share this adventurous way of life with you.

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“(The Guides) were all great. Did you keep the best for this trip...or are they all so good at their jobs? By the time we reached the rapids everyone knew the guides were very skilled.”

***Karen Freed- Sept. Westwater Canyon***

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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)

## 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.

***“Adventure with a Touch of Class”***

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For more information on our **Women on Adventure** vacations visit [www.griffithexp.com/women.htm](http://www.griffithexp.com/women.htm)

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