



PO Box 1324 Moab, UT 84532
(800) 332-2439
(435) 259-8229
Fax (435) 259-2226
Email: info@GriffithExp.com
www.GriffithExp.com

Discover
THE UNTAMED YAMPA RIVER
Through the Dinosaur National Monument

As featured in *Outside Magazine*

THE UNTAMED YAMPA RIVER

4 Days/3 Nights

~ OR ~

THE YAMPA RIVER

5 Days/4 Nights

The Yampa River through the Dinosaur National Monument has it all! As the last free-flowing river in the entire Colorado River drainage, the Yampa is *incredibly wild* in May and June. The Rocky Mountain spring run off creates big roaring rapids with an average descent of 12-14 feet per mile. The gradient at Teepee Rapid is an amazing 31 feet per mile!

Raft alongside 2000-foot high white canyon walls with black tiger-stripes; hike side canyons to prehistoric rock art and abandoned caves. The Yampa joins the Green River at Echo Park for a 180-degree swing around beautiful Steamboat Rock, and then continues through the canyons and Split Mountain Gorge.

The whitewater is exciting and heart pounding while the slower river sections offer spectacular scenery to quiet the soul. Ancient Indian history and geological features fascinate your thirsty mind; and star-studded nights evoke thought and appreciation for our place on Earth.



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THE YAMPA RIVER EXPERIENCE

Rafting Yampa River

We meet at the Best Western Antlers at 7:00 AM, shuttle to the launch site, meet the crew, have a safety briefing, and head downstream. There's exciting whitewater and unbelievable scenery all day today. At midday, guides will prepare a fresh buffet lunch along the riverbank. This evening, relax by the river while the guides prepare hors d'oeuvres and start dinner. Camp under the trees, and let the sound of the river lull you to sleep.

Wake each morning to the smell of coffee. After a hearty breakfast, we pack the rafts and push off. There are calm stretches between exciting whitewater for the next couple days. We're still in the rapids until the confluence of the Yampa and the Green Rivers on day 3. We then raft around Steamboat Rock and stop for a hike to petroglyphs left behind by the Fremont Indians 800 years ago. The river makes another bend into Whirlpool Canyon and the rapids begin again. Just below Jones Hole we'll stop for a hike and try to catch a glimpse of one of the largest herds of bighorn sheep in the area

The canyon widens dramatically in the Island Park area. The river opens into a big basin, before it slices through the mountains again. There is a dramatic cut through Split Mountain, and the river gradient dramatically increases from 1 to 20 feet per mile. We then run Moonshine and SOB and other fun rapids. In late afternoon we'll pull off the river and return to Vernal.

Camping & Hiking

Each evening we establish camp on the riverbank deep within the canyon walls. While you explore and relax, the guides set up chairs, and the kitchen, where they prepare fresh, delicious abundant meals. Clean air amplifies a vibrant blue sky, creating a perfect environment for hikes and unparalleled photographic opportunities. Each day, time is set aside for exploring geological and historical sites.

Stargazing is an inspiring activity as the clean air and remote setting provide a star show usually reserved for astronomers and their telescopes. If you have never camped before, rest assured that we are professionals at making your trip comfortable, fascinating and safe. Our expert and multi-talented guides are extremely good at helping you enjoy your river vacation.

Whitewater

The Yampa River is the only un-dammed river in the Colorado River drainage. This makes the spring runoff very fast and exciting. The Yampa River was once known as a float trip that was very beautiful but did not have a lot big rapids. This all changed in the late 1960's, when a wet spring brought down tons of rock and sediment which created Warm Springs Rapid. In high runoff years Warm Springs is one of the most exciting and hardest rapids on the river. This rapid can also be walked around for those that don't want to ride in the boats. In June Warms Springs is smaller but still exciting.



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4 Day Trip vs. 5 Day Trip

The 4 day Yampa River trips are run in May during the peak of spring runoff. This makes for some of the most exciting whitewater around. The 5 day trip is run after the runoff in later June. This trip offers more time to hike and explore the Yampa River corridor.

[Yampa River History](#)

In 1909, paleontologist Earl Douglas unearthed the first of thousands of dinosaur bones that rested just below the surface of Split Mountain, bringing the world a wealth of knowledge about these prehistoric creatures. In the early-1900's river pioneers descended the Yampa River, blazing the trail for today's rafting industry on the Yampa. You will get a chance to see some of the remaining artifacts of local legends Pat Lynch and Buzz Hatch. The human history on the Yampa and Green Rivers dates back as far as 800 years ago when native Fremont Indians roamed the canyons. You will get a chance to see some of the petroglyphs and ruins they left behind.

The Weather

You can expect warm, sunny, delightful days in Eastern Utah. In April through June, high temperatures range between 70° and 90°. 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. Spring evenings can be cool, but summer evenings are quite comfortable. Other than an occasional rain cloud, there are few overcast days.

Geology

Rafting the Yampa River is like traveling through time. Each of the river canyon's various layers represents an entire age of the earth's development: the rise and fall of major mountain ranges, the arrival and retreat of oceans at least 12 different times, and the alternating development of deserts and swamplands. At Split Mountain, past the confluence of the Yampa and Green, you'll pass through a hole carved out of a rock wall by the river itself.

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. Just below the confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers in a wonderful place called Jones Hole, where you may see one of the largest herds of bighorn sheep in the area. You might even catch a glimpse of some of the wild and protected species of plants, animals and birds that make Dinosaur National Monument their home.



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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 river vacation.

What does "A Touch Of Class" mean?"

It means we provide more amenities and service than any other outfitter. Our goal is it 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 Service 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
- Several Inflatable Kayaks to share
- Professionally trained and licensed Guides
- Portable toilet and necessities
- All meals starting lunch day 1 through lunch the last day
- 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 in 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.

"Kim and I wanted to thank you for one of the absolute best vacations of our lives. Our trip down Yampa and Green Rivers was perfect in every way and we were amazed at the care and attention to detail you and your staff had taken to make sure that everything was just right."

Donald L. Linn



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Orientation

We hold a pre-trip orientation at 6:30 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 the Best Western Antlers Inn in Vernal, Utah.

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

For more information on the Yampa River visit www.griffithexp.com/Yampa-River-Rafting.htm

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