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D i s c o v e r

The Gates of Lodore on the Green River

In Dinosaur National Monument

4 D a y s / 3 N i g h t s

The Green River through the Gates of Lodore is an awesome stretch of river that cuts right into the great Uintah uplift. You journey next to sheer canyon walls and challenge rapids with names like “Hell’s Half Mile” and “Disaster Falls.” Days are a blend of high excitement, wonder, rewarding hikes, peace and tranquility.

The Gates of Lodore on the Green River is one of the most popular trips Sheri Griffith Expeditions runs. It has all the elements of a classic river trip: great hikes, exciting whitewater, beautiful beaches and colorful history. This is a journey into a spectacular wilderness. This trip has lots of activities and action. You can choose between paddling with friends in a paddleboat, taking on the rapids with one of our inflatable kayaks or relaxing in one of the oarboats.

The Gates of Lodore trip features:

- **Spectacular scenery with 1,500 foot cliffs**
- **Delightful river-side beaches**
- **Hikes to waterfalls and secluded side canyons**
- **Amazing Wildlife**
- **Fun and Challenging rapids**
- **Dinosaur National Monument**
- **A variety of rafts**

**There is limited access to the Gates of Lodore; so few people have the opportunity to explore these areas. This trip books quickly.*



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The Gates of Lodore Experience

Rafting Gates of Lodore Canyon

We meet at the Best Western Antlers Inn in Vernal, Utah, at 7:00 AM. You will be shuttled to the launch site and then head downstream through huge stone gates, 1,000 feet high, that appear to have split the mountains in two ~ **The Gates of Lodore**. The trip begins with a gentle float. We'll stop for a brief hike into an alcove while the guides prepare a tasty buffet lunch along the riverbank and then arrive at our shady camp early in the afternoon.

Wake each morning to the smell of coffee brewing. After a hearty breakfast, we'll pack our bags onto the rafts and push off shore. The rapids are almost constant now, interspersed with fewer calm stretches. The rapids increase in size and excitement as the river winds deeper into the Uintah Mountains. We'll stop and scout Triplet Falls and Hell's Half Mile before rafting through the churning whitewater. We'll pull off and set up camp early in the afternoon so there is time to hike before dinner. At the confluence of the Yampa and Green Rivers, the river is almost perfectly flat. Raft around Steamboat Rock and then into Whirlpool Canyon and the rapids begin again. We'll stop and explore the area, hike a bit and try to catch a glimpse of one of the largest herds of bighorn sheep in the area. We'll find a shady place for lunch and explore some more before heading back to the river.

The canyon opens up into the Island Park area. We hike to some petroglyphs, then raft down through Rainbow Park and have lunch. The river opens up into a big basin area 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 run Moonshine, S.O.B. and a number of other fun rapids. Late in the afternoon of the fourth day we'll pull off the river and return to Vernal

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.

Depending on the length of your trip, 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 involving conversations you will share with the other guests and the guides.

The Armada

Oarboats, paddleboats and inflatable kayaks are used on this trip. Paddleboats are 15-foot inflatable rafts manned by guests and their paddles. The guide gives instruction and navigates from the back of the boat. Oarboats are 17-foot inflatable rafts that the guide maneuvers with a set of oars secured to a frame in the middle of the raft. This is considered to be a more stable craft than a paddleboat.



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Wildlife

Wildlife is abundant, though often shy. During the heat of the day lizards sun themselves while eagles, vultures, ravens and hawks soar on thermal airstreams along canyon walls. In the morning and evening, deer, muskrat, beaver, coyote and the great blue heron move along the river's edge. Just below the confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers is a wonderful place called Jones Hole where you may see one of the largest herds of bighorn sheep in the area. You will also see many of the wild and protected species of plants, animals and birds that make Dinosaur National Monument their home..

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 80° and 90°. The climate here is very dry with little humidity and not oppressively sweltering. Summer evenings are quite comfortable, but spring and fall evenings can be cool. Other than an occasional rain cloud, there are few overcast days. No matter the weather, you will find your visit to be fascinating and unforgettable

Geology

The Green River has cut into the Uinta Mountains to form two enormous cliffs on either side of the river. Here are the "Gates of Lodore," two 1000-foot cliffs that rise out of valley. This is one of the most beautiful and awe-inspiring views on any river. The walls of the Canyon will continue to rise as we head down stream. Dinosaur National Monument is famous for the discovery of petrified dinosaur bones in the early 1900's. This area draws archeologists and geologists from all over to study these amazing layers.

History

Step back in time, to 1869, to the beginning of one of the most well known river expeditions led by Major John Wesley Powell. His expedition's goal was to explore the Colorado River and it's biggest tributary, the Green River, in wooden boats specially built for the adventure. These explorers floated through the Gates of Lodore and named many of the side canyons and rapids on the Green River. After destroying their kitchen boat in a rapid, Major Powell dubbed it "Disaster Falls." Powell's expeditions also named such infamous rapids as "Hells Half Mile" and "Triplet Falls." The Gates of Lodore is also full of fascinating cowboy and outlaw history.

Just north of The Gates of Lodore is Brown Park, a famous hideout for many outlaws, including Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch. You will get a chance to see some of the remaining artifacts of local river legends Pat Lynch and Buzz Hatch. The human history on the Green River 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.



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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. Through extensive training and workshops, our company’s knowledge is passed on to every member of our team. 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, as you sit-down to dine on 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 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 at the highest level
- All rafting and safety equipment including lifejackets and dry bags
- 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
- 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.

"I finished a trip through the Gates of Lodore with Ari, John and Faye as our guides, and I just want to tell you that they were fantastic. They were extremely competent, energetic, upbeat, and they were great cooks! They were able to educate us in so many different ways. The professionalism they exhibited was extraordinary. We had such a great time, and it was due in no small part to these 3 fantastic young people!"

- Betsy Pink, Gates of Lodore



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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 you might have. 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."

“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.

Call (800) 332-2439 or email Info@griffithexp.com

For more information on our vacations visit:
www.griffithexp.com/trips/gates-of-lodore.htm

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