

Welcome!

The Green River starts its journey on the slopes of 13,800 foot Gannett Peak, the highest point in Wyoming and travels almost due south for nearly 700 miles before joining the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park. The waterway is remote and vast, traversing some of the least inhabited country in the west.

Our journey takes us 83 miles through one of the most isolated stretches. Desolation and Gray canyons are rugged, austere, and starkly beautiful. Wide sweeping bends in the river form majestic amphitheatres which clearly display the rugged, dramatic cliffs of the neighboring Tavaputs Plateau. Complimenting the starkness is a sublime and colorful beauty waiting to be discovered. Long, thin ridges of red and orange, talus slopes dotted with evergreen juniper and pinyon pines, and the white and gray cliffs provide a colorful and ever-changing palette for discerning eyes.

Equally colorful is the history of the area. This is a region overflowing with tales of Native Americans, Old West ranchers, and infamous outlaws. Petroglyphs and clay figurines, abandoned homesteads, and the ghosts of Butch Cassidy and his Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, (who hid in the many side-canyons and traded horses with the locals), are current reminders of this fascinating history.

The warm water and moderate rapids make this a great trip for learning the skills of paddling yourself through whitewater. Our trips are designed around small inflatable kayaks, paddled independently by one or two people. Novices as well as seasoned river runners will find enjoyment in paddling themselves down the Green.



Meeting Time and Place:

All guests will meet the ARTA Lead Guide at the Best Western River Terrace Motel in Green River, Utah at **8:00 p.m. the evening before the trip begins**. The lead guide will distribute waterproof dunnage bags, give final trip and shuttle information, and answer last minute equipment questions. The following morning, (early!) we will reconvene at the airport in Green River for a scenic 45 minute flight to the actual launch site. The time of the flight and directions to the airport will be given at the pre-trip meeting.

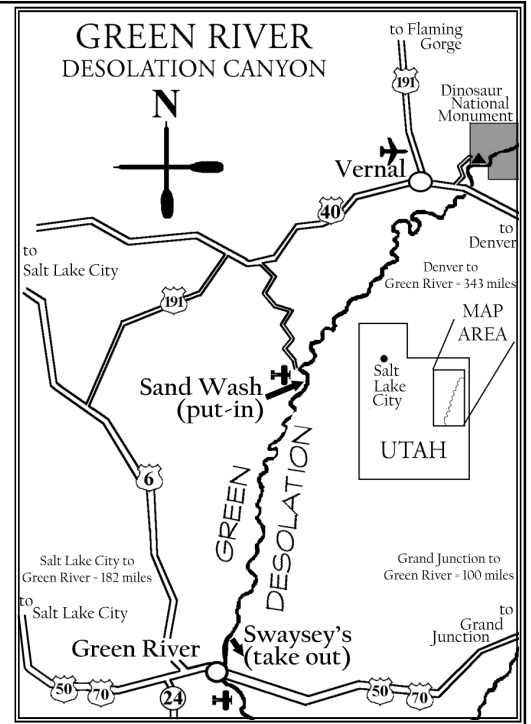
Transportation:

Flying: SkyWest/Delta Connection, United Express and America West serve Grand Junction, Colorado, about 100 miles east of Green River. Transportation is available between Grand Junction and Green River by renting a car or by chartering a flight with Slickrock Aviation (866-259-1626). Ground transportation in Green River should be arranged with your motel, (The River Terrace has been accommodating in the past).

Driving: Green River, Utah is located just east of the junction of U.S. Highway 50/70 and State Highway 24 in eastern Utah, about 175 miles southeast of Salt Lake City and 100 miles west of Grand Junction. The Best Western River Terrace is located at 880 East Main Street in downtown Green River. Vehicles will be left at the airport during the trip.

Accommodations:

Lodging before and after the trip is good at the Best Western River Terrace, (435/564-3401). Camping is available at the Green River State Park just south of town (435/564-3633).



Local Attractions:

Within a day's drive of Green River are Canyonlands, Arches, Capital Reef, Canyon de Chelley and Mesa Verde National Parks as well as the town of Moab, the outdoor recreation capital of southern Utah.

Weather:

The weather along the Green River is usually sunny and hot with highs in the 90's during the day and lows in the 60's at night. The sun can be intense and lightweight cotton clothing, (old dress shirts, surgeon's scrubs, etc) along with a wide-brimmed hat provide natural air conditioning when wet and will help keep you cool. The river always provides a refreshing way to cool off. Rain, usually in the form of short thunderstorms, can occur at any time and good rain protection for both day and night are advised. Desolation Canyon often experiences strong, afternoon winds, (always upstream), and our time on the river reflects this - expect early morning departures and early afternoon arrivals in camp.

Equipment List:

A separate Equipment List and Packing Guide should be included with your reservation information. Please call our office if you do not have one. Because we will be flying in to the river, there is a 25 pound per person weight limit for this trip. Please pack carefully and let us know if you have any concerns.

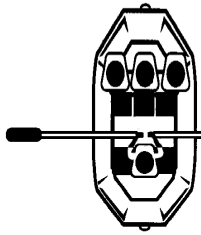


7 DAY GREEN—DESOLATION

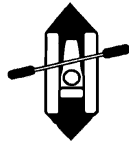
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Types of boats:

On Green-Desolation trips we offer two types of boats in which to ride:



Oar rafts are 18 feet long, carry all of the overnight gear and up to 5 guests. They are rowed by a guide using oars attached to a metal frame. Guests ride in the front, hang on through the rapids and relax in the calm stretches.



Inflatable kayaks are 10 - 12 feet long and are paddled by 1 or 2 people using double-bladed paddles. They are fairly stable, require no previous experience and allow you to feel the thrill of independently paddling the river.

Please note that we do not guarantee space in inflatable kayaks. We will bring a lot, but if there are more people who wish to ride in these boats than there are spaces, we will rotate so that everyone gets a chance to participate.

Camping:

Overnight camping will be done at riverside beaches with spectacular views of the river and canyon. There is usually a central kitchen and campfire area and guests pick out spots in the surrounding area to pitch their tents or lay out their sleeping bags. We will provide portable toilet facilities.

Meals:

ARTA meals are well-balanced and consist of quality foods with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables. The guides double as camp chefs and the menu includes a wide variety of dishes. Lunches usually consist of hand-foods and are served picnic-style at riverside stops. Dinners and breakfasts are cooked over an open fire and often include tasty Dutch Oven baked treats. If you have special dietary requirements or are celebrating a special event during the trip, please let us know in advance.

Drinks:

ARTA provides fruit drinks at meals (lemonade, punch, etc). If you would like soda, beer, wine, or liquor with your dinner, please bring your own in unbreakable containers (beer and soda in cans, wine and liquor in plastic bottles). Due to weight and space restrictions on the flight in, you must limit the amount of canned drinks to 1 six-pack per person.

Fishing:

Fishing in the Green River is not very good. There are two notable sidestreams, Ranch Creek and Range Creek, where we may stop and have an opportunity to fish for small trout. A Utah fishing license is required and should be obtained in Green River before the trip. Ultra-lightweight spinning or dry fly gear works best. Bring the minimum in a sturdy case.

Wildlife:

Bighorn sheep and mule deer inhabit Desolation canyon and we often spot them along shore or while hiking. Birdlife is also fairly abundant and we usually see hawks, falcons, geese and a wide assortment of smaller birds; binoculars are fun to have along.

Suggested Reading:

Some of the more interesting books about the Green River include Buzz Belknap's *Desolation River Guide* and *Explorations of the Colorado River* by Major John Wesley Powell, (detailing his historic 1869 first exploration).

We will provide:

- Transportation from the Green River airport to the river and back.
- Friendly, entertaining and professional guide service.
- All meals from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day.
- Waterproof bags, lifejackets and other specialized river touring equipment for the trip.

You are responsible for:

- Meals and lodging before and after your trip
- Personal clothing and toiletries (see Equipment List)
- Sleeping bags and tents (these items can be rented from ARTA - see Equipment List)
- Soda, wine, alcoholic beverages (see **Drinks** to the left)
- Guides gratuities (see **Tipping** below)

Tipping

We want you to feel like a guest in our home. Tips are never expected, but are always appreciated when given in recognition of outstanding service. Our guides have gotten tips ranging from gifts of prized river gear, to invitations to visit, to 5% to 15% of the trip cost, all of which were greatly appreciated and always put to good use.

