

Welcome!

The Yampa is the last major free-flowing tributary in the entire Colorado River system. From its origins high in the Rockies, the Yampa flows uninterrupted for nearly 300 miles down forested slopes and through sandstone canyons to its confluence with the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument. Our trips travel the Yampa's last 46 miles and another 26 miles of the Green.

The canyon has a mysterious history. It has been home to a number of Indian cultures whose rock art and granaries still remain, but about whom little is known. Few settlers inhabited the canyon and it was only briefly explored by Major John Wesley Powell during his famous exploratory trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers in 1869. Even today few people visit the area, as impassible terrain and the short, snow-melt river season provide limited access.

Our trips offer the special opportunity to see the softly colored, exotically streaked, sandstone walls for which the Yampa is well-known. Throughout the trip towering cliffs crowd the river, then open up into large, amphitheater-like parks which are alive with spring growth and color. Hidden throughout the journey are intriguing side-canyons and grottoes which beckon and astound the explorer and offer us numerous hiking destinations and opportunities.

The Yampa is mostly placid with long stretches of calm current. The only significant rapid is Warm Springs which we encounter on day 3 or 4. Below the confluence with the Green the combined rivers flow through Echo Park and the beautiful Whirlpool Canyon before making a wild dash through the numerous rapids of Split Mountain Canyon.



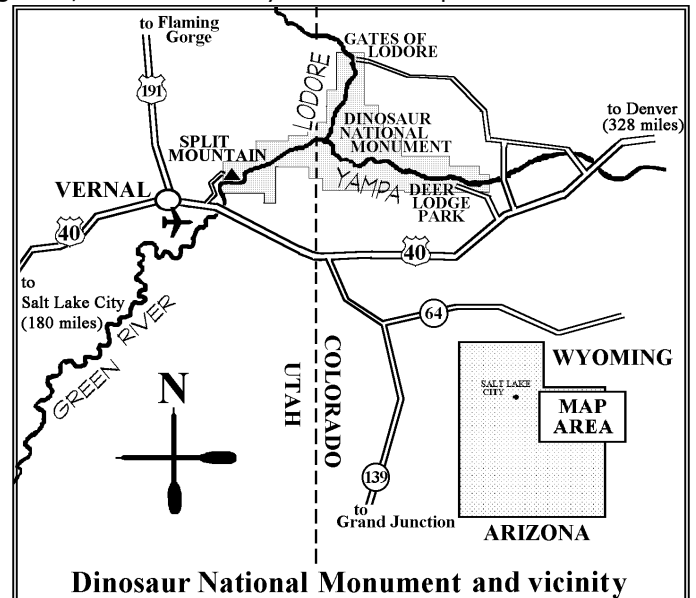
Meeting Time and Place:

All trip guests will meet the ARTA lead guide at **8:00 p.m. the evening before the trip begins** near the swimming pool at the Best Western Dinosaur Inn in Vernal, Utah, (251 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435/789-2660). Your trip leader will distribute water-proof bags, go over final trip logistics, and answer any last minute questions. The following morning we will reconvene at Split Mountain Boat Ramp in Dinosaur National Monument for the shuttle to the launch site. The lead guide will have directions and times. The trip will conclude at Split Mountain around 3:00 p.m. on the last day.

Transportation:

Flying: Great Lakes Air (greatlakesav.com or 800-554-5100) offers flights between Denver and Vernal, [as of January, 2008 there was no commercial air service between Salt Lake City and Vernal]. For transportation between the airport and motel, as well as from the motel to Split Mountain in the morning, contact Wilkin's Transportation (435/789-2476). You can also fly to Salt Lake City and rent a car for the 3 hour drive to Vernal.

Driving: Vernal is on State Highway 40, approximately 180 miles, (3 hours), east of Salt Lake City. The Best Western Dinosaur is at 251 East Main Street, next to the museum in the heart of downtown. Directions to Split Mountain Boat Ramp, (40 minutes outside of town), will be given at the pre-trip meeting. There is a fee to enter the Park and vehicles may be left at the Boat Ramp for the duration of the trip.



Accommodations:

Lodging in Vernal is good at the Best Western Dinosaur Inn, (435/789-2660), the Weston Lamplighter, (435/789-0312) or the Antlers Best Western (435/789-1202). At the other end of town is the Weston Plaza, (435/789-9550). Camping is available in Dinosaur National Monument, (first-come, first served), 30 minutes from Vernal. The Best Western Dinosaur should offer a 10% discount to ARTA guests if you call their local Utah number.

Local Attractions:

Dinosaur National Monument has a museum, where you can touch real dinosaur bones, a quarry and an active paleontology site where ongoing work can be observed. Also within a day's drive of Vernal are Canyonlands and Arches National Parks as well as Flaming Gorge Recreation Area.

Weather:

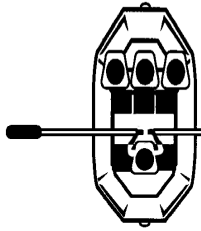
The high desert country of the Yampa River canyon enjoys daytime temperatures in the 80's and 90's, cooling off into the 60's at night, with occasional thunderstorms. The early summer weather is unpredictable; it is common to wear sunblock AND a fleece jacket on the same day, come prepared for a variety of conditions. The water is snowmelt and quite cold, although it does warm up a bit by July.

Equipment List:

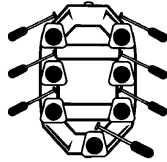
A separate Equipment List and Packing Guide should be included with your reservation information. Please call our office if you do not have one.

Types of boats:

On the Yampa River we offer three 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.



Paddle rafts are 14 feet long and carry 6 paddlers who actively paddle through the rapids and down the river. Everyone has a paddle, sits on the outer tube of the raft and follows the commands of the paddle guide who sits in the rear.



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 paddle rafts or inflatable kayaks. 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. Paddle rafts and inflatable kayaks are only available at appropriate flows and with sufficient interest.

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 serves fruit drinks at mealtime. 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, we ask that you limit the amount of canned drinks to a moderate amount.

Fishing:

Due to the flow fluctuations and water clarity, fishing in the Yampa is not that good; however Jones Creek, where we arrive on the fourth day, has very good fishing opportunities. A valid Utah license is required and can be obtained in Vernal prior to the trip. Light spinning or fly gear works best, (artificial lures and flies only), please bring the minimum amount of gear and protect your rod in a case.

Wildlife:

Bighorn sheep and mule deer inhabit the Green River 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:

The Yampa trip takes place within Dinosaur National Monument and there are numerous books available about the area. Some of the more interesting ones are Buzz Belknap's *Dinosaur River Guide*, and *Run River Run* by Ann Zwinger. These and other books about river running are available online through amazon.com or in Vernal at Bittercreek Books on West Main Street.

We will provide:

- ♦ Transportation from Split Mountain to the river.
- ♦ 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 **Tiping** below)

Tiping

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.

