

Grand Canyon Trip Information Packet
8-Night Motorized Trip
Applicable for our 2010 trips

Thank you for choosing Tour West! We are delighted to share the Colorado River and the famed Grand Canyon with you.

This information packet is for all passengers taking our 8 night motorized trip through the Grand Canyon. If you are on a different trip, please contact our office so we can send you the proper packet.

The 8 night trip covers the entire length of the Grand Canyon beginning at Lee's Ferry and ending at Lake Mead. This trip is a combination of our 6 night upper and 3 night lower trips. Some of our passengers will helicopter out of the canyon after 6 days and a new group of people will come in for the last 2 days of the trip.

Please **carefully read this information packet** as it will answer many of the questions you will have about your trip. Keep this information packet as it will also be a guide to you as you prepare and pack for your trip. We also suggest you re-read this packet after you are finished packing.

ITINERARY

For this entire trip you will be on Pacific Time

Your trip assembles in Marble Canyon, Arizona and will end in Las Vegas, Nevada

HOW DO I GET TO MARBLE CANYON, ARIZONA?

Option #1: Flying to Marble Canyon, Arizona

Most people prefer to fly into Las Vegas and transfer to Marble Canyon via charter plane. We have arranged for charter servicesto Marble Canyon through the Bar Ten Transportation Services in conjunction with Vision Air.

If you want to fly from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon **you must book this flight no later that 4 weeks prior to your trip.** There is a 10 passenger minimum for this flight and Vision Airlines reserves the right to charge a gas surcharge fee before you board your flight. This fee will range from \$3-\$30 per person depending on the price of gas. This fee is not included in your tour cost

For those of you taking this flight please plan on arriving in Las Vegas no later than 1:00 p.m. the scheduled date of your trip. This will give you enough time to pick up your luggage and check-in for your flight to Marble Canyon. To meet for this flight please go to the information booth outside of the one baggage claim area at McCarran airport. Approximately 20 feet from the booth is a set of escalators with a sign above them reading, "Level Zero" please proceed down the escalator to level zero, where a Vision Air representative will meet you between 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. and will be holding a sign which will read, "Tour West Colorado River Rafting". You will then board a Vision Coach which will shuttle you to the North Las Vegas airport, where you will board your flight for Marble Canyon. Please make sure to meet your representative at 2:45 p.m. pacific time. If for any reason the Vision Air representative is not at level zero by 3:00 p.m. to meet you, please wait at level zero for you Vision Coach to arrive. If you miss the coach please call Vision Coach Services at 1-800-256-8767 or Bar 10 Transportation Services at 1-800-582-4139. They will make every effort possible to connect you with your charter flight to Marble Canyon .

Please note: the FAA requires anyone who is 18 + years to present photo ID for this flight.

Air craft: Dornier 228--19 passenger plane (for smaller groups another plane may be used).

Upon arrival in Marble Canyon no one will be there to meet you so please walk across the street to the Lodge and check-in.

Option #2: Driving to Marble Canyon, Arizona

Because your trip ends in Las Vegas we recommend you take the charter flight. If you prefer to drive to Marble Canyon you can park your vehicle across the street from the lodge for the duration of your trip. As we will return you to Las Vegas, you will need to make your own arrangements to get back to your vehicle at the end of your trip.

FIRST NIGHT OF YOUR TRIP: _____ (motel night)

You will spend the night at the Marble Canyon Lodge. Your motel accommodations are included in your package. Please let us know your preferred accommodations no later than 2 months prior to your trip. If we do not hear from you we will make your accommodations for you. We can not guarantee your preferred accommodations will be met without contacting us within the given time frame.

You are on your own for your dinner this night and breakfast the next morning. There is a small restaurant and convenience store located at Marble Canyon.

Orientation Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

You are scheduled to meet for an orientation meeting at 8:00 pm this night with your guide and the rest of the group. This meeting is held behind the convenience store in the conference room.

SECOND THROUGH SIXTH NIGHTS:

A van provided by Marble Canyon Lodge will pick you up in front of the motel at 9:00 a.m. and transport you 6 miles to Lee's Ferry where you will launch on your river trip.

You will travel a total of 300 river miles through the Grand Canyon and the upper portion of Lake Mead. Each day you will run exciting rapids, explore unique side canyons, and enjoy the majestic grandeur of the Grand Canyon. Each night you will camp under the stars along the beaches of the river.

SEVENTH MORNING OF YOUR TRIP:

On this morning, the people who are only staying for the 6 night trip will board a helicopter and fly out of the canyon. A new group of people will helicopter in for the last two nights of the trip.

LAST MORNING OF YOUR TRIP: _____

After breakfast you will arrive at Pearce Ferry Boat Ramp, on Lake Mead, at approximately 8:30 a.m. You will then board a bus for your transfer back to the Las Vegas McCarran Airport. You should arrive at the airport at approximately 1:00 p.m. **Please do not book any departure flights before 3:00 p.m. this day!**

Please be aware that at Tour West we do our very best to schedule your transportation needs into and out of a remote area where transportation options can be limited. While the transportation companies we contract with to provide these services are in general reliable and on time, there are occasions when our passengers will experience delays. While these delays are beyond our control, we will always do our best to help you get where you need to be in the quickest and safest way possible.

SPECIAL NOTE-IMPORTANT

Tour West, together with selling agents, acts only in the capacity of agent for customers in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours, and transportation whether by railroad, motor car, steamship, boat, airplane, or any other means, and as such is not responsible for any damage expense or inconvenience caused by late train, plane, or ship arrivals or departures, or by any change of schedule or other condition nor from any loss, injury or damage to any person or property from any cause whatsoever, The right is reserved to alter the sequence of sightseeing in any of these tours. Tour West is proud of its efforts to insure the safety and enjoyment of our passengers. We feel that our customers are safer with us that they are traveling to and from the river. However, no outdoor activity is without the possibility of unforeseen hazards. It is important that each Tour West passenger recognize that there is an element of risk in any adventure or activity associated with the outdoors. Each passenger must be fully aware of the risks and the elements of cold river water, and or loss or damage to personal property. Knowing of the inherent risks, dangers, and rigors of river running, each passenger must decide if he/she is desirous and capable of participating in the river trip experience. Even though losses rarely occur, we recommend that passengers have their own travel insurance to protect personal items. It is also recommended that you have your own health and accident insurance. Each passenger will be required to sign an acknowledgment of risk form prior to the trip.

Tour West Will Supply The Following Gear:

- ◆ Boats – Custom-made, compartmentalized and unsinkable
- ◆ Life Jackets – of special whitewater design
- ◆ Meals – all meals on the river starting with lunch the first day and ending with breakfast the last morning. All meals are expertly prepared and cooked by our guides.
- ◆ Cooking facilities – all cooking items including eating utensils
- ◆ Camping toilet facilities, toilet paper and supplies
- ◆ Beverages – unlimited water, and lemonade. Coffee, tea & hot chocolate in the morning.
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ Sleeping Bag with sheet
- ◆ Comfortable sleeping pad
- ◆ Cot
- ◆ Tent (Generally only used if it rains)
- ◆ Waterproof bag—16” x 33” 108 liters-- to put your personal duffel bag into during the trip
- ◆ Small water-resistant bag --9.5” x 20” 22 liters-- (accessible at all times) for personal articles and camera

Also included in your trip is:

- ◆ Motel accommodations the first night of your trip at the Marble Canyon Lodge
- ◆ Transportation to the river from Marble Canyon
- ◆ Bus transfer from Lake Mead back to the McCarran Airport in Las Vegas at the end of your trip

Additional arrangements, not included in your trip fare:

You will need to make the following arrangements prior to your trip:

- ◆ Transportation from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon

Fuel Surcharge:

◆ **Vision Airlines reserves the right to charge a gas surcharge fee before you board your flight(s). This fee will range from \$5-\$30 per person depending on the price of gas at the time of your trip. This fee is not included in your tour cost.**

Please note: Each person on our trip (16 years and older) is charged an additional \$12 to cover the National Park Entrance fee. If you have a golden eagle or golden age passport into the National Parks please let our office know before your trip so we can deduct this fee.

PERSONAL GEAR

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU

The following supply list suggests items you should bring for your trip. When packing please keep in mind that:

1. You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (this is required by the helicopter & airplane companies)
2. Your bag should be approximately 25" x 14" x 10" to fit inside our 33"x 16" waterproof bag.
 - ? Fleece- lined jacket or fleece sweatshirt- (Might not use in mid-summer-but still bring)
 - ? Long pants (light-weight, fast-drying material for sun protection)
 - ? Shorts- quick drying material
 - ? Shirts (at least one long sleeved for sun protection)
 - ? Underwear / undergarments
 - ? Socks
 - ? Swimsuit or fast drying shorts – (At least two pair)
 - ? Two pair tennis/athletic shoes OR other river-type sandals—SEE FOOTWEAR SECTION
 - ? Quality Two piece Rain Suit with hood--The River is ALWAYS COLD!!
 - ? Bandanna-great for keeping your sunglasses clean
 - ? Hat- with retention strap- good brim for sun protection
 - ? Small towel and washcloth
 - ? Toothbrush and toothpaste
 - ? Soap and deodorant
 - ? Shampoo
 - ? Zip lock bags – ½ dozen- gal. size- (For storing wet items & keeping things dry)
 - ? Flashlight or Headlamp and spare batteries-Headlamps work best
 - ? Fanny pack or small backpack –(optional-but nice to have on hikes and for storing extra things on raft)
 - ? Quart plastic water container- with carry strap or belt attachment
 - ? Medication or personal first aid items – if needed
 - ? Backup pair of prescription glasses – if needed
 - ? Sunglasses – with retention strap (Consider bringing a spare pair also)
 - ? Insect repellent – small can or one can per family (probably won't be needed)
 - ? Chapstick and Sunscreen-(Larger size or more than one) SPF 15+ You need to be prepared for a strong sun
Aloe Vera?
Hand Lotion/Moisturizer/Vaseline-(Large size as the air is very dry)
 - ? Shaving Kit & Mirror – optional
 - ? Feminine Hygiene products
 - ? Small packs of Kleenex
 - ? Camera, lots of film and spare batteries and additional waterproof disposable camera for rapid shots
 - ? Fishing gear—optional—See Fishing section for more information
 - ? Money for gratuities at end of trip, or for small purchases before or after the trip, and possible gas surcharge fee (see p. 3 for details)
 - ? Small pillow
 - ? Photo I.D.
 - ? Baby wipes or Wet wipes –optional
 - ? Optional personal items – solar shower, gloves, river guide, book, playing cards, small musical instruments (Call us for guitar information if you want to bring yours), Frisbee, etc.

You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (most need far less). Nylon or other quick drying clothing is preferable.

Special Note: DO NOT bring your suitcases with you on the river trip. For storage options see Section “Luggage Storage”. Bring what items you need in a soft duffel like bag or canvas type bag.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WEATHER – Temperatures can vary, but the following chart shows average temperatures and precipitation for the months of April through October. You can also visit our website for current weather information at www.twriver.com

Inner Grand Canyon							
Average Temperatures and Precipitation							
TEMP	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Average High	89	92	101	106	103	96	86
Average Low	56	60	71	79	74	70	59
Precipitation	.38	.22	.38	.78	1.22	.43	.49

Water temperature averages about 50-55 degrees all summer long.

RAIN GEAR – It is important to have a quality 2-piece rain gear with hood. The rain gear is for keeping warm and dry while going through the rapids and occasionally for rainy days. Make sure that your rain gear is waterproof and not just water-resistant. **Don't go on your trip without rain gear!** You can purchase your rain gear on our online store at www.twriver.com.

FOOTWEAR – We encourage you to bring 2 pair of shoes. Shoes/Sandals need to be worn on the raft and in camp. It's nice to have a dry pair for camp or an extra pair in case of loss or damage. Bring at least one pair of tennis/athletic type shoes. Quality river sandals with heel straps (Texas, Chaco, Alps, Merrill, etc.) are an excellent choice on our river trips as your second pair of shoes. Consider bringing a pair of socks for your sandals, because many people develop sore spots due to abrasive sand and straps rubbing on their feet. All shoes should have good traction, be broken-in, and be comfortable. If you need the added support of hiking boots they are ok to bring along. **Note: Because most hikes are in or around water, hiking boots that cannot get wet are not practical as footwear.**

CLOTHES – **PACK YOUR RIVER GEAR IN A SOFT COLLAPSIBLE GYM TYPE BAG.** Your bag should be approximately 25"x14"x10" to fit inside our waterproof duffle bags. Keep your clothes to a minimum and in colors that will not show dirt easily (avoid black clothes as they get hot during mid-summer). The river and sand may permanently stain some of your clothing. Fast drying nylon shorts and bathing suits are recommended. It is important to have something to cover up with if you start to sunburn or get too hot so be sure to bring along a pair of long pants and a long sleeve shirt in a lightweight nylon or cotton fabric. Also, if it should rain it will turn chilly or cold so bring a fleece-lined jacket or fleece sweater with you. Most people tend to over pack, bringing too many changes of clothes! You do not need a new outfit for every day, as most people wear their clothes more than one day.

PERSONAL ITEMS – Passengers may bring their wallets, credit cards, and airline tickets with them on their trips. They should be stored in zip lock bags in the bottom of your waterproof bags. **Do not bring expensive jewelry, expensive watches, cell or wireless phones, boom boxes or other such items and valuables with you on the river trip.**

CAMERAS – Bring plenty of film and spare batteries for your camera. All cameras should have straps. We recommend keeping your camera in a waterproof case, even when it is in your small water-resistant bag. The waterproof or panoramic disposable cameras are excellent on the river trip.

VIDEOS – As video cameras become smaller and batteries last longer we are seeing more and more on the river. Be aware, there is no place to recharge batteries on our trips so you need to bring extra batteries. As we do not provide a hard case for storage, we recommend that you bring your video cameras in a hard waterproof case.

BEVERAGES – We provide cold lemonade and water all day long on the boat and in camp in the evening. If you wish to have any other beverages (soda, juices, alcohol, etc.) you must supply your own. Hard liquor should be in plastic containers. Soda, beer, and any additional beverages must be in aluminum cans (**NO GLASS**). Your beverages will be stowed away by the guides during the day and available to you in the evenings. You may want to mark your cans on the top with a permanent marker. You can purchase beer, wine, and soda at the Marble Canyon Trading Post, however, hard liquor is not available there.

FISHING – You may bring a small collapsible fishing rod. You can fish from the shore but not while the boat is underway. You would be fishing mainly for trout. Arizona residents must have an Arizona fishing license. Out of state passenger can purchase a short-term license at Marble Canyon Lodge or call Arizona Fish & Game at 602-942-3000 to see about obtaining a license.

GRATUITIES – It is customary upon receiving a satisfactory trip to tip the river crew. It is an acknowledgement of a job well done and greatly appreciated by members of the crew. If you feel a tip is in order, the average runs between 5%-7%. You may leave it with the trip leader and he/she will distribute it among the crew.

NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE FEE—Each person on our trip 16 years or older is charged an additional \$12.00 to cover the National Park Entrance Fee. If you have a golden eagle or golden age passport into the National Parks please let our office know before your trip so we can deduct this fee.

PASSENGER INFORMATION FORM – We require that each passenger taking our trip fill out the attached passenger information form. This form will give us more information on how to better serve you while you are traveling with us. Please make sure to include on this form if there are any special physical or medical condition we should be aware of. This form is attached to the back of this packet.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM-We require that each passenger sign an acknowledgement of risk form. Anyone under 18 must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian. This form must be returned to our office prior to your trip.

BALANCE DUE – The unpaid balance for your trip is due 90 days prior to your trip date. Balances may be paid in the form of a check, money order, or credit card. We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover or America Express.

CANCELLATION POLICY – A minimum \$300.00 cancellation fee will be assessed for all cancellations. Cancellations received between 60 and 30 days prior to departure forfeit one half the tour cost. Cancellations between 30 days and the day of your trip lose the entire tour cost. No shows lose entire tour cost. We are firm with this policy and suggest you purchase cancellation insurance. This would help reimburse you in the event of illness or other unforeseen reasons for cancellations. Forms are available in our office or from your travel agent. This cancellation policy applies per person.

LUGGAGE STORAGE – If you are taking the charter flight from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon additional luggage can be stored at the North Las Vegas airport for a fee. **Since you are returned to the McCarran Airport at the end of your trip you will be on your own to get back to your luggage.** You can take a taxi from McCarran Airport to North Las Vegas and depending on traffic this ride can be anywhere between 20 minutes to 1 hour (or more) each way. If you are staying in a hotel in Las Vegas either before or after your trip many times they will store your luggage for you. You cannot leave any luggage with us in Marble Canyon as we have no facilities to store it, or to have it brought to meet you at the end of the trip.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION – During the season, you may call us after-hours or on weekends at our regular toll free number (1-800-453-9107). The message will give you the numbers of those you can contact or you can leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Please be aware that getting an emergency message to a guest on our river trips, even in the event of a death in the family, will not be possible. The Grand Canyon Park's policy is not to allow the use of helicopters to contact or remove river guests for this type of emergency. Please give our toll free number to family members and have them call us if there is an emergency while you are on the river.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is the trip strenuous?

Since our trip is an outdoor activity, and with the exposure to the elements, we consider our trips to be mildly strenuous, requiring some effort. You are responsible for carrying your personal bags to your camp and setting up your camp area. Our guides will give instructions the first night on how best to set up the camping equipment we provide. As with all aspects of the trip, we encourage the guests (with no medical restrictions) to participate in as many activities as possible. This includes helping the guides load and unload the rafts at camp. Some of the hikes off the river will require more effort than others. The guides will try and give you a brief overview of the hike. If you would rather not participate on any hikes you may find a comfortable place to stay near the rafts. You will enjoy the trip more if you have prepared with some walking or exercise and are in better physical shape. If you have any medical questions consult your own doctor and call our office so that we may help answer your questions.

2. Who will our guides be?

Tour West feels that we have the best guides in the business. Our guides are all whitewater qualified with an average of fifteen years and hundreds of miles of river experience. Each guide is an accomplished outdoors person with a background in natural history and the ability to make each river trip special and memorable.

3. Where and when will I get my river and camping equipment?

Your waterproof duffle bag, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, sheet, small water-resistant bag and cup will be available when you meet your guide at the river. Your cot and tent will be available at the first night's camp. We recommend you only set up a tent if there is a threat of rain. Nothing beats sleeping under the stars!

4. What items will I have access to during the day?

Every morning your waterproof duffle bag containing your sleeping gear and clothing will be loaded on the boat and packed away for the day. Your small water-resistant bag is used to store any of the items that you will need to get to during the day, such as sun screen, hat, camera, water bottle, etc.

5. What is the menu like?

We take pride in offering well-rounded meals that are very appetizing with sufficient quantities for everyone. Breakfast items include many traditional favorites from pancakes to omelets, fresh fruits and juices. Lunches are a favorite for many with a variety of deli meats and cheeses, salads, chips and cookies. At the end of the day you are ready for a hardy meal expertly prepared under a western sky. You'll have fresh salads, chicken, steak, side dishes, and of course, desserts. All meals include water and lemonade to drink.

NOTE: If you have a special diet or allergies, please inform us of your specific needs so that we can determine how to best accommodate you.

6. What are the toilet facilities on the river?

We take portable toilets, which are clean and comfortable. These facilities are available in the morning and night while in camp. We have a smaller portable toilet that can be used during the day but we do not set-up facilities to urinate during the day. The National Park Service requires us to have guests urinate in the wet sand or in the river. This can be a little more difficult for our female guests so you might consider bringing clothing that will make this easier such as a two-piece swim suit or shorts instead of a one-piece suit.

7. Where will I bathe?

Although the water in the side streams is generally warmer and it may be tempting to bathe there, soap is strictly prohibited and only allowed in the main river. You may bring a solar shower if you would like but a few things to keep in mind are they can only be used in the main river and not on the beach or in the sand. Since there are few trees by the river someone will have to hold it for you. Please only bring one per family.

8. Why is the water so cold?

The river water is released from Glen Canyon Dam on Lake Powell. The water is taken from deep in the lake and is approximately 55 degrees. It only warms up about 1 degree every 20 miles.

9. What about bugs and snakes?

The Grand Canyon is a very friendly place to camp. Being a desert environment, mosquitoes and flying insects are not generally a problem. Snakes and scorpions are seldom seen. Most trips will have the thrill of seeing Desert Big Horn Sheep and many varieties of canyon birds.

10. Can we expect rain?

We never know for sure when it will rain, so even if you are taking a mid-summer trip be sure to bring a two piece rain suit! Ponchos are not recommended.

MAPS/BOOKS- Below is a list of books about the wonders and history of the Grand Canyon. The Belknap Guide book along with other gear for your trip is available on our website at www.twriver.com

1. Grand Canyon River Guide (waterproof mile by mile map) **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

Author: Buz Belknap

2. The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons

Author: John Wesley Powell

3. Introduction to the Grand Canyon Geology

Author: Trinkle Jones

4. River Runners of the Grand Canyon—The human story of the Colorado River (VIDEO OR DVD)

To order call: 1-800-580-6863 or write Don Briggs Film & Video PO Box 788 Sausalito, CA 94966

Help protect future commercial rafting trips in the Grand Canyon by visiting the following website:

www.gcriverrunners.com

Due to limited availability, the National Park Service restricts recreational boating opportunities on the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park to one trip per year per individual. Because of this regulation, Tour West cannot accept a reservation from any individual who has or will participate in any other full or partial canyon commercial or non-commercial river trip within the same calendar year. If you have already completed or have plans to participate in any other Grand Canyon river trip this year and would like to go again, please wait until next year or sometime thereafter to book your next trip. Grand Canyon National Park's one-trip-per-year rule is strictly enforced.