

## **Grand Canyon Trip Information Packet 8-Night Motorized Trip**

Thank you for choosing Tour West! We are delighted to share the Colorado River and the famed Grand Canyon with you. On this trip you will cover the entire length of the Grand Canyon and experience the unparalleled excitement, serenity, and beauty that rafting in the Grand Canyon has to offer.

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

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.

In this packet you will find the following sections:

### **What to Expect:**

- Itinerary
- Typical day
- Rafting & Camping with Tour West
- Age & Physical Recommendations
- Weather

### **Getting Ready For Your Trip:**

- Pre-Trip Travel Information
- Post-Trip Travel Information
- Packing List
- General Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Map/Books

## **Itinerary** *All times listed are for the Pacific Time Zone*

- **Day One:** Your trip meets in Marble Canyon, AZ. You will spend the first night at the Marble Canyon Lodge. Your motel accommodations are included in your package. Please let us know your preferred accommodations no later than 1 month prior to your trip. If we do not hear from you we will make your accommodations for you.

You will meet your guide for an orientation meeting at **8:00 p.m.** The location of the orientation meeting can vary so when you check-in the person at the front desk will let you know where this meeting will be held. At the orientation meeting you will receive some of the gear you will use on the river such as a dry bag which you will load your personal bag into.

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

- **Day Two-Day Six:** A van provided by Marble Canyon Lodge will pick you up in front of the motel in the morning and transport you 6 miles to Lee's Ferry where you will meet your guides and launch on your river trip. Once you push off from Lee's Ferry you will be given a boat and safety orientation by your guides that will include how and where to sit on the rafts, how to hold on, and safety precautions while on the river and in camp.

From there you will start your adventure through the Grand Canyon. Each day you will run exciting rapids such as Hance, Granite, Hermit & Crystal, explore unique side canyons such as Elves Chasm, Deer Creek and Havasu Falls, be treated to delicious meals, hear and see some of the history and geology of the Canyon from your very knowledgeable guides and generally enjoy the majestic grandeur of the Grand Canyon. Each night you will camp on cots under the stars along the beaches of the river.

- **Day Seven-Day Eight:** In the morning you will leave camp and be on the rafts for a short time before arriving at the helicopter pad at Whitmore Wash. Once at Whitmore Wash 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. Once the new group arrives you will continue down river to experience more exciting rapids, beautiful side canyons and great camping.
- **Day Nine:** 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 2:00 p.m. **Please do not book any departure flights before 4:00 p.m. this day!**

## **Typical Day**

A typical day on the river will include rafting for a few hours at a time, stopping for scenic side-canyon hikes, bathroom breaks, a stop for lunch, and lots of fun, laughter, learning, and excitement in between.

After a full day of river excitement you will arrive in camp. Guests will be given time to find their favorite campsite and then return to the rafts to create a "fire line" which is how we load and unload the rafts. Your help in passing the gear on and off the boat is greatly appreciated and can help you to really feel a part of the whole river experience but if you have physical restrictions or limitations that keep you from participating in this you are not required to.

The first evening in camp your guide will give a demonstration of how to easily assemble the cots you will be sleeping on and will be available if you need any additional help in setting those up. Tour West provides cots, tents (generally only used in case of rain), sleeping bags, sheets, camp chairs, and water-proof gear bags for all of our guest.

While you relax and take in the beautiful surroundings, your guides will prepare dinner. Every night is different but the menu may include fajitas, BBQ chicken with rice and veggies, lasagna, steak and sautéed mushrooms & onions, and other fresh and scrumptious meals.

At night you will relax on a cot under a vast canopy of stars as the fresh air and rhythm of the river lull you to sleep.

Each morning your guides will prepare a hearty breakfast. You will have a chance to enjoy eating before returning to your campsite to take down your cot and pack up your belongings into a dry bag. After bringing your bag down to the boats, guest participate in the fire line once again and then you are off on another adventure filled day.

## **Rafting & Camping with Tour West**

Whether you have been rafting and camping for years or this is your first experience, Tour West makes it easy. All you need to do is bring your personal items in a soft-sided duffle bag and we will provide the rest. We supply:

- Motel accommodations the first night of your trip at the Marble Canyon Lodge
- Transportation from Marble Canyon, Arizona to the river
- 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.
- 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 needed in case of rain)
- Waterproof bag –16”X 33” 108 liters--to put your personal duffel bag into during the trip
- Small water-resistant day bag --9.5”X 20” 22 liters-- (accessible at all times) for personal articles and camera
- Jet boat across Lake Mead
- Bus transfer from Lake Mead back to the McCarran Airport in Las Vegas at the end of your trip

**Toilet Facilities:** Tour West uses a portable toilet and hand wash system that is set up in camp each day in a secluded location that assures privacy. The toilet is available shortly after you pull into camp until you leave the following day. An orientation concerning all of this will be given to you at the beginning of your trip.

## **Age & Physical Recommendations**

We are often asked what the age or physical recommendations are of those who want to take our trips. The recommended minimum age for the trip is 8 years old. We do not have a maximum (We have taken people in their 90's!). We have taken people of all different ages and physical conditions and they have a wonderful time. There are a few things that can make the trip more enjoyable for you if you are able to do.

- Being able to firmly grip ropes or handhold provided while running the rapids
- Enough agility to climb on and off the rafts—this could be as much as a 2-3 foot reach sometimes on wet or slippery conditions. If you are unable to do this on your own please ask for assistance from a guide.
- Fit into our Class V lifejacket (max 58” chest) required by the National Park Service.
- Ability to navigate some uneven terrain on hikes and in camp.

Our principle objective is for you and your fellow guest to have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. If you are concerned about any of these recommendations please call our friendly staff and we will be happy to discuss your specific circumstances.

## **Weather**

We always hope for good weather and usually we get it but you should be prepared for cooler weather and storms. The following chart shows averages in the inner Grand Canyon from April through October.

<u>Temperature &amp; Precipitation</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Mean Max Temperature	82	92	101	106	103	96	84
Mean Min. Temperature	56	63	71	79	75	70	58
Precipitation (inches)	.47	.36	.30	.84	1.4	.97	.65

## **Pre-Trip Travel Information**

Your trip meets in Marble Canyon, Arizona. There are several options for getting there. **The following options are not included in your trip price.**

### **OPTION 1: Driving to Marble Canyon, Arizona (Not Recommended For This Trip)**

Marble Canyon is located in the Northeastern corner of Arizona on Highway 89A. Marble Canyon is 281 miles from Las Vegas and from Phoenix it is 272 miles. While you are on the river trip you may park your car across the street from the Lodge. This is not a secured parking lot. Tour West is not responsible for those who choose to park their cars in this lot. While this is not a secured lot we have not had any trouble with our passengers parking their cars there in the past. As your trip will end in Las Vegas, if you choose this option you will be on your own to get back to your car that you have parked at Marble Canyon at the end of your trip.

### **OPTION 2: Taking a van shuttle from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon (Recommended)**

Bar 10 Transportation Services provides a van shuttle (with a 4 person minimum) from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon. In order to book this option you can contact them directly at 800-582-4139 for meeting times, locations, etc. Tour West does not coordinate any of the logistics for this option so please be sure you have received all of the information you need for this from Bar 10.

### **OPTION 3: Charter Flight from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon (Recommended)**

Most people prefer to fly into Las Vegas and transfer to Marble Canyon via charter plane. We have arranged for charter services to Marble Canyon through the Bar Ten Transportation Services in conjunction with Grand Canyon Airline. If you want to use this option you can make your reservation through Tour West. There is a 10 passenger minimum for this flight. Grand Canyon 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 by 2 p.m.

To meet for this flight please go to the information booth outside of the one baggage claim area at McCarran airport. The baggage claim area is in Terminal 1. 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 and out the door to where the shuttle buses are and locate the bus. Your shuttle bus will be there to meet you between **1:40-2:00 p.m.** The shuttle bus will have logos that say Grand Canyon Airlines, Grand Canyon Helicopter, Scenic, and Papillion and should be located either at or near spot 16. You will board the bus and then be shuttled you to the Boulder airport. From there you will board a plane your flight for Marble Canyon. Please make sure to meet your representative by **2:00 p.m.** pacific time. If for any reason the shuttle bus is not at level zero by 2:15 p.m. to meet you, please call Bar 10 transportation Services at 800-582-4139 or call our office at 800-453-9107. If it is a weekend of the office is closed you will find the contact numbers of who to call. **Please note: the FAA requires anyone who is 18 + years to present photo ID for this flight.** The air crafts used: 19 passenger Twin Otter and 9 passenger Cessna Caravan aircraft

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.

## **Post-Trip Travel Information**

The river portion of your trip will end at on Lake Mead. After breakfast you will get on your rafts for a short time until a jet boat arrives. You will board the jet boat and take a short ride to the Pearce Ferry Boat Ramp, on Lake Mead. You will then board a bus for your transfer back to the Las Vegas McCarran Airport. If anyone has stored luggage with Grand Canyon Air the bus will make a quick stop at the Boulder Airport to pick that up. If you have stored your luggage there please let the bus driver know when you board the bus. You should arrive at the McCarran Airport at approximately 2:00 p.m. **Please do not book any departure flights before 4:00 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.

## **Packing List**

The following 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 flight & helicopter company).
2. Your bag should be a soft side duffle bag that is approximately 12"x13"x24" in order to fit in our 16"x33" dry bag we provide you. Our sleeping bag will also fit inside this waterproof bag.

### **CLOTHING ITEMS (Water clarity can vary from clear to silty. Clothing can become discolored. Please pack accordingly)**

- Two-piece rain suit (Not just for rainstorms. Water temperatures average 50 degrees year round. Quality rain gear offers protection against cold water when running rapids—especially early in the morning.)
- 3-4 swimsuits (2-piece swimsuit and quick-drying shorts or sports bra and short recommended for women.)
- 3-4 quick-drying shirts (long sleeve and/or short sleeve)
- 2 pair of lightweight pants/shorts, shirts, and underwear for camp
- 2 pair socks in case of sunburn or foot injury
- 1 pair quick-drying pants (optional for sun-protection)
- 1 sarong or other wrap-around (optional for sun protection)
- Lightweight fleece top
- Sturdy water sandals or multi-sport shoe that can get wet with good tread and support for hikes (Keen, Teva's, or Chaco's are examples). It is wise to consider a back-up pair of sandals or shoes in case of damage.
- Comfortable footwear for camp (optional—some guest prefer flip flops or other light weight shoes in camp)
- Hat for sun protection with string or hat clip
- Gloves for protection while gripping ropes

### **COOL WEATHER ITEMS (April, early May & September Trips)**

**Children tend to get colder and may need these items in the summer months.**

- Neoprene socks
- Stocking Cap
- Mid-weight fleece jacket
- Lightweight long underwear for sleeping

### **PERSONAL ITEMS**

- Personal hygiene products (toothbrush, deodorant, razor, mirror)
- Plenty of sunscreen
- Sunscreen lip balm
- Plenty of after-sun moisturizing body/foot lotion and aloe vera
- Soap and shampoo in small bottles
- Sport water bottle with strap or carabineer
- Small towel and wash cloth
- Tooth brush & toothpaste
- Small pack of tissues or wet towelettes
- Ziploc bags for storing wet items or keeping things dry
- Small headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries
- Bandana
- Sunglasses with safety strap and back-up pair of prescription glasses if needed
- Camera—waterproof digital camera with extra batteries and memory card recommended
- Small travel pillow
- Medication if needed (cool storage is available)
- All guest 18 or older must have photo ID available for trip flights
- Major credit card in case of evacuation or for souvenirs
- Cash for gratuities

### **OPTIONAL PERSONAL ITEMS:**

- 2 large 3"-4" carabineers (for clipping day-use bags and water bottles to ropes)
- Small back-pack for hikes
- Plastic bag for dirty or wet clothing,
- Mile-by-mile river guide book & other books
- Hiking sticks
- Playing cards or other free-time games

## General Information

**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.

**VALUABLES:** You will want to have photo ID, a major credit card, and some cash for gratuities. All other valuables and jewelry should be left at home or in a safe location.

**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 8%-10%. You may leave it with the trip leader and he/she will distribute it among the crew.

**LUGGAGE STORAGE:** The **best option** if you are staying in Las Vegas before or after your trip is to see if your hotel will store your luggage for you. Luggage can also be stored with Grand Canyon Airlines for a fee. At the end of your trip you will be returned to **McCarran Airport** but if you have stored luggage with Grand Canyon Air the bus will make a quick stop at the Boulder Airport to get that. **If you have stored luggage at the Boulder Airport please tell the driver when you board the bus so that they know to stop at the Boulder Airport.** You cannot leave any luggage with us in Las Vegas as we have no facilities to store it in, or to have it brought to meet you at the end of the trip.

**CAMERAS & VIDEOS:** You are welcome to bring your cameras and video cameras with you on the river to capture some of the beauty you will see. We do not provide and sort of waterproof cases so if you do choose to bring them you will need to provide your own waterproof cases.

**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.

**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 a 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.

**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.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** – A minimum \$300.00 cancellation fee will be assessed for all cancellations. Cancellations received between 31 and 60 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.

**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.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. 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 wilderness first responder training a background in natural history and the ability to make each river trip special and memorable.

### 2. 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!

### 3. 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.

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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 keep in mind that they can only be used in the main river and wet sand near the river not on the beach or in the dry sand. Since there are few trees by the river someone will have to hold it for you. Please only bring one per family.

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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.

### 8. 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](http://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](http://www.gcriverrunners.com)

### 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.

**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 you next trip. Grand Canyon National Park's one-trip-per-year rule is strictly enforced.**



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