

# Grand Canyon



**ARIZONA RAFT ADVENTURES**  
**GRAND CANYON DISCOVERY**



One of the most intimate ways to experience the Grand Canyon is by rafting the Colorado River. As you unplug from a world of noise, clutter and technology we hope your time on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon with us will be both exciting and renewing.

For 226 miles, the river winds its way from Lee's Ferry through the majestic Grand Canyon to Diamond Creek. The smooth flowing current of the Colorado River is punctuated by roughly 160 rapids, ranging from small riffles to larger well-known rapids such as House Rock, Hance, Crystal and Lava Falls.

The river and its tributaries nourish a land surprisingly diverse in wildlife—from desert bighorn sheep to peregrine falcons—and speckled with cacti, flowers and ferns. The Grand Canyon is also rich in human history, archeology and geology.

The hiking is memorable. One hike might meander along a creek up a side canyon to a magic world lush with greenery; another trail may rise steeply from the river to the top of a mesa with a panoramic display of rock layers hundreds of millions of years old.

We invite you to come experience all that the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon have to offer. Bring your sense of adventure; you will see things you've never seen before and do things you've never done before. If you want to appreciate diversity, history, adventure and relaxation, come live life inside the Canyon with Arizona Raft Adventures and Grand Canyon Discovery.

# *Colorado River & Grand Canyon*







Raft the Grand Canyon in comfort and with a greater sense of security provided by a larger raft on our Motor Adventure. The boat is 34' in length and 15' wide. This sturdy and stable design is a superb way to experience the Grand Canyon. The roomy floor plan provides a comfortable seating arrangement and allows you the opportunity to get up and stretch your legs while the boat is moving. Our moderate group size allows space to spread out on the raft.

The raft is powered by a small, four-stroke outboard engine. The outboard engine is designed to minimize noise output, save fuel and reduce emissions.

The Motor Adventure accommodates guests with all levels of experience and children as young as ten years of age, providing the opportunity for multiple generations to engage with each other on a Grand Canyon adventure. With optimal trip lengths of either eight or ten days, the camaraderie begins at Lee's Ferry and builds throughout the entire excursion.



*Take the time you've always wanted  
to explore, relax and experience  
Grand Canyon.*

### **At A Glance**

- Full Canyon: 8 days in summer, 10 days in spring or fall, Lee's Ferry to Diamond Creek, 226 river miles (No Bright Angel Trail hike required in or out of the Canyon)
- Rafts: One or two 34' raft(s)
- Minimum age: 10 years
- Max group size: 14-24 guests

# *Motor Adventure*





Do you know you already want the ultimate whitewater experience in the Grand Canyon? This trip is for experienced participants who crave “hands on” adventure.

The All Paddle Adventure has three 18' paddle rafts. Each paddle raft carries a crew consisting of six guests and one guide. Each guest holds a paddle and, under expert guidance from the paddle captain, learns to work as a team to maneuver the raft down the river. There is a mixture of vigorous paddling in the rapids and milder paddling in smooth water. The trip attracts all ages of fit and energetic guests and is a great option for those who like physically challenging vacations and enjoy teamwork.

We have offered paddle rafting since 1974, setting us apart as one of a few outfitters with paddle boats in the Grand Canyon. We only schedule a handful of All Paddle Adventures each season. If this is the trip for you, inquire about availability as soon as possible.



*“My AzRA trip was the third greatest adventure of my life. The first two took me to space.”*

Joe Allen, Retired NASA Astronaut

### **At A Glance**

- Full Canyon: 14 days, Lee’s Ferry to Diamond Creek, 226 river miles
- Upper Canyon: 6 days, Lee’s Ferry to Bright Angel Trail, 89 river miles
- Lower Canyon: 9 days, Bright Angel Trail to Diamond Creek, 137 river miles
- Rafts: Three paddle rafts plus two support rafts
- Minimum age: 16 years
- Max group size: 18 guests

# *All Paddle Adventure*





The Classic Adventure is our most popular Grand Canyon rafting excursion with trip length options ranging from six to sixteen days.

This trip combines two types of non-motorized boating experiences into one expedition. Comprised of four oar rafts and one paddle raft, guests with any level of rafting experience are welcome on the Classic Adventure. Do you feel energetic and want to be active? Try the paddle raft and challenge the rapids! On the paddle raft, the captain rudders from the stern while instructing six guests to navigate the boat. Or, join the oar raft where you can relax, take pictures, watch for wildlife, journal and occasionally try your hands at the oars. On the oar raft, a guide rows from the center of the raft while guests sit back and enjoy the ride. Guests typically change rafts each day, getting to know other travelers on the trip and engaging with each member of the crew.

This trip is designed to offer the option to either paddle or ride in an oar raft and is ideal for individuals or groups with varying levels of paddle interest. If your main interest is paddling and you have previous multi-day paddle experience, the All Paddle Adventure trip may be a better choice.

*Meet the river on its terms, at its pace—  
still and quiet, pounding rapids, then quiet again.*

*Your adrenaline ebbs and flows as  
you settle into the rhythm of the river.*



### **At A Glance**

- Full Canyon: 14–16 days, Lee’s Ferry to Diamond Creek, 226 river miles
- Upper Canyon: 6–7 days, Lee’s Ferry to Bright Angel Trail, 89 river miles
- Lower Canyon: 9–10 days, Bright Angel Trail to Diamond Creek, 137 river miles
- Rafts: Four oar rafts and one paddle raft per trip
- Minimum age: 12 years
- Max group size: 20 guests

# *Classic Adventure*







Each season we offer a small selection of specialty adventures. Consider a trip option with an added focus or specialty such as the Dories and Stories, Photography Workshop, Yoga Retreat or even a Kayak trip. One of the most popular specialty trips is the Hiker's Discovery designed for the most physically fit and adventurous guests who love to hike. Special interest trips may vary each year, so check "Dates and Prices" or call for availability.

You may also be interested in organizing your own privately chartered Grand Canyon rafting adventure. A private charter is a great option for larger groups that wish to reserve all available space. It is an excellent way to bring together friends, family, special interest groups and organizations.



*"The majesty of the Grand Canyon as seen from the Colorado is beyond description. We had to pinch ourselves now and then to remind ourselves we were really there witnessing the clear green river, Redwall Limestone cliffs, big horn sheep, sand beaches and desert flowers in bloom. Our guides were extremely competent and helpful. Meals were excellent. We brought home lifetime memories."*

Sandy Simon, Michigan

# Specialty Trips & Charters





Ralph Hopkins



Lynn Myers



Thomas Zierlinger



If you prefer the Classic or the All Paddle Adventure, but have a limited time frame, the Upper Canyon or Lower Canyon trip may be your best choice. However, the only way to participate in a partial Canyon trip is to commit to hiking the Bright Angel Trail. The hike is either an arduous, cardiovascular climb as you ascend the trail on the last day of the Upper Canyon trip or a knee-crunching, lower body exercise as you descend into the Grand Canyon on the first day of the Lower Canyon trip.

Hiking the Bright Angel Trail is an amazing experience. You are surrounded by massive cliffs, abundant plant life, wildlife, pictographs and geology. The trail is 7.5 miles long from the River to the rim, with a change of 4,460 vertical feet in elevation.

While the trail is well-traveled by hikers and maintained by the National Park Service, challenges include sun and heat exposure, elevation change, steep drop offs, uneven footing, steps and rocks. We provide your camping gear, but carrying your personal items in or out of the Canyon is a must.

The hike is very doable if you take it seriously, are in good physical condition, pack lightly, stay cool, eat and drink properly.



*“The hike out the Bright Angel Trail was my favorite. Truly awesome...and a great sense of personal accomplishment.”*

Eric Polesuk, New Jersey

*“After hiking down the Bright Angel Trail my muscles ached for 3 days...I wish I had gotten in better shape before the trip.”*

Diane Mercurio, New Jersey

# *Bright Angel Trail*





Mike O'Neil





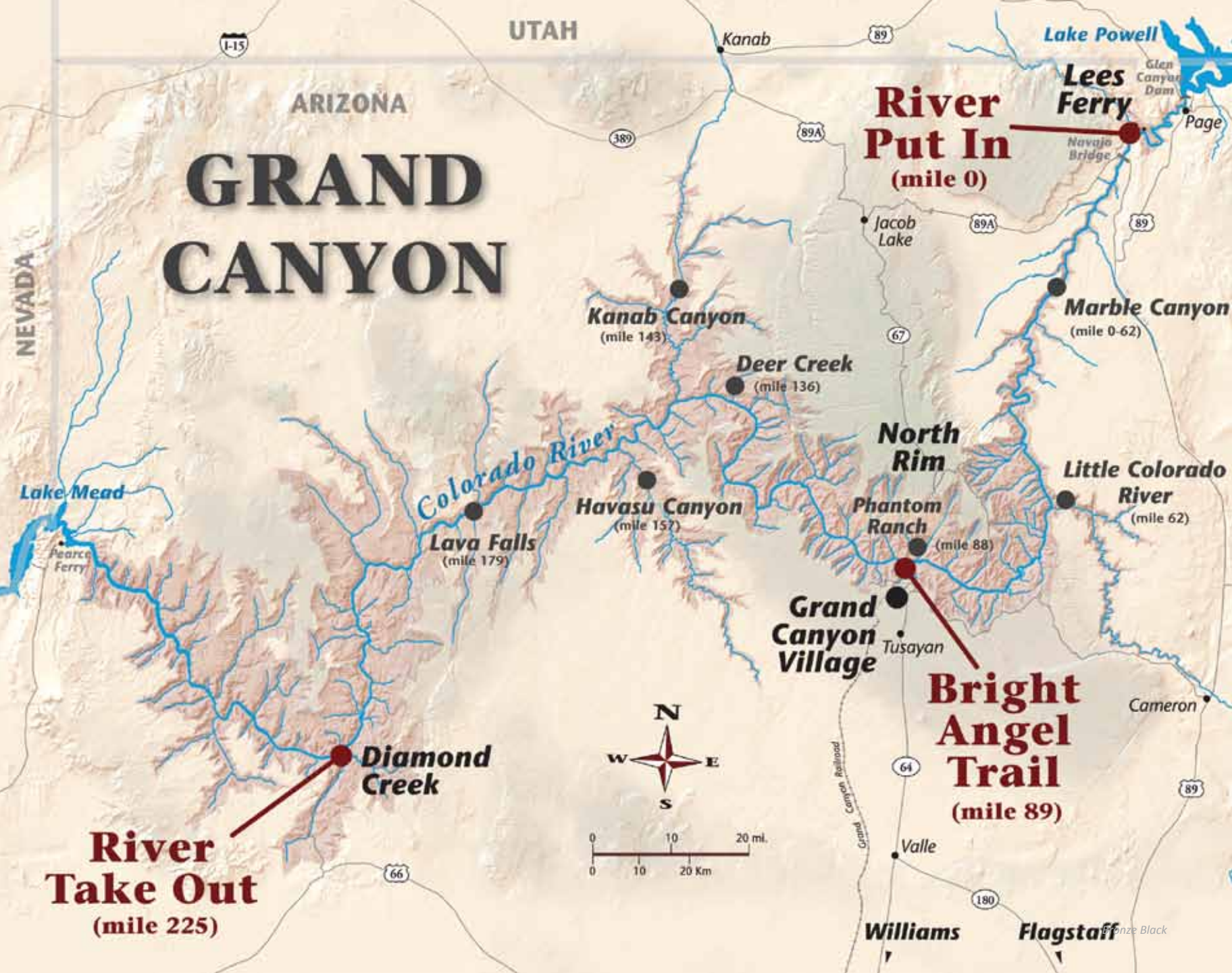


*“Who hears the rippling of rivers will not utterly despair of anything. We go to the river’s edge for comfort, spiritual renewal, meditation, solitude; we go to the river to feel and know the continuance of life.”*

Henry David Thoreau



# GRAND CANYON



**River Take Out**  
(mile 225)

**River Put In**  
(mile 0)

**Bright Angel Trail**  
(mile 89)



This is an extraordinary vacation and may be unlike any other experience you've ever had. It is important to us that you and everyone on your reservation are matched with the best trip type and length. We want you to have a fantastic adventure and our goal is to set you up for a successful and enjoyable experience.

**What is your health and fitness level?** Good health and physical fitness are necessities for this rigorous and active rafting adventure. In addition, living outdoors for several days in a desert environment can quickly impact one's health and stamina. Your health and fitness level will contribute to your personal safety and also help you to maximize the experience.

**How much time do you have?** If you only have about one week, your options include either a Motor Adventure or the upper or lower portion of a Classic or All Paddle Adventure. It takes at least two weeks to raft the entire Grand Canyon on a non-motorized trip.

**Should you choose the Upper Canyon or Lower Canyon?**

(Classic and All Paddle only) Both Upper and Lower Canyon trip options have exhilarating rapids, beautiful campsites, historical artifacts, wildlife, and hikes featuring slot canyons, side streams and gorgeous views. However, there are subtle differences; for example, the Upper Canyon offers a more gradual introduction to both the rapids and geology. The scenery is rich in color and texture, and it is a geologic treat as the river carves its way through emerging rock layers. The Upper Canyon is decorated with evidence of ancient Puebloan people who once lived in the area. Hikes on the upper half often frequent archeological sites, geologic features and panoramic views.

The Lower Canyon trip begins with a stunning view of the Grand Canyon at dawn as you begin the hike down to the river. As you float away from the Pipe Springs beach, you will be in the Inner Gorge where dark Vishnu Schist rock walls are infused with ribbons of pink granite. The river is narrow here and immediately takes you into some of the largest whitewater in the Canyon. There are numerous side canyon hikes along pristine streams and to hidden waterfalls. Many guests who choose either the upper or lower for their first adventure will return another year to complete the experience.

**When is the best time to go?** All times of the year will offer an incredible experience. The river flow is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, so there is plenty of water to run the river April – October. April, May, September and October are cooler and require more cold weather gear. These months can be more ideal for hiking. June, July and August have the warmest temperatures of the year; any given day of the summer can easily be over 100 degrees, but the 52 degree Colorado River water will help you stay cool. Running rapids, swimming and playing in creeks and pools are a special treat in the summer heat! Afternoon rains are more common July through mid-September when thunder clouds moderate the afternoon sun and bring the added drama of light and shadows dancing across canyon walls. Weather systems can be unpredictable in any season.

# *Choosing Your Adventure*







We strive to make sure your selection, preparation and river adventure is personalized, satisfying and rewarding. You should dedicate some time toward planning and preparing for your trip. Our knowledgeable and experienced reservations team will help you with your very first questions, choosing the best trip, securing a reservation, assisting you with trip preparation, and answering last minute questions or concerns. We provide a detailed trip information packet and a pre-trip orientation meeting the evening before your trip begins. To make your trip preparation as seamless as possible, we also have a small retail store called Red River Sports specializing in river gear you might need for your trip.

**Who can go?** Families, couples, friends and guests traveling solo! All levels of experience are welcome and our guests often range in age from 10 to 80 years of age. We can accommodate a wide range of needs including those who are physically challenged or have medical conditions. However, the rigors of outdoor life are not for everyone. There are inherent risks and discomforts, and medical help is far away. If you are unsure or have a special need, call our office and we are happy to help you with your decision and trip preparation.

**What is included in the price?** Our competitively priced adventures include all meals from lunch on the first day through lunch on the last day. We also provide a sleeping bag, sleeping pad, ground tarp, tent, waterproof bags, eating utensils and drinking water. Additionally, a full transportation package, Flagstaff to

Flagstaff, for Full Canyon guests and a partial transportation package on Upper and Lower Canyon trips is also included. Our price incorporates all government fees and taxes. Not included: alcoholic beverages and soda, transportation between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon (for partial trips), pre and post trip hotel accommodations or gratuities.

**Will you have to sign a waiver?** Your safety is our priority and with over 45 years of experience we have learned to manage risk exceptionally well. You do not have to sign a waiver, but we do require you to sign an Acknowledgment of Risk which describes hazards and challenges, as we want you to make an informed vacation decision.

**How far in advance do you have to book?** You should book as early as possible. Whether you are a large party, a smaller party, have highly specific and limited dates or are flexible with dates, a simple phone call will determine availability in minutes. If we don't have what you want, consider adding your party to the waiting list. We refill cancelled spaces throughout the season and the waitlist has rewarded many! Those with flexible travel times or with smaller group sizes can often find space last minute.

# *Planning Your Expedition*





Marc Hamburger



Lynn Myers





This is an active vacation and a physically challenging experience but you will still find time to relax, refresh and reflect. The adventure will also present many surprises. We encourage you to embrace discovery as each day unfolds, building upon days that came before.

When you embark on the journey, everything needed for the entire expedition is carried on the rafts. Along the way, our knowledgeable guides share canyon geology, early river runner history, river ecology, plus many other fascinating facts and river lore.

Our headquarters are located in Flagstaff, Arizona, near the Grand Canyon. Flagstaff is a friendly, small town nestled in a cool mountain setting that fosters a smooth transition between civilization and nature. It is centrally located 3 hours by bus to Lee's Ferry and 3 hours from Diamond Creek. Full Canyon guests will begin and end in Flagstaff. Guests on either an Upper or Lower Canyon segment will start or end the trip at Grand Canyon, Arizona, a 1.5 hour drive north of Flagstaff.

Once on the river, every trip has a unique schedule, molded in response to the weather, river flow and the particular interests of the group. You may spend up to 4 hours or so on the raft at a time and will stop at points of interest and for hikes. Some days have more hiking and less boating and others more boating and less hiking. After a day or two, you will relax into the flow of the trip.

In the late afternoons, your group will stop at a primitive camp along the river's edge. Every campsite offers breath-taking views, spectacular sunrises or sunsets and vast star-filled night skies framed by canyon walls. There is often time for exploring near your camp or observing the flora and fauna nearby. Camping in the Grand Canyon is rewarding for many reasons, from quiet moments of introspection relaxing on pristine beaches to socializing with new friends in the kitchen.

If you desire delicious and hearty meals, you will be pleased with our menu which consists of quality fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grain breads, meats and desserts. Meals are varied and plentiful enough that all tastes can be accommodated. We do our best to highlight regional foods, purchase items locally and use organic products when available. If you have special dietary needs, let us know and we will accommodate you as best we can.

*“It was magic to sleep under the stars, be divorced from technology and news, and to be in the company of the guides who were so genuine, amusing, competent and knowledgeable. It was a privilege and a pleasure.”*

Nigel Nicholson, Sweden

# Trip Itinerary





*Lauren E. Oakes*



*Ralph Hopkins*



*Lynn Myers*

Do you like hiking and exploring? We do! There are countless side canyons along the way as tributaries shape this landscape. There are numerous overlooks where the scale of the Canyon is stunning and spectacular. You can anticipate a hike almost daily; they will vary in length, difficulty and scenery.

You may hike up a narrow side canyon, with high towering walls, to a beautiful waterfall or you may traverse the dry desert to a panoramic vista of the majestic Colorado River. You might hike to ancient ruins or to view artifacts left behind by early 19th century miners. Each hike will leave you with a fresh perspective of where you are.

The trails are not maintained and may include anything from wading through creeks with swift current, scrambling over hot boulders, navigating in and around slippery spots, walking along narrow ledges with steep drop-offs, moves requiring hand and leg strength and trekking through mud, soft sand and loose soil. These challenges make the hiking difficult; therefore, it is important that you are physically fit and participate in regular exercise and strength conditioning prior to the trip. Our guests often tell us this is a hiking trip as much as a river trip and they are both surprised and appreciative at the balance between exploring the Canyon by river and on foot.

There may be days when you wish to not participate in a hike and perhaps you would rather write in a journal, watercolor, fish, read or even take a nap in the shade. Hikes are optional with the exception of a couple of locations where your guides may require you to hike a short distance in order to find shade or to move you to a safer location.



*“This trip was a gift to my son who just graduated from high school, so I know these memories will last his lifetime. He thoroughly enjoyed the people, guides, food, hikes, camping and the Grand Canyon. What more could I have asked for?”*

Anonymous

# Hiking







Arizona Raft Adventures and Grand Canyon Discovery hires, trains and retains the top people in the industry. Our guides and support personnel are wonderful and caring individuals with astonishing knowledge about the Grand Canyon. They care about you, each other and the Earth. They are empowered to serve you and will prioritize your enjoyment and safety.

Our river guides have an average of 14 years of guiding experience with a wide range of skills and they come from a diverse array of backgrounds. They are musicians, story tellers, professional photographers, world-class kayakers, ski instructors, graduate students and teachers. Some take time from other professions for a trip or two each season, while others have made guiding their career. Our guides complement one another; each one contributes unique strengths to the trip.

The guides will target discussions around your interests about the Grand Canyon. Whether those interests lie in geology or archeology, ecology or botany, history or reading river currents, it's fun to learn how everything fits together, including our part in it all. Ask as many questions you want! Our guides will give you as much information about the Grand Canyon as you wish to hear. They complete continuing education requirements each year and are eager to share this information with you.

It is also important that all of our support personnel participate in one river trip each season. We appreciate all of our staff's roles as we strive to provide you the best Grand Canyon experience possible.



Ralph Hopkins

*“These men and women are remarkable guides and have a gift to inform, educate, and empower people from a variety of different backgrounds and skill levels.”*

Teresa Dougherty, Montana

# Our Staff





Arizona Raft Adventures and Grand Canyon Discovery are authorized concessioners of the National Parks Service in Grand Canyon National Park. The overall mission of the National Park Service is the preservation and public enjoyment of significant aspects of the nation's natural and cultural heritage. Since 1974 we have assisted the Park Service in achieving this mission—a privilege and responsibility we proudly embrace.

The Grand Canyon National Park is one of the crown jewels of our National Park System. Our guides share their knowledge of protecting the Park's natural and cultural resources, including American Indian perspectives, along with talks on safety, resource management issues, environmental awareness and Park history. You will also be provided opportunities to experience solitude and natural quiet.

We have an Environmental Management Plan that details our objectives and methods for operating trips with the least environmental impact possible—including energy conservation, air and water quality management, waste reduction and recycling. We minimize noise, save fuel and reduce emissions on our Motor Adventures by using small, four stroke engines, allowing time each day to drift with the current and idling down when passing other groups. We help power our office with a 2.5 kW solar array.

We give generously to the community that supports the Grand Canyon. We are also business members of One Percent for the Planet and contribute one percent of gross revenues to not-



Lynn Myers

for-profit organizations committed to environmental restoration, protection and education.

We have been running rivers since 1974 and are a third generation family owned and operated company. Each generation has passed onto the other a love of the land and a commitment to environmental stewardship as a core tradition. We cherish this land and regard the Earth as a gift for all of us to appreciate, understand and protect. It is our hope that your own environmental values and activities will be refreshed when you return home.

# *Grand Canyon National Park* *and our commitment to the environment*









*“The magic of the canyon paired with the freedom from the ‘real world’ made for a rejuvenating and inspirational two weeks.”*

Danielle Woolen, Hawaii

*“Just as a picture cannot do justice to being on the river...my words cannot do justice to my experience.”*

Sam Marx, California



Lynn Myers





Ralph Hopkins

*“A day didn’t go by without something exceptional happening!”*

Katie Brady, Nevada

*“We are so glad that we rafted the river with Arizona Raft Adventures, it was one of the best decisions that we have ever made. Your company and your employees are exceptional.”*

Dudley Hyde, Oklahoma



Todd Shapera Photography







*We take tremendous pride in providing exceptional Grand Canyon rafting adventures. Not only are we passionate about our company and what we do, we are incredibly committed to sharing this experience of a lifetime with you.*

Alexandra and Fred Thevenin,  
General and Operation Managers,  
and Owners





## ARIZONA RAFT ADVENTURES GRAND CANYON DISCOVERY

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# Colorado River