

# UTAH CANYONLANDS

## ~ SAN JUAN RIVER ~



APRIL 9 - 16

Melting snows high in the majestic peaks of south-western Colorado's San Juan mountains give rise to a major tributary of the Colorado River — the SAN JUAN.

Cutting deep through the slickrock country of Utah's legendary Canyonlands, in the heart of Navajoland, the river is characterized by towering redrock canyons and elaborate stratigraphic formations - truly one of the great southwestern rivers.



"RIVERHOUSE" - ANASAZI RUINS

Perhaps it's most renowned feature is the rich display of prehistoric life. Called **Anasazi**, "the Ancient People," by the Navajo Indians who succeeded them, this mysterious early civilization built elaborate cliff dwellings - which are amazingly well preserved - as are their spiritually symbolic petroglyphs.



EVENING CAMP



ALL PHOTOS: COPYRIGHT MARTIN BROWN



Miles of **high volume good current** are interspersed with numerous Class II, some easy III rapids - making the river eminently canoeable, with no portages. Numerous spectacular side canyon **hikes and trails** and evening swims in natural pools. We visit as spring arrives; definitely a unique ... and spiritual journey.



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MARTIN BROWN & ASSOCS.

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~SINCE 1973~

207-942-9300 \* 888-490-9300  
WWW.SUNRISEEXPEDITIONS.COM  
info@sunriselocations.com

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INFORMATION & LOGISTICS April 9 - 16

\$1850 for one; \$3450 for two  
Deposit of \$800 required to hold reservation

DATES & LOGISTICS:

Participants should plan on arriving in **Grand Junction, Colorado, or Moab, Utah** anytime during the day or evening prior to the scheduled starting date. That evening we will do a pre-trip briefing and review participant's gear. Bear in mind, however, that in the event luggage is lost or delayed that we have very little leeway on the following morning. Thus, as always, try to carry-on the plane as much critical clothing and gear as possible.

The following morning we leave Grand Junction for the river - arriving mid afternoon at our put-in spot at Bluff, Utah. All food and equipment will proceed downriver with us, although we will be utilizing raft support in order to lighten the canoes. We can replenish water and ice approximately halfway at Mexican Hat, Utah. Our take-out point is Clay Hills Crossing, 84 miles down river. Six nights are spent on river; you will be arriving back in Grand Junction on the evening of April 16, in time for dinner.

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:

Northern Logistics operates in conjunction with a travel agency and we can assist you in obtaining the most economical fares available. Please contact us for more information.

HOTEL:

We meet, the evening prior at the: **MESA INN**  
**704 Horizon Drive**  
**Grand Junction, CO 81506**  
**1-888-955-3080**

*Hotel accommodations are at the participants own expense:* however, we have arranged a special discount rate. Just notify the hotel that you are with Northern Logistics when making your reservations, you should guarantee your reservation with a credit card prior to the trip. Please contact our guides upon reaching the hotel. Meals in Grand Junction are at participant's own expense (the Mesa Inn will provide breakfast with your stay, if you request it).

**Arrangements can alternatively be made to meet in Moab, Utah** the morning of the trip departure; please inquire for specific meeting place.

FORMS & INSURANCE:

Unless already submitted, a trip form is enclosed. ***KINDLY FILL OUT ALL THE FORMS PROVIDED AND RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.*** This will enable our guide to prepare for your trip properly.

Also enclosed is an **optional** travel insurance application - should you desire trip and/or personal insurance protection for this excursion. Northern Logistics is not responsible for individual travel costs incurred by participants (extra accommodations/airline change fees) due to unforeseeable natural forces or logistical impediments beyond our control.



4 UNION PLAZA - SUITE 2 • BANGOR, MAINE 04401 • U.S.A.  
888-490-9300 • 207-942-9300 • FAX: 207-942-9399

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info@sunriselocations.com



BALANCE OF PAYMENT:

Trip balances are due in our Maine office **three weeks prior to the trip start date.**

PACKING CONSIDERATIONS:

Essentially, one should prepare for a desert climate with a **wide range of conditions**. Daytime temperatures range from the 40's to the 80's, with nights possibly dipping toward freezing. Although it is basically a semi-desert type of climate, inclement weather is possible. As might be expected, sun protection is an important consideration.

Specifically recommended for clothing would be lightweight, loose, long-sleeved shirts and pants, two sets, along with bathing suits, shorts, and T-shirts (jeans make very poor river pants). A lightweight jacket/anorak, and sweater/pile is recommended for evening; the jacket/anorak should also afford some protection from possible sand and wind conditions. Typically, there is little rain; although raingear would be considered advisable. Sneakers are perfect for river use, and a slightly more substantial pair of lightweight boots or shoes would be necessary for hiking and camp. Sandals, while a comfortable campsite option, are absolutely NOT recommended as river shoes. One or two protective hats or caps is a must, as well as suntan lotions and creams of personal choice.

Sunglasses, even if you don't normally wear them, are strongly advised. Light cotton gloves are recommended for those who burn or blister easily. This is one trip where fly dope is unnecessary. As regards sleeping bags, a lightweight "three season" synthetic is sufficient, with a pad/mattress, ground cloth, etc. We ask that you bring spare prescription glasses/sunglasses, and a dual supply of any necessary medications (to be kept in someone else's pack in another canoe). Participants should also have at least one knife on their person. Ideally, a large single-bladed knife on the belt or life vest for safety purposes, and a multi-bladed type (Swiss Army or Leatherman) for utilitarian purposes.

**A complete packing list will be provided with trip registration.**

As with all our trips, we will provide you with the proper river packs, tents, and P.F.D.'S (life jackets/vests), although you may provide your own gear, if suitable. We also have waterproof containers available for cameras, binoculars, and miscellaneous small gear. (Again, please remember to send back your trip forms, which have an attached gear needs list!)

Lastly, we do serve wine (and, occasionally, Margaritas) with the evening meal; you are welcome to bring your own supply of beer, liquor, soft drinks, etc. We do carry an ice supply, and are capable of providing a limited amount of refrigerated space daily for personal use.

We generally run the San Juan with **raft support** - which allows for lightened loads in the individual open canoes. However, your boat will still be partially loaded; technical tips pertaining to packing a boat for expedition whitewater travel is always integral to our instruction program.

DRINKING WATER:

The San Juan itself is not potable. We bring drinking water with us - both for communal use, as well as furnishing containers for personal use.

SUGGESTED READING LIST:

There are many excellent books on the Canyonlands area, its rivers, geology, and culture. Two specific recommendations are:

Naturalist San Juan River Guide by Stewart Acheson  
Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, Colorado

San Juan Canyons - A River Runners Guide & Natural History by Barrs & Stevenson  
Canyon Publishers, Ltd., Evergreen, Colorado