



# WORLD WIDE RIVER EXPEDITIONS

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## Fisher Towers 3 Day/ 3 Night Scout Adventure

Q. WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET WORLD WIDE RIVER EXPEDITIONS?

A. The trip leaves from Moab, Utah. Meeting time is 9:30 a.m. on the day your trip is scheduled at our office in Moab. **Please do not arrive at our warehouse prior to 9:30 a.m.** We have other trips that are meeting before yours and we don't want there to be any confusion. If your group arrives in Moab before 9:30 a.m. do not wait on Riversands Rd. You can meet at the intersection of Hwy 191 and Hwy 128 just across the river bridge at Lion's Park where there are restrooms, and then proceed to our warehouse at 9:30 a.m. We are located at the very end of Riversands Rd. on the left. **Our office is in a residential area so please drive slowly, especially into the parking area.** Once in our warehouse yard, watch for signs and cones that will direct you to park where you will leave your cars until we bring you back to them at the end of the trip. If there are any problems call the local phone number in Moab, **435-259-7515**.

Q. ARE OUR CARS SAFE IN YOUR PARKING AREA?

A. The cars are parked in groups and parallel lines in our warehouse yard. We have never had any problems except for lost keys. We give each group a key box or plastic bag to leave your keys in our office for safe keeping while you are on the trip. We do this to keep your keys safe, but also in case of an emergency and we need to get a car higher up in the line out.

Q. WHAT LEVEL OF WHITEWATER ARE WE GOING ON?

A. The Fisher Towers section of the Colorado River is fun and splashy Class II whitewater. The first day is a calm water float that brings you into view of the beautiful Fisher Towers before camping. The second day is a float down the Moab Daily section that has 7 sets of fun whitewater. The third day your group will do the Moab Daily class II whitewater section again to complete the requirements for the merit badges being worked on. The water levels are generally higher early in the summer and provide a more intense whitewater experience, but the water is colder. Later in the summer the water levels mellow and the water is warmer in the river which might be a better experience for those who like to swim in the river.

Q. WHAT IS THE TRIP ITENERARY?

A. **Day 1:** After arriving at our warehouse there are restrooms and changing areas to change your clothes and a trailer ready to pack your personal items into. Your gear will be transported to your camp where it will be waiting for you to arrive. Once everyone is ready to go it takes about an hour bus ride to the launch site at Dewey Bridge on Highway 128. You will arrive around noon where lunch will be served. Today is a nice float with beautiful scenery, swimming, and water fights. You will arrive at camp around 4:00 pm depending on the water level. Dinner is served about 6:30 pm with dessert about an hour after. The guides will then provide merit badge training.

**Day 2 - 3:** Guides will call for breakfast around 7:15 am. It is up to each group to get their members up and moving to breakfast on time. It gets light around 6 am so it is hard to sleep in. You will be on the river about 8:30 am. Both days are rapid days with fun exciting rapids and fulfilling merit badge requirements. Lunch will be served around noon at the river's edge. You will arrive in camp at about 4:00 pm with dinner being served about 6:30 pm. The guides will then provide merit badge training. Either night 2 or 3 the leaders will be brought to our warehouse to pick up the vehicles. The vehicles will stay at camp which will then be accessible on day 4 when you leave. You can leave on night 3 or stay for breakfast and leave after.

**Day 4:** Breakfast is served and then you are welcome to head home or participate in activities in Moab such as biking or hiking.

Q. WHAT IS THE FLOAT PLAN?

A. For BSA trips that use watercraft a float plan is generally required to be attached to your tour permit. The following information will help you fill that form out. We will not know who the guides are on your trip until the week before, but all of them are trained in current Wilderness First Aid & CPR and are licensed as river guides through the state of Utah. Our guides are also current in the BSA required certification including Youth Protection, Safety Afloat, and Safe Swim Defense. Your group will be traveling on the Fisher Towers section of the Colorado River. The put in, takeout, camping, and mileage are as follows:

Day 1: Put in – Dewey Bridge, Takeout – Hittle Bottom, Campsite – Hittle Bottom Campground, Mileage – 7

Day 2: Put in – Hittle Bottom, Takeout – Big Bend, Campsite – Big Bend Campground, Mileage – 16

Day 3: Put in – Onion Creek, Takeout – Big Bend, Campsite – Big Bend Campground, Mileage – 14

Day 4: Not on river, breakfast served and group free to go at leisure.

Q. DO YOU GIVE US ANY KIND OF ORIENTATION BEFORE WE GET ON THE RIVER?

A. There will be an orientation at the launch area before **ANYONE** gets into the rafts. It is a vital part of your trip and we stress that **EVERYONE**, including leaders, pay strict attention.

Q. HOW MANY MILES WILL WE ACTUALLY BE COVERING ON THE RIVER?

A. Maximum length is 37 miles from Dewey Bridge to close to Moab on the Fisher Towers section of the Colorado River along Highway 128. Water conditions may alter the points of entry and take out each day.

Q. WILL WE BE ALLOWED TO SWIM ALONG THE WAY?

A. Swimming can be done on most of this section of the river. Due to the unpredictable depth of the Colorado River, there are sections where your guide will tell you that swimming is not allowed. Please ask your guide if it is safe to swim. **When exiting the raft into the water always go feet first.**

Q. HOW WARM IS THE WATER?

A. The water temperature in June is around 50-60 degrees. In July and August the water can be 65-80 degrees.

Q. WHAT DO WE DO IF ONE OF OUR GROUP NEEDS FIRST AID?

A. Our guides are all trained in Advanced Wilderness First Aid, CPR and will have a first aid kit with them. If someone needs medical attention we can arrange to have them taken into Moab, less than 30 miles away.

Q. ARE THERE TOILET FACILITIES AVAILABLE?

A. There are vault toilets at the launch site and in the public campgrounds we use. During the day while on the river, there are limited toilet facilities for solid waste. Liquid waste usually goes in the river during swimming. The longest time without access to a restroom facility is about 3 hours each day. Our guides (both male and female) are sensitive to the unique challenges that may be encountered by women while traveling in a wilderness area. Please don't hesitate to ask them if there are questions concerning these issues. They are willing to help and are willing to make an emergency stop if needed. It is helpful for women to wear 2 piece swimsuits and/or have a skirt or wrap around sarong to wear while on the trip for more privacy. If needed, you do not have to swim. You still will get splashed though from either water fights if you are participating and/or the rapids. Ziploc bags are handy for storage and disposal of feminine hygiene products to use while on the river. Guide first aid kits on each raft contain a limited supply for emergencies. Please feel free to bring any other items as you deem necessary for the comfort of your group.

Q. WHAT KIND OF WEATHER CAN WE EXPECT?

A. The Moab area has warm weather from May to September. July and August are warmer than June. The temperatures in the summer generally range from 80-110 degrees during the day with 70-85 degrees at night. Rain is not common during the summer months. The weather forecast can give you an idea of what to expect. If the forecast indicates rain come prepared because when it rains, it usually rains hard.

Q. WHAT KIND OF GEAR SHOULD WE BRING?

A. A packing list has been provided with a list of appropriate clothing and camping gear. There are changing rooms at our warehouse available to change clothes before and after your trip. Showers are not available. Clothes are best packed into one bag and sleeping gear into another. It is difficult to load and unload the trailer when the bags are really bulky or tied together. 5 gallon buckets can be used for packing personal items. Don't bring anything that can't get really dirty. The river leaves nothing white. A clothesline is handy to have to string between trees for drying when off the river, but most of the time clothes dry quickly while wearing them. Quick drying shorts are the best to have as jeans don't dry very quickly. Cotton t-shirts in the summer months are fine. Wearing shorts on the boat is more comfortable than just a swimming suit for girls as the surface of the boats are rough and can cause chafing.

Q. CAN WE TAKE ANYTHING WITH US ON THE RAFTS?

A. Anything taken with you on the rafts will get wet. This includes extra clothes, towels, cameras, food, etc. There will be an oarboat along, which carries the lunch, first aid kits, etc. A dry set of clothes and towels are not necessary during the day on the boats. Some groups find it helpful to have one dry bag on each boat to collect the items needed for the day (t-shirts, sunscreen, cameras). Water bottles can be taken in the boats.

Q. WHAT KIND OF RAFTS WILL WE BE ON?

A. You will be paddling 16-18' paddle rafts. They hold 10-14 people. If there is a rowing frame on the raft, this raft will hold 6-8 people along with the guide. Smaller two-person inflatable kayaks are also available. We typically send 1 or 2 kayaks for every 15 people in your group (depending on availability) so you can get up close and personal with the waves. Rafts are not assigned before arriving at the river.

Q. DO WE HAVE TO WEAR LIFEJACKETS ALL THE TIME, AND CAN WE BRING OUR OWN?

A. Lifejackets are an absolute necessity any time you are near the water, including time in camp when you want to play in the river. We are required to use Coast Guard approved, Type V, whitewater jackets, so please don't bring your own. The lifejackets we provide fit up to a 55 inch chest size.

**Q. IS DRINKING WATER PROVIDED?**

A. Drinking water is provided on the boats during the day and in camp at night. Every participant will be given a 20 oz water bottle before leaving the warehouse to keep with them on the trip for drinking on the boats and in camp. There is water on the main support raft that can be accessed at any time to refill water bottles. We ask that the water out of the water jugs only be used for drinking and not for bathing or hand washing. Lemonade is also available in camp. Water enhancers are a nice way to give your water bottles a little extra flavor when you are on the river during the day.

**Q. WHAT MEALS ARE PROVIDED AND WHAT KIND OF FOOD WILL WE HAVE?**

A. Meals start with lunch the first day and end with lunch the last day at our warehouse. Lunch each day is a make it yourself sandwich buffet, with lunch meats, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, pickles, breads, etc. We also serve fruits, chips, cookies and lemonade. Breakfast might be blueberry pancakes, sausage, melon, or French toast. Dinner may include spaghetti, green salad, hamburgers, vegetables and dessert, which is served about an hour after dinner. You will not go hungry and we do our best to keep you from standing in long lines for your meals.

**Q. CAN WE BRING OUR OWN SNACKS?**

A. Snacks are a great thing to bring and can be taken on the river. Pack 1-2 items per person per day. Make sure to bring things that won't melt.

**Q. WHAT IF WE HAVE FOOD ALLERGIES?**

A. If we know about food allergies in advance, we can make minor accommodations to our menus for the safety of those with allergies. If your food allergy is severe, we suggest you bring a few of your favorite food items and we can help you transport them on the river for you to use when necessary. The only peanut products we use are peanut butter for sandwiches at lunch. Those with a peanut allergy go through the lunch line first. For those with gluten allergies we suggest bringing your own favorite brand of gluten free bread, noodles for pasta night, and supplemental breakfast items. You are welcome to bring your own food cooler with items in it or we can transfer them to our coolers. A basic menu is included with the trip documents. Some substitutions may be made based on item availability.

**Q. DO THE KIDS OR LEADERS HAVE TO PREPARE THE MEALS OR CLEAN UP?**

A. The guides set up the kitchen and do all of the cooking and clean up. You can all relax and enjoy the scenery. Each group will be responsible for helping to unload and load the gear on the trailer and set up their own personal camping areas. Most groups set up camp before dinner and take it down just after breakfast.

**Q. ARE THERE CREEPY CRAWLIES AND CRITTERS ON THE RIVER?**

A. At some campsites and water levels the mosquitos and gnats can be kind of pesky. Bringing a bottle of bug spray is a good idea, but might not be necessary. There are mice and other rodents that will get into tents or bags if left open with food in them.

**Q. CAN WE TAKE A SHOWER?**

A. The only clean water we bring is for drinking and cooking. You can bathe in the river using biodegradable soap if at all possible. When the water is cold baby wipes work well for getting the major dust and river water off.

**Q. WHERE WILL OUR GROUP BE CAMPING?**

A. Generally on this trip we camp in two different BLM administered campsite each night along Highway 128. Hittle Bottom is the first night and Big Bend Campground the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> nights. Some we reserve in advance, others are first come first serve for the general public and we do our best to get our groups the best campsites we can. These are public campgrounds and we are asked to abide by the campground rules of 10 pm quiet hours and respect the privacy of the other campers in the area. Leaders are responsible for keeping their groups quiet after 10 pm. The campgrounds have picnic tables, pit toilets, and some have shade shelters. There is no electricity or running water at the campsites. We do not recommend bringing motor homes to the campsites in the summer months as generators cannot be run during the night.

**Q. CAN WE BRING HAMMOCKS TO SLEEP IN?**

A. We strongly discourage bringing hammocks to sleep in due to the limited number of trees strong enough to hold them. The pavilions are used by more than one group and we will not allow hammocks to be used in those spaces.

**Q. CAN WE HAVE A FIRE IN CAMP?**

A. Campfires are rarely part of our program unless the weather is unusually cold. We are usually under state fire restrictions by the middle of June. Most nights are too warm for a fire to be comfortable and it does not get dark until almost 10 pm, with the sun setting about 9:15 pm. If a fire is needed, the guides will take care of it. If your group would like a fire type atmosphere we suggest using yellow or red glow sticks as any kind of white light (lanterns) attracts insects at night.

Q. DO WORLD WIDE GUIDES PREPARE ANY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT OR A FIRESIDE PRESENTATION FOR THE TRIP?

A. Generally each evening will be spent working on merit badges. There is usually time before quiet hours in the campground if your group would like to do something after or work on other merit badges on your own while you have your group together. There are places in each campground for your group to have limited privacy for your activity. There is time late in the evening to gather your group for a quiet activity or closing devotional. The guides can assist you in any of your group activities if you ask them, but only plan to participate in the first evening activity.

Q. WHAT MERIT BADGES WILL WE BE WORKING ON AND WHEN WILL WE WORK ON THEM?

A. Whitewater, rowing, and kayaking are the 3 merit badges that we work on during this trip. Your group is welcome to use any other free time to complete any other merit badges you would like to do on your own while you have the boys a captive audience.

Q. IS THERE LOTS OF DOWNTIME IN CAMP?

A. There is always some downtime in camp. How much downtime all depends on the water level. Typically, early in the season, end of May to end of June, the water level is up which may mean you arrive in camp earlier than usual where there will be more downtime before dinner. It is a good idea for leaders to have ideas for activities for their group to do so that no matter how much downtime you may have you can have something to do.

Q. IS THERE CELL PHONE SERVICE ON THE RIVER TRIP?

A. The simple answer is no there is not. Cell phone service is spotty at best. There are some places along the river that texts can be sent out, but service for phone calls cannot be counted on. This is a great opportunity to unplug from the technology that often distracts from enjoying each other and the beautiful scenery around.

Q. WILL OUR GROUP BE TRAVELING WITH ANY OTHER GROUP?

A. There is a good possibility that your group will launch with another group and be on the river with them during the day. We do our best to get each group their own set of rafts. The campgrounds are very large and we separate the groups as best we can. You might share the same kitchen area and lunch raft.

Q. CAN WE ADD MEMBERS TO OUR GROUP?

A. You can add members to your group before the trip goes out, providing they are paid in full before the trip departs. Please let us know as far in advance as possible so we can properly plan for them. We try to be flexible but emailing or texting us at least 4 hours before your meeting time is very helpful in our scheduling.

Q. IF WE HAVE MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP WHO CANNOT GO ON THE TRIP AT THE LAST-MINUTE WILL THEIR MONEY BE REFUNDED?

A. We suggest that you find a replacement for the person who has had to drop out. We know that individual numbers are hard to pin down until the last minute. **While we try to be as flexible as we can with individual cancellations and additions, there will be no refunds issued the day of departure without notice (email or text) of cancellation 24hrs before day of departure. If your numbers are off by just 1 or 2 you can email or text 4 hours before the meeting time and we can still offer a partial refund.**

Q. WE HAVE MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP WHO NEED TO LEAVE EARLY OR JOIN AFTER THE LAUNCH TIME?

A. The campsites we use are road accessible so meeting up with the group is not a problem, but it requires shuttling if someone isn't dropping them off or picking them up. Each circumstance is different. Please contact our office for specific information. There are no discounts given for late arrivals or early departures.

Q. WILL WE NEED MONEY ONCE WE GET TO MOAB?

A. In our company store we have sunglasses, sunscreen, water proof cameras, and squirt guns. At the end of the trip you will be transported from the river back to your cars at the warehouse where lunch will be served. At this time there will be an opportunity to buy souvenir t-shirts to remember your trip. T-shirts start at \$10.

Q. WHAT ABOUT TIPPING?

A. You should never feel that a gratuity is automatically expected from you, but it is a great way to acknowledge excellent service. Our guides work hard to make each expedition a memorable and rewarding experience. Gratuities can be given to the trip leader or the office at the end of the trip. May we suggest \$5-\$10 per person in your group.

Q. ARE THE GUIDES CERTIFIED?

A. All guides are licensed through the state of Utah as required by law and participate in an extensive pre-season training that includes Advanced first aid and CPR, whitewater rescue techniques, general boat maneuvering, Youth Protection training, safety afloat, and safe swim defense. The highest level of standards is expected of all guides in language, in attitude and in dress and appearance.