



Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande

Putting People and Rivers Together Since 1976

Introduction:

On behalf of everyone at Far Flung Adventures, we would like to thank you for joining us on this phenomenal adventure through the rugged and wild landscapes of the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande! The following pamphlet will serve to help with some of your questions, as well as give you a printable version of your trip information that you may use as a guide, reminder and checklist. ***Please be sure to read this pamphlet thoroughly!***

For any additional questions please contact us:

Email: willblackstock@farflung.com, info@farflung.com Telephone: 1-575-758-2628

Itinerary Overview

Given the nature of a wilderness river trip in general and the added elements of this particular river, much of the following information and scheduling is tentative and subject to change. All decisions will be made by Far Flung Adventures staff and are made with the wellbeing and safety of the trip in mind.

MEETING PLACE & TIME: You should make arrangements to arrive in Terlingua or Marathon, Tx at our prearranged time and meeting place. Our office and guide staff will be in touch as the trip approaches to work out specifics.

Arrival: 7:30AM Please plan to meet us in either Terlingua, Tx at our outpost or in Marathon, Tx at the prearranged time and place. Once we meet we will load up and head off to the river and prepare to launch on the Rio Grande!

Day 1: 10:30am Launch on the Rio Grande! We will go over all remaining safety information and prepare to head downstream! Day one will consist of getting comfortable on the water, possibly paddling a few fun rapids and making our way into the wilderness of the Lower Canyons!

Day 2-7: Sip coffee and enjoy a hot breakfast as the sun rises over the Rio Grande -- You might be waking up in Mexico! Riverside lunches, side hikes and delicious fireside dinners will punctuate our schedule of fun river days in the desert canyons of the Rio Grande. Our days will vary in length depending on river flows and group pace. The days on which we navigate the Madison Falls rapids will involve portaging the canoes, which will take a good amount of time and will require group participation. As time allows, we hope to have fun stops at some riverside hot springs as well as side hikes up various slot canyons and the famous Burro Bluff hike.

Day 8: Our last day on the river we will have an early start in order to knock out the last remaining miles and get to the take out early as early as possible. Once at the take out we will load up, have our last riverside lunch, and take the drive back to Marathon, at which point our scheduled service will end.

Included

- All transport and parking pertaining to trip logistics
- Dinner at put-in before launch day
- All meals while on the river
- All required safety and river running gear
- Professional guides

Not included

- Airfare or travel expenses
- Guide tips
- Alcohol (Please bear in mind that this is a low volume expedition type trip and we try to avoid unnecessary and excess weight. We will provide some cocktail nights and wine. Feel free to ask if you have any questions regarding this subject.)

Packing For Your Trip

Following is a list of required and recommend items for this multi-day wilderness rafting tour through the deserts and limestone canyons of the Trans-Pecos region. As part of your trip we will provide waterproof dry bags for all of your personal items, camp chairs for fireside relaxation and enjoyment, and tents and sleeping pads. We ask that you bring your own sleeping bags/blankets, or you may rent them from us for a fee. Any of your own camping gear that you wish to bring is welcome, please just inform us in advance.

Weather/Climate: Southwest Texas is usually dry and hot but with some chance of storms. In general, daytime highs can be expected to be range from the mid-80s to over 100 degrees, with nighttime lows in the 70's. Despite the general climate of drier weather in the Lower Canyons region, it is always recommended to pack for unexpected thunderstorms and be prepared for sudden changes in weather.

Lower Canyons Gear Checklist

This list contemplates extremely hot and cold, wet and dry conditions.

River runners should strive for the preparedness level of the backpacker (bearing in mind that the kitchen is provided). Your personal gear should occupy no more space than contained by a standard-issue army duffle bag and one small day-use dry bag for odds and ends and daytime access to certain items.

RIVER ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Headlamp/Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Sunglasses plus eyewear retainer
- ☐ Canteen or plastic water bottle

- ☐ Rain Gear (tops and bottoms)
- ☐ A small amount of cash
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ **Prescription medicines**, toiletries, sunscreen lotion, and insect repellent.
- ☐ Sense of adventure!

SLEEPING GEAR

- ☐ Sleeping Bag – In the winter and early spring we recommend a winter bag, rated to about 30 degrees. In the Spring and Fall we recommend a summer sleeping bag rated to around 50 degrees and a sheet for warm nights.
- ☐ Camping Pillow
- ☐ Sleeping Pad

CLOTHING

The temperature and climate on the river will be that of low elevation desert. Although spring and fall are typically cooler than summer months, temperatures can get into the 90's or even 100's anytime of year. During spring trips there is also the potential for sudden and even extreme drops to near freezing temperatures. During fall trips there is the possibility of thunderstorms and flash floods. We recommend at least one good jacket and supply of layers and quick drying clothing: lightweight pants and long sleeve shirts for sun/mosquito protection, a large hat, extra socks, and sandals with straps for the river and sneakers and/or hiking shoes for camp and side-hikes. Following are some guidelines for your packing:

- ☐ Raingear – tops and bottoms
- ☐ Changes of underwear and socks
- ☐ Two pairs of shorts, at least one being quick drying.
- ☐ Two pairs of long pants, one quick dry if you have them.
- ☐ Two long sleeve shirts for sun and mosquito protection.
- ☐ A few lightweight thermal layers for potential chilly nights.
- ☐ Footwear – Teva/Chaco style sandals or quick drying water shoes for the river. Good sneakers or hiking boots and socks for around camp and hiking. The river is muddy and rocky, and are times that we will be in and out of our boats often, so bear that in mind while selecting footwear.
- ☐ Headgear – Preferably a large straw hat, or at least a cap for protection from the sun.
- ☐ Toiletries – Eco-friendly soap, towel, dental care stuff, shaving stuff, sanitary napkins, feminine hygiene products, etc...
- ☐ Don't neglect such items as **prescription medicines**, sunscreen lotion, and insect repellent!

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ The Lower of the Rio Grande by Louis F. Aulbach (available on Amazon)
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Small knife
- ☐ Camera, solar charger and/or back up batteries.
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Notepad or drawing pad; pen or pencil.
- ☐ Favorite beverage (beer, sodas, etc.) in cans or plastic container—**PLEASE, NO GLASS.**

- □ Fishing pole and tackle (please get your fishing license beforehand)
- □ Good book or magazine, or river games (cards, dice, bocce ball, backgammon, dominos.)
- A large towel and a hand towel are great comfort items on a multi-day trip.

Health Concerns

Overview: Some potential problems are traveler's diarrhea, bug bites, colds, cracked skin, foot fungus, and skin infections. While we take precautions to minimize any potential problems it is important to remember that you are the first line of defense for your own good health. In addition to any prescription medications you might require participants should consider carrying some sort of anti-diarrheal medication, over the counter pain meds, and scheduling appointments and doctor visits if you feel it necessary.

Allergies and Food Requirements:

If you have any severe allergies such as to bee stings or peanuts or have celiac disease, or food requirements such as a gluten-free or vegan diet or lactose intolerance, please let us know well beforehand so that we can make sure to guarantee your safety as well as accommodate you to the best of our abilities. All of these may be listed on your client information form that you will submit not later than 3 weeks prior to trip departure.

**Some dietary requirements may incur a supplemental charge.*

People:

Although very unlikely, it is possible to encounter unfriendly people at any point on a trip and we cannot control for this.

So You Know...

LEAVE NO TRACE

It is extremely important for us to remember the saying of "take only pictures, leave only footprints" throughout this trip in order to preserve these precious areas, resources, and heritage sites for future groups and generations to come. As a group we will strive to leave our campsites clean of trash and debris. Anyone caught stealing, receiving, or buying any illegal article or item of historical, cultural, or environmental significance will be subject to any and all laws deemed applicable by the NPS and Texas authorities and will be blacklisted from all future operations of Far-Flung Adventures/Tours, Inc.

BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages will be provided to a very limited degree. If you wish to have more please plan on purchasing your own and bringing it along. PLEASE, no booze on the rafts.
Enjoying a drink should be saved for camp.

WASHING UP

Washing up is encouraged every few days (by us and potentially by the other guests!). To do so feel free to find a nice secluded beach or cove either upstream or downstream from camp and make yourself at home; Take your towel, toiletry kit, and even a helpful friend along! We recommend eco-friendly soaps and shampoos and ask that you let one of the guides know before heading off on your own.

TOILET

Given the remote nature of this trip we will be employing a river “groover” system with a toilet seat for comfort. It will be set up at each camp and your trip leader will announce its location. A bucket of hand washing water, soap, and sprinkler can be placed nearby for your use. It is okay to urinate away from camp or at the edge of the river. Your thoughtfulness at campsites and more popular stopping places is appreciated. All contents of the river toilet will be disposed of properly after our trip.

CAMP HELP

On guided trips the guides do the cooking and basic camp chores so that you have time to relax and explore. With that said, everyone's help is needed when loading or unloading rafts, pitching and striking tents, and preparing meals. Securing firewood, hauling buckets of water, "slicing and dicing," and pot washing are everyday chores. If each participant does one of these chores sometime during the trip, "camp life" will take less time, and there will be more time for everyone to enjoy being on the river.

ABOUT US

Far-Flung Adventures is a professional tour operator and river-running organization dedicated to safe, high- quality experiences both for our current clients and also future generations. We truly care about our fragile river corridors and our aim is to leave no trace of our passage through the wildernesses we visit. Please help your guides by keeping picnic areas, campsites, cultural sites, and the public and wild spaces we visit clean and litter- free.



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