



Ruby-Horsethief River Rafting & Birding Adventure

May 7-9, 2021

Colorado Canyons Association is excited to lead our 3rd Annual Birding Adventure on the Colorado River. Relax aboard an oar raft as you travel 25 miles through Ruby and Horsethief Canyons. Marvel at the area's serenity, while winding through dramatic sandstone canyons deep in the heart of the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area and discovering the amazing avian diversity along the way. Delicious, freshly prepared meals, comfortable campsites, and unhindered night skies will be unforgettable. Expert and novice birders alike are welcome; Don't forget your binoculars!

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

Trip begins and ends at the Dinosaur Journey parking lot in Fruita, Colorado where personal vehicles will be parked. Please do not leave valuables and lock your vehicles. CCA and the museum are not responsible for lost or stolen personal property.

Please arrive at the museum by 8:00 am on Friday, May 7th. You will be transported back to your vehicle by 4:00 pm on Sunday, May 9th.

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY:

- Full payment of \$525/person (CCA members), \$575/person (non-members), due at time of registration.
- Payments will be refunded if cancellations are made 10 or more days before trip departure. No refunds for cancellations made after that time.

ITINERARY:

- **Day 1:**

Leave from Dinosaur Journey in Fruita where you'll travel by van to the launch site for the Colorado River. After meeting your river guides, you'll leave the busyness of life behind as you glide lazily through Horsethief Canyon, stopping along the way as you search for cliff swallows, sage thrashers, and yellow-breasted chats. After setting up camp near the mouth of Mee Canyon, guides will prepare your first delectable camp dinner while you explore the area, compare notes on the birds you've seen throughout the day, play a game, or just bask in the soothing beauty of the canyon.

- **Day 2**

Awaken to a hearty breakfast and hike a short distance up Mee Canyon. Enjoy a riverside lunch buffet and travel downstream deep into Ruby Canyon. Marvel as the river cuts deep into the the plateau, exposing uplifted metamorphic rock that is 1.5 billion years old. Your time traveling downriver will be spent scanning the sky for bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Savor another night camping at Colorado Canyon Association's Catalpa Camp under the innumerable stars of the western Colorado sky.

- **Day 3**



After a restful night under the stars, you awaken ready to relish your last day on the river. After a riverside breakfast, you'll explore the Catalpa property, searching for various species of birds. After lunch, we'll cross over the state line into Utah and travel down to the take-out at Westwater Ranger Station. After taking off the river, you'll be transported by a 1-hour van ride back to the museum in Fruita, CO.

**Note: The itinerary provided is a sample. Daily activities and sites will vary based on weather conditions and other considerations.*

FOOD:

- One of the best aspects of a multi-day rafting trip is often the food. Expect to eat as well—or better—than you do at home, without having to do any of the work. That means hearty and sumptuous meals, complete with fresh fruits and vegetables. Enjoy local wines and beers in the evenings.
- *If you have food allergies, restrictions or other special dietary requests, we will do our best to accommodate your needs. However, some specific needs can only be met if we charge you a supplemental menu fee to cover our increased costs. If you are a vegetarian or vegan and you let us know well in advance, we can provide meals for you without additional cost. We cannot always provide for the same diversity or sophistication as our regular menu for special dietary requests*

EQUIPMENT:

What you bring:

Participants are responsible for personal camping gear. Please see attached [packing list](#).
Limited gear rentals available, please contact CCA for more information.
Be sure to bring your binoculars!

What we bring:

- Your trip leader will provide a detailed safety talk and distribute appropriate gear on the first day of the trip.
- CCA will provide waterproof dry bags to keep your gear protected from the elements.
- Guides will handle all the heavy lifting and prepare camp- including a private location for the “groover” (portable toilet system required on this section of river), provided by CCA.
- Plates, bowls, utensils and all serving utensils so you can enjoy all the yummy goodness coming out of our riverside kitchen (yes, we bring that too).

TIPPING:

All proceeds generated from our Adventure trips go directly into our youth education programs. Tips for our River Guides, while not necessary, are greatly appreciated. Gratuities in the 5%-10% range of the trip cost are standard and can range higher for multi-day trips where service is exceptional and river guides act as educators, chefs, historians, while keeping guests safe and comfortable.

CONTACT:

- **River Program Director:** Dawn Cooper, 970-261-0572, dawn@canyonsassociation.org