

March 9 – April 1, 2019 Grand Canyon Trip

Update – March 11, 2018

Days until launch – 363

Tom Strauch's planning website: <https://tstrauch.axpr.net/GrandCanyon2019/>

Tim Strauch's email address: timstrauch49@gmail.com Cell: 920 285-9750

Tom S will keep his website up to date, so you can reference it often. This has worked well in the past.

We begin the planning for a Grand Canyon River that will take place in just under a year. Unlike the last few trips, we did not put down deposits (\$100) before the lottery and at this point there are fewer people committed to going. We are very lucky that Alison won a launch date with her fifth choice: March 9, 2019. We plan to rent five 18' rafts. I expect all 16 slots to be filled. However, we could have as few as three rafts and seven people. I will periodically send out updates and we will use Tom's website to stay up to date. I expect the trip to cost around \$1500 each for 24 days on the river. If we have fewer people or we do major damage to the equipment the cost could be a little more. So far every other trip that we have organized has been less than \$1500. The first step for each of you to secure a slot is to send me a \$500 deposit. Alison has already paid the Park Service \$400, so she does not need to send a deposit. I will be getting quotes from outfitters and if we choose one, I will put down a deposit. By reserving early we save a significant amount of money. The last few times we have used Canyon REO and have been very pleased with them.

Priority will be given to people who will commit for the full trip. Unless someone is a close relative of someone on the trip, we will not open the trip to partials until after September 30.

Time Line:

Now – Send \$500 deposit to Tim

March 18 – April 20, 2018 Tim will do his twelfth Grand trip and will not be accessible

September 30, 2018 – if any, open slots for partial trips

October 31, 2018– All participants have final payment to Tim Strauch – I expect it to be an additional \$1000

November 9, 2018 – Tim sends in completed permit and pays National Park fees
– estimated at about \$1000

November 20, 2015 – Request final trip estimates from Outfitter (this will include add ons)

December 10, 2018 – 90 days until launch date – anyone added to our permit will be charged an additional \$100 (so \$200) by the National Park service.

January 9, 2019 – Tim sends full amount of invoice to outfitter (in the \$18,000 range)

Thursday, March 7, 2019 – If you are flying into Flagstaff you probably want to arrive Tuesday evening

Friday, March 8, 2019 – You will want to be in Flagstaff at the outfitters by 9:00 am.

Friday, March 8, 2019 mid afternoon – We will rig the rafts. When this is complete the ranger will inspect our gear

Saturday, March 9, 2019 – morning – Ranger talk and the ranger inspection of each person's ID. (make sure you have a valid picture ID available) – LAUNCH!!

Friday, March 29, 2019 – pass Diamond Creek (mile 226)

Monday, April 1, 2019 – take out at Pearce Ferry (mile 280)

The permit allows 16 participants on the river at any one time. Exchanges are allowed, but park fees must be paid for each individual whether you are on the river for 24 days or 1 day.

Before the trip you are required to watch the following orientation videos:

<http://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/photosmultimedia/riv-or01.htm>

From Canyon REO here are 13 orientation videos:

<http://tinyurl.com/bfbelyu>

Check out Tom's website for more Canyon REO documents and information.

NEXT ACTION ITEM: Send \$500 deposit and personal permit information (see next item) to Tim:

6626 Chapel Hill Blvd D207

Pasco, WA 99301

Please keep me informed if any of the information below changes on your photo id:

Legal Name (including middle initial) – your ID will be checked on Launch day

Date of Birth

Address (that will be on the ID that the ranger will inspect)

Phone Number

For those that have an America the Beautiful National Park pass (senior or otherwise) please send me your number. It saves \$10 a piece for up to four people.

Total Cost of Trip:

I expect the cost of our 24 day trip to be about \$1500 each. This includes all communal equipment, food, shuttle to and from Flagstaff, and park registration fees. It does not include snacks, beer, wine and transportation to Flagstaff.

Trip Structure:

Alison is the permit holder. From the National Park Service's (NPS) perspective she is the trip leader and is legally responsible for all of our behavior. If Alison does not go, none of us can go. I am the "qualified boat-operator" (NPS term) and I am responsible for knowing the river, the equipment and assuring that we have the experience as a group to be on the river. From a practical perspective, I am the coordinator and leader of the group as a whole with a lot of help from Tom Strauch. Tom Strauch is coordinating the food. We will have only one food group.

Guides and maps:

Guide to the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon Lees Ferry to South Cove Sixth Edition by Tom Martin and Duwain Whitis

Day Hikes from the River Fourth Edition, A Guide to 100 Hikes by Tom Martin

Recommended Reading:

The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko (published in 2013 with a focus on the huge release in 1983; great book; gives a great history of the river, culture, dam and dories – somewhat dory centric)

Big Water Little Boats by Tom Martin (Enjoyable history of early dory boaters)

(For those in the Tri-cities, I have these books and can lend them to you.)

Daylight:

In March we will have 11-14 hours of daylight. We will want to take advantage of the daylight hours by getting up and starting early. Camp fires will probably be the norm at night.

Hiking:

On all river trips, there are those who like to hike and there are those who prefer to relax and hang out in camp. Grand Canyon trips can accommodate both and everything in between. Our group is very oriented toward hiking.

Camp Chairs:

I feel that one of the most important items to bring along on the trip is a camp chair. It represents your personal space at camp and around the camp fire. For some unknown reason, on the few trips that I have been on that had less chairs than people, there have been disagreements about chairs and space. Please bring your own camp chair.

Equipment:

The outfitter will supply almost all of the river equipment. Many of us have our own river gear, such as life jackets, dry bags and ammo cans and will want to use our own gear. For those that do not, there is no need purchase equipment because the outfitter will rent you what you need. For the most part you should be able to get your person gear in one large dry bag, or two medium ones. This does not include tents or chairs. If you want to bring a second dry bag, that is OK.

I strongly recommend Aquaphor, a skin ointment for your hand and feet. Your hand and feet will become cracked and dry as a result of being wet most of the time. Wearing gloves can also help your hands. It is recommended that you start using Aquaphor a week before the trip to moisturize your hands and feet.

Wet suits and dry suits are not included as part of the equipment. It is a good idea to bring one or the other if you have them. At this time of year they are good to have but not necessary. You will want clothing that will keep you warm when you are wet. The Outfitters may have used wetsuits that they will sell at discounted prices. It is likely that we will have some very hot days, but we could also have some cool ones.

Snack, drinks, beer and wine

Even though the outfitter will supply us with plenty of food you may still want to bring your own snacks. There is plenty of space so you can bring as much as you want of drinks. Do not bring any glass. Soda and beer should be in cans and wine in bags (a small glass container of hard liquor is OK). There will be plenty of filtered water and everyone is encouraged to drink plenty of water. If you prefer to bring your own drinks up to four or five cases is acceptable.

NPS Registration:

Although it is apparently not yet necessary for participating, I would recommend that everyone creates a profile at: <https://npspermits.us>. Most all of us have done that when we applied for the lottery.

NPS Regulations:

Can I change my passenger list or gear after sending you my trip application?

Participant names may be changed online before launch. Before going to Lees Ferry, ensure that each participant will have picture ID and the total number of participants (including the

permittee) does not exceed 16 at any one time (8 for a small trip). The trip leader must be present the entire trip. You may change or add boats at Lees Ferry. Just be sure to show up with the required gear associated with the additions. Between 30 and 90 days before launch, the trip leader will be allowed to request that additional trip participants be added to the trip. For these late additions there will be the normal \$100 charge per added person plus an additional late fee of \$100 per added person. Trip participants may not be added within 30 days of launch.

Please review the Noncommercial River Trip Regulations. Tom has a link to it on his website.

Let me know if you have any questions or ideas.

Tim