

GRAND CANYON RIVER COURTESY



Helpful Tips For All River Voyagers



A trip through Grand Canyon is a unique experience. The goal of this brochure is to help create a positive boating atmosphere for all river voyagers. The river corridor can be a busy place. The concept of keeping the Canyon **Grand** and having the best experience possible is easy, remember to:

Be Respectful

Environmental Ethics

Communicate

Open and flexible,

On the water safety,

Look around, plan for camps

“BE COOL!”



Photo Credit: Pamela Mathues

BE RESPECTFUL

It is helpful to remember that everyone on the river is there to have an incredible experience. Being respectful goes a long way towards a positive experience for everyone.

- Keep your trip together. Do not split up your trip to grab a camp while others hike, or send faster boats downstream to be the first ones at an attraction site.
- Before reacting about an issue listen to both sides of the story prior to responding.
- Be conscientious at attraction sites. If you set up lunch at such places, try to do so out of the main traffic pattern.
- Some attraction sites such as Saddle, Blacktail, and Matkatamiba do not accommodate multiple groups well.
- Please be courteous to the backpackers you might encounter at campsites or attraction sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

This is **THE** Grand Canyon folks, the only one! Some valuable tips for keeping it *Grand* include:

- Help keep beaches pristine by sweeping for trash, food crumbs and micro-trash.
- Stay on established trails.
- Be respectful at archeological sites, leave them as you found them.
- Leave plants and rocks as you found them. Please avoid building rock and stick sculptures and leaving them for others to see!
- At the end of your trip, *Clean, Drain & Dry* your boat and equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species.

COMMUNICATE

Respectful verbal communication is the most important tool we have to keep relations between users amiable. Things to remember are:

- A positive attitude goes a long way.
- The general protocol is for trip leaders (TL) from different groups to talk with each other regarding any decisions about camps, stops, hikes, routes through rapids, etc. If TL's are not around, make sure other members from the group communicate.
- If your group is at a stop early and is planning on camping, indicating in some way that you plan to stay is helpful for a passing group.

OPEN AND FLEXIBLE

No trip's schedule can be set in stone. If you insist on following a set itinerary, you risk disappointment when you find your destination is already occupied.

- It is helpful to have a couple of different destinations and stops in mind.
- Inquire about the schedules and plans of other trips traveling close to you. Swap information, communicate, and be flexible.
- Remember the "wild card" which means sometimes there is a group that you didn't expect.

ON THE WATER SAFETY

Safety and courtesy go hand in hand. Here are some useful tips:

- **Group dynamics:** In whitewater sections, try keeping your group in a tight formation as this will enhance communication and safety. When your group is leaving the beach, either wait for the entire group to get ready before pulling out into the main stream or hover in an eddy just downstream. If another group is passing by, please allow all their boats to pass before pulling out.
- **Passing:** At times, a faster moving boat or party may wish to pass another. If so, it is courteous for the downstream boat to move over and wave the upstream boat on. A downstream boat should never purposely block another boat.
- **In Rapids:** Different boats have different speeds and capabilities. Spacing and timing when entering rapids are crucial to both fun and safety. Do not crowd other boats. Most trips, when asked, are willing to wait a few minutes below a major rapid to act as a safety net for those behind. Ask for help if you need it and offer the same to others.
- **Parking:** When tying up your boats be aware that other trips will be arriving and leaving. Leave open access by parking your group of boats tightly together. Avoid creating spider webs of rope. Only walk on another party's boats if absolutely necessary. At Havasu, motor rigs should preferably park in the eddy below the rapid rather than in the mouth.

LOOK AROUND, PLAN FOR CAMPS

Be willing to negotiate with other groups. For example: "Hi, how are you folks doing?" is a far smoother way to open a conversation than, "We're taking Bass camp." Other helpful tips include:

- **Plan:** Have a "Plan A" and "Plan B" camp in mind for the day. Other groups need to know where you wish to end up at sunset. Each boat should at least know their "Plan A" for camp. Have a map and know where you are and try to stick to your negotiated plan. Refer on-river inquiries to the trip leader if you don't know the plan.
- **Camp Size:** Smaller groups have advantages and flexibility that larger groups may not have. Try to camp at sites suited to the size of your party (6 people at Football Beach is too few for the size). Please be considerate!
- **Difficult Sections:** Be aware of challenging sections when planning camps:

Near Attraction Sites: It can be challenging to find places to camp above Elves Chasm, near Tapeats Creek and Deer Creek, and above and below Havasu Creek. Communicate with other groups to avoid congestion!

Above Exchange Points: The corridor between Hance Rapid and Phantom Ranch should be saved for trips with early morning exchanges. Also, to avoid early morning helicopter traffic, please camp above Lava or below Whitmore Wash.

Above Take Outs: From RM 215-225 should be considered priority camping for trips taking out at Diamond Creek.

- **Double Camping:** Although not preferred, it is a viable option. Alternative camps do exist *if* you're creative and open to suggestion. Safety always takes priority over the camp experience. When camping near others, be respectful.
- **Communicate from the start:** Talk about camps with the other trips launching at the boat ramp the same day as your group.

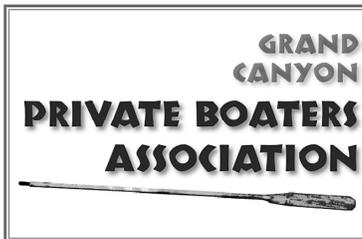


Photo Credit: Kate Thompson

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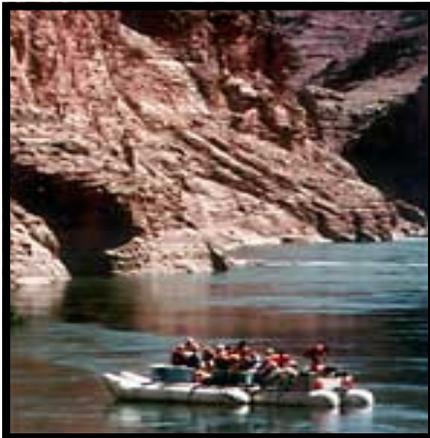


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