



## DOLORES RIVER

"Premier southwestern Journey"

1 - 10 days Class II - IV

"What about this river?"

The Dolores River is second only to the Colorado River's Grand Canyon in unbroken miles of river running and quality of whitewater, making the Dolores one of the best river trips in America.

It is a river with many faces. Beginning high in the San Juan mountains, at about 8,000 feet, the waters of the upper river reflect the green of the Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir that line its banks. This stretch includes the legendary Class IV Snaggletooth rapid and challenging stretches of water culminating in the fury of the Narrows.

Lower down, the river winds through Slick Rock Canyon where the roar of whitewater only breaks the silence. Several side canyons contain fascinating prehistoric Anasazi pictographs and ruins. It is slick rock, quiet water, tree lined campsites and whitewater, a river of many moods, one that will change your view of life.

### SEASON

Due to the McPhee Reservoir, which only releases excess water as the snow melts, **the Dolores is primarily a spring river that can only be run with rafts from early to mid-April through mid-June. Snowpack is a big factor in if the river is runnable for sure. Alternatives are the San Miguel and/or Green River in Utah. Confirm these by February for season adjustments.** We have trips leaving throughout that period and can arrange alternate launch sites to suit your schedule for charter groups of 10 or more.

When the water drops in mid-June, we could continue to run the river in kayaks, and inflatable kayaks. These are primarily fishing trips and are covered in more detail under custom fishing trips.

### PERMITS

We operate on the Dolores River under a special use permit from the Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Resource Area, Durango, Colorado. We are Colorado's first licensed outfitter, licensed by Colorado's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. All our permits and licenses are your assurance that Dvorak Expeditions is legally operating on the river and that our guides, past performance, and qualifications have met detailed requirements and more.

Outfitting since 1969

Utah

Colorado



More detailed maps are available from the office.

### FLOAT NOTES

These float notes will help you prepare for your river trip. There is information on everything from travel and lodging arrangements, typical weather and menus to cancellation and refund policies. If you have any questions that aren't answered in these float notes, give us a call. When reading these notes, it is helpful to have a road map of Colorado nearby.

### GUIDES

Our guides are experienced men and women skilled at handling their craft. They all have current first aid, CPR and Swift Water Rescue training and have fulfilled guide qualification requirements in the states of Colorado, Utah, Texas, and New Mexico. Trip Leaders have thousands of river miles on all classes of rivers including all those Dvorak Expeditions run.

### MONEY

Trips do not require any money during the journey, but you might want some cash for travel to and from your lodging pre-and post-trip shuttle. **Guide GRATUITY IS NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP COST. Suggestions 15-25% at your discretion.**

**DVORAK KAYAK & RAFTING EXPEDITIONS**  
 17921 U.S. Highway 285, Nathrop, CO 81236  
 Ph. (719) 529-6851 or (800) 824-3795  
 e-mail: [info@dvorakexpeditions.com](mailto:info@dvorakexpeditions.com)

## THE TRIP PACKAGE

*The following are included in your Dvorak Expedition*

- All boating equipment/life jackets/drinking water
- Pre-and post-trip arrangements as described
- 1 - 12 days of rafting or instructional seminar
- All on-river meals (lunch day 1 through lunch last day)
- Rain jacket with pants (PVC)
- Eating utensils, plates, complimentary Dvorak cup
- Waterproof dry bags/containers for personal gear
- 6-man rain tarps for shelter in kitchen area

*You are responsible for the following*

- Transportation to the arranged meeting point or put-in
- Meals and lodging at the arranged meeting point
- Personal clothing and other sundry items
- Transportation at the arranged drop off point.
- Pre-and post-lodging and meals

## WEATHER

In the early season, April to late May, the Dolores River can experience cold, changeable high mountain weather. Most days are warm and sunny, but it is best to be prepared for both warm and cold weather (50 - 80 degrees).

## YOUR HEALTH

Our river trips are not strenuous, but they are a dramatic change in routine for most people. Although the trip is relaxing, the area is remote, so you should be in relatively good health. Please let us know when you return the release form if you have any health problems or concerns. If you have dietary restrictions, we'll gladly accommodate your needs with sufficient notice.

## CAMPING

Campsites on the Dolores are numerous and spacious. Most have interesting side canyon hikes nearby and are well kept as wilderness. Minimum-impact camping practices have enhanced these sites and you'll see few reminders other than footprints of previous visitors.

## FISHING

The Dolores has arguably some of the best trout fishing in Colorado. You are welcome to fish during our spring rafting season or set up a custom fishing trip in either the spring or summer. Our late summer trips, after June 20, use either small rafts, canoes or inflatable kayaks to take you down the river to otherwise inaccessible fishing holes. ***Mandatory catch and release with artificial flies and lures only.*** You must have a valid Colorado fishing license.

## CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**RIVER USE ETHICS:** The river areas are fragile environments that degrade without proper care by visitors. To protect the river, we use minimum impact camping techniques carrying out all trash and human waste, etc. The guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact our group has on the canyon, and we request your cooperation.

**“We take pride in having the highest standard of river ethics possible.”**

## FOOD

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch on the first day and ending with lunch on the last day. The food is fresh and healthy and the guides will prepare it for you while you enjoy the homey atmosphere generated around each river camp. You can set up your tent or go for an evening walk, relax, read, or join the guides in the kitchen if you so desire.

A typical five-day menu may include as a main course BBQ Steak, Baked Fish, Pork chops and dumplings, chicken enchiladas, seafood spaghetti, cashew chicken Chinese, Teriyaki Chicken, Mexican chili, combination entrees, fresh vegetables and salads, Dutch-oven desserts, or breads, hors d'oeuvres, fresh fruits, fruit juices, coffee, tea and complimentary glass of wine with dinner.

Lunches are buffet style with a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, fruit, cheeses, sliced meats, nuts and juices or sodas.

Breakfast includes fruit juice, eggs in all styles, special pancakes, French toast, melons, fruit, cereals with milk, sausage, bacon, coffee, tea or hot chocolate. ***We can accommodate special diets with notice and almost always the menu suits the vegetarian.***

Though we carry ample supplies of juices, coffee, tea and hot chocolate we encourage you to bring extra soda, beer wine or other beverages you may prefer. You can arrange for us to pick up specific beverages for you prior to the trip or you can stock up before we head to the river. Any liquids you bring must be in unbreakable containers and limited to one case per person.

## ALCOHOL

You're welcome to bring alcohol if it is in unbreakable containers. **Discretion in alcohol consumption during whitewater days is strongly advised.** *If you would like us to pick up a particular beer and bring it to the river, please advise and payment can be made for your purchase at the river put-in with your Trip Leader.* Complimentary wine is provided for evening meals.

## PRE-TRIP ARRANGEMENTS

### *Three-day trip logistics*

**BY PLANE:** Arrive in Cortez, Co. the day prior to the trip. Dvorak Expeditions will pick you up at your motel at 7:30 a.m. on the morning of the first day of your trip and transport you to the river put-in point near Cahone, about a 1-hour drive from Cortez. Call to Confirm times.

**BY CAR:** You will need to arrive in Slickrock by 7:00 a.m. on the morning of your trip. Camping is available behind the Slickrock Store & Cafe if you arrive the evening before. In either case, check with the store for parking arrangements. Dvorak Expeditions will arrive at 7:30 a.m. to transport you to the river put-in point near Cahone.

**WEBSITE:** [www.DvorakExpeditions.com](http://www.DvorakExpeditions.com)

**PRIVATE CHARTERS AVAILABLE FOR 10 OR MORE IN GROUP**

### **Three - Twelve-day trip logistics**

**BY PLANE:** Arrive in Cortez the day prior to the trip. Dvorak Expeditions will pick you up at the TURQUOISE MOTOR INN at 7:30 a.m. on the morning of the first day of your trip and transport you to the river put-in point near Cahone.

All trips over 5 days will leave out of Grand Junction: At trip's end Dvorak Expeditions will take you to your lodging in Grand Junction, Co., the afternoon of the last day of your trip. You can fly out of Grand Junction the following morning.

**BY CAR:** Meet at Bradford Bridge (see map) by 8:30 a.m. on the first day of your trip. Dvorak Expeditions will rendezvous with you at the river put-in parking lot, or you will see their van & trailer, etc. The shuttle of your vehicle will need to be arranged prior to the trip. Call for cost and details. You will have your vehicle at the Bedrock take-out around 3:00 p.m. on the last day of your trip. **NOTE SHUTTLES:** On trips longer than 5 days, you will need to arrange to have your vehicle shuttled to the appropriate take-out point. Cost will vary per length of shuttle (\$100 - \$210 estimate).

**TRANSFER COST (Pick Up / Drop off):** 3-to-12-day trips, pick up and drop off by Dvorak's **\$50 per person.**

### **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AT TRIPS END**

After derigging and loading equipment late afternoon on the last day of your trip, Dvorak Expeditions will either:

- Shuttle you back to either Cortez or Grand Junction.
- **Arrange to have your car shuttled to the take-out at an extra cost. (See your confirmation letter).**

Although you can usually make a connecting flight home after 7:00 p.m. on the last day of the trip, we recommend you fly out the following morning in case inclement weather or other circumstances that would delay our arrival in Grand Junction.

Remember, "River Time" is unpredictable.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

*We recommend the following lodging pre- and post-trip:*

**(Our pick-up location in Cortez:)**

**The Turquoise Inn & Suites**

535 East Main Street Cortez, Co. 81321  
(970) 565-3778

**(Our 5 days + return local) Mention Dvorak's for Rates**

**The Grande Vista Hotel**

2790 Crossroads Blvd.  
Grand Junction, CO 81506  
(800) 228-2828  
or (970) 241-8411

**The Ramada Inn**

752 Horizon Dr.  
Grand Junction, Co 81506  
(800)272-6232  
or (970)243-5150

**Ray's Motel Closest to Bedrock Take Out for pre-night**

**lodging: Restaurant across the street 6:30 a.m.**

101 Main St., PO Box 310 Naturita, CO 81422  
(970) 865-2235

**Best Western / Red Arrow Motel**

1702 East Main St. (Hwy 50) Montrose, CO 81401  
(800) 468-9323  
or locally (970) 249-9641

### **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

**BY AIR:** Cortez, CO and Grand Junction, CO airports: There are several airlines with flights into both airports from a variety of connecting cities. Cortez is serviced by United Express from Denver with flights daily. It is best to book your air trip from your home city rather than booking from Denver. *5 days or longer trips should fly out of Grand Junction, CO. Call us with questions.*

**BY CAR:** Slickrock or Bedrock is reached easiest by car : (1) Taking I-70 to Grand Junction then take Hwy #50 south to Whitewater, then Hwy #141 south to Slickrock. To get to Bedrock, turn off Hwy #141 onto Hwy #90 just north of Naturita, or (2) Taking Hwy #50 west to Montrose, south on Hwy #550 to Ridgeway, west on Hwy #62 to Placerville. Continue west on Hwy #145 to the Hwy #141 junction. Go south on Hwy #141 to Slickrock or north on #141 through Naturita to Hwy #90 to get to Bedrock.

### **DVORAK'S WILL PROVIDE THIS EQUIPMENT:**

We furnish rugged inflatable self-bailing rafts 12 to 16 feet in length. We provide all necessary river equipment, pfd's (Type V), water-proof dry bags for personal gear, first-aid and safety supplies. There is a guide on every raft and ratio of 1 to 4 on any instructional clinic. In addition, we have rental equipment that consists of tents, sleeping bags, pads, and ground sheets. We also have wetsuit and boot rentals available per day or trip.

*You can choose to be either in a paddle raft (participatory) or an oared raft, (passenger). Paddle rafts have 4 to 6 people and 1 guide.*

### **PERSONAL "Packing "EQUIPMENT LIST**

Please limit your gear to 30 pounds in weight. It should be able to be packed into a standard duffel bag. This list should cover everything for a safe, comfortable trip.

- Compact sleeping bag (not down) with Ensolite pad
- Small backpack style tent w/ fly & ground sheet
- Long john style wetsuit/boots for cold months \*
- Long pants (one light to block the sun & one warm \*)
- Nylon shorts or swimsuit under wetsuit
- Long sleeved shirts (one warm\*/one light weight)
- Non-cotton shirt or poly propylene top (fleece top)
- Warm jacket\*, wind proof or Fleece, water resistant
- Pair of tennis shoes - tie on preferred or wet boots.
- Wool socks will help keep feet warm in tennis shoes
- Sunglasses with loss protector/keeper (with UV protection)
- Sun block (over 5,000' altitude - lots of UV exposure)
- Hat for sun protection (tie-on)
- Rain gear is provided unless you want to bring your own
- Small towel / biodegradable soap/shampoo/lotion etc.
- Flashlight and extra batteries with new bulb.
- Bandanna and a pair of light gloves for sun protection.
- Personal items kit (hygiene) medicines etc.
- Waterproof camera or a very good waterproof case.
- EXTRA BEVERAGES - PLASTIC containers of liquor, CANNED beer wine coolers. An adequate supply of water and soft drinks is provided. If you prefer diet drinks, please request them in advance. Wine is provided with evening meals.
- OPTIONAL ITEMS: Field glasses, protection, Journal notebook, book, pliers (for use in taking things from fire i.e. coffee, hot water, etc.), Day pack for side hikes and extra Zip Lock Bags.

*\* Can be excluded during warmer weather*



## RENTALS - TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS & WET SUITS

- \$15 Lightweight Sleeping Bag / Ensolite pad
- \$50 Three-man dome tent with floor + ground sheet
- \$10 Therma-Rest Sleep pad, inflatable
- \$25 Long John Wet suit with boot per trip

*Note: These items need to be reserved and payment is due along with your trip balance 45 days prior to departure. Be sure to give your height, weight and shoe size for wet suit rentals.*

## WHAT IS TAUGHT ON OUR KAYAK & CANOE INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS?

The basics of whitewater boating which includes Equipment selection, maintenance and repair, reading the river, scouting and running the rapids, rescue and evacuation techniques, minimum impact camping, Dutch oven cookery over open fires.

The Green River is suitable for beginner to advanced boaters. You learn from us how to captain both paddle boats and oar powered boats or how to kayak or canoe whitewater. You can also do a combination rafting/kayaking seminar. The kayaking/canoeing skills you gain in addition to those listed above include: \* Wet and dry exits \* the basic strokes \* ferrying \* eddy turns \* hydrology \* Eskimo roll \* kayak/ canoe etiquette \* surfing and play boating.

## KAYAK & SUP EQUIPMENT RENTAL

You are welcome to bring your own equipment for our instructional clinics or sign up for the clinics inclusive of all equipment. If you would just like to bring personal paddling equipment and have us supply the boat only etc. that is also acceptable and cuts the rental cost approximately 30% for you. Our rental equipment includes \* State of the art kayaks \* Wet suits and boots \* paddle jackets \* life jackets \* helmet \* flotation \* spray skirts \* paddles.

## FORMS

Thank you for joining us on the Dolores River this season. You will find most information in the river notes. We request that you fill out the forms enclosed and return them to us as soon as possible.

- Passenger List (names, addresses, phone numbers)
- Trip Questionnaire
- Medical/Risk Form
- Rental requests (height, weight, shoe size for wetsuits)
- Overnight camping rental list
- Instructional questionnaire if kayaking

## RESPONSIBILITY

Dvorak Exp's require you to **READ and SIGN a liability release form** prior to your trip. Please fill out the health questionnaire. There are inherent risks associated with river trips, including possible personal injury, property loss, financial loss, personal cancellation. Travel Insurance is recommended.

2023

## PERFORMANCE

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances. We reserve the right to cancel or modify any trip due to weather or water conditions or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for paying expenses other than refunding all or part of the fees paid to Dvorak Expeditions. The determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details. Guides and other on-river personnel employed by Dvorak Expeditions are not authorized to make or promise trip refunds or trip credits. Such determinations can only be made by company officers.

## RESERVATIONS & CANCELLATIONS

**Please read our cancellation policy carefully**, as it applies in every instance. If YOU must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under stringent federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. We incur substantial expenses before each trip departs. In the event of late cancellation, Dvorak Expeditions cannot recover costs, nor can we make refunds.

## DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum advance **deposit** of 25% of trip cost per person (whichever is greater) is required when making reservations. The total is due 45 days prior to the trip.
- When cancellations are made **more than 45 days before** the trip, all monies are refunded **LESS** a \$100 per-person fee.
- If cancellation is made **less than 45 days** before the trip, 25% per person is non-refundable.
- With **less than 14 days'** notice, **NO moneys are refunded** (this includes all credit card charges)

## TRAVEL PROTECTION INSURANCE

Bill Dvorak Kayak & Rafting Expeditions Inc. recommends that you purchase a Travelex travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip interruption, Emergency Medical & Emergency Evacuation-Repatriation. Trip delay, baggage delay and more.

For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, click on the link below or contact **Travelex Insurance Services @ 800- 228-9792 and reference location number #06-0520** Please note: To be eligible for the waiver of pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, the protection plan must be purchased within 21 days (Travel Select) or 30 days (Travel Max) from the time you make your initial trip deposit. However, the plan can be purchased any time prior to departure.

For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations, and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294

## **DVORAK EXPEDITIONS.com**

**17921 U.S. Highway 285, Nathrop, CO 81236**  
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**Website: [www.DvorakExpeditions.com](http://www.DvorakExpeditions.com)**