

DVORAK RAFTING & FISHING EXPEDITIONS Est. 1969

"Colorado's 1st Licensed Outfitter"



Below the Black Canyon National Park

* Gunnison River Gorge "THE BABY GRAND"

14 miles Class II - Class III
1 - 3 Days (MAXIMUM 8-10 PERSONS)

It is a hidden jewel, off the beaten path, tucked deep in steep granite walls. The Gunnison River is a sportsman's and paddler's paradise. The clear, cold waters of the Gunnison have been designated a Gold Medal Trout Fishery. Its narrow river gorge creates exciting whitewater action on a river that is just below the Black Canyon National Park System.

Accessible only by foot or horseback, the Gunnison Gorge is a wilderness canyon for those who are willing to literally go the extra mile. A trip to the canyon floor requires a hike of one mile down a steep trail. Guests are expected to carry their personal gear in back packs provided by Dvoraks. With every step, the wilderness feeling deepens. The solitude and scenery found at the canyon floor make the hike down worth every step. Enter the wilderness world of the Gunnison Gorge for a trip of one to three days.

SEASON

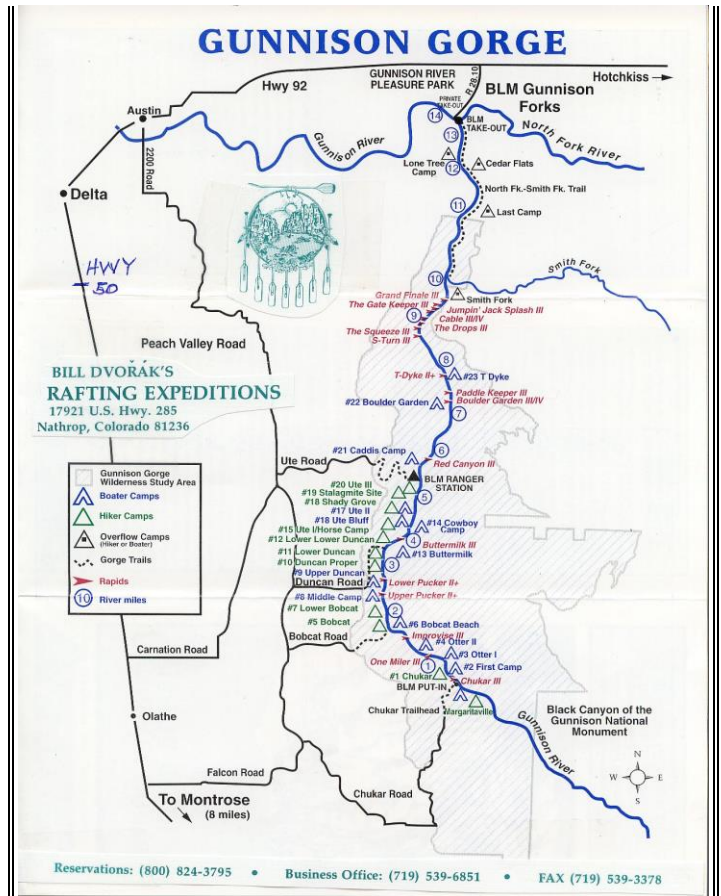
Due to three dams up stream, the Gunnison is basically run-able year around. However, weather conditions make the prime boating season mid-May through September. We have 15 launch dates allocated throughout our season and can arrange alternate launch dates for groups of 5 - 9 people. **Fishing trips are maximum 8 anglers total.** The highest water levels are in May and early June during the high snow melt period. The water normally levels out to a steady flow in late June and continues at that level for the remainder of the season.

GUNNISON GORGE 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.

MONEY

Gratuuity is not included in the trip cost. Your appreciation standard is 15 to 20% for your guide / instructor. The gratuity recognition will always be appreciated by your guide for their outstanding efforts.



River Guide Map Note Meeting Location per Confirmation

Gold Medal Fishing

Designated a Gold Medal Trout fishery, the Gunnison is one of those legendary stretches that is known throughout the west. Avid anglers speak about this one in whispers around the campfire. "The Home of Lunker Trout" it offers both Browns and Rainbows. **"GIANT STONE FLY HATCH IS JUNE!"**

The primary reason for this reputation is the river's inaccessibility. There are only three trails leading into the Gunnison Gorge giving access to approximately one mile of bank fishing at each trail head. The only way to fish the entire corridor is float fishing. **Our CUSTOM fishing trips put two anglers and one guide in each raft.** This allows you to fish downstream at your own pace. To allow for adequate time for fishing and full enjoyment of the canyon, it is best to plan a three-day trip.

Special regulations are in effect to protect the fishery which allows only one fish over 16" and two under 12" to be kept. Fly and lures only. We encourage everyone to catch and release. A valid **Colorado fishing license is required.** We also set up custom trout fishing trips in other Colorado and Wyoming on some of the best trout rivers in the U.S. (Request more information on these trips). See special fishing sheets for custom trips, type of flies, etc.

REQUEST SPECIAL FISHING FACT SHEETS FOR FLIES AND TACKLE RECOMMENDATION. Separate Packing list:

PERMITS

Outfitting since 1969

We operate under Special Use Permit administered by the Bureau of Land Management - Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area located in Montrose, 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.

THE TRIP PACKAGE

The following are included in your Dvorak Expeditions Gunnison Gorge trip

- All boating equipment/life jackets/drinking water
- Pre- and post-trip arrangements as described
- 1 to 3 days of rafting, float fishing or instructional seminar
- All on-river meals (lunch day 1 through lunch last day)
- REQUEST: Rain jacket with pants
- 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
- Personal clothing and other sundry items
- Transportation pick ups in Montrose available if flying.
- **BOOK your Pre-and post-lodging**

GUIDES

Our guides are experienced men and women skilled at handling their craft. They all have current first aid, CPR and Swiftwater 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 of experience on all classes of rivers including all Dvorak rivers. **Custom professional Fly-Fishing guides** on fishing trips.

CAMPING

Campsites on the Gunnison Gorge are limited and often compact. Most have interesting side canyon hikes nearby and all are well kept wilderness sites.

On trips with Dvoraks, our river guides will provide instruction about disposal of human waste, the disposal of different types of trash, and other camp practices. Minimum-impact camping practices have enhanced these sites and you'll see few reminders other than footprints of previous visitors.

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 relatively fit and in good health. Able to carry your back pack dry bag down the trail. 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.

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.

WEATHER

In the early season (April - May) and the late season (August - September) the Gunnison Gorge can experience cold, changeable high mountain weather. While most days are warm and sunny (50-80°) it is best to be prepared for both warm and cold weather.

During JUNE-*Famous Giant Stone Fly Hatch* & July - September, temperatures range from 70-100° and can be very warm. Due to its high elevation, however, dramatic fluctuations are still possible during this time of year. It is prudent to come prepared for cooler weather and ask advice from your guide as to their recommendations when packing up for your trip.

FOOD

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last day. The food is fresh and hearty, 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 two-day menu may include as a main course BBQ steak, baked fish, BBQ chicken, pork chops, combination entrees, fresh vegetables and salads, Delightful desserts, breads, hors d'oeuvres, fresh fruits, fruit juices, coffee, tea and a complimentary glass of wine with dinner.

Lunches are buffet style with a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, fruit, cheeses, sliced meats, nuts, juices or water, request special drinks.

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.**

DRINKS: PRE ORDER REQUESTS? Although we carry ample supplies of juices, coffee, tea and hot chocolate we encourage you to bring or order 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, 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 your choice of beer and bring it to the river, please let us know and payment can be made for your purchase at the river put-in with your Trip Leader.

INFLATABLE KAYAK- SUP INSTRUCTION

The Gunnison Gorge is suited to **Class II - III intermediate to advanced boaters**. 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, that is also acceptable, and cuts the rental cost about 30% for you.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP ARRANGEMENTS

The meeting place for a Gunnison Gorge trip is the Gunnison Forks Pleasure Park (this is the finish point of the trip). This is midway between Hotchkiss and Delta, Colorado. Travel 14 miles east on Hwy. #92 coming from Hotchkiss. Look for the Gunnison Forks sign on the south side of the road and follow the dirt road south near this sign one mile to the Pleasure Park.

You will rendezvous with your guide at approximately 7:30 a.m. on the morning of the first day of your trip. Meet in the parking lot behind the kiosk. Your guide will provide you with a 3.3 CU FT waterproof bag (**backpack straps attached**) to transfer your overnight gear into. You will carry your bag, along with your fishing gear you bring, down into the Gorge. This is a hike of one mile which drops over 1,000 feet and usually takes 25 - 45 minutes. Weather is usually **hot** and YOU MUST carry your own water bottle, (large 2 liter) for hiking.

Your vehicle will be left at the Pleasure Park and monitored by the people who operate this establishment. We will be taking out on the beach about 100 yards from the parking lot mid- to late afternoon on the last day of your trip.

Our 4-wheel drive takes about 1½ hours from the Pleasure Park to the trail head into the Gunnison Gorge. An additional hour is generally required to hike down to the river, rig the remaining gear to boats and do the safety and environmental orientation of the Gunnison Gorge.

Lunch is usually 1 - 2 miles down stream between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. therefore plan on eating a hearty breakfast before your morning meeting time. Food is available at the Pleasure Park Kiosk. *Custom guides will have flies, lures and miscellaneous fishing tackle.* We will provide an assortment of water, juice, coffee, tea on the trip. Drink orders requested if you wish options.

GETTING TO THE GUNNISON GORGE

BY PLANE: Fly into **Montrose, Colo. Airport** (served by United, Continental, and America West) for pick up at lodge or airport. (See details on confirmation letter). Or Fly into **Grand Junction, Colorado Walker Field** (served by United, Frontier, America West, Delta, and Great Lakes Aviation) and rent a car for the 1½ hour drive to the Gunnison Forks Pleasure Park. Take Hwy. #50 south 50 miles to Delta, then east on Hwy. #92, 14 miles to the Gunnison Forks turn off.

Alternately fly into Denver (served by most major airlines) and rent a car for the 4½ hour drive to the Gunnison Forks rendezvous. Take Interstate #70 west to Glenwood Springs. Turn south on Hwy. #82 and go 12 miles to Carbondale, then southwest 60 miles on Hwy. #33 to Hotchkiss. Continue for 6 miles on Hwy. #92 to the Gunnison Forks Park south turn off.

BY CAR: From the North: Follow directions for air travelers from either Grand Junction or Denver.

From the South: Take Hwy. #50 north from Montrose 20 miles to Delta, then Hwy. #92 east 14 miles to the Gunnison Forks turn off. **SHUTTLE:** A around trip pick up or shuttle is available for from Montrose or Grand Junction, CO - request Dvorak rates when booking.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We recommend pre- & post trip PU available by DVK

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites ****

1391 S Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO, 81401

855 516-1090

[Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Montrose](#)

Gunnison Forks Pleasure Park **

(970) 872-2525

www.troutfisherman.net

Camping and basic **Cabins**

@ the finish point and meeting location for your Gunnison

Gorge rafting/fishing trip.

Hotchkiss Inn ****

406 Highway 143 Hotchkiss, Co 81419

(970)872-2200

<https://www.hotchkissinnmotel.com/>

Grand Vista Hotel ****

Major airport & Car rentals available in GJ

752 Horizon Drive * Grand Junction, Co 81506

(970) 241-8411

(800) 800-7796 or (970)241-1077

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AT TRIP'S END

You will arrive back at your vehicle at the Gunnison Forks Pleasure Park mid to late afternoon of the last day of your trip.

Although you might be able to make a flight home from the airports 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 delays your arrival to connect in Denver. Remember, "River Time" is unpredictable.

DVORAK'S PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING

We furnish rugged inflatable self-bailing rafts 12 to 14 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 a ratio of 1 guide to 4 persons on any instructional clinic. We have rental equipment available: tents, sleeping bags, pads, ground sheets, as well as wetsuit/boot rentals available per trip.

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

Colorado 2022 Fishing License Fees

	Colo.Resident	/ Non Res
5day	N/A	/ \$ 32,95
1day	\$14.23	/ \$17.35
Annual	\$36.08	/ \$100.57
18 years +		\$10.07 / N/A
Seniors 65 +		

Fee increases effective Dec. 2021. <http://cpw.state.co.us>

PERSONAL TRIP EQUIPMENT LIST

Please limit your gear to 25 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.

**** **REQUEST FISHING PACKING LIST SEPARATE.**

- 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 weight to block the sun & one warm wool or pile/fleece type*)
- Nylon shorts or swimsuit under wetsuit
- Long sleeved shirts (one warm*/one light weight)
- Non-cotton shirt or polypropylene 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 8,000' 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, or wine coolers. An adequate supply of soft drinks is provided. If you prefer diet drinks, please request them in advance. Wine is provided with evening meals.

* *Can be excluded during warmer weather*

RENTALS

TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS & WET SUITS

- \$15 Lightweight Sleeping Bag w Ensolite pad
- \$25 Three-man dome tent with floor & ground sheet one night, \$50 two nights
- \$ 10. Therma-Rest Sleep pad, inflatable
- \$20 Long John Wet suit with booties
- \$50 Waders and boots for 3 days

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.

FORMS

Thank you for joining us on the Gunnison Gorge this season. You will find most information in the river notes. We request that you **fill out the forms and return them prior to trip.**

- **Waiver Form (1 each) Online signing**
- Trip Questionnaire with passenger list (address/phone)
- Rental requests (height, weight, shoe size for wetsuits)
- Camping or Instructional Rental Reservation Form
- Instructional questionnaire if kayaking /canoeing

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.

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 \$100 or 25%** of trip cost per person (whichever is greater) is required when making reservations. The total is due 45 days prior to trip. When **cancellations are made more than 30 days before the trip** - all moneys are refunded **LESS \$100 per person**. If **cancellation is made less than 30 days before the trip**, the deposit of 25% per person is non-refundable. **With less than 14 days' notice, no moneys are refunded.** (This includes all credit card charges.)

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Bill Dvorak Kayak & Rafting Expeditions Inc. recommends that you purchase a Traveler 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 **Travel 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](http://DvorakExpeditions.com)

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