

## **Grand Canyon Colorado River Rafting**

For Alumni and Friends of the Department of Earth Sciences

April 30 – May 8, 2023

Trip Leader: Prof. Tim Patterson

Questions: Please contact Tim at: [tim.patterson@carleton.ca](mailto:tim.patterson@carleton.ca)

The Department of Earth Sciences often visits the Grand Canyon during student field trips to the region, where we hike down through the geological succession to the Colorado River and back out again. This is a spectacular but often grueling experience. This coming academic year to not only celebrate our ability to put on field camps again as the pandemic begins to recede, but to also celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department we are putting on a bucket list trip of a lifetime visit to the Grand Canyon. During this trip, which is limited to 29 persons, participants will descend in style through 2 billion years of the geological succession by quiet motorized rafts from mile 0 at Lees Ferry to mile 188 (303 km) at Whitmore Wash.

In addition to hikes to exceptional geological outcrops and archaeological points of interest along the way, trip participants will be continually immersed in the awesome beauty of the canyon itself. There will be additional experiences such as traversing some of the biggest and most famous rapids on the Colorado River (negotiated expertly by long-time river operators [Hatch River Expeditions](#)).



This will be a camping trip but will be turn key as Hatch River Expeditions will provide all required tents, cots, sleeping beds, and cutlery. The staff will also provide three freshly prepared meals and numerous snacks each day. There will be no hot showers but the Colorado River will be available 24/7. At the Hatch River Expedition web site link above you will find a sample itinerary for a 7-day motorized rafting trip.

The trip will begin at the airport in Las Vegas, NV, on April 30<sup>th</sup> where bus transportation will be provided by the Department of Earth Sciences for the 4.5 hour drive scenic drive through Zion National Park to the Cliff Dwellers Lodge in Marble Canyon, AZ. The bus will leave relatively early from Las Vegas so it might be best to arrive in the city on April 29<sup>th</sup>. After spending the night at the Cliff Dwellers Lodge we will be on the river the next morning, departing from Lee's Ferry. On Day 7 at the end of the trip each participant will have a chance to view the canyon from above by helicopter (included in the trip price) before boarding a fixed wing aircraft to Las Vegas (included in the trip price) where the trip will end.

Cost of the 7 day rafting trip is US \$3495 not including airfare to and from Las Vegas. The department will provide transportation to and from Marble Canyon. Spaces are limited to 29 participants and a US \$500 deposit is required to reserve your space by September 30<sup>th</sup>, on a first come first served basis. A wait list will be established if the expedition is over subscribed. The balance of the payment will be due in late January 2023. Significant others and friends are welcome on this trip.

A description of the basic itinerary is available on the Hatch website here:

<https://www.hatchriverexpeditions.com/grand-canyon-motorized-rafting-expeditions/seven-day-grand-canyon>

Here is a well-illustrated blog compiled by a group of geologists that describes a trip that they took with Hatch River Expeditions that shows the stunning scenery and geology that participants will see:

<https://www.rocdotravel.com/grand-canyon-rafting-part-1>

<https://www.rocdotravel.com/grand-canyon-rafting-part-2>