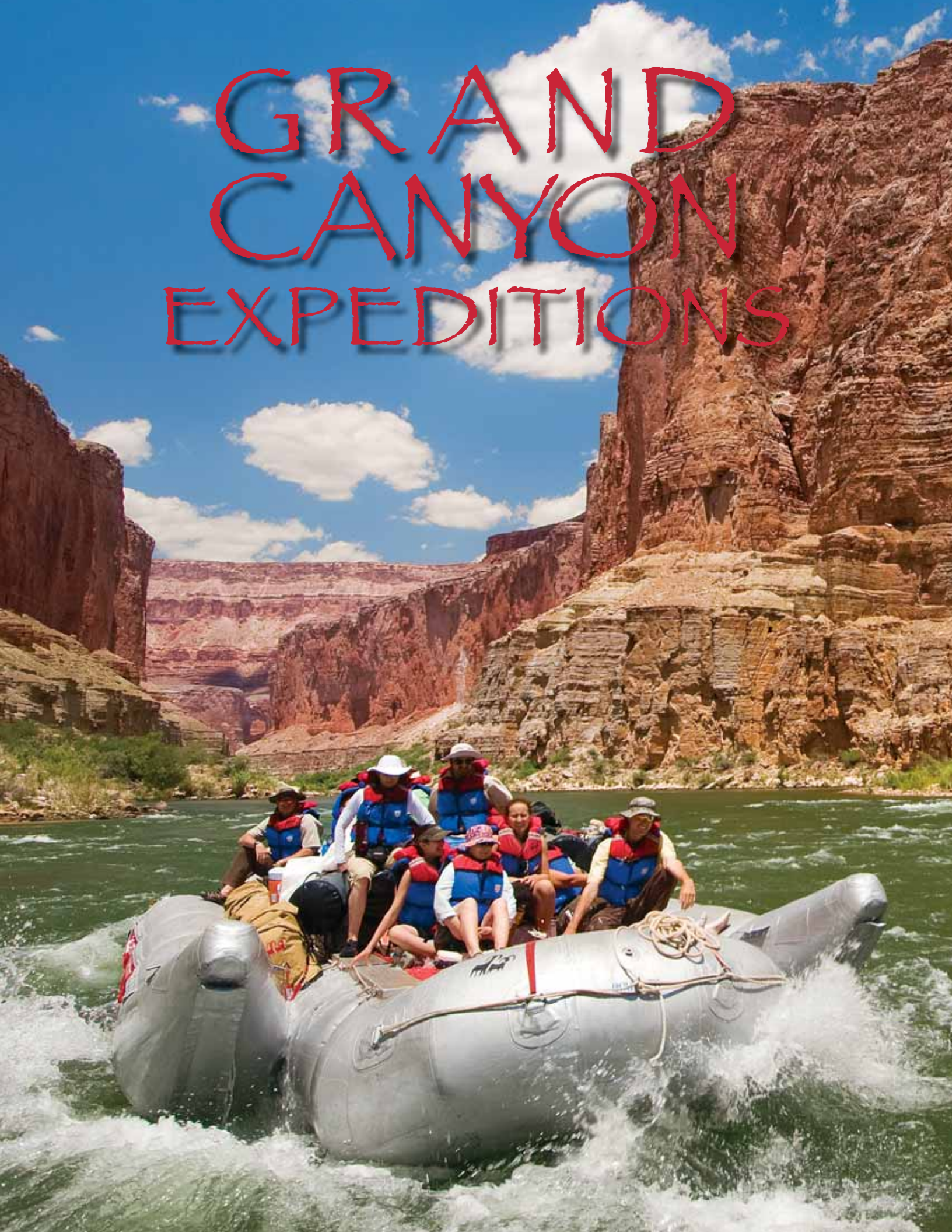


GRAND CANYON EXPEDITIONS







Portaging Ellsworth Kolb's boat the "Defiance" during a trip Ellsworth and his younger brother Emery made in the winter of 1911-1912.

Away to the West are lines of cliffs and ledges of rock—not such ledges as you may have seen where the quarryman splits his blocks, but ledges from which the gods might quarry mountains ... and not such cliffs ... where the swallow builds his nest, but cliffs where the soaring eagle is lost to view ere he reaches the summit .

J. W. Powell
1869



THE GRAND CANYON



As an out-of-this-world adventure, running the Colorado River through Grand Canyon ranks with a safari to the Serengeti Plain or a trek through the Himalayas. The experience is one of a kind. In eight memorable days, you cover some 280 river miles, negotiating nearly 200 exciting rapids, but with safety and in first-class comfort. It was different for Major John Wesley Powell who, with a small band of fellow explorers, took a month in 1869 to blaze the watery trail we now cover in a fraction of the time. Like most river runners who have since followed him, Powell was awed by the river and the Canyon: "With some eagerness and trepidation we enter the rapids below."

Grand Canyon offers the most

spectacular geological extravaganza on earth. This grandest canyon of them all, stretching 280 miles in length, measures from 4 to 18 miles in width and averages a mile in depth. Erosion relentlessly attacks its primeval floor and age-old walls, carving bizarre land forms. A veritable rainbow of hues is displayed, from the Canyon's two-billion year-old base of black Vishnu Schist to the dazzling white Kaibab Limestone at its rim, with every color in nature's easel in between. Though this is a desert setting, plants and wildlife abound. Cactus and wildflowers dot the river's shores. Cool glens where waterfalls tumble to the river can be lush with ferns. Bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyotes, and ringtail cats may be seen along the banks and in tributary canyons, while overhead soar many species of birds, including hawks, golden eagles, falcons, great blue herons, and egrets.





EIGHT DAY

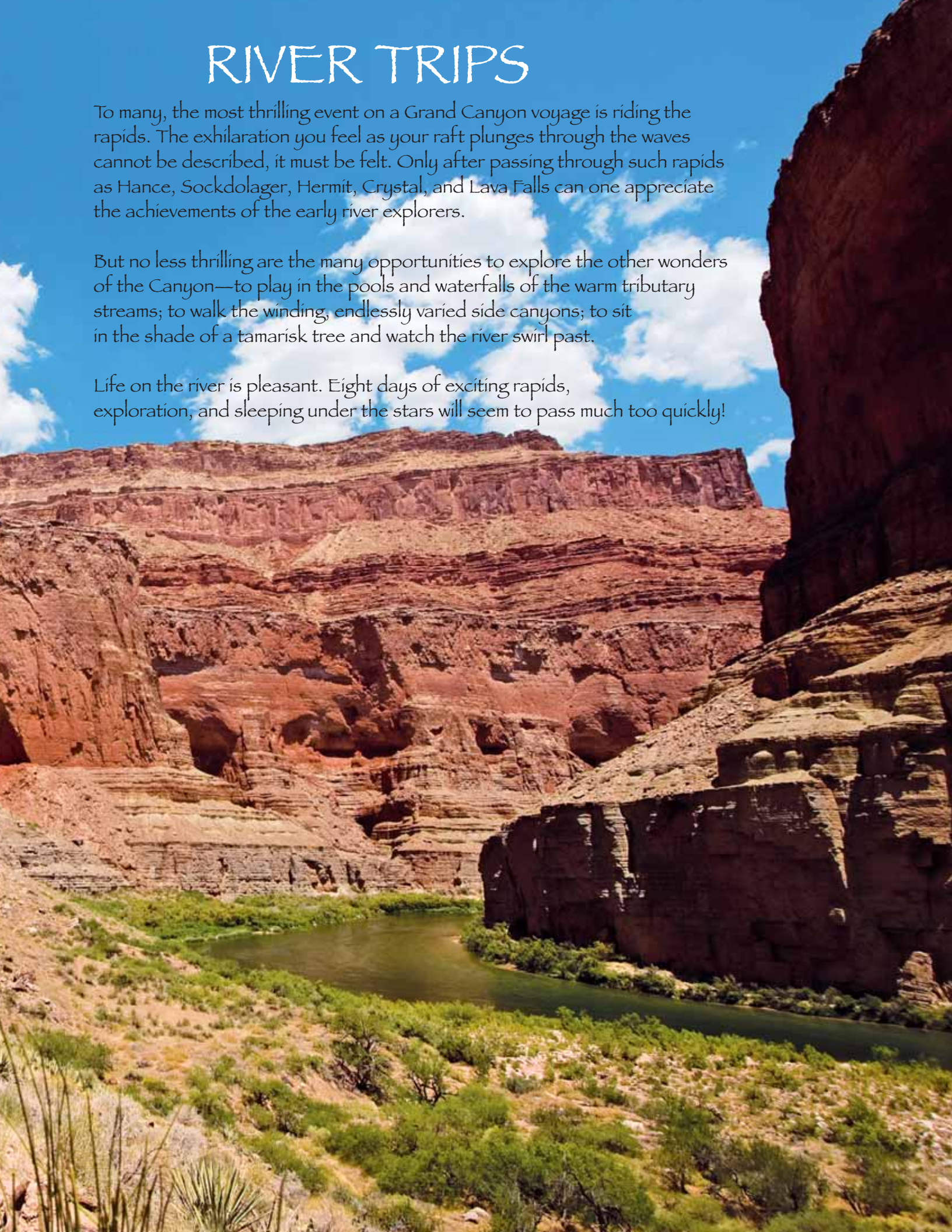
A Grand Canyon expedition is a once-in-a-lifetime vacation; it deserves to be an unhurried experience. Our eight-day expedition traverses the entire 280 miles of the Canyon, beginning at Lees Ferry, Arizona, and ending at Pearce Ferry on Lake Mead, with plenty of time for exploration along the way.

RIVER TRIPS

To many, the most thrilling event on a Grand Canyon voyage is riding the rapids. The exhilaration you feel as your raft plunges through the waves cannot be described, it must be felt. Only after passing through such rapids as Hance, Sockdolager, Hermit, Crystal, and Lava Falls can one appreciate the achievements of the early river explorers.

But no less thrilling are the many opportunities to explore the other wonders of the Canyon—to play in the pools and waterfalls of the warm tributary streams; to walk the winding, endlessly varied side canyons; to sit in the shade of a tamarisk tree and watch the river swirl past.

Life on the river is pleasant. Eight days of exciting rapids, exploration, and sleeping under the stars will seem to pass much too quickly!





SPECIAL INTEREST EXPEDITIONS

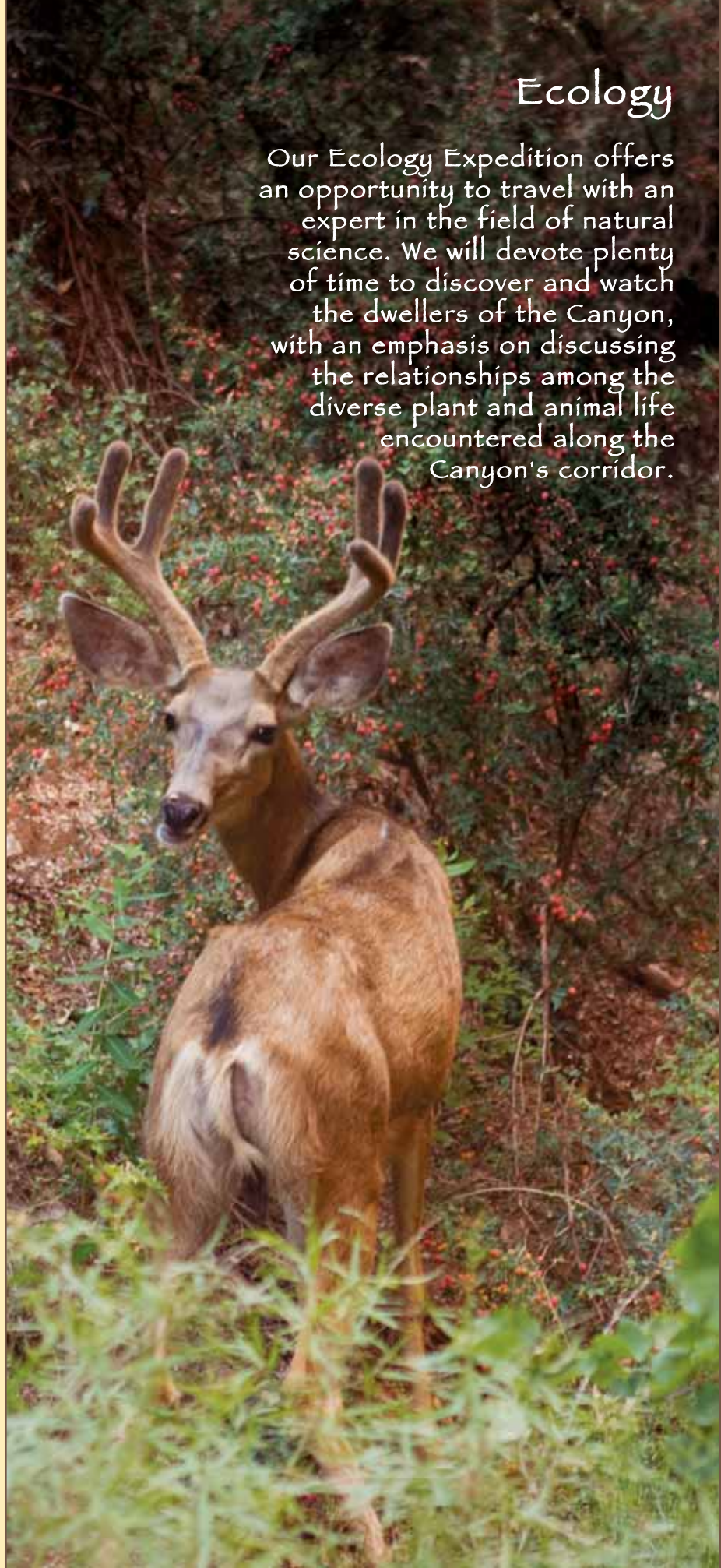
Most people sign up for our standard eight-day expeditions. However, we do offer special trips for those with particular interests in history, geology, photography, ecology, and archeology. On these expeditions, which follow the same course as our regular eight-day trips, passengers are accompanied by experts who share their special knowledge of the Canyon.

Archeology

Ancestral Native Americans were the first people to discover and explore the Grand Canyon. The Canyon was not just background scenery for human events but an active participant that shaped the lives of its dwellers. Listen as our guest archeologist tells the story of these early people who ventured into this grandest of Canyons and left behind, along with petroglyphs and ruins, split-twig figurines that date from 3,000 to 4,500 years ago.

Ecology

Our Ecology Expedition offers an opportunity to travel with an expert in the field of natural science. We will devote plenty of time to discover and watch the dwellers of the Canyon, with an emphasis on discussing the relationships among the diverse plant and animal life encountered along the Canyon's corridor.





Glen and Bessie Hyde, the ill-fated "Honeymoon Couple" in mid-November 1928. They were last seen at Hermit Creek, just a few days after this photo was taken.

History

A river historian will join us on this special trip to share many memorable stories and pinpoint the dramatic events experienced by the early river runners. Our historian will keep you entranced as you learn of the challenges encountered by Major Powell, George Flavell, Julius Stone, and the Kolb brothers on their expeditions. Of course the trip would not be complete without the intriguing story of the honeymoon couple, Glen and Bessie Hyde, and the mystery that surrounds them.



Memorial Brown Inscription. Mile 12, carved by survey crew member Peter Hansbrough. Five days later he also drowned. Point Hansbrough, Mile 44 is named for him.

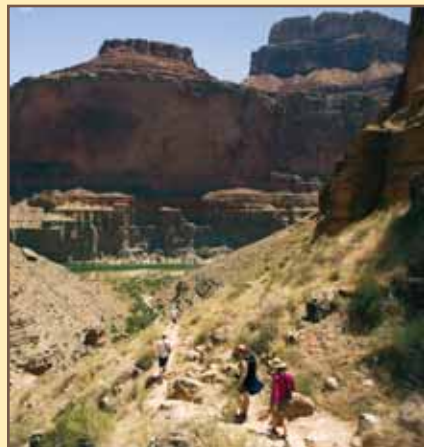
Photography

For photographers, there can be few subjects more beautiful or challenging than the Grand Canyon. The wildlife, bizarre rock formations, profuse wildflowers, and constantly changing light conditions offer photographers unique opportunities to sharpen their skills. Our guest instructor shares the excitement of capturing that prized shot—a hedgehog cactus in bloom, a blue heron in flight, the evening glow of a sunset on the Canyon walls. Whether you are a novice or an accomplished photographer, you will have the time you need to compose the shot of your desire in the most beautiful studio on earth.



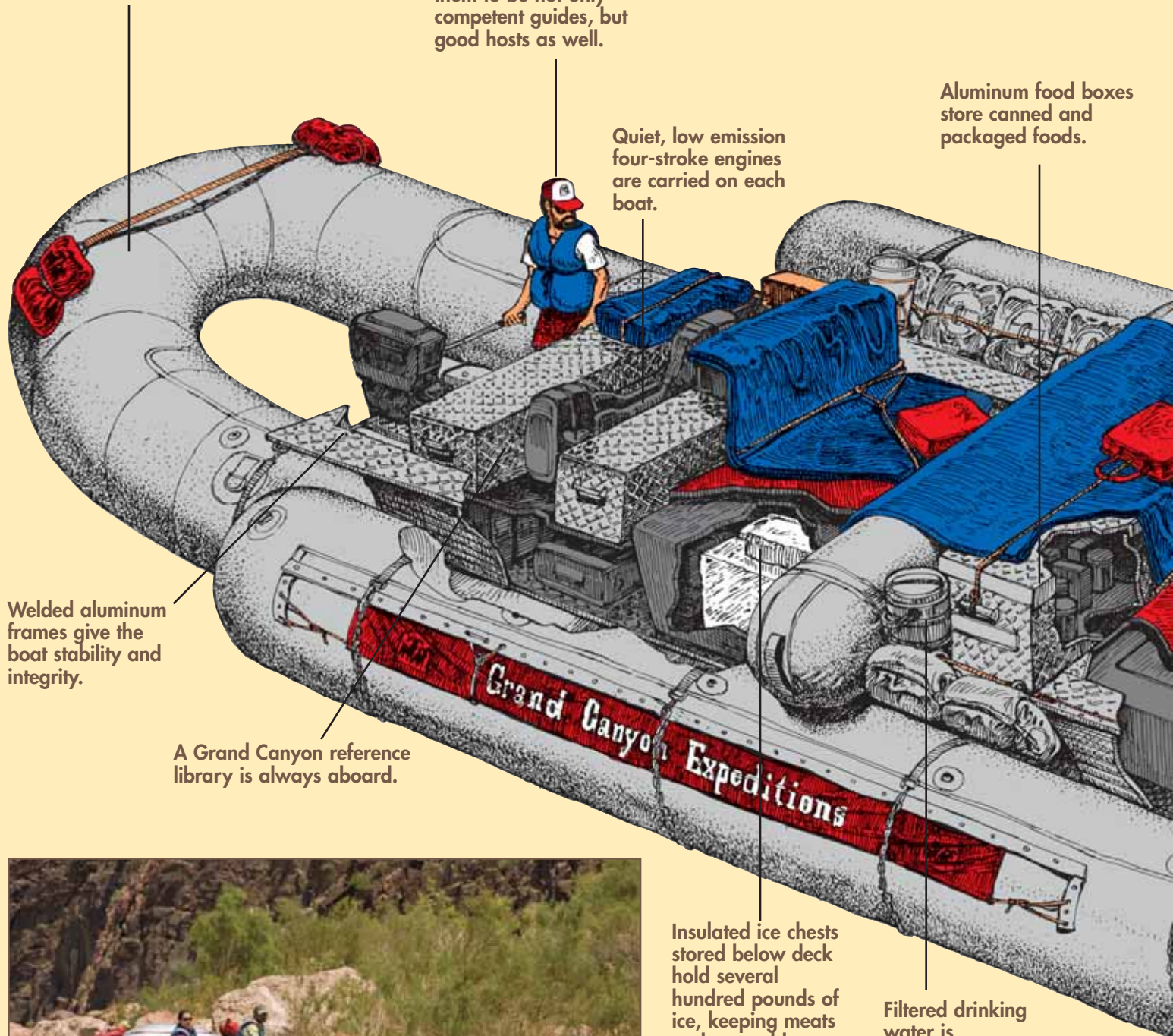
Geology

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado is a geological showcase unparalleled anywhere in the world. Accompanying us on this special trip will be a noted geologist who will focus on the geological history of the Canyon, the events that shaped and sculpted it. As we drift downriver from our starting point at Lees Ferry, we begin our step-by-step journey into our planet's past, covering two billion years of Earth's history.



Raft is constructed of a 64-ounce, class 7, neoprene-coated nylon. The S-Rig is made up of 20 separate compartments and is self-bailing.

Professional, experienced boatmen will guide you through the Canyon. Several of our pilots have more than 10 years of boating experience on the Colorado River. You'll find them to be not only competent guides, but good hosts as well.



Welded aluminum frames give the boat stability and integrity.

A Grand Canyon reference library is always aboard.

Quiet, low emission four-stroke engines are carried on each boat.

Aluminum food boxes store canned and packaged foods.

Insulated ice chests stored below deck hold several hundred pounds of ice, keeping meats and vegetables fresh through the trip.

Filtered drinking water is constantly at hand.

Two side-tubes provide stability and improve handling.



OUR RAFTS

Our 37-foot S-Rig, developed by Grand Canyon Expeditions, has proved to be the most successful raft used on the Colorado River. Its simplicity and design make this craft ideal for Grand Canyon river running. Thanks to the boat's ability to transport all supplies needed for eight days or more of travel, guests can traverse the Canyon in first-class comfort. Although the safety and maneuverability engineered into the S-Rig have minimized the effort required to boat through the Canyon, they have not at all diminished the thrills of whitewater river running. The most formidable rapids of the Colorado, which Major Powell and other early explorers were forced to portage

around, are now among the most eagerly anticipated highlights of our expeditions. This craft has also made possible the exploration of the great rivers of the world, including the Zaire, Columbia, Amazon, Niagara, Yukon, McKenzie, Frazier, and most recently the 1890 miles of the Mississippi River to the Gulf.

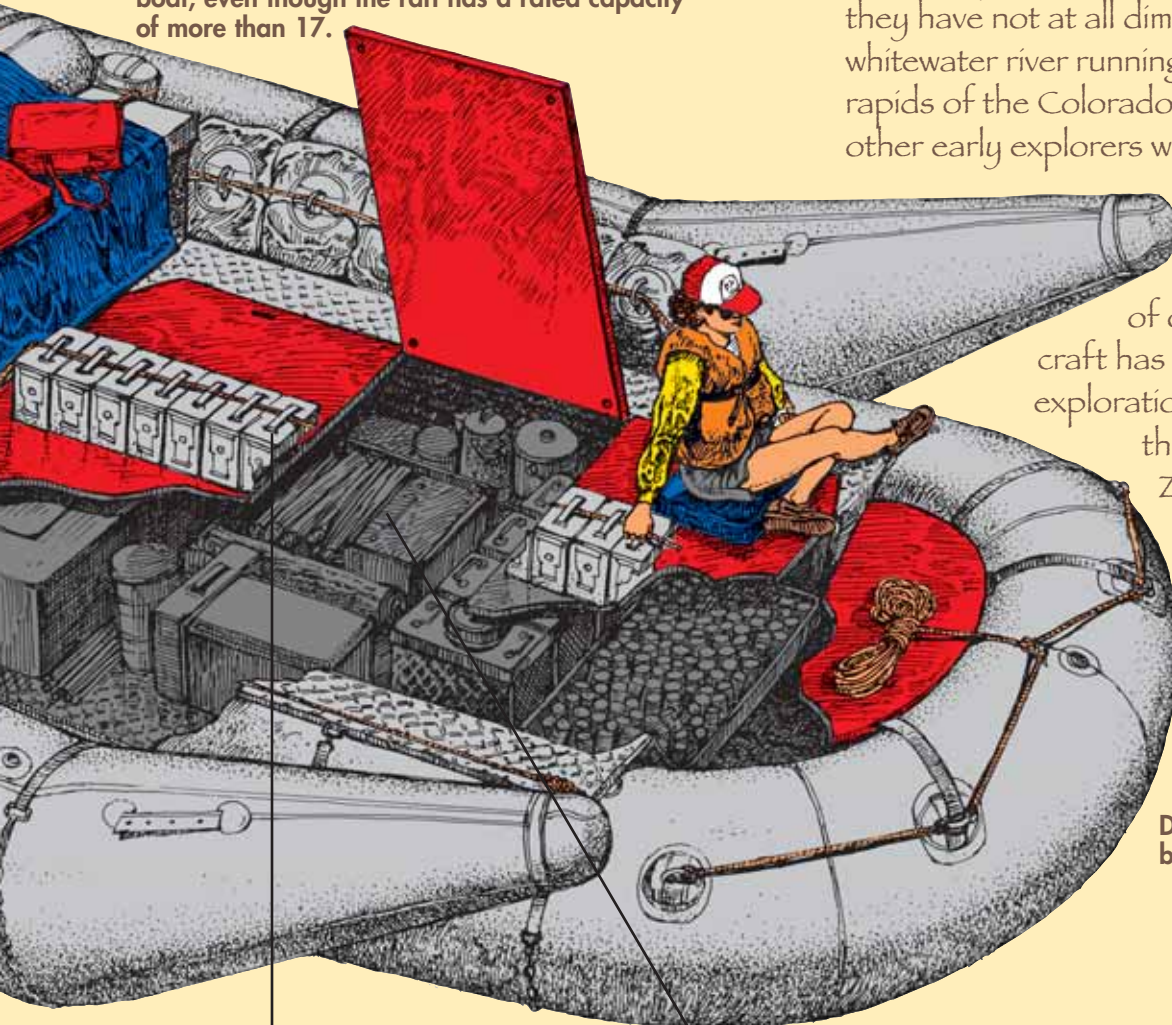
Drag bags chill our beverages for the trip.

Waterproof camera boxes are accessible.

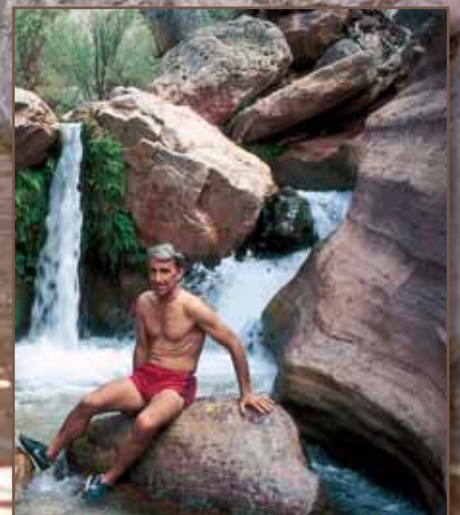
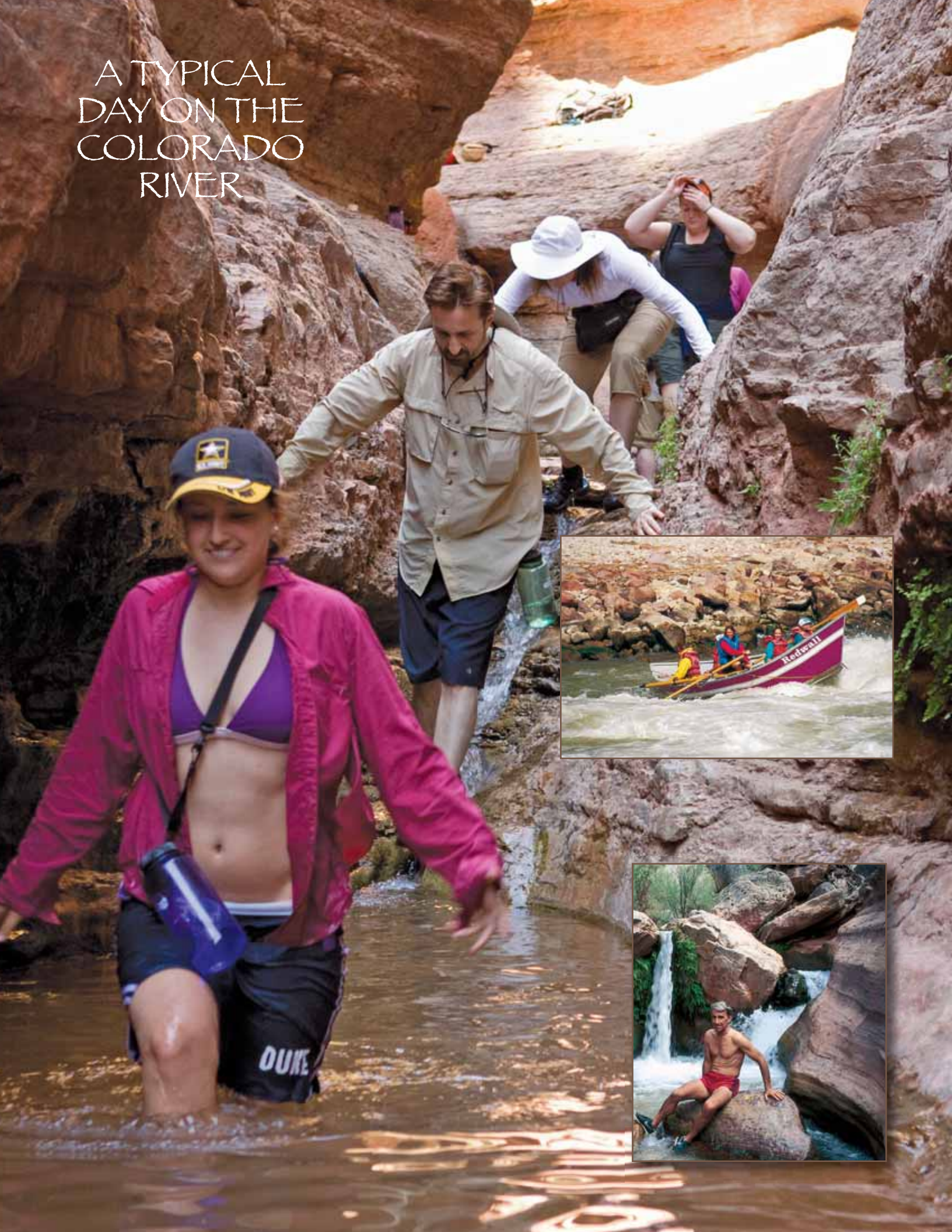
Below-deck storage creates a low center of gravity, enhancing stability. Guests can sit comfortably on the deck, uncrowded by storage boxes, and enjoy unobstructed river views regardless of seat.



We carry a maximum of 14 passengers per boat, even though the raft has a rated capacity of more than 17.



A TYPICAL
DAY ON THE
COLORADO
RIVER



7:00 a.m. We waken to the aroma of fresh-brewed coffee. Although the sun will not flood our camp for some time, tops of the canyon walls are already aglow with sunlight. Somewhere nearby a canyon wren is singing reveille. We pack our sleeping bags while eggs, sausage, and muffins cook.

9:00 a.m. We enter a series of rapids. A great blue heron takes off down-river, wings pumping. Both bird and its surroundings seem prehistoric.

10:00 a.m. We stop to explore a narrow, beautifully sculpted wash named Shinumo. In shadow all but fleeting moments each day, its polished silver walls shed a light of their own. To see the sky, you must tilt your head back with great effort.

11:00 a.m. South Canyon intersects the river, signaling that Vasey's Paradise is just ahead. A paradise, indeed! Sunlight seems to explode from the fountains of water gushing from the Canyon's wall. Lush growths of moss and ferns in this "paradise" seem strangely

out of place in such a desert setting. We drift close to the gushing water, giving everyone aboard a welcome shower.

12:00 noon Our boats stop for lunch in the shade of Redwall Cavern. Inside this great cave there's room enough for a game of softball!

2:00 p.m. As two golden eagles soar lazily overhead, we drift quietly and our boatman tells us the story of Bert Loper's historic river run in 1949. We feel the heat, but soon a roller coaster rapid refreshes us.

4:00 p.m. We sight moon lilies, abloom at the mouth of Saddle Canyon. A hike to explore Saddle is topped off with a cold drink.

6:00 p.m. We make for Nankoweap, site of ancient Indian ruins and our campsite tonight.

8:00 p.m. After a dinner of halibut filet, black beans & rice, green salad, and cherry cobbler, we hike to the ruins and view the river below.

9:00 p.m. We sit by the river sharing stories, while the drowsy find their sleeping bags.



DORY TRIPS

River trips through Grand Canyon have been our specialty for years. Folks love our eight-day trip—we cut no corners.

So, when we decided to offer rowing trips, we wanted to do it right. The leisurely paced trip through the canyon—that went without saying. But what sort of boat? Back in 1869, when Major John Wesley Powell led the first expedition through Grand Canyon, he used wooden boats. Although they weren't the best design, they worked, and for seventy years those who followed Powell's route tinkered with designs and techniques, refining to a science the art of rowing wood boats in whitewater.

In the 1960s, conservationist, writer, and boatman Martin Litton introduced the dory to Grand Canyon. He'd first rowed similar boats on the Mackenzie River in Oregon and he thought they'd be perfect in Grand Canyon. They were. And are. They keep the grace and heritage of the old wood boat, and give the exhilarating responsive ride that only a rigid boat can give. Yes, they demand full respect for the river, its currents and obstacles, but in turn you feel each nuance of the ripples and get rocketed off the top of some of the greatest waves in the Canyon.

OUR CHOICE OF BOAT WAS OBVIOUS. THE DORY.

It turns out these dory trips are incredible. From the moment we board the boats at Lees Ferry, we feel each boil and eccentricity of the current. We hear, too, the river's voice, the spiraling call of the canyon wren, the growing roar of the next rapid. And time is on our side—lots of it. Time to visit many of the lesser-known side canyons. Time to have a second cup of coffee in the morning. Time to get the most incredible message many of us ever hear—billion-year-old rocks in a millions-of-years-old canyon, letting us know that the worries and urgencies of the so-called “real world” are... well... maybe not such a big deal after all.

MAYBE THIS IS THE REAL WORLD.



Emery Kolb December 24, 1911.





Zoroaster



Felix Kominsky, known as "Chef Koms," with fellow crew members during the 1923 Birdseye Expedition. The trip, sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, surveyed potential dam sites along the Colorado River.

A MOVABLE FEAST

The design of our boats enables us to carry several hundred pounds of ice, which will last the entire trip. Every meal is prepared with fresh meats and produce. Although eating is not the reason people come to Grand Canyon, many of our guests comment that our meals were a highlight of their trip.

All food is prepared by our boatmen, who have mastered the art of Dutch-oven cooking. We begin each day with camp coffee, tea, juice, fruit, and a variety of breakfast foods, aiming to satisfy a wide range of tastes and appetites. Lunches are your own creation from a menu of delicatessen meats and cheeses, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, chips, and cookies. We provide generous quantities of cold soft drinks, fruit juice, and filtered water, which are available to you throughout the day. Dinners include a meat course served with a fresh vegetable, salad or soup, and a dessert. We also do our best to accomodate special diets.

Our food is good—and plentiful!





**Ron Smith, Founder
Grand Canyon
Expeditions**

Rivers have played an important role in my life ever since my first expedition down the Colorado in 1959. This first trip was for my own enjoyment, but I soon found myself sharing these expeditions

in other parts of the world. In 1973, Grand Canyon Expeditions organized the first successful run of the full length of the Omo River in Ethiopia, ending the trip at Richard Leakey's camp on Lake Turkana. Later we teamed up with the National Geographic Society for reconnaissance trips of Pakistan's Indus River and the Blue Nile in Ethiopia. As our boat designs proved successful, their use spread to other foreign rivers. In 1974, boats of our design (S-Rig) were selected by the British military for their Stanley-Livingston Centennial Expedition on the Congo River (now the Zaire) in Africa. Jacques Cousteau also used the S-Rig to explore the headwaters of the Amazon River in Brazil.

In Grand Canyon itself, we became involved in many exciting projects, including the outfitting of several expeditions for the National Geographic Society and the making of two films for television. In the production of an IMAX motion picture, "Grand Canyon-The Hidden Secrets", six of our 37-foot pontoon rafts were used to carry the film crew, cameras, and cast needed to recreate Major John Wesley Powell's epic Grand Canyon river voyage of 1869.

Through the years, river running has given us the opportunity to explore many major waterways of the world. Though we found these expeditions fascinating, we have never yet discovered a river trip anywhere as exciting or as unforgettable as the run down the

with others. By 1964, Grand Canyon Expeditions had evolved from my youthful love for river running.

During the early years, much of my effort was concentrated on the development of new boat designs and river equipment. War-surplus rafts were a tremendous improvement over the boats used in the Grand Canyon by early-day river runners, but even these craft had to be modified to meet the Canyon's exacting requirements. It was a great challenge to design a boat that would carry ice, fresh food, and other supplies needed by guests and the crew on a 280-mile transit of the Grand Canyon.

With these improvements in boat designs and boating techniques came opportunities to explore rivers



Tattshenshini River



Zaire (Congo) River



Mississippi River



Nahanni River

Colorado through the Grand Canyon. Every expedition is a new experience for us—the Canyon and river are ever changing, ever fresh.

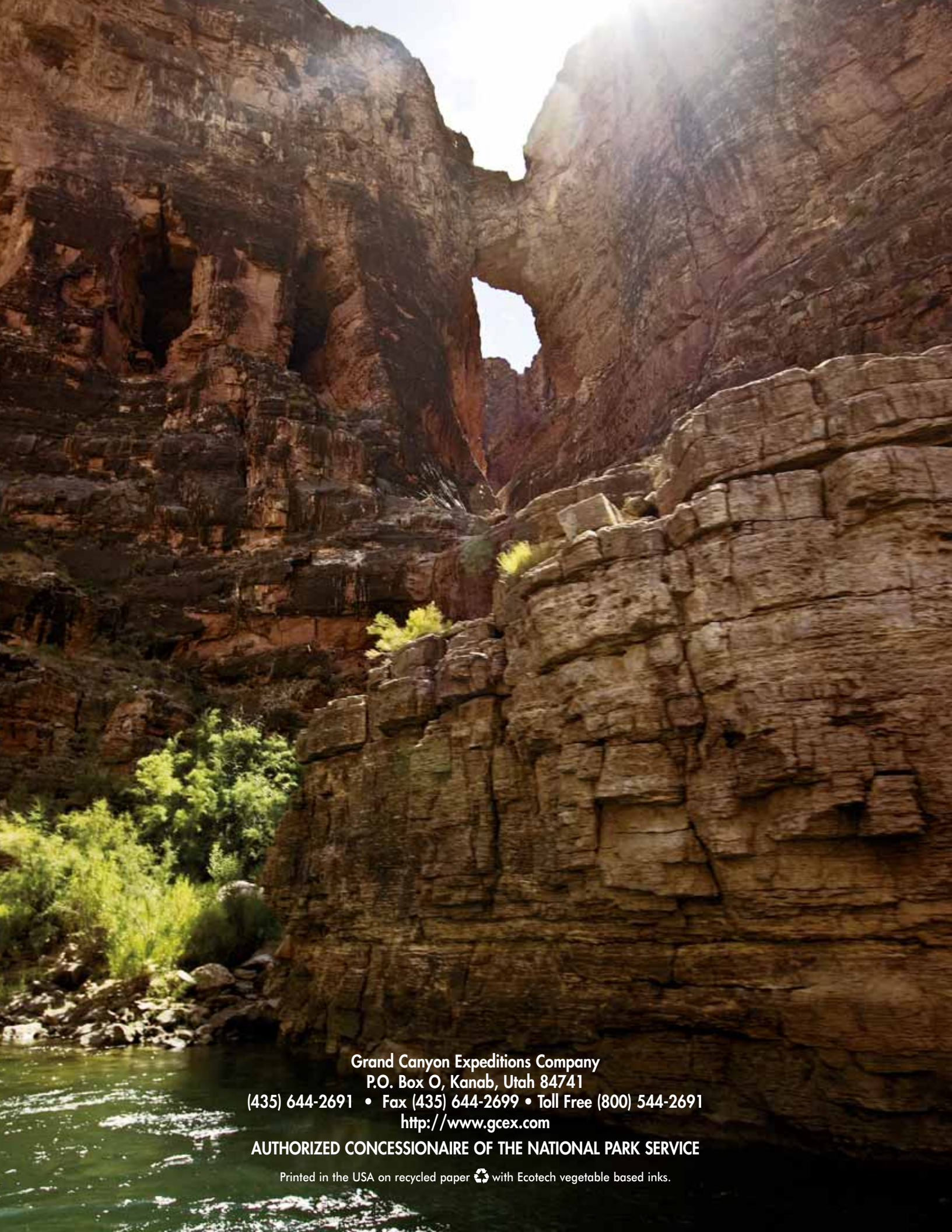
We look forward to each trip as an opportunity to share with our guests the enormous depth and beauty of the Grand Canyon, and as the beginning of new friendships. As you travel through the Canyon with us we hope that you will find—as we have, on every expedition—that new values and new dimensions have been added to your life.



**Michael Denoyer, President
Martin Mathis, Vice President
Ron Smith, Member, Board of Directors**


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