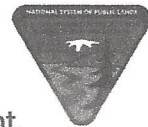


# Colorado River Sections



Determine a river stretch suitable for your equipment, skill and time commitment.

The following sections of the Colorado River are accessible from Moab for day use.

Select your put-in and take-out points with the following in mind:

- Your experience level and the nature of the rapids in each section
- Weather and flow levels on the day of your adventure (these vary quite a bit)
- Travel time and loading/unloading time in each direction
- Your anticipated return time to Wild West Voyages (be sure to read your rental agreement regarding late fees)

Always wear your PFD (personal flotation device) tightly secured.

Stay river left at Whites Rapid (between Rocky and Big Sandy).

Observe River Use Ethics and River Use Regulations on the last page of this document.

Always Leave No Trace! Pack all trash and food waste out of the river corridor.

Pack plenty of water and snacks.

## Dewey Bridge to Hittle Bottom

### Highlights

Flat water flowing under high cliff walls. Bull Canyon is river right in 2.5 miles downstream.  
Good hike.

*\* REQUIRES EARLY  
A.M. START*

### Length

6 miles

### Getting there

Dewey Bridge is 28.7 miles from the junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191.

### Description

Camping is allowed at both Dewey Bridge and Hittle Bottom campgrounds based on first come first served. Often occupied by car camping folks. There is a vault toilet here.

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## Hittle Bottom to Onion Creek

### Highlights

Flat water flows to this access on river left. There are two sloped boat ramps into the river at Onion Creek. Rapids begin immediately downstream of this point.

### Length

2 miles

### Getting there

Hittle Bottom is 23 miles from the junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191.

### Description

Camping is allowed in designated sites on river right. There is a fee. Based on first come first served. Often occupied by car camping folks. There are vault toilets here.

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*\* REQUIRES EARLY  
A.M. START*

## Onion Creek to Rocky Rapid/Ida Gulch

### Highlights

Four class II-III rapids are located in this section. Not suitable for flat-water craft. Boaters taking out at Rocky Rapid must stay center or left in the rapid and cut left immediately afterward to access the boat ramp.

### Length

5 miles

### Getting there

Onion Creek is 19.5 miles from the junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191. Turn left onto a dirt road that leads to the campground and river access.

### Description

Camping is allowed only in designated sites on river right. There is a fee. Based on first come first served. Often occupied by car camping folks. There are vault toilets here. No camping is allowed at Rocky Rapid.

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*\* REQUIRES EARLY  
A.M. START*

## Rocky Rapid/Ida Gulch to Big Sandy Beach

### Highlights

Class II-III rapids are in this section. Not suitable for flat-water craft. All boaters are encouraged to stay left at White's Rapid just downriver from the lodge, to avoid rough water and recirculating hydraulics.

### Length

4 miles

### Getting there

Rocky Rapid is 16 miles from the junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191.

### Description

Camping is not allowed at the Rocky Rapid river access. There are vault toilets here.



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## **Big Sandy to Take Out**

### **Highlights**

Rapids are in this section.

### **Length**

3 miles

### **Getting there**

Big Sandy is 11.8 miles from the junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191.

### **Description**

Camping is not allowed at the Rocky Rapids, Big Sandy or Take Out river access. There are vault toilets here.

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## **Take Out to Big Bend Campground**

### **Highlights**

At Big Bend there is a rapid. This access is NOT a boat ramp. There is a distance between the end of the road and the river's edge.

### **Length**

4 miles

### **Getting there**

Take Out is 9.9 miles from the Junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191.

### **Description**

Camping is allowed at Big Bend Campground. There is a fee. Based on first come first served. Often occupied by car camping folks. Vault toilets here.

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## **Big Bend to Moab Bridge**

### **Highlights**

Watch for an additional rapid below Big Bend before regaining flat-water. Afternoons can have significant upstream wind.

### **Length**

8 miles

### **Getting there**

Big Bend is 7.5 miles from the junction of SR 128 with US Highway 191.

### **Description**

Camping is not allowed at the Moab Bridge area. Across the pedestrian bridge in Lion's Park there are toilets and water.

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## **Moab Bridge to Gold Bar**

### **Highlights**

Flat-water from the wide Moab Valley into a narrower corridor after entering the West Portal. SR 279 parallels the Colorado River to Gold Bar and Potash. Navigate around islands.

### **Length**

10 miles

### **Getting there**

There is a steep dirt boat ramp on the north side of the Colorado River. From SR 128 travel north, make a right turn after crossing the river bridge. Be advised, in exiting this access, make only a right-hand turn. Go over Courthouse Wash bridge to turn around in a trailhead parking lot on the right.

### **Description**

Camping is allowed at Gold Bar Campground. There is a fee. Based on first come first

served. Often occupied by car camping folks. Vault toilets here. There are marked trails nearby for hiking.

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## Gold Bar to Potash Boat Ramp

### Highlights

Flat-water. This is the last vehicular river access; do not miss the take out!

### Length

7 miles

### Getting there

Goldbar is 10.2 miles from the junction of SR 279 with US Highway 191.

Potash Boat Ramp is located at the end of the pavement of SR 279.

### Description

Camping is not allowed at the Potash Boat ramp/picnic area. There are vault toilets here.

\* NOT RECOMMENDED  
FOR DAY TRIPS

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## Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

Personal Flotation Devices are made for humans and dogs. It is required by law that humans wear these at all times on board the watercraft and during transitions at the water's edge.



### River Use Ethics

- All garbage, ash, charcoal, and trash must be carried out on all portions of the rivers. Even small scraps of food left behind will attract ants, flies and mice.
- Gather only driftwood for campfires. Be aware of fire restrictions. All fires must be contained in a fire pan. Ash and charcoal packed out.
- Urinate directly into the river.
- Dispose of human waste in approved facilities.

### River Use Regulations

- Carry and use a leak-proof portable toilet for solid human waste. Recommended for day use; mandatory of overnight trips.
- Respect wildlife encountered along the river.
- Carry a first aid kit, a repair kit and an air pump. Rafts, dories and canoes must carry an extra oar, paddle or motor capable of maneuvering the vessel, a bail bucket or bilge pump (does not apply to self-bailing boat, kayak or paddle boards). Kayaks, inflatable kayaks, and stand up paddle boards (SUPs) must carry one spare paddle for every 3 low capacity vessels. Each boat 16' or longer must carry a type IV throwable device AND a commercially made throw bag with a minimum of 40' of line. Each boat must have a whistle or horn.