

UNL OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Canoeing Texas Canyons

Dates: March 10-20, 2022



DISCLAIMER: *Please note that specific details about this trip are subject to change. This packet provides a broad overview of what you can expect, but specific locations, timelines, and details may shift. Any changes will be communicated at the required pre-trip meetings.*

LOWER CANYONS INFO: This is one of the best river trips in Texas in terms of isolation, scenery, and adventure. It may be possible to spend the entire week in the canyons without seeing another person other than those in our own group. This trip will cover 83 miles of the Rio Grande flowing through rugged desert canyons of southwest Texas. We will encounter many small rapids and depending on the water level, a few major rapids, a strenuous portage or two, and a good deal of flat water.

PERSONAL PREPARATION:

UNL Outdoor Adventure trips are designed for both beginners as well as people who are more experienced. However, even though a beginner could go on this trip, we advise people to take their physical condition seriously. Canoeing is a very physical sport and to get the most enjoyment out of the trip being physically fit is a crucial part of this experience.

TRANSPORTATION:

All transportation is included in the price of the trip. University vehicles will be used as transportation to and from Texas. We will depart from UNL Outdoor Adventures in the afternoon on Thursday, March 10th

WEATHER:

Weather is very variable and subject to change, but the following are averages for mid-March. Please refer to the personal gear checklist to make sure you are prepared - rain gear and warm layers are a must!

Average High Temperature: 70 °F

Average Low Temperature: 40 °F

Sunrise: 7:30 AM

Sunset: 7:30 PM

CAMPSITES:

This trip will require two days of driving to and from the activity site. We will be camping for the entirety of this trip. During the canoeing portion of this trip, we will be camping at remote sites located along the riverbanks of the Rio Grande. These campsites are considered backcountry campsites. Backcountry sites will of course have no facilities. In the backcountry, we will be carrying out all our trash including human waste. We will cover personal hygiene at the pre-trip meeting.

COOKING AND GROUP TASK:

As with all aspects of this expedition, cooking and camp chores will be a group effort. The group will be divided into team. Each team will be assigned a task for the day. Some of the tasks could include cooking, setting-up camp or doing the dishes for the group. All meals while at the climbing site will be provided by Outdoor Adventures. Water on this trip will both from water we bring from our last campsite and water that we will chemically treat from springs we find along the river. You will just need to cover the meals as we are driving. Please see the trip itinerary for specific meals that are **not** provided by Outdoor Adventures. Please inform the trip leaders of any dietary concerns or needs during the pre-trip meeting.

MINIMUM IMPACT LIVING/LEAVE NO TRACE:

Going into the wild lands that we will be visiting on this trip is like going to a museum. You obviously do not want to leave your mark on an art treasure in a museum. If everyone left a mark going through the museum, it would be soon destroyed. The same goes for wilderness areas. If we all leave one little mark on the landscape, the wilderness would soon be far from its natural order and permanently ruined. To minimize our impact, we will be practicing the following Leave No Trace principles:

For more information about the 7 principles of leave no trace, go to <https://Int.org/why/7-principles/>

EXPEDITION BEHAVIOR:

Expedition behavior means taking care of yourself and other group members. Everyone has signed up for the trip for their own reasons, but the experience itself will be a shared experience between all members of the trip. Your presence and behavior on the trip affects others' experience in all sorts of ways. On this trip, camp responsibilities are shared. Everyone will take their turn to do dishes, help cook, carry group gear etc. This also means taking care of yourself- if you are unhealthy, it will negatively impact the experience for others. For example, it is important to stay hydrated, to not necessarily endanger yourself, and communicate concerns to trip leaders. Characteristics such as respectfulness, flexibility, tolerance of others, courtesy, direct communication, self-awareness, and teamwork become critical when traveling in groups in remote areas. Proper expedition behavior can make a difference between an enjoyable experience and a great one!

SMOKING, ALCOHOL, AND CELL PHONE POLICIES:

In the spirit of expedition behavior, please do not bring alcohol or illegal substances on the trip. Cigarettes are acceptable at established areas but are not allowed to be used in vehicles. We encourage you not to smoke on this trip as a wellness challenge! If you must smoke, please respect other participants, be aware of fire danger, and of course pack out all related trash. Please be respectful with cell phone use by stepping away from the group if you decide to use your cell phone during transportation to and from our destination. Please, no cell phone use while in the vehicle or during the canoeing portion of the trip. Thanks!

WHAT'S PROVIDED BY OAC:

All transportation, meals while at the activity site, all activity-related gear and camping equipment, camping fees, leadership, and instruction are provided by Outdoor Adventures. The trip cost does not include personal clothing and equipment, or meals outside of the activity site. Be sure to bring cash and a debit/credit card for meals and souvenirs.

MORE INFO:

Big Bend National Park www.nps.gov/bibe

CONTACTS:

UNL Outdoor Adventures Center: (402) 472-4777, <http://crec.unl.edu/>



PERSONAL GEAR CHECKLIST

The specifics of this list will be covered during the pre-trip meeting. Please come with specific questions so you are properly prepared for this trip.

Personal Paddling and Camping Clothes:

- River shoes (sandals with a heel strap) or old tennis shoes
- Camp shoes (old running shoes or sport sandals)
- Synthetic midweight hiking socks
- Synthetic underwear
- Synthetic long underwear
- Swim shorts
- Hiking shorts and/or pants (light & quick-drying)
- Synthetic short-sleeve top (1-2)
- Synthetic long-sleeve sun shirt (1-2)
- Rain/wind jacket (waterproof)
- Rain/wind pants (waterproof)
- Fleece or down insulating jacket
- Extra insulation (vest or sweater)
- Bandanna (optional)
- Midweight gloves
- Midweight stocking cap
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat

Personal Items:

- Sunscreen
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- DEET bug spray
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Prescription glasses with straps and/or contacts & case
- Personal first aid kit & small lighter
- Personal medication (e.g., Ibuprofen)/prescriptions
- Pocket knife/multi-tool
- Camera - make sure you can waterproof it!
- Journal & pencil/pen
- Reading book, Sudoku, cards, etc.
- Tampons or pads
- Hand sanitizer
- Blister care (moleskin & duct tape)
- Insulated mug or small thermos
- 2 one-liter water bottles (e.g., 1 large Nalgene® = 1L) or more
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Watch (with alarm)
- Daypack

Front Country Travel Clothes & Gear:

- Small backpack with car items (books, wallet, etc.,)
- Medium-sized duffel for personal gear (we will back our gear into drybags at the trailhead)
- Travel clothes for current weather conditions
- Small towel and travel shampoo/soap
- Front Country needs: toiletries, prescriptions, etc.
- Cash and/or credit card

Gear That Can Be Provided by OAC:

- Canoe
- Life jacket
- River rescue kit
- Dry bags
- River toilet
- Tent
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Camp chair
- Backcountry kitchen & food
- Water purification & water jugs
- Maps, compass, & permits (where necessary)
- Bowl & spoon
- Group first aid kits
- Other group related gear

Considerations: When packing for this field experience, please consider that there will be limited space available in the vehicles. Please keep your personal luggage to a minimum.

DAILY ITINERARY:

*Please note that this itinerary is just tentative and is subject to change based on the decisions of the trip leaders!
Also, the location of the trip will depend on water levels at the time. If they are low, there will be an alternate location.*

DAY 1 - Thursday, 3/10/22

12:00 pm Arrive Outdoor Adventures / Depart for Liberal, KS

Dinner On the Road*

9:00 PM Arrive at campsite

DAY 2 - Friday, 3/11/22

7:00 AM Breakfast in Liberal*

8:00 AM Depart Liberal

Lunch On the Road*

Early Evening Arrive at Heath Canyon Ranch-Put-in for Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande

Dinner On the Road*

Camping Heath Canyon Ranch, Texas

DAY 3 - 3/12/22, Saturday

Breakfast At our campsite

Morning River School and loading canoes

Lunch On the River

Afternoon Continue Paddle to our first Campsite

Dinner At our campsite/ followed by hiking & camp games

DAY 4 thru DAY 8- 3/13/22 - 3/18/22

Each day will consist of 4-5 hours of paddling, setting up camp, day hiking, cooking, and eating delicious camp meals, and relaxing and enjoying the scenery.

DAY 9 - 3/19/22

Breakfast At our last campsite, paddle to the take-out

Lunch At the take-out

Afternoon Drive to Texas Tech University in Lubbock

Dinner Great food in Lubbock*

Camping Texas Tech University

DAY 10 - 3/20/22

6:00 AM Depart Lubbock, Texas

Lunch/Dinner On the Road*

Evening Arrival at UNL Outdoor Adventures

Please note that meals marked with an asterisk (*) are not provided by Outdoor Adventures!