

Topock Gorge Canoeing Adventure, Car Camp (LA & SD)

March 26-28, 2010

Trip Leaders: LA - Klaus Gerhart (lagoodyguy@gmail.com)

SD - Sam Cohen (fronrunnersam@yahoo.com)



The highlight of this weekend trip is canoeing 17 miles down the Colorado River through Topock Gorge which is part of the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. You can only get there by boat!

Our weekend will start on Friday evening (you can arrive anytime after 3:00pm) at our campsite with its own private beach. Since Moabi Regional Park is about 4-5 hours from any of the Great Outdoors' Chapters, we're going to be holding our wine and tea welcome from 8pm-ish till the last person arrives! But don't over-do it 'cause our morning starts bright at 7:00am! (Have your dinner on the way or plan for something quick and easy once you arrive.)

At about 7:00am on Saturday, our Outfitter will drop off our canoes, paddles and flotation vests and give us all maps of the river and some good advice for the day. You're gonna want to be fed and caffeinated by this time so we can be on-the-water by 7:30am. We'll spend the entire day canoeing down the river and through the wildlife marshes. Along the first section of river, there are several tiny beaches where a few canoes could easily park and you could take a dip in the river (which is chilly, but not freezing). You can, in fact, stop anywhere along this river to explore, climb a dune, swim, rest, pee (but please don't pee in the river!) We can spread out along the river with no necessary structure; the entire day is for you and at-your-own-pace. Though at about half-way through our day of



paddling we'll all meet and shore our canoes to go see a large collection of Petroglyphs. This is the best place along the river for us to break for lunch because there's also a low cliff here for some rad cliff diving!

After lunch, we'll continue to paddle downstream at a fairly leisurely rate, seeing the sights and all the hot straight guys in their monster boats! About an hour or so from our lunch spot, there's a sandbar in the river where we'll stop again to mess around in the warmer/shallower water. Here you can dig in the sand, build yourself a sand castle or splash around like a little girl ... though I'm going to be looking for some Frisbee buddies!

After we leave the sandbar, there's a remaining 90 minutes or so of paddling to get us to our pick-up point. Once there, we have to carry our canoes a couple hundred yards from the river to the parking lot (they're not very heavy) and then our Outfitter will load-up the canoes and drive us 40 minutes back upriver to our campsite.

Since you're definitely gonna be feeling the effects of the many hours in the sun; and because you might be a little worn-out from cliff-diving and Frisbee-fetching; and because you're definitely gonna start to feel the burn of a day of paddling; and because you're really gonna want to shower some river and sand off of your slightly sunburned self ... we will forgo a 'tea' so everyone can rest, shower, change and prepare for the potluck. (Theme is beach BBQ ... contact me to coordinate your contribution).

Check-out time on Sunday is 1:00pm. This means you can either have a very relaxed morning, hanging out on our campsite's private beach and gradually finding your way back home ... **OR! ... You can caravan with me to the Mojave National Preserve (which is on the route back home) and join me for a fun run up Kelso Dunes.**

We'll leave Moabi at around 8:00am; drive an hour east on the 40 to the Mojave National Preserve (fill your tank in Needles, no matter how expensive it is .. there's no gas anywhere near Kelso Dunes); we'll go directly to Kelso Dunes and spend a couple hours climbing to the top and jumping off some sand ridges! After this sand fest, we'll go to the visitor's center at Kelso Depot, see an 8 minute film about the Preserve, shop in their gift shop and have lunch at the Beanery, a vintage 40's, authentic soda-fountain diner.

... NOW you may go home!

Itinerary:

Friday:

Arrive 3pm – midnight

8:00pm Wine & Tea welcome by campfire

Saturday:

7:00am meet with outfitter; in river by 7:30

3:30 out of river

4:00 back at camp

6:00 potluck

8:00 campfire

Sunday:

8:00am head to Kelso Dunes

9:30 arrive Kelso Dunes & Climb/Play

12:00 Kelso Depot for Lunch

1:00pm head home

Campsite: [Moabi Regional Park](#)

Our peninsula campsite is extraordinary with a 214' private beach, on an inlet of the Colorado River. The toilets are a few hundred feet from our site. Coin-operated hot showers are a 15 minute walk, or a 2 minute drive. Moabi Regional Park also has a convenience store, beach boutique, Beach Bar and Pirate Cove Grill restaurant. We may be able to accommodate an RV or 2 without hook-ups, but contact me before you send in your registration to be sure.

Topock Gorge: Topock Gorge stretches 20 miles along the lower Colorado River, from the Topock Bridge spanning I40 to the upper end of Lake Havasu. It is part of the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, created in 1941. The refuge protects 30 river miles and 300 miles of shoreline from Needles, CA to Lake Havasu City. The narrow gorge cradles a writhing, twisted section of river, one cursed by riverboat captains back in the days of big paddle-wheelers, which explains how an especially treacherous bend ended up with the name Devil's Elbow. The cliffs of Topock Gorge, carved into oddly leaning hoodoos, jagged spires and keyhole arches, enhance the drama of the journey.

One of the most beautiful sections of the Colorado, the Gorge features isolated coves and beaches – quiet backwaters offer great spots for picnicking, photography or napping. Topock Gorge is a wilderness area, home to abundant species of birds (many of them quite rare) and seldom seen wildlife. Bighorn sheep live in the gorge and come down to the water to drink and watch you make your way downriver. An important archaeological site, easily accessible from the River, contains a superb collection of ancient Indian petroglyphs.

Directions: from LA: 10E to 605N to 210E to 15N to 40E through Needles to Park Moabi Road exit then follow signs

[Click Here for MapQuest location](#)

What to bring:

- 1 Bundle of Firewood
- Potluck Item
- Breakfast/Coffee X2 mornings
- Sack Lunch for the River
- Cooler full of ice and beverages/snacks for the Canoe
- Bungee cords or rope to tie your cooler to the canoe in case you tip over
- FRISBEE
- Sunscreen
- Bug Repellant
- (T.P. ...just in case)
- Hat
- Water-shoes or old sneakers
- swimsuit or quick-dry shorts
- long-sleeves/pants if you're pale (it's going to be sunny and probably about 85 degrees)
- dry socks and underwear
- water-tight bag or some big Ziploc bags for your camera and lunch and dry clothes. (And of course, all your normal camping/outing gear).

Important: Carpooling is a must for this trip! Camp fees are charged PER CAR, not per person. If you can squeeze 2-3 people to a car ... please do it! I'll be happy to facilitate carpooling connections. Please let me know on your registration how many people you could accommodate, with their gear.

Got a canoe or kayak? You may bring it if you prefer, however, the outfitter charges the same to haul your kayak/canoe back to camp as they charge to rent one of theirs.



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Make check payable to **Great Outdoors** and mail to:
Klaus Gerhart, 427 S Serrano Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020
Phone: 323-493-0104

Name (*please print*) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GO Member # _____ Chapter: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone #: _____

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____

Group/Policy # _____

Physician: _____

Physician's Phone #: _____

I am carpooling with _____

I need a ride? Yes or No I Can offer a ride? Yes or No

Registration Fee

Member

- Camp Fee	\$37
- Outfitting Fee	<u>\$49</u>
TOTAL	\$86

Non-member

- Camp Fee	\$57
- Outfitting Fee	<u>\$49</u>
TOTAL	\$106

(includes eMembership)

Total Enclosed _____

Please note: There are no cancellations unless approved on a per-case-basis by the primary trip leader.

For trip leader's use

Date: _____

Check#: _____

Amount: _____

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, MEDICAL RELEASE AND ASSIGNMENT

I am aware that my participation in this GREAT OUTDOORS Inc. trip may include potentially hazardous activities, and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with the knowledge and understanding that I will use my best judgment to avoid injury to others and myself. I agree to follow the directions of the trip leader and abide by the rules of the facility I am using. I hereby release GREAT OUTDOORS Inc. including its officers, trail or trip leaders, agents or other persons working with GREAT OUTDOORS Inc. from any liability for injuries, physical or mental, which I may suffer by reason of participation in these activities.

I recognize in waiving this liability that I assume sole responsibility for my actions and cannot blame any injuries or losses on any other persons connected with GREAT OUTDOORS Inc. Our registration & cancellation deadline is one week prior to the first day of each outing. I hereby agree to assume full financial responsibility for any bills incurred by me for medical treatment as a result of my participation this GREAT OUTDOORS Inc. activity. In the event that I am unable to consent to medical care, I hereby authorize the trip leader to consent to emergency medical treatment for me, including hospitalizations and surgery, as may be determined under the circumstances.

Health problems/allergies: It is the responsibility of participants to carry on their person a record of significant allergies, medications, and medical history in the event of a medical emergency.

Signature _____ Date _____