



## RIO GRANDE TEXAS & MEXICO

### LOWER CANYONS (7 River Days) 'Spring Break'

#### 90 miles Class II - Class III

This wilderness trip is in the warm sun of southern Texas and goes to the Mexican border, below Big Bend National Park. The river winds through the solitude and silence of deep chasms, rocky flats and desert mountains. The water is baked in the southern sun to a temperature of 70° with daytime highs of 60 - 90°. The desert spring bloom during March and April adds a special dimension to this journey into southern wilderness.

This river section has been designated *"wild and scenic"* and has quiet water stretches, good rapids and fascinating hikes to old homesteads and the mysterious Candelilla (Candle Making) ruins. The pace offers time to perfect boating skills with instruction or relax on the rafts.

### COLORADO & SANTA ELENA CANYONS (1 - 4 Days)

#### 'Thanksgiving Holiday'

#### 19 & 21 miles (40 total) Class II - III+

Warm sun, spectacular canyons, and moderate rapids make these trips perfect for a family Thanksgiving holiday. The Colorado Canyons cut through igneous rock, offering fun rapids of Class II and Class III. In the Santa Elena Canyon, you will raft beneath magnificent sheer limestone walls towering up to 1500 feet above. Rockslide rapid is sure to excite the whitewater enthusiast. *This is an excellent trip for inflatable kayaks with full raft support from Dvoraks.* (See instructional schedule for rates). [www.dvorakexpeditions.com](http://www.dvorakexpeditions.com)

### FLOAT NOTES

These float notes will help you prepare for your river trip. There is information on everything from travel and lodging arrangements, typical weather and menus to cancellation and refund policies. If you have any questions that are not answered in these float notes, give us a call. When reading these notes, it is helpful to have a road map of Texas nearby.



*Dvorak's has Nine Rivers to offer for a total of 29  
Canyons in a five state area!*

[www.DvorakExpeditions.com](http://www.DvorakExpeditions.com)

### SEASON

Spring and Fall on the Rio Grande are the nicest times of year in this area. There are many desert wild flowers in bloom in spring. The weather is warm and comfortable and it rarely rains, making for many wonderful nights under the stars. There are few, if any, insects or reptiles present in the spring time. The fall usually offers higher water levels and the color changes of fall in the desert are inviting to the photographer.

### PERMITS

#### Outfitting since 1969

We operate on the Rio Grande under commercial use license administered by Big Bend National Park. We are Colorado's first licensed outfitter, licensed by Colorado's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. All our permits and licenses are your assurance that Dvorak Expeditions is legally operating on the river and that our guides, past performance and qualifications have met detailed requirements and more.

### DVORAK EXPEDITIONS

17921 U.S. Highway 285, Nathrop, CO 81236

Ph. (719) 539-6851 or (800) 824-3795

Email: [info@DvorakExpeditions.com](mailto:info@DvorakExpeditions.com)

### THE TRIP PACKAGE

### *The following are included in your Dvorak Expedition*

- Professionally guided rafts. Accredited Instructors
- All rafting equipment/life jackets/drinking water
- Pre-and post-trip arrangements as described in notes.
- ½ to multi day expedition on rafts or kayak – canoe instructional courses.
- All on-river meals (lunch day 1 through lunch last day)
- Rain jacket with pants (PVC)
- Eating utensils, plates, complimentary Dvorak cup (multi-day trips)
- Waterproof dry bags/containers for personal gear
- 6-man rain tarps for shelter in camp area

### *You are responsible for the following*

- Transportation to the arranged meeting point!
- Personal clothing and other sundry items
- Transportation from the arranged drop off point.
- Pre-and post-lodging with meals
- **Gratuities are not included in trip cost.**

### **GUIDES**

Our guides are experienced men and women skilled at handling their craft. They all have current first aid, CPR and Swift Water Rescue Technicians and have fulfilled guide qualification requirements in the states of Colorado, Utah, Texas and New Mexico and Wyoming. Trip Leaders have thousands of river miles of experience on all classes of whitewater including background knowledge of all those trips with Dvorak Expeditions.

### **YOUR HEALTH**

Our river trips are not strenuous, but they are a dramatic change in routine for most people. Although the trip is relaxing, the area is remote, so you should be in relatively good health. Please let us know when you return the release form if you have any health problems or concerns. If you have dietary restrictions, we'll gladly accommodate your needs with sufficient notice.

[www.DvorakExpeditions.com](http://www.DvorakExpeditions.com)

### **CAMPING**

Campsites on the Rio Grande are numerous and spacious. Most have interesting side canyon hikes nearby and are well kept as wilderness. Some campsites are adjacent to fresh free-flowing mineral warm springs which give us a chance to refill our drinking water as well as pools to soak in.

On trips with Dvoraks, our river guides will provide instruction about disposal of human waste, the disposal of different types of trash, and other camp practices. Minimum-impact camping practices have enhanced these sites and you'll see few reminders other than foot prints of previous visitors.

### **FISHING**

Due to its inaccessibility, the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande have arguably some of the best and biggest catfish fishing in Texas. You are welcome to fish during our rafting trip. This is a unique style of fishing on the Rio and takes a dedicated cat fisherman to catch these 3 - 60+ pounders. You must have a valid Texas fishing license for the Rio Grande.

**CUSTOM FLOAT FISHING AND WADE/WALK:** We also set up custom trout fishing trips in Colorado on some of the best trout rivers in the U.S. (Request more information on these trips).

### **CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**RIVER USE ETHICS:** The river areas are fragile environments that degrade without proper care by visitors. To protect the river, we use minimum impact camping techniques carrying out all trash and human waste, etc. The guides will instruct you in simple procedures that minimize the impact our group has on the canyon and we request your cooperation.

**We take pride in having the highest standard of river ethics possible.**

### **FOOD**

All on-river meals are provided, beginning with lunch the first day and ending with lunch the last day. The food is fresh and hearty and the guides will prepare it for you while you enjoy the homey atmosphere generated around each river camp. You can set up your tent or go for an evening walk, relax, read, or join the guides in the kitchen if you so desire.

A typical seven-day menu may include as a main course BBQ Steak, Baked Fish, Pork chops and dumplings, chicken enchiladas, seafood spaghetti, cashew chicken Chinese, Teriyaki Chicken, Mexican chili, combination entrees, fresh vegetables and salads, Dutch-oven desserts or breads, hors d'oeuvres, fresh fruits, fruit juices, coffee, tea and a complimentary glass of wine with dinner.

Lunches are buffet style with a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, fruit, cheeses, sliced meats, nuts, juices or sodas.

Breakfast includes fruit juice, eggs in all styles, special pancakes, French toast, melons, fruit, cereals with milk, sausage, bacon, coffee, tea or hot chocolate. **We can accommodate special diets with notice and almost always the menu will suit vegetarian choices.**

Although we carry ample supplies of juices, coffee, tea and hot chocolate we encourage you to bring extra soda, beer, wine or other beverages you may prefer. You can arrange for us to pick up specific beverages for you prior to the trip or you can stock up before we head to the river. Any liquids you bring must be in unbreakable containers, limited to one case per person.

### **ALCOHOL**

You're welcome to bring alcohol if it is in unbreakable containers. **Discretion in alcohol consumption during whitewater days is strongly advised.** If you would like us to pick up a selection of beer and bring it to the river, please advise and payment can be made for your purchase at the river put-in with your Trip Leader.

### **WEATHER**

March and April on the Mexico-Texas border is considered by many to be the best time of the year for this country. Daytime temperatures are usually quite warm, 70 - 90° and night-time temperatures are usually in the mid to high 40 - 50° range. It is, however, as susceptible to seasonal cold snaps as anywhere else. The one trip we've had in the last ten years that had a skiff of ice on the water buckets one morning is reason enough to remind us it is a wilderness and to ask you to bring enough warm clothes to be comfortable should it happen again.

November is warm fall days with cool evenings. Water levels are seasonally beginner / intermediate levels.

### **PRE-TRIP ARRANGEMENTS**

**BY PLANE:** Arrive in Midland, Texas the day prior to your trip or on the morning your trip begins, provided you can

arrive prior to 8:00 a.m. (Central Time Zone) Dvorak Expeditions will pick you up at the Airport Plaza Inn, or meet your plane very early the morning of the first day of your trip (between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Check your confirmation letter for more precise time.) We will need to know where you are staying for contact purposes. *There are numerous airlines with flights into Midland from a variety of connecting cities. United, Continental, American and Delta service the Midland Airport daily.*

**BY CAR:** Arrive in Ft. Stockton, Texas at the Econo Lodge which is located at 800 East Dickinson, on the eastern edge of town, at approximately 12:00 noon on the day your trip begins. Dvoraks will rendezvous with you there and then transport you by van to the put-in point at LaLinda, Mexico for Lower Canyons & Big Bend National Park for Colorado Canyon 4 day trips: an additional 2.5 - 3 hours travel time. Your vehicle can be left in the Econo Lodge parking lot and you will be returned there approximately mid-day on the last day of your trip. There is both a lounge and restaurant at the motel.

**Directions:** Ft. Stockton, Texas can be reached from the north via U.S. Highway 985 from Pecos or Texas Highway 18 from Monahans. From the west and east via Interstate 10 and from the south via Highway 385 from Marathon, Texas.

Any extra clothing, suitcases, etc. can either be stored in the Dvorak vehicle/trailer and will be available at trip's end or at your motel in Midland/Odessa or Ft. Stockton.

## OUR MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS

### Locations:

We recommend the following for pre-& post-trip:  
**Airport Plaza Inn (AAA) I-20 Exit Midland Airport**

3312 South County Road 1276

Midland, TX 79706

(432) 561-8000 (Fax) 561-5243

\*\*\* **Econo Lodge** at (I-10 Exit 261)

[www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com)

800 East Dickinson

Ft. Stockton, TX 79735

(432) 336-9711 (800) 553-2666

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AT TRIP'S END

After derigging and loading equipment on the last day of your trip, Dvorak Expeditions will either

- Take you back to your motel/hotel in Midland, Texas
- Shuttle you to the Midland Airport
- Deliver you to the place where you left your car
- Arrange to have your car shuttled to the take-out (Cost per vehicle to be arranged depending on trip length and distance to shuttle.)

**POST TRIP:** Although you can usually make a connecting flight home on the evening of the last day of the trip, we recommend you fly out the following morning in case inclement weather or other circumstances delays our arrival in Midland.

Remember, "River Time" is unpredictable. **PLEASE CALL AND CONFIRM YOUR SHUTTLE ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO TRIP.** (719) 539-6851 Phone (719) 539-3378 fax

## DVORAK'S WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

We furnish rugged inflatable self-bailing rafts 12 to 16 feet in length. We provide all necessary river raft equipment, pfd's (Type V), water-proof dry bags for personal gear, first-aid and safety supplies. There is 1 guide on every raft and the ratio of 1 instructor to 4 students on any instructional clinic. We have instructional rental equipment available: Camping equipment: tents, sleeping bags, pads, ground sheets, as well as wetsuit and boot rentals available for the trip or by the day rental.

**RAFT TYPE:** Most rivers you can choose to be in a **paddle raft (participatory)** or an **oared raft, (passenger)**. Paddle rafts have 4-6 persons to 1 guide. **(Confirm type prior to trip)**

### PERSONAL TRIP EQUIPMENT LIST

#### ONE DAY TRIP

- Nylon shorts or swim suit under wetsuit
- **Long john style wetsuit/boots for cold months \***
- Non-cotton shirt or poly propylene top (fleece top)
- Pair of tennis shoes - tie on preferred or wet boots.
- **Wool socks** will help keep feet warm in tennis shoes
- Sun glasses with loss protector/keeper (with UV protection)
- Sun block (over 5,000' altitude - lots of UV exposure)
- Hat for sun protection (tie-on)
- Rain gear set is provided unless you want to bring your own
- Bandanna and a pair of lite gloves for sun protection.
- Waterproof camera or a very good waterproof case.

#### MULTI-DAY (2-10) TRIPS

As well as the gear for a one-day trip, add the following for multi-day trips. Please limit your gear to about 30 pounds in weight. It should be able to be packed into a standard duffel bag. This list should cover everything for a safe, comfortable trip.

- Compact sleeping bag (not down) with ensolite pad
- Small backpack style tent w/ fly & ground sheet
- Long pants (one light weight to block the sun)
- **1 warm wool/ pile/ fleece type\*)**
- Long sleeved shirts (**one warm\*/one light weight**)
- Warm jacket\*, wind proof or Fleece, water resistant
- Small towel / biodegradable soap / shampoo / lotion etc.
- Flashlight and extra batteries with new bulb.
- Personal items kit (hygiene) medicines etc.
- **EXTRA BEVERAGES - PLASTIC** containers of liquor, **CANNED** beer only. An adequate supply of soft drinks is provided. If you prefer diet drinks, please request them in advance. Complimentary wine is provided at dinner.
- **OPTIONAL ITEMS:** Field glasses waterproof protection, Zip locks, small nylon stuff sacks to you're your items in dry bags. Journal/notebook, book, knife/pliers tool is useful at camp. Day pack for side hikes, Extra lg.zip-lock bags. Small air pillow.

\* **Can be excluded during warmer weather**

## RENTALS

### TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS & WET SUITS

- \$15 Lightweight Sleeping Bag / Foam-Ensolite pad

- \$25 Three-man dome tent with floor & ground sheet one night, \$50 two or more nights
- \$10 Therma-Rest Sleep pad, self-inflatable ensolated.
- \$25 Long John Wet suit with neoprene booties
- \$50 Inflatable Kayaks (single or double) per multi day trip

**Note: These items need to be reserved and payment is due along with your trip balance 45 days prior to departure. Be sure to give your height, weight and shoe size for wet suit rentals.**

## KAYAK EQUIPMENT RENTAL

You are welcome to bring your own equipment for our instructional clinics or sign up for the clinics inclusive of all equipment. If you would just like to bring personal paddling gear and have us supply the boat only, that is acceptable and cuts the rental cost 30 - 40%.

Our rental equipment includes state of the art hard shell kayaks- SUP boards \* Hyside Inflatable Kayaks \* Wet suits and boots \* Drysuits \* paddle jackets \* life jackets \* helmet \* flotation \* spray skirts \* paddles.

## INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST

Full kayak or canoe instruction package will include the following or you can rent any of the equipment (See rental form)

- Hard Shell Kayak or Stand-Up paddleboards
- Flotation in each boat
- Paddle (variety to suit)
- Paddle jacket (Wind proof)
- Farmer john/jane wetsuit & boots
- Type III lifejacket & Helmet to size

**You will need to bring the following:**

- Polypropylene top/bottoms underwear
- Thin billed cap to wear under helmet
- Nylon shorts or bathing suit to wear under wetsuit
- Paddling gloves
- Fleece paddle jacket (not bulky)

**NOTE: Be sure to complete your required personal equipment list for camp from the rafting dry bag check list.**

## FORMS

Thank you for joining us on the Rio Grande this season. You will find most information in the river notes. We request that you **fill out the forms enclosed and return them to us as soon as possible.**

- Medical & Acknowledgment of Risk Form (1 each)
- Trip Questionnaire with passenger list (address/phone)
- Rental requests (height, weight, shoe size for wetsuits)
- Camping or Instructional Rental Reservation Form
- Instructional questionnaire if kayaking /canoeing

## RESPONSIBILITY

Dvorak Expeditions will assume no responsibility for injury to trip members, damage, or loss of belongings, or for time or expense incurred. We require you to READ and SIGN a liability release form prior to your trip Please fill out the health questionnaire. Because of the risk associated with river trips, including possible personal injury, property loss and financial loss in the event of cancellation,

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## PERFORMANCE

It is sometimes necessary to cancel or modify a trip because of unusual circumstances. We reserve the right to

cancel or modify any trip due to weather or water conditions or other circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we cannot be responsible for paying expenses other than refunding all or part of the fees paid to Dvorak Expeditions. The determination of refunds (if any) will be made after reviewing trip details.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION INSURANCE

Bill Dvorak Kayak & Rafting Expeditions Inc. recommends that you purchase a Travelex travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip interruption, Emergency Medical & Emergency Evacuation- Repatriation. Trip delay, baggage delay and more.

For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, click on the link below or contact **Travelex Insurance Services @ 800- 228-9792 and reference location number #06-0520** Please note: To be eligible for the waiver of pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, the protection plan must be purchased within 21 days (Travel Select) or 30 days (Travel Max) from the time you make your initial trip deposit. However, the plan can be purchased any time prior to departure.

For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations, and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294

## RESERVATIONS & CANCELLATIONS

**Please read our cancellation policy carefully,** as it applies in every instance. If YOU must cancel your reservation, you may be eligible for a partial refund. Our cancellation policy is firm. We operate under stringent federal regulations, which restrict the number of guests per trip and the number of trips per season. We incur substantial expenses before each trip departs. In the event of late cancellation, Dvorak Expeditions cannot recover costs, nor can we make refunds.

## DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

**ONE DAY TRIPS:** An advance deposit of \$25 per person is required when making reservations. The total is due 45 days prior to your trip. Charge card numbers will be accepted for deposit confirmation on short notice bookings. When cancellation is made 2 days prior to trip, all monies are refunded **LESS** \$25 per person. *With less than 2 days' notice, no monies are refunded* (this includes credit card charges).

**MULTI-DAY TRIPS:** A minimum advance deposit of \$100 or 25% of trip cost per person is required when making reservations. The total is due 45 days prior to trip. When cancellations are made more than 30 days before the trip - all moneys are refunded **LESS** \$50 per person. If cancellation is made less than 30 days before the trip, the deposit of 25% per person is non-refundable. *With less than 14 days' notice, no monies are refunded.* (This includes all credit card charges.)

**Worldwide 719 539-6851 | 800 824-3795 Toll Free**

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