



Green River

The river that gave the town of Green River its name is the main attraction of this small town. The river snakes through extremely remote canyons in central Utah north of the town and through red rock canyons south of town before merging with the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park. From town one can find some good white water rafting as well as peaceful and beautiful float trips. The town of Green River is also a good base from which to explore the starkly beautiful San Raphael Swell to the west. Of note in town is the John Wesley Powell Museum, a good small museum about the explorer.



Green River is located just along I-70 in east central Utah. It is 45 miles northwest of Arches National Park and 60 miles northwest of Canyonlands. Green River has a good selection of motels and plenty of places to eat, as well as other essential services for the traveler.

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River Running

Both calm water and white water river trips are available from the town of Green River. Presented below are:

- General Descriptions of the various river segments
- a List of Outfitters who rent equipment and lead trips



RIVER DESCRIPTIONS

Desolation and Gray Canyons

Desolation and Gray Canyons are located deep within the rugged and remote desert canyons of central Utah. Through the canyons are 60 rapids, mostly Class 1 and 2 with some Class 3 rapids. Along the way are some good Fremont rock art sites, other historical sites and pretty red rock canyons. There is also some good hiking to be had in canyons off the main river.

The put-in point is at Sand Wash 42 miles south of the town of Myton and 70 miles east of Price. The drive from the town of Green River is a difficult 100+ mile trek, but you can fly from Green River to a strip near the put in. Take out is typically at Swaseys Beach [10] miles north of the town of Green River. Numerous outfitters (see list below) lead trips through Desolation and Gray canyons lasting from 4-6 days. If you want to tackle it yourself, contact BLM office in Price at 435-637-4591. (To add a little excitement, some outfitters pack inflatable kayaks with the rafts, so individuals can tackle rapids themselves.)

Green River Daily

The "Green River Daily" is a popular 9-mile half day trip on the Green River through the southern portion of Gray Canyon. Put in is at Nefertiti Rapid and take out is at Swaseys Beach, 10 miles north of the town of Green River. This segment contains just seven sets of rapids -- Class 1 to 3 -- that are enough to keep things lively, but not overwhelm. A guide is not necessary, though they are available.

Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons

The Green River south of town meanders peacefully through beautiful red rock canyons for about 100 miles to the confluence with the Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park. The river here is mostly wide and moves easily. Canoeing is most popular on this segment, though power boats also cruise the river here (and follow the Colorado River upstream to Moab). At the 4-1/2 mile mark is [Crystal Geyser](#).

You can put in at Green River State Park in town or at the Mineral Canyon boat dock 45 miles downstream at the edge of Canyonlands. Outfitters lead guided canoe trips from both points, and also rent canoes and provide shuttle service (see below).

Cataract Canyon on the Colorado River

Cataract Canyon is located deep within Canyonlands National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area just past the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers. It contains some of the best whitewater in the country, with 26 rapids from Class 3 to 4+. As most adventurers use Moab as a base for this section, you'll want to see Moab-River Activities for details.

The San Rafael River

The San Rafael River flows swiftly but without rapids through the great scenery of the San Rafael Swell west of Green River and north of I-70. High cliff walls rise above the river in this area known as the "Little Grand Canyon." Put in is typically at Fullers Bottom and take out is at the San Rafael Campground 15 miles and 5 to 6 hours later. (Further on are dangerous rapids.) Outfitters from Green River and Price will set you up with equipment and provide transportation.



The following outfitters rent equipment, lead guided trips and/or provide shuttle services.

Adrift Adventures	378 N. Main St. - Moab	800-874-4483
Adventure Bound	2392 H Road - Grand Jct, CO	800-423-4668
Adventure River Expeditions	415 N. Main St. - Moab	800-331-3324
Canyon Voyages	690 S. Main St. - Moab	800-733-6007
Chapoose River & Trails	32 S. 100 West - Roosevelt	800-854-4364

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Colorado River Expeditions	5058 S. 300 West - Salt Lake	800-253-7328
Holiday River & Bike Expeditions	1055 E. Main St.	800-624-6323
Moki Mac River Expeditions	6006 S. 1300 East - Salt Lake	800-284-7280
O.A.R.S.	543 N. Main St. - Moab	800-346-6277
Sheri Griffith Expeditions	2231 S. Hwy. 191 - Moab	800-332-2439
Western River Expeditions	1371 N. Hwy. 191 - Moab	800-453-7450

See Utah Publications-River Running for a complete list of publications covering river running near Green River and throughout Utah.

Other Things to Do

John Wesley Powell River History Museum

John Wesley Powell was the proverbial "intrepid explorer" who led mapping expeditions of the Green and Colorado Rivers from 1869-72. (He had only one arm and had to be lashed to a chair aboard his wooden raft as they tackled these wild unknown rivers.)

This small, though fine museum, presents in adequate fashion the history of his exploits, including a good 20 minute multi-media presentation through slides.

The museum is opened daily from 9-8 during the summer and 9-5 the rest of the year. Admission and the presentation are free. It also has a well stocked gift and book shop. 885 E. Main St.; 435-564-3427.

Geysers

Crystal Geyser is a cold water geyser powered by carbon dioxide and other gases. It erupts a few times a day at irregular intervals. A typical eruption last about seven minutes and sends an impressive amount of water up to 60 feet skyward. The folks at the Grand County (800-635-6622) or Emery County (888-564-3600) travel councils usually have a bead on its latest eruption schedule. The geyser is located about 10 miles south of town on an unpaved road that's passable for cars in dry weather.

Woodside Geyser is smaller than Crystal Geyser but erupts on a more regular pattern. It is located on a dirt road off Hwy. 191/6 about 23 miles northwest of Green River.

Rock Art

There are two good ancient rock art areas just off I-70 near Green River. Narrow Black Dragon Canyon has pictographs of a dragon, geometric shapes, human figures and more. They are located about 14 miles west of Green River on a dirt road off I-70. Take a dirt road north off I-70 just past marker 145 (it's not a marked exit) for 1 mile and turn left 1/2 mile up a stream bed to the canyon mouth. The pictographs are 1/4 mile up the canyon.

Thompson Canyon has some wonderful pictographs and petroglyphs of bug-eyed human forms and animals. They are located at a stream crossing 3.5 miles north of the town of Thompson, which is north of I-70, 25 miles east of Green River. (Near the pictographs is the ghost town of Segoe.)

Scenic Drives

The Green River Scenic Drive is a dirt road that follows the Green River for 9 miles through the southern end of Gray Canyon. The route has good scenery of the canyon walls and the river pushing through. The road is rough and bumpy so you'll need to drive slowly. Roundtrip from Green River is about 38 miles and should take 3 hours. There is a pleasant picnic area 10 miles north of Green River at Swasey Beach at the mouth of the canyon. To get there, drive east on I-70 Business from downtown Green River and take a left at the first street past the bridge (1200 East). At mile 6 you'll need to turn onto a dirt road marked with a sign to Nefertiti

We can't quite bring ourselves to recommend getting on interstate with no destination in mind, but I-70 west of Green River cuts through wonderful scenery of the San Raphael Swell. If you are heading west, drive the speed limit in the right lane and pull off at a few of the many lookouts.

Scenic Flights

Small plane scenic flights and helicopter rides over Canyonlands and Arches national parks, Lake Powell and other areas are available from several outfitters. Canyonlands Airport is 35 miles southeast of Green River off Hwy. 191.

Arches & Classic Helicopter Serv.	435-259-4637
Desert Highlights	800-747-1342
Geo-Seis Helicopters	435-259-3966
Redtail Aviation	800-842-9251
Slickrock Air Guides	800-332-2439

Lodging and Dining

Green River has a good number of motels and a selection of places to eat. Your choices are set out below.

Lodging

Bankurz Hatt Bed & Breakfast	214 Farrer St.; Box 33	435-564-3382	4 rooms	\$\$\$
Best Western River Terrace	885 E. Main St.; Box 420	800-528-1234	51 rooms	\$\$\$
Budget Host Book Cliff Lodge	395 E. Main St.; Box 545	800-493-4699	78 rooms	-\$\$\$\$
Budget Inn Motel	60 E. Main St.; Box 338	435-564-3441	30 rooms	-\$\$\$
Carter's Oasis Motel & Cafe	118 W. Main St.; Box 16	435-564-3471	20 rooms	\$
Comfort Inn	1065 E. Main St.; Box 604	800-228-5150	57 rooms	\$\$
Mancos Rose Motel	20 W. Main St.; Box 613	435-564-9660		\$
Motel 6	946 E. Main St	800-4-MOTEL6	103 rooms	
National 9 Inn	456 W. Main St.; Box 327	800-474-3304	30 rooms	\$
Robbers Roost Motel	225 W. Main St.; Box 543	435-564-3452	20 rooms	-\$\$\$
Ruby Ranch	Box 540	435-564-3538	3 rooms	\$\$\$
Sleepy Hollow Motel	69 E. Main St.; Box 420	435-564-8189	17 rooms	\$
Super 8 Motel	1248 E. Main St.; Box 618	800-800-8000	68 rooms	-\$\$\$
West Winds Rodeway Inn	525 E. Main St.; Box 570	435-564-3421	42 rooms	-\$\$\$\$

Pricing Code: \$ = under \$50; \$\$ = \$50-75; \$\$\$ = \$75-125

Dining

list to come

Camping



PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

Green River KOA	550 Green River Blvd.	435-564-3651	77 sites	4/1-10/15
Shady Acres RV Park	370 E Main	435-564-8290	50 sites	
United Campground	910 E Main	435-564-8195	65 sites	



PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

- Green River State Park (435-564-3633) has a pleasant modern campground along the Green River in town. It's shaded by cottonwoods and has nice lawns. 42 sites; drinking water; hot showers; modern restrooms; elev. 4,100'; open all year; reservations: 800-322-3770; \$11.
- Swasey Beach is a very pleasant picnic area with primitive camping available. It is set along a bend in the Green River at the mouth of Grays Canyon with a sandy beach and tall cottonwoods. open sites; no drinking water; vault toilets; elev. 4,500'; open all year; first-come, first-serve; no fee.
- San Rafael Bridge Campground is a primitive (and not very attractive) BLM campground along the San Rafael River in the terrifically desolate San Rafael Swell. It is located about 45 miles northwest of Green River. 8 sites; **no drinking water**; vault toilets; elev. 5,100'; year round; first-come, first-serve; \$5.

Practicalities



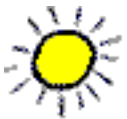
GETTING THERE

By Car or RV

Green River is located along I-70 about 70 miles west of the Colorado border. It is about 50-70 miles northwest of Arches and Canyonlands national parks and Moab.

By Plane, Train or Bus

There is an Amtrak station (800-872-7245) and a Greyhound bus stop (800-231-2222) in town. There is no plane service or rental cars available.



WHEN TO GO/CLIMATE

Green River experiences very hot summers. The best time to visit is spring or fall when temperatures are more moderate. Average daily highs and lows are set forth below.

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun.</u>	<u>Jul.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
High	41	50	62	72	81	91	96	93	84	71	57	43
Low	10	23	31	39	47	54	61	59	50	38	29	19



USEFUL ADDRESSES & PHONE #'S

Emery County Travel Council	Green River	888-564-3600
Grand County Travel Council	805 N. Main St. - Moab	800-635-6622
Arches National Park	Box 907	435-259-8161
Canyonlands National Park		435-259-7164
BLM Grand Resource Center	82 East Dogwood - Moab	435-259-6111



Other Outfitters

Ruby Ranch/Western Wildlife Serv. I-70 Exit 173 South 435-564-3538 4wd/ horseback riding

Outdoor Gear

list to come

Bookstores

John W. Powell Museum 885 E. Main St. 435-564-3427 good selection

Special Events

Magic Melon Days -- The farmers near Green River grow some of the tastiest melons anywhere. And on the third weekend of September they celebrate the melon harvest with a parade.... and lots of free melons.

Religious Services

Latter Day Saints 395 W. 400 North 435-564-3296