

Canyon Backpacking

Paria Canyon Wilderness, Utah
March 9 – 16, 2024



Registration closes February 2, 2024 5:00PM

Trip Leaders:

SOBO: Sophia F. & Audrey M.

NOBO: Justin I., Sienna M., & Kris C.

Informational Meeting:

Friday January 19 6:30PM – Outdoor Adventure Center

Mandatory Pre-Trip Meetings:

February 2 6:30PM – OAC – Trip Introductions and Preparation

March 3 2:00PM – REC 160A – Bring all personal gear for the trip.



Advanced Backpacking Expedition

Paria Canyon Wilderness, UT/AZ



*Itineraries may shift according to regional conditions.
Alternate Southern UT options are developed according to the conditions.*

Saturday, March 9, 2024

AM Independent Travel to Las Vegas (LAS) Airport

Participants are responsible for airfare and transport of their backpack with gear (equivalent of one checked bag).

Flight must arrive by 2PM

2:30PM Meet in Baggage Claim

2:30PM Van Pick-up & Departure for camp

Sunday, March 10 – Friday, March 15

6 days on Trail

PM – Exit Canyon for Campground, Showers, and Victory Dinner in town

Saturday, March 16

AM – Organize and pack for return flights

2PM – Earliest departure time from LAS Airport

Saturday, March 16

2PM – Gear check-in at OAC

Participants arrange independent travel to Las Vegas Airport for this trip. From the airport, ROPE provides all transportation necessary to complete the trip. Participants will cover one meal in St. George, UT following our exit from the trail. Registration covers all remaining meals while on trail, essential backpacking gear, recreation area permitting, and campsite permitting. This trip has a \$250 nonrefundable deposit. ROPE recommends travel insurance for our extended trips to help offset the risk of the unexpected or prohibitive environmental changes in the broader regional area. ROPE will have alternate trips planned nearby if area of impact is localized.

Backpacking experience and physical fitness preparation are required for this trip.

Paria Canyon is a national wilderness area known for its narrow winding slot canyons including Buckskin Gulch, the longest slot canyon in the world. Over the course of 6 days and 5 nights, this expedition will travel between 35 and 45 miles through the canyon. Participants will be backpacking from dispersed camping area to dispersed camping area carrying all the equipment they need to explore a wild and majestic landscape. Lower mileage days present opportunities for the group to rest or explore side canyons as day hikes. Suitable drinking water is scarce in the canyon and the trip will often carry 4-5 liters per person as they travel. This expedition will practice Leave No Trace ethics and educate all participants in the practices and philosophy that aid in maintaining the wilderness and natural spaces.

The terrain is inspiring but can be hazardous. Slot canyons change with each seasonal rain, where flash floods can quickly flood and carry boulders and sediment crashing down the canyon. ROPE will conduct this trip with all due caution and risk management in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our participants. Participants should expect a challenging and sometimes strenuous trip. The terrain is often rugged and participants will find themselves walking through mud, cold pools, and the Paria River frequently before being able to change into dry clothes at the day's end. The challenge is high, but the rewards are great with such an experience.

In addition to being more arid than Houston, the desert environment can be quite cold at night with large swings in temperature during the day. During this season we can expect 30F nights inside the canyon with days ranging from warm to cold according to how much sun and shade is present. There will be extended periods during which the sun will not touch the canyon floor followed by wider canyons with open skies.

Participants are expected to:

-Possess an adventurous spirit and be excited to explore and tackle the challenges we encounter!

-Have prior backpacking experience with multiple consecutive nights outdoors, and travel distances of at least 6 miles in a single day.

-Be in good physical and mental health and possess the physical strength to manage challenges including: carrying a 45-50lb backpack, backpack for 8-12 miles over rugged terrain including some scrambling, wade through cold water pools, and maintain composure during challenges.

-Learn and practice exemplary Leave No Trace philosophy and methods.

Hikers must carry out all trash and solid human waste in Paria Canyon. Wag bags are provided by ROPE with recreation area permits.

-Follow directions where the group takes precautionary action to minimize risk.

-Provide essential footwear and clothing that meets the demands of this trip.

Hiking boots/shoes are required. Sneakers and running shoes will not be permitted as footwear.

An insulated down or synthetic jacket (puffy) is required.

-Do not bring personal electronics. This is a disconnected trip focused on a wilderness experience. Phones can be used as cameras but will remain on airplane mode.

-Cell reception is non-existent in the canyons. ROPE carries emergency satellite messengers, but participants and families should expect no contact until trips complete their journey.

Gear List for Backpacking Trips

Please follow this guide to dress & pack appropriately for this trip. All required items must be brought to the pre-trip meeting. Any questions or concerns should be raised early to provide you as much time as possible to find a suitable and economic replacement.

Essential items ROPE provides:

- ✓ Backpack w/ rain cover
- ✓ Sleeping Bag
- ✓ Sleeping Bag Liner
- ✓ Sleeping Pad
- ✓ Bowl & Personal Utensils
- ✓ Headlamp
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Tents
- ✓ Water Bladder
- ✓ Cooking Equipment
- ✓ Trail Meals

Optional/Recommended:

- Sunglasses (strongly recommended)
- Camera (H2O protection encouraged)
- 1 pair of waterproof pants
- Sun hat
- Bandana(s)
- Journal & Pen
- Cards/Game
- Water reservoir (Camelbak)
One-liter back-up bottle required.

Small Bag for travel:

- 1 pair of pants
- 1 shirt
- 1 underwear
- 1 pair of socks
- Toiletries for shower
- Shoes (or camp shoes)

Required personal items:

- 1 Pair of Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes
Non-Waterproof Strongly Recommended.
- 2-3 pairs of hiking socks (synthetic or wool only)
- 1 Hooded Rain Jacket (No Ponchos)
- 1 down or synthetic insulated jacket (puffy)
- 0-2 non-cotton T-shirts
- 1-2 non-cotton long-sleeve shirts
- 1-2 synthetic pants
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1 insulating long-sleeve shirt
- 1 insulating legs layer
- 3-4 underwear
- 1 warm hat
- Warm Gloves
- Campshoes (lightweight; e.g. sandals/crocs)
- Personal Toiletries (Toothbrush, etc.)
- 2 Bottles for water (storage for 2 liters)
- Small and lightweight face towel (4x4in)
- Medications (for allergies, etc.)
You must inform us if you take any medications.
- Money for meals on the road (if applicable)
- Passport/Travel ID and Papers

It is not necessary for you to purchase a lot of expensive equipment; many items listed may be available from friends or family. Items that you choose to purchase may be available at lower costs online suppliers, thrift stores, or your local outdoor specialty shop. Our major concern is that all participants have appropriate equipment for a safe and comfortable experience.

If you are unsure whether an item or clothing you own is appropriate for this trip, please contact us prior to the trip or bring the item/clothing to the pre-trip meeting.

Please leave jewelry, electronics, and other non-essentials at home.

These requirements are for the safety and comfort of participants. ROPE reserves the right to refuse involvement in the program to anyone not properly equipped.

Alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs will *not* be tolerated on any trips led by ROPE.

If you have such items, do *not* bring them!

You made it!

[Register for the Trip!](#)