



## SAN JUAN RIVER ADDITIONAL TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION



*This information is supplemental to the important trip planning information found on the [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) San Juan River Permit Lottery and Reservations webpage.*

**VEHICLE SHUTTLES:** Shuttles from Sand Island to Mexican Hat take about 1 hour round trip. Shuttles from Sand Island and Mexican Hat to Clay Hills take 4 to 5 hours round trip. Very few shuttle services are available so plan ahead. Call the San Juan River office or San Juan County Visitor Services at (800) 574-4386 for current shuttle providers.

Navajo camping and hiking permits may also be obtained in-person at Monument Valley Park; Four Corners Monument; and the Navajo Parks & Recreation office in Cameron, AZ (928) 679-2303.

**RECREATION FACILITIES:** The Sand Island Recreation Area, located 3 miles west of Bluff, has toilets, campsites, drinking water, a boat ramp, and day-use area. Campsites are \$10 a night and are first come, first served. Only the group sites may be reserved in advance on the [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) Sand Island Group Sites webpage.

Facilities at the Mexican Hat site include a boat launch, day-use area, and toilet. Vehicles have been broken into at this location, so we advise that you don't camp or leave vehicles overnight at the launch area. Vehicles may be stored at local businesses for a fee.

There is a toilet and aluminum recycling at the Clay Hills take-out. There is no trash dump; please pack it out.

**DRINKING WATER:** You should bring all of your drinking water. There are no reliable, potable sources of drinking water on the San Juan River. Filtering the water is difficult because the San Juan is extremely silty. A minimum of one gallon per person/per day is suggested.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** The County Sheriff's Department has search and rescue jurisdiction on public lands and normally takes the lead for such operations. For emergencies call the San Juan County Sheriff's Department at (435) 587-2237. Please note that cell service on the river is intermittent and unreliable. A satellite phone is recommended.

**PACKRAFTING:** Packrafters using nontraditional launch or takeout points are still required to obtain a permit for the segment of river they will be floating, even if they will not be floating the entire segment. For example, a packrafting trip launching from Honaker and taking out at Slickhorn would be required to obtain a Mexican Hat to Clay Hills permit. The same permit launch limits, fees, and stipulations apply to packrafting trips. If using nontraditional launch or takeout points, packrafters must call the San Juan River permit office to give their actual itinerary and schedule a permit checkin. Additional backpacking permits are required for groups hiking in or out of Slickhorn Canyon or Grand Gulch.

**GUIDE BOOKS AND MAPS:** Several river guide books and maps can be ordered online at the Canyonlands Natural History Association website, [www.cnha.org](http://www.cnha.org), or purchased at local area businesses and visitor centers. A spatially referenced pdf map is available for mobile devices at [www.avenzamaps.com](http://www.avenzamaps.com) and the Avenza Maps app.

**GUIDES, RENTALS, SHUTTLE PROVIDERS, & ACCOMODATIONS:** For info on these services call San Juan County Visitor Services at (800) 574-4386 or visit [www.utahscanyoncountry.com](http://www.utahscanyoncountry.com). A list of permitted San Juan River guides can be viewed at the BLM San Juan River Permits webpage. The BLM does not endorse or recommend any specific guide or guarantee their services.