



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



Utah: Arches, Canyonlands & the Colorado River

Designed with thrill-seekers in mind, experience a mix of meaningful community service and pulse-pounding adventure.

OVERVIEW

Experience the myths and modern day realities of the American West. During your time in Utah, you'll discover not only what a unique state this is, but how immensely its ecosystems have shaped its world-famous landscape. From an excursion to Arches National Park to days on end spent alongside the Colorado River, you will be outdoors for a good portion of this program, and be exploring every nook and cranny of the Utah wilderness. Support environmental stewardship projects, learn about public land management, and begin to develop your own personal leadership style by facing challenges in the great outdoors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Go on a multi-night river rafting expedition
- ★ Explore picturesque Utah, spending half your time rafting and camping
- ★ Support service and restoration efforts along the Colorado River
- ★ Work with the National Forest Service amongst the aspens and pines of the beautiful La Sal mountains
- ★ Hike through Arches National Park, famed for its more than 2,000 stunning natural stone/rock formations

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

10-day Program

July 9 – July 18, 2024

Tuition: \$4,499
Service Hours: 20
Max Group Size: 22
Age Range: 14-18
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1
Airport: GJT

***No passport required for U.S. citizens**



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Protect land and water for the well-being of the people and wildlife that depend on them. When it comes to the land, you will work with the National Forest Service on various projects in the beautiful La Sal mountains. You may support trail maintenance and accessibility, or contribute to wildlife management through native species propagation or invasive species removal. When it comes to the water, complete a river clean-up on the Colorado River corridor close to Moab. Additionally, remove tamarisk that poses a risk to native plant species, and help with habitat restoration.



SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule and order of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO UTAH!

Touch down in Grand Junction, the closest gateway to Moab and the Colorado River. GLA staff will greet you upon your arrival, and our group will drive together to the first Home Base for the “land portion” of your program. You’ll stay in yurt or cabin-style accommodations at a campground, allowing you to start getting closer to nature. Tonight we’ll get to know each other and prepare for the next week and a half!

DAYS 2-3: LAND-BASED: FOREST SERVICE & RESTORATION

The mission of the National Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. We will support the Forest Service in the pursuit of this mission by supporting projects that meet the needs of the Moab region at the time of our arrival. This may include supporting ongoing projects focused on trail maintenance, fixing erosion issues, wildfire management, native species propagation or invasive species removal to support the restoration of ecological communities around the Moab area.



DAY 4: LAND-BASED: FOREST SERVICE & RESTORATION + ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

For the first half of the day, we’ll wrap up our service projects and say farewell to our NFS partners as we reflect on the work we’ve completed thus far. Then later in the afternoon, we will embark on an incredible adventure — hiking and exploring in Arches National Park. We’ll explore some of the famous, and special off-the-beaten-path destinations in Arches, a world-renowned geological playground. We will enjoy a sunset picnic dinner hike in one of the nation’s most stunning national parks.

Tonight, we’ll make sure we’re all prepared and ready for our river launch tomorrow.

DAY 5: RIVER-BASED: RIVER RAFTING LAUNCH!

Now for the part of the program you’ve been waiting for -- we’ll kick off the 5-day river rafting expedition! We will launch on the Colorado River and float through canyon country for 5 days, participating in collaborative restoration and service projects, camping along the way.

During the rafting expedition, you’ll be introduced to pieces of outdoor science, such as ecology, geology and archaeology. You’ll also learn about leadership, communication, self and group awareness as you work in a team to raft through a combination of flat water and whitewater rapids. In any river expedition, participants must work as a team to achieve success, so you’ll learn the skills needed to successfully raft and work as a unit. This is some high-octane adventure combined with stellar learning opportunities.

You’ll camp each night along the river, camping in tents and sleeping bags.





You and your team will help cook in the “river kitchen” and enjoy evening activities underneath the stars.

DAY 6: RIVER-BASED: RIVER RAFTING & RIVER CLEAN-UP

After packing up your campsite and having breakfast overlooking the river, continue on your rafting expedition. Learn about the natural history of the area you’re floating through and learn more about your rafting teammates.

Today, you’ll take part in a river clean-up to give back to the river that is hosting you for your program. The Colorado River corridor close to Moab receives more than 55,000 visitors each year and although we know how to “leave no trace”, trash and plastic ends up in the river after so many visitors come through. Learn about hydrology as you clean up portions of the river on which you’re rafting in support of the Department of Natural Resources.

DAYS 7-8: RIVER-BASED: RIVER RAFTING & HABITAT RESTORATION

Say goodbye to your second campsite as we carry on with our river expedition. You’ll have really started to get the hang of the rafting skills you’re learning and are likely feeling more comfortable cruising down the Colorado.



We’re going to support a tamarisk (small tree or shrub) removal project one afternoon, to benefit the river’s native species. In the late 1800s, tamarisk was introduced as a bank stabilizer along the southern portion of the Colorado River. Since then, it has migrated upstream and has become prominent all the way up to the headwaters. Tamarisk poses a risk to native plants and has become so prolific that it prevents native species from accessing the river and the only source of water in the desert.



We’re halfway through our time on the river now, so be sure to soak in every minute! Marvel at the progress you’ve made thus far and how comfortable you’ve become on the river. We want to take care of our resources as we float down the river as a way to create sustainable recreations. The riparian ecosystem has been damaged by heavy use and invasive species. There are ongoing efforts to protect the native species that live along the bank, including cottonwood trees, and we’ll support these protection efforts.

DAY 8: RIVER-BASED: RIVER RAFTING & RIVER CLEAN-UP

After another gorgeous riverside breakfast, we’ll get back on the river to continue our journey through the canyonlands. As we work our way through flat and whitewater rapids, we’ll discuss more about the issues that pollution and human activity can cause on the river and what our role is as responsible citizens and visitors. We’ll do more river clean-up support in order to help preserve the beauty and health of this incredible natural water source.



DAY 9: FINAL DAY ON RIVER & FAREWELL ACTIVITIES

Pack up your campsite for the final time and say goodbye to the river you’ve called home for the past five days. It’s time to do your final rafting section of the Colorado River then wrap up and get back to land.

Now that we are back to land, we will take time to reflect on our experience of being disconnected from technology while being deeply connected to nature, something becoming increasingly rare in our world. There are few better places to take some time to pause, reflect and restore your energy before





heading back into the “real world” than a quiet area of Moab. Spend your last night back in the yurts or cabins we started in and enjoy a special farewell activity with your raftmates and program leaders.

DAY 10: GOOD-BYE, UTAH!

Time to say farewell to your river crew and to the stunning wilderness you’ve called home for the past week and a half. After breakfast or lunch (depending on your flight time), we’ll depart for the Grand Junction airport together, and GLA staff will make sure that everyone is checked in for their flight and ready to embark on their journey home.

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for next summer, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

TRAVELING TO UTAH

GLA HOME BASE | Home Base starts as a shared lodge-style accommodation at a campsite, with community bathrooms and campground amenities — (4 nights total). While on the river, Home Base is a roving campsite. Students will camp in provided tents, sleeping bags and sleeping pads. There will be a full “river kitchen” and communal shade/rain structures. Students will get the full camping experience for 4 nights. The final night will be in a standard, comfortable hotel or motel near the airport for an easy departure day.

FOOD | Our guides are certified food handlers and trained to operate a clean river kitchen. Simple but nutritious meals (such as pasta, chicken and veggies) will be provided and students may be involved in the meal preparation as a way of contributing to the group’s overall success.

CLIMATE | Summers are hot, with average high temperatures between 90°F (32.2°C) and 100°F (37.7°C) in the peak of summer. Nights cool to an average of 55°F (12.7°C) to 65°F (18.3°C).



LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe

seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.

