

Going to Pearce Ferry

Diamond Creek Mile 226 to Pearce Ferry ramp mile 279

(Notes on Campsites have been updated as of 11/14.)

Continuing a Grand Canyon river trip below Diamond Creek can be a strong consideration for any Grand Canyon river trip. The information below is to be utilized if your group decides to take out at Pearce Ferry.

Grand Canyon ends at mile 277, the Grand Wash Cliffs. There are approximately six classic Grand Canyon rapids between miles 226 and 237. As you might expect, there are excellent side canyon hikes throughout this stretch as well.

Lake Mead officially starts at 240 mile and the Pearce Ferry take out is 279 mile. This will give your group about 37 miles of lake to traverse. However, there is swift current all the way to the take-out.

How long will this stretch take you? Below you will find a time frame based on the water level. These numbers are not exact but can give you a pretty good idea of how long your trip will take.

10,000 cfs or lower: You can float at 3 mph

15,000 cfs: You can float at 4 to 5 mph

20,000 cfs: You can float at 6 to 7 mph

If your group floats or rows with the boats separated times can be slightly faster. If you do a group float and all raft up together, your times may be a bit slower.

Camps ♦ Hikes ♦ Helpful Ideas

RM: 226.2 R - Truck Seat – Excellent camp on river right below Diamond Creek. Enter rapid at DC & row strongly to R.R.. You can see the camp from the top of the rapid.

RM: 228.5 R – Small Camp at lower flows.

RM: 229.3 L – Travertine Canyon/Grotto – Nice short hike to waterfall. It is possible to hike above the waterfall if you hike up the left side when looking into the canyon. Hualapai River Runners stop here between 10-11 am from March through October. Can be busy at this time of day.

RM 230 R – Nice camp. Tight eddy pull in on right.

RM: 230.5 L – Travertine Falls – Nice camp. Tight pull-in – Hug river left for quick pull in. Spectacular 80' waterfall.

RM: 231 Rapid – At low water this is a significant rapid. Enter right moving to the center to avoid big hole in the center while also avoiding the big rock that is on the bottom of river right. This is a challenging rapid to scout.

RM: 232 – The Fangs – Low water runs are tricky! Stay away from the fangs (two schist fingers that stick out at low water on the lower right of the rapid). Higher flows are pretty straightforward. Scout above rapid on the right.

RM: 234 – Fun rapid.

RM: 235.3 L – Bridge Canyon/Rapid – Big fun waves. Nice camp and hike to spring.

RM: 236.1 R – Gneiss Canyon Rapid and Camp – Excellent camp on river right. Pull in below rapid into eddy on lower right. Some times blown out by monsoon activity.

RM: 238.7 L – Bridge City Camp – Nice large camp with relics and evidence left from the Bridge Canyon Dam Site Project. Hiking option available up to the Tapeats Platform with beautiful views over looking the river. As of November 2014, there are nice new sand deposits due to the high flow in November 2014.

RM: 240 R – Separation Camp – Nice camp. Hike with plaque on the wall here to commemorate the lost men from Powell's 1869 expedition. Upper pull in with steep beach. Mouth of canyon has excellent camping. Some times blown out due to monsoon activity.

RM: 241 L – Nice sandy beach camp!

RM: 242 R – 242 mile Canyon – Pull in upstream. Nice camp even though the lower section is blown out, the upper camp is good to go!

RM: 243 R – Camp is great. Sometimes a lower beach, but there is a high camp up in the vegetation.

RM: 246.2 L – Spencer Canyon – Hualapai River Runners use this as a lunch spot. The canyon has year-round water & is a nice hike. Very large camp.

RM: 247.5 L – small low water camp

RM: 249 R – Surprise Canyon, large beach that typically offers two camps. The lower camp is a great area for a kitchen. The upper site is perfect for camping. Nice hike – Redwall Narrows are a ways up, but well worth it if you have the time.

RM: 250 R – Tomahawk – Nice camp

RM: 253 R - Small low water camp & small hi water camp.

RM: 264 R – Dry Canyon (improved 2/11) Nice multi-level camp; This is on the down stream end of the helicopter zone.

RM: 265 – Sand Bar Island – In the middle of the river, might be submerged above 22,000 cfs. You can see the Sky Walk here on river left.

RM: 273.5 L – Nice camp on the point.

RM: 273 – Really nice low bench camp in the willow trees.

RM: 275 L – Columbine Falls – no camp. Nice short hike. Pull in on up stream side of canyon. If you are not paying attention it can easily be missed!

RM: 276.5 R – small strip camp below travertine bluff.

RM: 277.5 R – Narrow, ledgy small camp.

RM: 278 L & 278.5 L – There is one long campsite here that can easily accomodate 2 camps. These are the last camps before Pearce Ferry take-out.

RM 279 – Pearce Ferry Take Out.

Helpful tips for rafting-up and floating Lake Mead to Pearce Ferry Take-Out

Night floating and rafting up to traverse Lake Mead is becoming a popular option due to the steady current on the lake as well as the expensive Hualapai fees.

When rafting-up always rig the boats together with 2 cam straps going to the corners of the frames. D-rings will not handle the potential stress so always go frame-to-frame. The two oars on the outside of your barge are great for maneuvering. It is required by the Park Service to have a white light shining 360° during all darkness hours. A headlamp is good, but a chemical stick is best. Ceiba can easily supply these.

Safety on the night float is crucial! Always know where your life jacket is and have two people awake and alert as the night watchmen. When you get close to the take-out do not try to pull the whole barge in together, separate the boats and pull in individually. This is crucial, as you do not want to run Pearce Ferry rapid!

Feel free to contact Ceiba with any questions: 1-800-217-1060 or ceiba@ceibaadventures.com