



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

San Juan River

Trip Planning Information

This information is supplemental to the important trip planning information found on the 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 NATION CAMPING AND HIKING PERMITS: Additional [Navajo Nation recreation permits](#) are required for camping and hiking on the south side of the river (river left).

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 \$15 a night and are first come, first served. Only the group sites may be reserved in advance at [Recreation.gov](#).

Facilities at the Mexican Hat site include a boat ramp, 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 boat ramp. 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: 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 non-traditional launch and/or exit points are required to obtain a permit for the segment of river they will be floating, even if they will not be floating the entire segment (e.g. a packrafting trip launching from Honaker and exiting 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. When obtaining a reservation on Recreation.gov, please use the "Notes" field to indicate that you're group is packrafting and include your actual launch and exit points. Additional BLM [Cedar Mesa 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](#), or purchased at local area businesses and visitor centers. BLM offers a [San Juan River georeferenced pdf map](#) for use with mobile devices. When viewed in an installed mobile map application, [georeferenced pdf maps](#) are designed so your location can be displayed on screen in real time.

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](#). The BLM provides a list of all permitted [San Juan River Commercial Guides](#). The BLM does not endorse or recommend any specific guide or guarantee their services.