

CANOE AND RAFT TRIPS IN BLACK CANYON  
AND  
UPPER LAKE MOHAVE

During favorable weather and water conditions, a canoe or raft trip between Hoover Dam and Cottonwood Cove is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. There are several factors you should consider in planning a trip.

1. Generally there is little current below Hoover Dam, however, because the strength of the current may vary you should inquire about the condition of the current before launching.
2. The prevailing wind in this area is from the south. These head winds often make downstream progress very difficult, especially during periods when the current is slow.
3. Ringbolt Rapids (3 miles below Hoover Dam) can occasionally present hazards to inexperienced boaters, especially if the current is strong or if the water level is low. The lowest water levels usually occur during the summer and fall months. There should be at least one person over the age of 14 in each craft.
- \*\* 4. The cold water present in the area year-round (55°) is dangerous, even if you are a good swimmer. A U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket should be worn by all persons in hand powered craft.
5. During the summer months air temperature in the shade can exceed 120°F. Severe sunburn and heatstroke can result unless great care is taken during this time of year.
6. Campsites in wash bottoms, side canyons and other areas of low ground should be avoided during periods of rain or thunderstorm activity.
7. Due to the large expanse of open water between Willow Beach and Cottonwood Cove canoe trips downstream from Willow Beach should be undertaken only by experienced boaters. In planning such a trip allowances should be made for delays due to strong winds or rough water. A power boat should accompany each group.
8. To reserve a date to launch your canoe below Hoover Dam, contact the Hoover Dam Security Office, (702)293-8351.