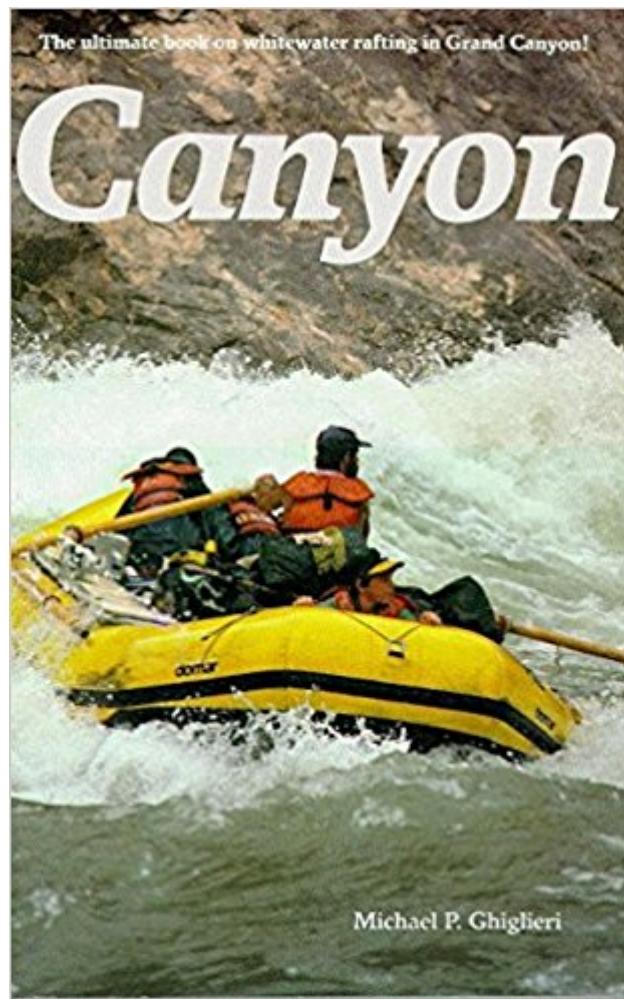


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# Canyon



## Synopsis

Fasten your life jackets for a ride you'll never forget. Now the excitement of a raft trip through the Grand Canyon has been re-created by a seasoned whitewater guide with a passion to share one of the world's most fantastic journeys. Michael Ghiglieri, a professional river guide for more than 17 years, has written the first book to describe that trip from the modern boatman's point of view. From Lee's Ferry to Diamond Creek, Ghiglieri leads you down 226 miles of wild river and through some of the most breathtaking scenery on earth. Along the way, he navigates the Colorado River's dozens of notorious rapids—many of which drop fifteen feet or more—and shares the excitement of waves and boulders, thunder and foam. Recounting a real journey through this geological wonder, Canyon interweaves heart-pounding adventure with factual insights into the world of Grand Canyon. Between the rapids, Ghiglieri relates tales of river runners past and present, lessons in geology and wildlife, observations on the impact of Glen Canyon Dam, and stories of Native inhabitants, from Anasazi ancestors to Havasupai Rastafarians. This trip also offers more than its share of human drama for the passengers aboard, leaving them with tales of their own to tell. "Running the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon is to me the most impressive journey on our planet," writes Ghiglieri, "an adventure that leaves no traveler unchanged." For anyone who has ever shared or contemplated that adventure, Canyon recreates an unforgettable ride.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The canyon is the Grand Canyon and this is a grand tale. Ghiglieri, an ecologist, served as a guide for Grand Canyon trips for 16 years. Using a raft trip down 226 miles of the Colorado River as a frame, he describes the history, geology, conservation, inhabitants, flora, and fauna of the "world's clearest display of planetary history." His storytelling abilities and affection for the region are evident throughout the book. There are over 70 books in print about the Grand Canyon (including David Lavender's *River Runners of the Grand Canyon*, LJ 9/1/85), but this is the single best introduction to myriad aspects of this "most impressive place." Recommended for all types and levels of libraries.- Roland Person, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., CarbondaleCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ghiglieri--ecologist, white-water guide, author of *East of the Mountains of the Moon* (1988)--provides a mile-by-mile tour of the wonders of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River--a grab-bag of the sort of historical, geological, political, and anecdotal tidbits he apparently offers his white-watering guests, and a definitive source book for those who decide to take the challenge. *Adrenaline Alley*, *Crystal Rapid*, *Soap Creek*, *Lava Canyon*--the picturesque names of these spectacular Grand Canyon geological formations offer a hint as to why Ghiglieri claims to consider the Canyon his personal ``sacred ground.'' Now an experienced guide who, when not pursuing scientific research projects in other parts of the world, takes boatloads of visitors down roller-coasterlike chutes, drops, and currents, Ghiglieri has settled down long enough to write the type of Grand Canyon guidebook that he claims he always wished he could find. Taking the reader along on an imaginary white-water journey, the author intersperses accounts of experiences he's had along the trail (hiking with flight attendants who insist on photographing one another naked on the cliffs; interrupting a tour to greet his first child, born in nearby Flagstaff and named, naturally, ``Cliff'') with passionate diatribes on the politics of water supply and its effect on the Colorado; evocations of the lives of the Anasazi Indians, whose centuries-old abandoned villages still dot the Canyon; and an insider's description of the cliffs, valleys, and hiking trails that line the river. Though Ghiglieri's enthusiasm and concern for the Canyon and its future are obvious throughout, his workmanlike prose may serve less to transport readers than to inspire potential adventurers to join him there. (Map.) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I have read another book by Michael Ghiglieri, and was looking forward to this read. I didn't think it was as engaging as I expected. It in no way has dimmed my desire to take a float down the Grand

Canyon and I do think that it has good value for anyone who wants to know more about this experience. While I wasn't held on the edge of my chair, it is well written, and you can't fault the man's credentials. If I ever do get to take this trip, I would want a guide much like Mike! My friend just finished reading my book on borrow, and we had a book review over a couple of beers. Mostly just dreaming of the day we could afford to go on one of these trips. While this book has a story, and a telling of other stories - it is also a serious work about the canyon. If you love, are intrigued or curious about the Grand Canyon, get this book. Just wish Bill Beer and John Daggett rated more than a paragraph, they SWAM IT!

I hated for this book to end. I loved being with Michael P. Ghiglieri, the most knowledgeable of river wranglers in love with the Grand Canyon. Being a geologist as well as a good writer, he imparts a special understanding of the 2 billion year old canyon sharing the message of the striated walls written over time by the hand of the creator. He brings this knowledge in a light-hearted, easy to comprehend manner that anyone can understand. You get to be with him at the helm of his rubber craft as he maneuvers it through rapids that make the heart of the most experienced boatmen go pitty-pat! You hike with him to Eden like gardens sequestered in ancient slot-canyons and learn about the native peoples who made the canyon their home for the past 10,000 years. He also speaks about the environmental degradation to the canyon by extractive industry and the hydro-electric boys. This is a wonderful, comprehensive book for anyone who wants know the true depth of the Grand Canyon.(...)

This is the 2nd book I have read by this author and his experience as a river guide gives him the inside perspective to relate his experiences to the reader. He, like all the guides I have been with on the river, is a case of a well educated and articulate person, with qualifications out the wazoo, that instead of pursuing financial gain, chose to make the Grand Canyon an integral part of his life. These people and their incredible knowledge of every facet of GC, from geology, anthropology, and sociology to recent historical events, are part of what make a river trip, for some a "once in a lifetime" experience, and for others an "incurable obsession". If you have already been or are thinking about going, this book will put you in the spirit. The story is primarily about a river trip but spins off on some adventure that relates to the current location. The only problem with this book is, it isn't long enough and I finished it too quickly.

I ordered this before I took a 9 day trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and it

was useful

Since Michael includes a somewhat incorrect story about me in his book I guess I should make it right. But instead I'll commend this somewhat old book highly because it tells a compiled story of a river guides life during one trip down the river/canyon. It's good and it's good to go with the books in the new wave (pun intended) of books written by female river guides which I thoroughly applaude. Books like Teal's Breaking Into The current and Sadler's There's This River should be bought when you buy Michaels book. Do it!

This book is full of interesting information about the Colorado River going through the Grand Canyon. The author has included all aspects of this great place. He tells the history of the river and canyon, including the geolgy, the first residents, the first settlers, the daming and problems with the daming, the many people who have tried to make the trip, and the history of the wildlife. I found it to be a great read with a lot if great insight into the Grand Canyon. I couldn't put it down and I look forward to reading it again before I take the pluge and float this great river.

I really enjoyed this book. It kept me engaged, loved the background history of exploration and early river running of the Canyon. Made me want to read more about Western States water policy, history. Nails it as Adventure, History, Social Study, Travel Guide. A good book on so many levels.

I read Canyon prior to an 8-day rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. It gave me a good idea of what to expect on the trip as well as information on the geology and history of the canyon. I now plan to read it a second time in order to relive our wonderful experience. This is a must read for someone planning to raft the Colorado through Grand Canyon, as well as an entertaining read for the "arm-chair traveler."

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