



## Grand Canyon Trip Information Packet 6-Night Motorized Trip

Thank you for choosing Tour West! We are delighted to share the Colorado River and the famed Grand Canyon with you. On this trip you will cover 187 miles in 6 days and experience the unparalleled excitement, serenity, and beauty that rafting in the Grand Canyon has to offer.

This information packet is for all passengers taking our 6-night motorized trip through the Grand Canyon. If you are on a different trip, please contact our office so we can send you the proper packet.

Please **carefully read this information packet** as it will answer many of the questions you will have about your trip. Keep this information packet as it will also be a guide to you as you prepare and pack for your trip. We also suggest you re-read this packet after you are finished packing.

In this packet you will find the following sections:

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### **Check List of Items to Complete Before Trip:**

- Submit your Deposit –we recommend you purchase travel insurance within 14 days.
- Return Acknowledgement of Risk Form & Passenger Information Form with deposit
- 90 days prior to trip submit final payment.
- Read Information packet as it answers lots of questions!
- Read through packing list and gather items needed for your trip.
- Contact us with any questions or concerns about your rafting trip.
- 2 weeks prior to your trip we will email you a final trip confirmation. Attached is a Covid-19 questionnaire that is required to for everyone to fill out and submit back to our office 2-3 days prior to your rafting trip.

## **Itinerary** *All times listed are for the Pacific Time Zone*

- **Day One:** Your trip meets in Marble Canyon, AZ. You will spend the first night at the Marble Canyon Lodge. Your motel accommodations are included in your package. Please let us know your preferred motel accommodations on your passenger information form.

You will meet your guide for an orientation meeting at **8:00 p.m.** The location of the orientation meeting can vary so when you check-in the person at the front desk will let you know where this meeting will be held. At the orientation meeting you will receive some of the gear you will use on the river such as a dry bag which you will load your personal bag into.

You are on your own for your dinner this night and breakfast the next morning. There is a small restaurant located at Marble Canyon.

- **Day Two-Day Six:** A van provided by Marble Canyon Lodge will pick you up in front of the motel in the morning and transport you 6 miles to Lee's Ferry where you will meet your guides and launch on your river trip. At Lee's Ferry you will be given a boat and safety orientation by your guides that will include how and where to sit on the rafts, how to hold on, and safety precautions while on the river and in camp.

From there you will start your adventure through the Grand Canyon. Each day you will run exciting rapids such as Hance, Granite, Hermit & Crystal, explore unique side canyons such as Elves Chasm, Deer Creek and Havasu Falls, be treated to delicious meals, hear and see some of the history and geology of the Canyon from your very knowledgeable guides and generally enjoy the majestic grandeur of the Grand Canyon. Each night you will camp on cots under the stars along the beaches of the river.

- **Day Seven:** In the morning you will leave camp and be on the rafts for a short time before arriving at the helicopter pad at Whitmore Wash. You will enjoy a scenic helicopter ride (approx. 10 minutes) up and over the canyon rim and arrive at the Bar 10 Ranch. There you will have time for a quick shower before getting on your plane which will return you to either Las Vegas or Marble Canyon please specify before your trip.

## **Typical Day**

A typical day on the river will include rafting for a few hours at a time, stopping for scenic side-canyon hikes, bathroom breaks, a stop for lunch, and lots of fun, laughter, learning, and excitement in between.

After a full day of river excitement you will arrive in camp. Guests will be given time to find their favorite campsite and then return to the rafts to create a "fire line" which is how we load and unload the rafts. Your help in passing the gear on and off the boat is greatly appreciated and can help you to really feel a part of the whole river experience but if you have physical restrictions or limitations that keep you from participating in this you are not required to.

The first evening in camp your guide will give a demonstration of how to easily assemble the cots you will be sleeping on and will be available if you need any additional help in setting those up. Tour West provides cots, tents (generally only used in case of rain), sleeping bags, sheets, camp chairs, and water-proof gear bags for all of our guest.

While you relax and take in the beautiful surroundings, your guides will prepare dinner. Every night is different but the menu may include fajitas, BBQ chicken with rice and veggies, lasagna, steak and sautéed mushrooms & onions, and other fresh and scrumptious meals.

At night you will relax on a cot under a vast canopy of stars as the fresh air and rhythm of the river lull you to sleep.

Each morning your guides will prepare a hearty breakfast. You will have a chance to enjoy eating before returning to your campsite to take down your cot and pack up your belongings into a dry bag. After bringing your bag down to the boats, guest participate in the fire line once again to load the boat and then you are off on another adventure filled day.

## Rafting & Camping with Tour West

Whether you have been rafting and camping for years or this is your first experience, Tour West makes it easy. All you need to do is bring your personal items in a soft-sided duffle bag and we will provide the rest. We supply:

- Motel accommodations the first night of your trip at the Marble Canyon Lodge (double occupancy-2 people per room. Single rooms-1 person, 1 room- single supplement fee not included)
- Transportation from Marble Canyon, Arizona to the river
- Boats – Custom-made, compartmentalized and unsinkable
- Life Jackets – of special whitewater design
- Meals – all meals on the river starting with lunch the first day and ending with breakfast the last morning.
- Cooking facilities – all cooking items including eating utensils
- Camping toilet facilities, toilet paper, and supplies
- Beverages – unlimited water, and lemonade. Coffee, tea & hot chocolate in the morning.
- First Aid Kit
- Sleeping Bag with sheet
- Comfortable sleeping pad
- Cot
- Tent (Generally only needed in case of rain)
- Waterproof bag –16”X 33” 108 liters--to put your personal duffel bag into during the trip
- Small day use dry bag --9.5”X 20” 22 liters-- (accessible at all times) for personal articles and camera
- Helicopter flight out of the Canyon
- Charter return flight to Las Vegas or Marble Canyon

## Age & Physical Recommendations

We are often asked what the age or physical recommendations are of those who want to take our trips. The recommended minimum age for the trip is 8 years old. We do not have a maximum (We have taken people in their 80's!). We have taken people of all different ages and physical conditions and they have a wonderful time. There are a few things that can make the trip more enjoyable for you including:

- Being able to firmly grip ropes or handhold provided while running the rapids
- Enough agility to climb on and off the rafts—this could be as much as a 2-3 foot reach sometimes on wet or slippery conditions. If you are unable to do this on your own please have a companion available or ask a guide for help.
- Fit into our Class V lifejacket (max 58” chest) required by the National Park Service.
- Ability to navigate some uneven terrain on hikes and in camp.

Our principle objective is for you and your fellow guest to have a safe, enjoyable and fulfilling experience. If you are concerned about any of these recommendations please call our office and we will be happy to discuss your specific circumstances. If you have any questions about river rafting and the inherent risks please contact our office.

## Weather

We always hope for good weather and usually we get it but you should **be prepared** for cooler weather and storms. The following chart shows averages in the inner Grand Canyon from April through October. Children and some adults tend to get colder in the warmer summer months and need to be prepared for this possibility.

<u>Temperature &amp; Precipitation</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Mean Max Temperature	83	93	104	107	103	96	83
Mean Min. Temperature	56	63	73	77	75	70	58
Precipitation (inches)	.47	.36	.30	.84	1.4	.97	.65

## Pre-Trip Travel Information

Your trip meets in Marble Canyon, Arizona. There are several options for getting there.

**The following options are not included in your trip price.**

### **OPTION 1: Driving to Marble Canyon, Arizona**

Marble Canyon is located in the Northeastern corner of Arizona on Highway 89A. Marble Canyon is 281 miles from Las Vegas and from Phoenix it is 272 miles. While you are on the river trip you may park your car across the street from the Lodge. This is not a secured parking lot. Tour West is not responsible for those who choose to park their cars in this lot. While this is not a secured lot we have not had any trouble with our passengers parking their cars there in the past.

### **OPTION 2: Taking a van shuttle from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon**

Bar 10 Transportation Services provides a van shuttle (with a 4 person minimum) from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon. In order to book this option you can contact them directly at 1-435-628-4010 for meeting times, locations, etc. Tour West does not coordinate any of the logistics for this option so please be sure you have received all of the information you need for this from Bar 10.

### **OPTION 3: Charter Flight from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon**

Most people prefer to fly into Las Vegas and transfer to Marble Canyon via charter plane. We have arranged for charter services to Marble Canyon through the Bar Ten Transportation Services in conjunction with Grand Canyon Airline. There is a 10 passenger minimum for this flight. Grand Canyon Airlines reserves the right to charge a gas surcharge fee before you board your flight. This fee will range from \$5-\$30 per person depending on the price of gas. This fee is not included in your tour cost.

For those of you taking this flight please plan on arriving in Las Vegas no later than **1:00 p.m.** the scheduled date of your trip. This will give you enough time to pick up your luggage and check-in for your flight to Marble Canyon by 1:45 p.m.

To meet for this flight please go to the information booth outside the one baggage claim area at McCarran airport. The baggage claim area is in Terminal 1. Approximately 20 feet from the booth is a set of escalators with a sign above them reading, "Level Zero" please proceed down the escalator to level zero and out the door to where the shuttle buses are and locate the bus. Your shuttle bus will be there to meet you between **1:45 p.m.** The shuttle bus will have logos that say Grand Canyon Airlines, Grand Canyon Helicopter, Scenic, and Papillion and should be located either at or near spot 16. You will board the bus and then be shuttled to the Boulder airport. From there you will board your plane for a flight for Marble Canyon. Please make sure to meet your representative by **2:00 p.m.** pacific time. If for any reason the shuttle bus is not at level zero by 2:15 p.m. to meet you, please call Bar 10 transportation Services at 1-435-628-4010 or call our office at 1-800-453-9107. If it is a weekend of the office is closed you will find the contact numbers of who to call. **Please note: the FAA requires anyone who is 18 + years to present photo ID for this flight.** The air crafts used: 19 passenger Twin Otter and 9 passenger Cessna Caravan aircraft.

Upon arrival in Marble Canyon no one will be there to meet you so please walk across the street to the Lodge and check-in.

## Post-Trip Travel Information

The river portion of your trip will end at Whitmore Wash. From this point you will enjoy a scenic, 10 minute helicopter ride from the river to the Bar Ten Ranch. A charter flight from the ranch will take you back to Las Vegas or Marble Canyon. Please note: the FAA requires anyone who is 18 years of age or older to present a photo ID for this flight. Grand Canyon Airlines reserves the right to charge you a **gas surcharge fee** before you board your flight. It ranges from \$5-\$30 and is not included in your trip price.

After your flight you should arrive between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you are going back to Las Vegas, transportation will be provided to the main Las Vegas airport (McCarran Airport). **Please do not schedule any flight arrangements out of Las Vegas before 3:00 p.m. this day!**

Please be aware that at Tour West we do our very best to schedule your transportation needs into and out of a remote area where transportation options can be limited. While the transportation companies we contract with to provide these services are in general reliable and on time, there are occasions when our passengers will experience delays. While these delays are beyond our control, we will always do our best to help you get where you need to be in the quickest and safest way possible.

## **Packing List**

The following list suggests items you should bring for your trip. When packing please keep in mind that:

1. You must limit your gear to 25 pounds (this is required by the flight & helicopter company).
2. Your bag should be a soft side duffle bag that is approximately 12"x13"x24" in order to fit in our 16"x33" dry bag we provide you. Our sleeping bag will also fit into this bigger dry bag with your duffel during the rafting trip.

**CLOTHING ITEMS—all items are strongly encouraged to prepare you for a wilderness experience.**

**Water clarity can vary from clear to silty. Clothing can become discolored. Please pack accordingly.**

- Two-piece rain suit (Not just for rainstorms. Water temperatures average 50 degrees year round. Quality rain gear offers protection against cold water when running rapids—especially early in the mornings.)
- 2-3 swimsuits
- 2-3 quick-drying shirts (with at least 1 being long sleeved)
- 2 pair of lightweight shorts, pants.
- 2 pair socks in case of sunburn or foot injury
- 1 lightweight quick dry hoodie (for sun protection)
- 1 pair quick-drying pants (for sun-protection)
- Underwear
- 1 sarong or other wrap-around (for sun protection and to keep cool)
- Lightweight fleece top
- 2 pair, sturdy sandals or multi-sport shoe that can get wet with good tread and support for hikes (Keen, Teva's, Bedrock or Chaco's are examples).
- Comfortable footwear for camp (some guest prefer flip flops others prefer light-weight tennis shoes)
- Hat for sun protection with string or hat clip
- Comfortable lounge-wear for camping and sleeping
- Gloves for protection while gripping ropes

**COOL WEATHER ITEMS (April, early May & September Trips)**

**Children and some adults tend to get colder and may need these items in the warmer summer months.**

- Neoprene socks-also great for sun protection
- Mid-weight fleece jacket
- Lightweight long underwear for sleeping
- Beanie

**PERSONAL ITEMS**

- Personal hygiene products (baby wipes, deodorant, razor, small mirror, feminine hygiene products)
- Face Masks and Buff—required on all trips.
- Plenty of sunscreen SPF 30+, spray cans strongly discouraged.
- Sunscreen lip balm with SPF
- Lotion-Plenty of after-sun moisturizing body/foot lotion and aloe vera. Its dry and you will use a lot!
- Soap and shampoo in small bottles. Leave in conditioner for long hair.
- Small Hand Sanitizer
- Water bottle with tight fitting lid plus strap or carabineer to hook it to boats during day.
- Small towel and wash cloth
- Tooth brush & toothpaste
- Small pack of tissues and wet wipes
- Ziploc bags for storing wet items or keeping things dry
- Small headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries
- Bandana
- Sunglasses with safety strap and back-up pair
- Camera—waterproof digital camera with extra batteries and memory card recommended
- Small travel pillow
- Medication if needed (cool storage is available)
- All guest 18 or older must have photo ID available for trip flights
- Major credit card in case of evacuation or for souvenirs
- Cash for gratuities
- 2 or 3 Large 3" to 4" carabineers (for clipping day-use bags and water bottles to ropes), very helpful!

**OPTIONAL PERSONAL ITEMS:**

- A few small clothes pins and rope for drying wet clothing items at camp
- Small back-pack for hikes
- Plastic bag for dirty or wet clothing,
- Mile-by-mile river guide book & other books
- Hiking sticks
- Playing cards or other free-time games
- Journal, notebook, pen

## **General Information**

**BEVERAGES:** We provide cold lemonade and water all day on the boat and in camp in the morning & evening. If you wish to have any other beverages (soda, juices, alcohol, etc.) you must supply your own. Hard liquor should be in plastic containers. Soda, beer, and any additional beverages must be in aluminum cans **(NO GLASS)**. Your beverages will be stored away by the guides during the day and available to you in the evenings. You may want to mark your cans on the top with a permanent marker. You can purchase beer, wine, and soda at the Marble Canyon Lodge, however, hard liquor is not available there.

**VALUABLES:** You will want to have photo ID, a major credit card, and some cash for gratuities. All other valuables and jewelry should be left at home or in a safe location.

**GRATUITIES:** It is customary upon receiving a satisfactory trip to tip the river crew. It is an acknowledgement of a job well done and greatly appreciated by members of the crew. If you feel a tip is in order, the average runs between 10%-12%. You may leave it with the trip leader and he/she will distribute it among the crew.

**LUGGAGE STORAGE:** If you are taking the charter flight from Las Vegas to Marble Canyon additional luggage can be stored with Grand Canyon Airlines for a fee. You will be shuttled from McCarran Airport to Boulder, NV where you will be able to leave your luggage. You also fly there at the end of your trip and can pick up your luggage before you are shuttled back to McCarran Airport. You cannot leave any luggage with us in Marble Canyon as we have no facilities to store it in, or to have it brought to meet you at the end of the trip.

**CAMERAS & VIDEOS:** We encourage you to bring your cameras with you on your trip of a lifetime! Please keep in mind there is a lot of water and sand and you will need to properly protect your camera. If you bring a phone as your camera we recommend a waterproof case similar to these at Seawag. [www.seawagusa.com](http://www.seawagusa.com). If you bring a DSLR we recommend you bring them in a pelican case with a few carabiners to secure it to the raft. Also plan on bringing a portable power bank and a charger as we do not have a way to recharge your cameras. You are welcome to bring a Go Pro Camera. Please make sure you bring a strap for it! Drones are not allowed in the National Parks.

**FISHING** – You may bring a small collapsible fishing rod. You can fish from the shore but not while the boat is underway. You would be fishing mainly for trout. Arizona residents must have an Arizona fishing license. Out of state passenger can purchase a short-term license at Marble Canyon Lodge or at Arizona Fish & Games website: <https://www.azgfd.com/license/>

**NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE FEE**—Each person on our trip 15 years or older will be charged a National Park Entrance Fee. If you have a golden eagle or golden age passport into the National Parks please let our office know before your trip so we can deduct this fee. For current park entrance pricing please refer to your invoice or you can contact Tour West at 1-800-453-9107.

**PASSENGER INFORMATION FORM** – We require that each passenger taking our trip fill out our passenger information form. This form will give us more information on how to better serve you while you are traveling with us. Please make sure to include on this form if there are any special physical or medical conditions we should be aware of.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM**-We require that each passenger sign an acknowledgement of risk form. Anyone under 18 must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian. This form must be returned to our office prior to your trip.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** – Deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations received between 31 and 60 days prior to departure forfeit one half the tour cost. Cancellations between 30 days and the day of your trip lose the entire tour cost. No shows lose entire tour cost. We are firm with this policy and suggest you purchase cancellation insurance. This would help reimburse you in the event of illness or other unforeseen reasons for cancellations. Forms are available in our office or from your travel agent. This cancellation policy applies per person.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION** – During the season, you may call us after-hours or on weekends at our regular toll free number (1-800-453-9107). The message will give you the numbers of those you can contact or you can leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Please be aware that getting an emergency message to a guest on our river trips, even in the event of a death in the family, will not be possible. The Grand Canyon Park's policy is not to allow the use of helicopters to contact or remove river guests for this type of emergency. Please give our toll free number to family members and have them call us if there is an emergency while you are on the river.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Who will our guides be?**

Tour West feels that we have the best guides in the business. Our guides are all whitewater qualified with an average of fifteen years and hundreds of miles of river experience. Each guide is an accomplished outdoors person with wilderness first responder training, a background in natural history and the ability to make each river trip special and memorable.

### **2. Where and when will I get my river and camping equipment?**

Your waterproof duffle bag, small day use dry bag, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, sheet, small water-resistant bag and cup will be available when you meet your guide at orientation the first night. Your cot and tent will be available at the first night's camp. We recommend you only set up a tent if there is a threat of rain. Nothing beats sleeping under the stars!

### **3. What items will I have access to during the day?**

Every morning your waterproof bag containing your sleeping gear and clothing will be loaded on the boat and packed away for the day. Your small dry bag is used to store any of the items that you will need to get to during the day, such as sun screen, hat, camera, water bottle, etc.

### **4. What is the menu like?**

We take pride in offering well-rounded meals that are very appetizing with sufficient quantities for everyone. Breakfast items include many traditional favorites from pancakes to omelets, fresh fruits and juices. Lunches are a favorite for many with a variety of deli meats and cheeses, salads, chips and cookies. At the end of the day you are ready for a hardy meal expertly prepared under a western sky. You'll have fresh salads, chicken, steak, side dishes, and of course, desserts. All meals include water and lemonade to drink.

NOTE: If you have a special diet or allergies, please inform us of your specific needs so that we can determine how to best accommodate you.

### **5. Where will I bathe?**

The river is always cold, 50 degrees Fahrenheit which makes bathing in the river challenging. Some campsites have great beaches for bathing while others don't so we encourage you to bring baby wipes or face wipes. If you are comfortable bathing in the river be ready to brave the cold. We recommend you jump in quick, jump out, lather up, jump in, quick rinse, jump out. Leave in conditioner is helpful with longer hair. Lotion is also great after a bath as the air is extremely dry. Although the water in the side streams is generally warmer and it may be tempting to bathe there, soap is strictly prohibited and only allowed in the main river. We do not recommend you bring solar showers because they are difficult to store and difficult to use on the river.

### **6. Why is the water so cold?**

The river water is released from Glen Canyon Dam on Lake Powell. The water is taken from deep in the lake and is approximately 50 degrees. It only warms up about 1 degree every 20 miles.

### **7. What about bugs and snakes?**

The Grand Canyon is a very friendly place to camp. Being a desert environment, mosquitoes and flying insects are not generally a problem. Snakes and scorpions are seldom seen. Most trips will have the thrill of seeing Desert Big Horn Sheep and many varieties of canyon birds.

### **8. Can we expect rain?**

We never know for sure when it will rain, so even if you are taking a mid-summer trip be sure to bring a two piece rain suit! Ponchos are not recommended.

### **9. What are the toilet facilities like on a river trip?**

During the day, all urine must go directly into the river. Which means squatting/standing near the river's edge or wading in. There will be pit stops during the day, but if you have to go tell the guide so they can find a good place to pull over. If you need to poop during the day, the guides have a portable toilet system. Each evening we set up a camp toilet for solid waste, while urine continues to go into the river. At the hand wash station we have a "key" so you aren't disturbed while using the toilet. The guides will explain the details of the sanitation and bathroom procedures in greater detail during on-river orientation.

For women who may be on their period while on your river trip, it's helpful to plan ahead and pack for the unexpected. If you will be using tampons, bring a 'Go With Your Flow Pack' or several Ziploc bags and plenty of baby wipes. Make sure you keep these supplies handy during the day, in your provided day dry bag. When you change

during the day, you can wrap the trash in a baby wipe, put that in a Ziploc and dispose of it in the boat trash system. As you will get wet a lot on your river trip, using pads is not recommended.

## **MAPS/BOOKS**

Below is a list of books about the wonders and history of the Grand Canyon. The Belknap Guide book along with other gear for your trip is available on our website at [www.twriver.com](http://www.twriver.com)

1. Grand Canyon River Guide (waterproof mile by mile map) **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

Author: Buz Belknap

2. The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons

Author: John Wesley Powell

3. Introduction to the Grand Canyon Geology

Author: Trinkle Jones

4. River Runners of the Grand Canyon—The human story of the Colorado River (VIDEO OR DVD)

To order call: 1-800-580-6863 or write Don Briggs Film & Video PO Box 788 Sausalito, CA 94966

Help protect future commercial rafting trips in the Grand Canyon by visiting the following website:

[www.gcriverrunners.com](http://www.gcriverrunners.com)

## **SPECIAL NOTE-IMPORTANT**

Tour West, together with selling agents, acts only in the capacity of agent for customers in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours, and transportation whether by railroad, motor car, steamship, boat, airplane, or any other means, and as such is not responsible for any damage expense or inconvenience caused by late train, plane, or ship arrivals or departures, or by any change of schedule or other condition nor from any loss, injury or damage to any person or property from any cause whatsoever, The right is reserved to alter the sequence of sightseeing in any of these tours. Tour West is proud of its efforts to insure the safety and enjoyment of our passengers. We feel that our customers are safer with us that they are traveling to and from the river. However, no outdoor activity is without the possibility of unforeseen hazards. It is important that each Tour West passenger recognize that there is an element of risk in any adventure or activity associated with the outdoors. Each passenger must be fully aware of the risks and the elements of cold river water, and or loss or damage to personal property. Knowing of the inherent risks, dangers, and rigors of river running, each passenger must decide if he/she is desirous and capable of participating in the river trip experience. For questions about river rafting and the inherent risks please contact our office. Even though losses rarely occur, we recommend that passengers have their own travel insurance to protect personal items. It is also recommended that you have your own health and accident insurance. Each passenger will be required to sign an acknowledgment of risk form prior to the trip.

**Due to limited availability, the National Park Service restricts recreational boating opportunities on the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park to one trip per year per individual. Because of this regulation, Tour West cannot accept a reservation from any individual who has or will participate in any other full or partial canyon commercial or non-commercial river trip within the same calendar year. If you have already completed or have plans to participate in any other Grand Canyon river trip this year and would like to go again, please wait until next year or sometime thereafter to book you next trip. Grand Canyon National Park's one-trip-per-year rule is strictly enforced.**



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**Authorized  
Concessioner**