

What's on YOUR Bucket List? A Centenarian's Draw to the Colorado River

Lovingly penned by Swirlin' Eddy for Wild West Voyages

100-year-old Nina Sullivan recently smiled and giggled her way through a day trip down the Colorado River near Moab. *The Times-Independent* reports that this has been a longtime bucket list item for the adventurous woman who has lived in Africa, Europe and the United States. Her personal history features years of farming in Kenya, translating for the BBC in World War II, and raising family in Washington State.

This river that has been calling her here to Moab for all these decades... it has its own powerful history of indigenous culture, cowboys and pioneers, outlaws and vagrants, fearless matriarchs, miners, river runners, naturalists, and awestruck tourists. How does this history correlate to Nina Sullivan's life?

When Nina was born in 1915 the river we know as the Colorado River was called the Grand River. Occasional steamboats were still in use in the river corridor, hauling in supplies for the residents of tiny Moab, only a generation old. When Nina was three years old, still in Kenya, Moab suffered its first outbreak of influenza, which would afflict over 500 people before it passed.

The Colorado River has continued its call to adventure throughout Nina Campbell's life. By the time she was thirty years old groups were regularly navigating Cataract Canyon, below the confluence of the Green and Colorado. Availability of surplus war gear made rafting more accessible to those who dared.

Fast forward to the spring of 2016. The commerce aspect of the Colorado River has turned primarily to tourism. The stunning vistas and towering red rocks, tranquil floats and roller-coaster rapids are irresistible to folks from all over the world. A trip to Moab is not complete without a voyage down the river, and people find themselves returning again and again to catch that river "vibe." Moab currently boasts 17 companies offering river tours of some sort, with vessels including everything from traditional rafts to motor boats, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, and yes, even a floating river couch (thanks, Wild West Voyages)!

Follow the example of a centenarian and add a Colorado River trip to your bucket list. Once you try it, you won't want to cross it off!

[Find Swirlin' Eddy's blog on www.Wildwestvoyages.com]

[Wild West Voyages offers guided day trips in on the Colorado River, rental gear and shuttle service. Call for reservations: 435-355-0776 or visit www.Wildwestvoyages.com.]

Sources:

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http://www.moabtimes.com/view/full_story/27187765/article-Centenarian-crosses-Colorado-River-trip-off-bucket-list?