

River Tour Rampage Scene-by-Scene Walkthrough

OBJECTIVE

To create a thrilling yet family-friendly log flume ride based on the natural geography of the Grand Canyon.

LOCATION/CLIENT

Amusement Park

CONCEPT (LONGLINE)

After a particularly intense rainy season, a rockslide has cut off the regular river rafting path, forcing rafters down an alternate route, ending in a huge splash!

SYNOPSIS

Ma and Pa Witwoter have lived in the Canyon Valley longer than anyone can remember. Their families were some of the first to settle in the area. They fell in love as they explored and mapped the river together. Ma and Pa dedicated themselves to each other as well as to the preservation of the canyons that have served as their home for all these years.

Ma and Pa opened Grand Canyon River Tours to share the beauty of their home with those who came to visit the canyon. It quickly became a favorite local attraction, with excursions often led by either Ma or Pa. But as the Witwoters have aged, they haven't been able to raft the canyon river as frequently, often allowing guests to raft on their own. After all, it is a pretty straightforward path.

Little do Ma and Pa know that a rockslide into the river, caused by this year's rainy season, has created a detour that will turn their gentle river float into a wild, whitewater adventure!

STORY

Entrance: A Canyon Welcome

The entrance to the Witwoter's property is marked by a makeshift sign made from old driftwood and paddles. As you make your way under the sign, you find yourself at the bottom of an old ravine, surrounded by high canyon walls on either side. Some sections of the canyon are covered in pictographs that relay the history of the settlement of the area.

Queue: The Desert Prairie

After a short while, the ravine opens into a desert prairie. A variety of desert foliage is preserved by the Witwoters, who have gone to the trouble of installing educational yet punny placards so you and other visitors can learn more about the desert landscape and features:

[GUEST FACING COPY] *"The Prickly Pear is one of the most easily recognizable types of cacti in the desert due to its pear-like shape. However, we don't recommend eating this variety if you are a prickly eater due to its tough skin and bitter taste."*

“The Golden Barrel cactus gets its name from its ability to store water for up to a year. Unfortunately, they are only able to store fermented beverages for 3 months at a time.”

“Desert Palm trees are usually associated with royalty as they are often depicted as fans for kings and queens in media, which is ironic considering rain is limited in desert climates.”

“The Brittlebush has stems that easily break under pressure much like a graduate student during finals week.”

Queue: The Witwoter Homestead

At last, you find yourself on the Witwoter homestead, which features a simple yet well-maintained log cabin. Ma’s voice rings out from an upstairs window:

MA

[RECORDED OR LIVE DIALOGUE] Hello! Welcome, everyone! Welcome! My, isn’t the weather lovely today? It’s a beautiful day to get out on the river. Oh, I wish I could be coming out there with you today. But no matter! Why don’t you come on inside? I’m sure the river guides will have your rafts ready shortly. Come to think of it, I really need to send Eugene out to check the river route, just to make sure everything is in order. Eugene? Eugene? Eugeeeeeeeene? My, I wonder where she must have gone off to. Probably out back patching up the rafts that came in yesterday. She mentioned they were a little beat up around the front. Maybe they’re scraping the bottom of the river near Horseshoe Bend again. We tend to have trouble with the water levels there. But come to think of it, it’s been awfully rainy the past few days. Probably some of the local kids pulling the rafts up on shore again. I thought I told Pa to call those kids and tell them to knock it off... but look. Here I am just rambling on when we have guests! Hello! Welcome, everyone!

The inside of Ma and Pa’s cabin is simple but well-maintained. The walls are decorated with black and white pictures that show the development of the river town over the years. Other frames hold yellowed newspapers with headlines about the Canyon Valley community – there are some very interesting characters in the group:

[GUEST FACING COPY] *“FARMER DAN DISCOVERS NEW METHOD OF CACTUS HARVEST – SAFETY GOGGLES REQUIRED, GLOVES OPTIONAL”*

“SOIL ANALYSIS REVEALS HIGH CONCENTRATION OF SAND”

“LOCAL OBGYN RUN OUT OF TOWN AFTER THIRD CONSECUTIVE INACCURATE GENDER DETERMINATION – Tammy and John Billstock were shocked when their baby boy, who they intended to name “Eugene” after John’s grandfather and town founder, was

actually a girl. While John struggled to regain consciousness from the ordeal, Tammy told reporters that they intended to keep the name for their daughter. Local minister Reverend Adams frowned on the decision, declaring that the name “Eugene” was steeped in a heritage that could only be continued by a male, but walked back this statement after John Billstock appeared at the church with a pitchfork.”

The last set of pictures on the wall near the backdoor shows the progression of Ma and Pa’s relationship, highlighting their childhood in the river town, their wedding, the building of their cabin, and the opening of Grand Canyon River Tours.

Loading Area: The Raft Shed

As you exit the cabin through the back door and cross the yard, you come to the raft and equipment shed. River guides work to assign you and the visitors to different raft groups. As you load into your raft, the river guides check to make sure that you are properly secured and wish you well on your trip while also pointing out the radio that will play audio descriptions during the tour.

RIVER GUIDE

[SAMPLE DIALOGUE] Alright there, it looks like you are all secure in your raft. Not that you have anything to worry about – these river floats are pretty gentle. You’re in for a relaxing time. Oh, and see that radio up there? It’s been programmed to play descriptions of the different scenery you’ll encounter on your float today. It’s kind of like your own personal tour guide!

Scene 1: Beginning of the Tour

As the river tour begins, your raft floats with the current out into the Grand Canyon River. The radio in the front of the raft cuts on with a small burst of static, followed by the voice of Pa Witwoter:

PA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] Is it on?

(short pause)

Are you sure it’s working?

(short pause)

Why is that red light blinking at me?

(short pause)

You say it's already recording? Oh, well, ahem. Howdy, rafters! This here is Pa Witwoter. As you float down our beautiful Grand Canyon River today, I'll be telling you all about the local history and features of our canyon. So just sit back and relax while we take you on your Grand Canyon River Tour.

Light folk music plays from the radio as your raft continues its float down the river. After a short while, you noticed a mule tour standing on a trail on the canyon wall. Some of the riders wave as your raft passes, while the leaders of the tour frantically try to get the front mule to stop eating the bushes and start walking again.

PA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] These mule trails have existed for centuries and were originally used by the indigenous community to access the river at the bottom of the canyon. Now they're mostly used by Old Man Pike as a tourist attraction. The mule tours are usually about two hours unless they got Fedrick leading the pack. That mule has a bad habit of getting distracted and snacking on the foliage. If he's in front, well, you better just settle into that saddle. You'll be there awhile.

Scene 2: The Campers

Around the next bend, you catch sight of some canyon campers set up on the bank of the river. Their rafts are docked, their tents are pitched, and their fires are lit. The smell of the smoke drifts along the edge of the river.

PA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] The canyon riverbanks are a popular spot for rafters to camp along during longer expeditions. The Grand Canyon River is 277 miles long and can take two to three weeks to navigate, so rafters will set up for a night or two to rest on these banks. But here's something crazy: the Grand Canyon River is just one section of the Colorado River, which stretches a whopping 1,450 miles. You'd have to be out of your mind to try to raft that whole stretch. Or Lewis Packerton. He told the whole town he was gonna take the river all the way down to Mexico. He made it to Mexico alright – five years later when he flew down there with his wife for their honeymoon.

As your raft nears the end of the bank, a few rafters wave their arms like they're trying to get your attention, but you can't hear what they're saying over Pa on the radio.

Scene 3: Rockslide

Upon moving into the next section, you notice a fork in the river. Large signs for the Grand Canyon River Tours point you down the route to the right. However, you can see that a large rockslide has completely blocked that section of the river.

PA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] Right about now, you should be coming up on the Rock Island split. Rock Island is the local name for the butte that causes the fork in the river. Our tour will flow with the current to take you down the river on the right. Good thing too! The left river is notorious for its whitewater. Only experienced rafters and kayakers are allowed on that section of the river. Crazy adrenaline junkies.

Because of the rockslide, the current moves you toward the route on the left. As your raft moves further down the route, you notice a large warning sign, declaring “FLOAT AT YOUR OWN RISK!”

Scene 4: Whitewater

The speed of the river quickly increases, and you suddenly find yourself in churning rapids of whitewater. The rapids speed your raft along, throwing you side to side and up and down. As the rapids toss the raft around, water sprays back into your face. Pa’s calm voice comes over the radio again:

PA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] While many tourists associate the Grand Canyon River with whitewater, adventure, and excitement, we at Grand Canyon River Tours like to pride ourselves in exposing tourists to another side of the river. Here, where the calm current is just strong enough to propel your raft, you can experience a moment of rest and peace during what might otherwise be a hectic vacation. Right now is a good time to just relax, maybe even close your eyes, and take in the sound of the gentle river.

Kayakers and other whitewater rafters along the river and shore are shouting at you, rooting you on:

[SAMPLE DIALOGUE]

KAYAKER

Alright, dudes and dudettes!

RAFTER

Look at these tourists taking on the Big Water!

But as the raft moves downriver, their shouts turn from those of encouragement to those of warning – they urge you to slow down or to pull off along the shore:

[SAMPLE DIALOGUE]

RAFTERS

Might want to be careful – things start to get pretty hairy past here.

RAFTER

Watch out for the sleepers! They’ll capsize you for sure!

KAYAKER

Hey! You're starting to get too far downstream!

KAYAKER

Head to the sandbar! You're headed straight toward some gnarly falls!

Scene 5: The Drop

Your raft continues to pick up speed. As it rounds the next bend, you realize that the river in front of you completely disappears. That can only mean one thing – you are about to go over a huge waterfall. You brace yourself as you get closer and closer to the edge. Suddenly, Pa's voice rings out from the radio:

PA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] By now you're nearing the end of your raft tour with us. We'd like you to end your tour with the sounds of our local musician, Eddy Clef. Eddy picked up the banjo at age three and has been strumming ever since. He currently plays at the town bingo hall on Friday nights. We hope you fall head over heels for his rapid syncopated rhythms. Here's his song, "Dropping over the Falls."

Rapid banjo folk music blares from the radio as the raft tips over the crest. You can see the falls and the river below you. The raft pauses as if frozen in time and then drops into the spray and mist before reaching the base of the falls.

Scene 6: The Finale

You're alive! Cheers erupt from onlookers as your raft floats away from the base of the falls. The current and whitewater have subsided, and the river is peaceful once again. To your right, Rock Island ends and the two rivers join into one again. The banjo song playing through the radio comes to an end, and now it is Ma's voice that comes over the radio.

MA

[RECORDED DIALOGUE] Are you sure it's working hun?

(short pause)

Yes, I see the red light!

(short pause)

And I just talk right into here?

(short pause)

