



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

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### Stranded Boat Freed in Grand Canyon

**Grand Canyon, AZ.** – A motorized, commercial raft stranded in Grand Canyon National Park since Tuesday afternoon, has been freed and is on its way back down the Colorado River.

At approximately 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, the Grand Canyon Regional Communications Center received a report from a National Park Service river trip that Canyoners, Inc. had a motorized raft stranded on the rock garden at Crystal Rapid, located just past river mile 98 approximately 11 miles down river from Phantom Ranch. Due to the late hour, rescue operations could not immediately be initiated. Instead, plans were made to begin rescue operations early on the morning of Wednesday, July 23.

Wednesday morning, additional personnel and equipment were flown via helicopter to a landing zone near the rapid. After preparations were made, the 13 passengers and 2 guides were transported by the National Park Service from their raft to shore using the park's inflatable rescue boat, which is kept response-ready at the south rim of the canyon. Once all passengers were safely ashore, work began to free the 37-foot raft. By early afternoon, the raft was freed. It was then brought to shore to be re-united with its passengers and crew.

No injuries to passengers or crew were reported; and the group has continued its trip down the Colorado River.

For further information on this incident, please, contact the Grand Canyon Public Affairs Office at 928-638-7958 or 928-638-7779. If you would like information on river trips through the Grand Canyon, please visit our web-site at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) and click on River Trips/Permits or call our River Permits Office at 928-638-7884.

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