

Travel and Logistics

For Adventure Courses In and Out of Vernal

It would be so helpful if ALL Adventure students provided us with their travel plans, whether flying OR driving. [Please let us know of your travel plans here.](#)

General Course Start

Arrive	1 day before your course start date
Meeting time	NOLS River Base 3101 E. 2500 S Vernal, UT
Meeting place	6:00 p.m. the night before your course start date. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by an orientation. We know some students will be arriving later from the airport, and we will greet you when you arrive.

Flight Destination

Airport	Salt Lake City, UT (SLC)
Meeting place	We are asking all NOLS students to meet at Baggage Claim 1
Date	Flights should arrive the day before your course starts between 10:00 am - and 2:30 pm. (<u>Please book your flights between those times, it is a 3.3hours drive to Vernal</u>)

Flight Return

Airport	Salt Lake City, UT (SLC)
Date	Flights <u>should leave between 12:00 - 2:30</u> on the day after your course ends.

Ground Transportation

From the airport to NOLS	NOLS will provide a shuttle from SLC to the NOLS River Base.
From NOLS to airport	NOLS will provide a shuttle from the NOLS River Base to SLC.

Accommodation

Before Course	NOLS will provide the night before your course start date
After Course	NOLS will provide the last night of the course

Prepare to Travel to Your Course

(Further details following)

1. Submit your health form on your [Dashboard](#) as soon as possible. Once NOLS clears it, you can start booking travel.
2. Book your travel.
3. Complete and submit the Travel and Logistics form on your [Dashboard](#)
4. Please fill out this [Google form](#) as well.
5. Consider Tuition Protection coverage (see [Dashboard](#), highly recommended)
6. Check your medical insurance coverage will be adequate for your travels and expedition activities
7. For International Travel:
 - a. Check that your passport is valid for the appropriate dates
 - b. Arrange visa and/or parent letter if needed
 - c. Notify your bank/credit card company that you will be traveling internationally
 - d. Get cash in local currency
 - e. Prepare for important cultural considerations

- f. Get inoculations as required

Arrival

Flights should arrive in Salt Lake City between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm the day before the course start date. If driving, plan on arriving at the NOLS River Base (3101 E. 2500 S Vernal, UT) between 4:00 - 6:00 pm. If this does not work for you, please email river_base@nols.edu to inform us of your arrangements.

Check your enrollment letter or your NOLS Dashboard for your course start and end dates. You will meet your instructors at the NOLS River Base around 6:00 p.m. on the evening before your course start date. This meeting allows you to get acquainted with your fellow expedition members, as well as to review the course's logistics and ask a few questions.

Departure

Flights should leave Salt Lake City **between 12:00 pm and 2:30pm on the day after the course end date.**

All courses wrap up late in the evening on the noted ending date. You should plan to leave Vernal no sooner than the following morning. Please do not make travel plans that will require you to arrive late for your course or to leave early once your course is over. You may end up missing the start of your course or missing your plane home.

For the return flight home, your child will need a receipt of payment for unaccompanied minor travel. Failure to provide this to the airlines on the day of the return flight could cause delays resulting in missed flights.

Salt Lake City is 3.30 hours away from Vernal. To manage the risk of early morning driving, the NOLS shuttle will not support students who are leaving on flights earlier than 11:00 am. If a student has a reservation on a flight that leaves before 11:00 am, they will need to reserve a ride with a separate taxi service.

Pickup

If you are planning to pick up a student on the day after their course ends, please pick them up at the NOLS River Base (3101 E. 2500 S, Vernal, UT).

Flying as an Unaccompanied Minor?

As of October 2023, United Airlines does not permit unaccompanied minors ages 14 and younger to book itineraries with stops or connections. Options for direct United flights into Salt Lake City (SLC) may be limited. If a student is 15 years old, they can fly as an adult on United Airlines, and they can make connections through other airports. Delta, United, and America require that students ages 14 and younger fly with their Unaccompanied Minor (UNMR) service; students 15–17 are permitted to fly as adults, at their guardian's request.

Since this information is subject to change, please double-check the airlines' unaccompanied minor policy pages before booking air travel:

United: www.united.com/ual/en/us/fly/travel/special-needs/minors.html

Delta: www.delta.com/us/en/children-infant-travel/unaccompanied-minor-program

American: www.aa.com/i18n/travel-info/special-assistance/unaccompanied-minors.jsp

At this time, NOLS can only accommodate 14-year-old students flying as unaccompanied minors; we require that all students 16 and older fly as adults. Additionally, we require that students flying as unaccompanied minors arrive in Salt Lake City no earlier than the day before their course begins; NOLS is unable to supervise unaccompanied minors who arrive earlier.

Please note that, per Delta's [policies](#), unaccompanied minors are *not* permitted to fly on the last connecting flight of the day. In our experience, Delta will not waive this policy, and will not permit parents to book an unaccompanied minor on the final flight of the day.

Please note that, per American's [policies](#), unaccompanied minors are only permitted to make connecting flights through certain cities.

On dates when 14 and 15-year-old unaccompanied minors are arriving into or departing out of Salt Lake City, NOLS will send a representative to the airport to serve as the student's custodian.

Please contact NOLS Admissions at 800-710-6657 x 1 or admissions@nols.edu to get the contact information one week before the course begins.

Luggage

Carry essential items onto the plane with you, including prescription medications, and retain your baggage claim stubs. These are important tools for tracking any missing luggage. Upon your arrival in Vernal, promptly inform NOLS staff and your instructors if you are missing luggage.

Meals

We ask students to pack a substantial sack lunch and dinner on the day they travel. If you arrive on a noon flight, you may have several hours to wait before the shuttle departs. The shuttle does not stop for food on the way to Vernal, and you will arrive in Vernal around 6/7:00 pm. Dinner will be provided upon arrival.

If Delayed

If your arrival to Salt Lake City, UT is delayed and you are not able to make the pick-up at the airport, please do the following:

1. Before rebooking for the next day or available flight, contact the river base to brainstorm solutions.
2. Once resolved, ensure the River Base knows the new logistics, contact NOLS River Base, **immediately** at river_base@nols.edu or (307) 330-4257 to let us know of your new plans.

Accommodations

Students will camp at the River Base the evening before their course and on the final evening of their course.

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Vehicles and Valuables

Personal belongings may be stored at the NOLS facility for the duration of your course. Due care will be taken to prevent theft or damage of your stored items. NOLS does not assume any liability for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property while in our care. NOLS will not honor any personal claim for property loss while in our care. If you want insurance coverage for your personal belongings, you must provide it yourself.

Student Mail

You will be able to receive mail before and after your course; however, you will not receive mail while you are in the field. Inform your family and friends that letters and packages they send to you must include your course code (e.g. AWE 6/23/24). For example:

Your Name
Course Code
3101 E. 2500 S.
Vernal, UT 84078

Telephone

You will be out of telephone contact for the duration of your field experience. Your family and friends should not expect to hear from you until the final day of your course.

Personal Expenses

Bring enough cash to cover expenses encountered while traveling to and from Vernal. Additional expenses may include phone calls, shuttle fees, and any miscellaneous purchases like snacks, toiletries, etc. We suggest a minimum of \$300 and, if possible, an ATM card.

Briefing and Reentry

The first day of your course is busy! All phone calls, emails, and personal matters must be attended to in the evening before leaving for the river. After an early breakfast, instructors will check your equipment and issue any items you need for your course. You will prepare rations and then pack up to leave town.

You will travel back to Vernal on the final morning of your course. There, you will de-issue gear, debrief with NOLS administrators, and have a final celebratory dinner, where diplomas will be awarded. Your course officially concludes that evening.

Contacting NOLS

If you have questions concerning course content or travel logistics, or to submit enrollment forms and tuition payment, you can reach us by logging onto www.nols.edu at admissions@nols.edu or calling 800-710-NOLS between 8:00am and 5:00pm MT, Monday through Friday. If you have questions about River Base-specific logistics, please contact us at river_base@nols.edu.