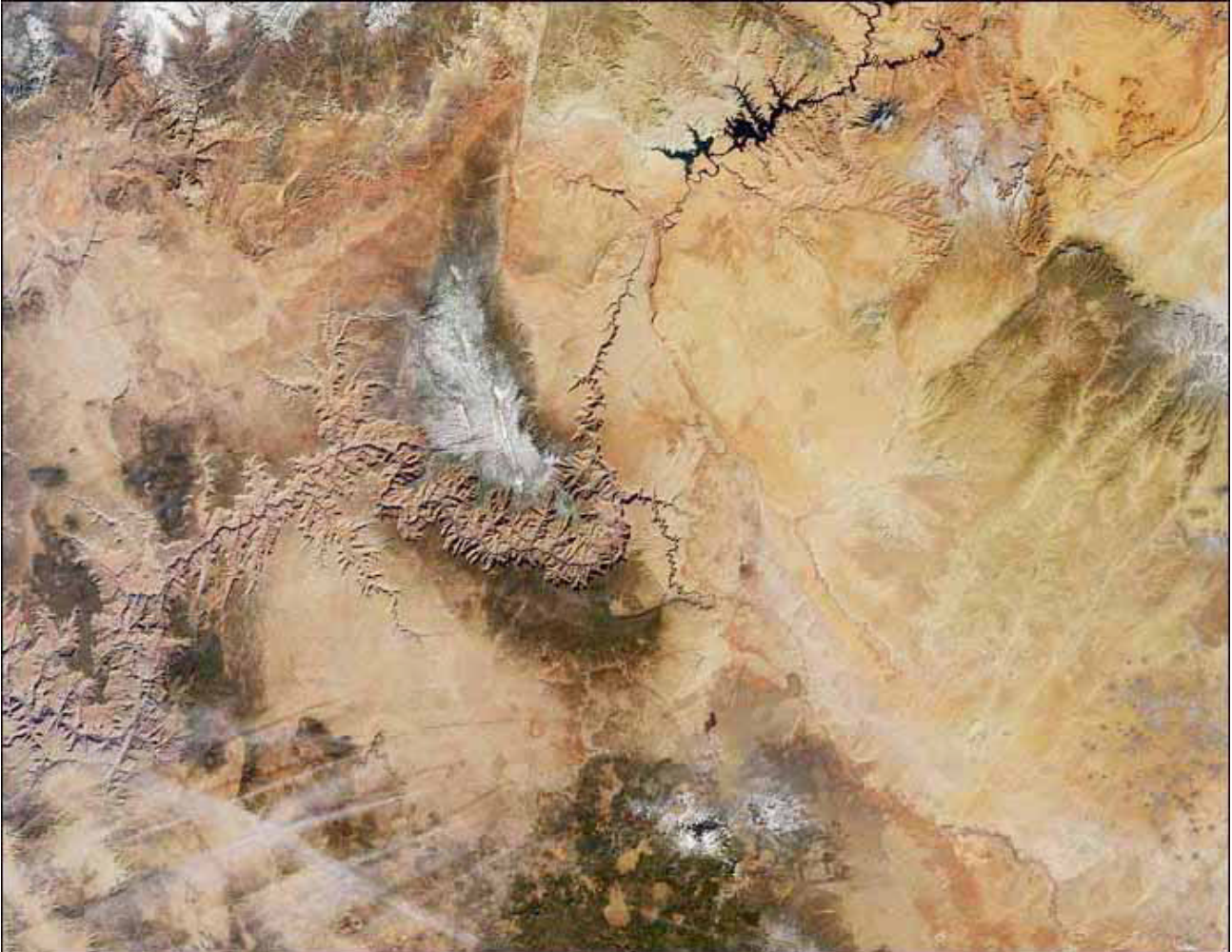


These photos are courtesy of NASA and Nancy Selover, Assistant State Climatologist of Arizona in the Geography Department of Arizona State University.

This is a satellite picture of the Grand Canyon. It shows Lake Powell in the upper right. South rim of the Grand Canyon is in forest (green) in the middle of this image.



Your journey starts just below Glen Canyon Dam, near the city of Page. This is a close-up satellite photo of the Dam and the City of Page.



Are you ready to load your rafts?



Make sure that your gear is carefully put away in the supply boat.



Do you like to row, and row and row?



Sometimes, you don't have to row. The river is steep enough so that the current flows fast.



Sometimes the river is pretty clear. At other times, the Colorado River carries lots of mud called suspended particles.



There are lots of different types of water meeting in the Colorado River. This is the Little Colorado River where travertine is deposited. These folks decided to take a bath with the travertine.



This is spring water. These people couldn't resist the chance to take a spring shower.



So where are you going to camp? This looks like a good spot.



Can you see the tent? Good! I want my privacy.



Everybody helps out in the kitchen to prepare meals.



Oh yes. You can bring a toilet seat to go to the bathroom. But you have to wash your hands, even in the wilderness.



Wouldn't this be a great place to camp?



You wake up in the morning to scenes like this.





This looks like a completely natural, pristine wilderness, doesn't it? Believe it or not, this is not natural. The water flow is controlled by Glen Canyon Dam. Even the plants aren't natural. The bush in the lower right is called Tamarisk (or salt cedar). It is native to Asia, and it has invaded the sides of rivers throughout the southwestern United States.



This trip can be dangerous. But I bet you'd have fun going down these rapids at Lava Falls!



This trip isn't all fun. The scientist who took these pictures took a lot of weather measurements of temperature, wind, and humidity to understand climate inside the Grand Canyon. This is a small weather station.



Even experts in climatology see things in clouds. Do you see Godzilla too?



Can you believe how tall the cliffs are? Well. It is time to take a hike and look at the Grand Canyon from up above.

