

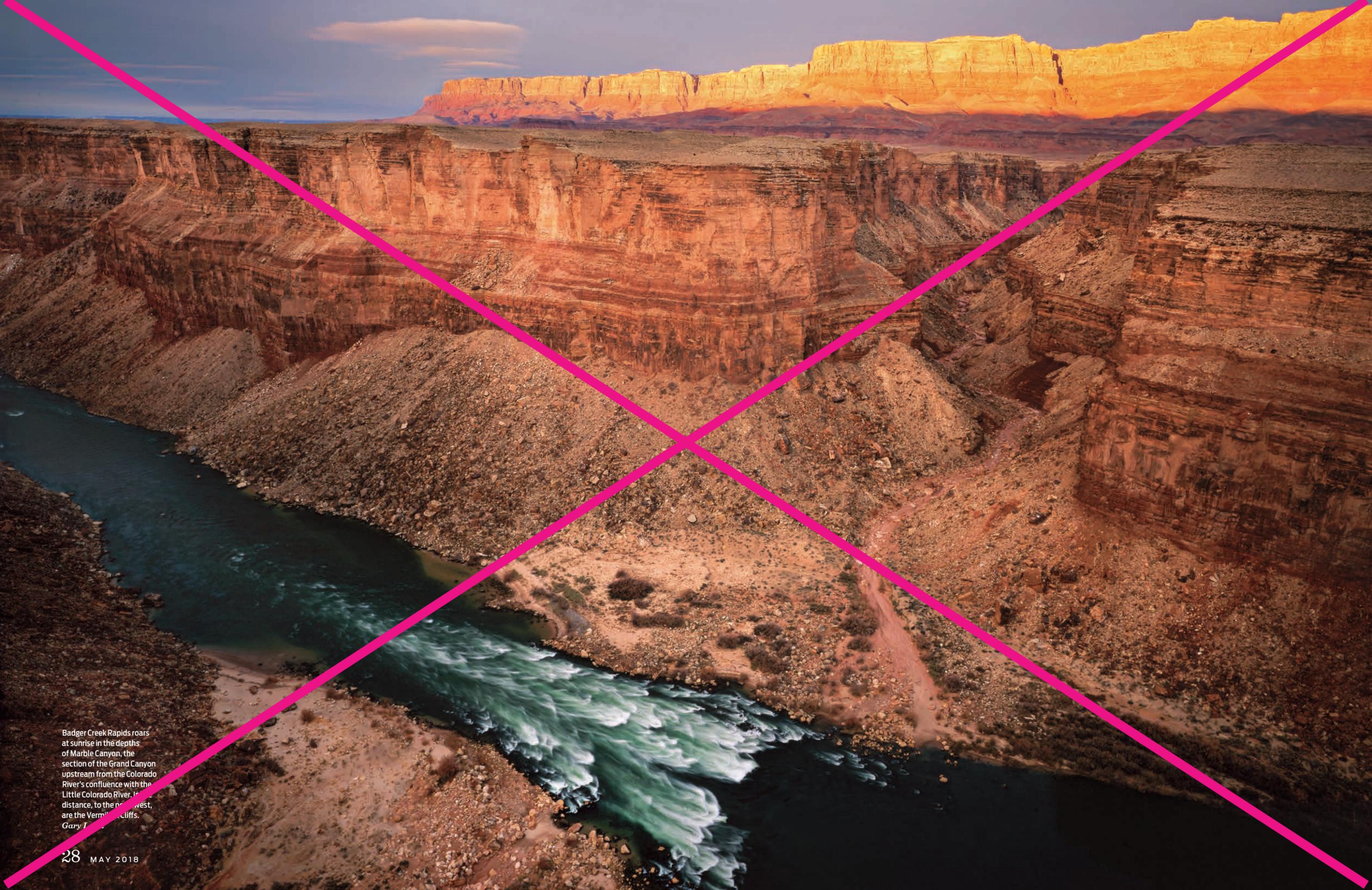
A R I V E R S O L O N G

It's not the longest river in the United States — it ranks sixth, behind the Missouri, Mississippi, Yukon, Rio Grande and Arkansas — but the Colorado is the only river that carved a canyon that can be seen from outer space. That's why it attracts so many photographers. **A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY JEFF KIDA**

Spindly ocotillos punctuate a view of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. From its headwaters in Colorado, the river runs for 1,450 miles through Utah, Arizona, Nevada, California and Mexico. *Shane McDermott*

Kenton Grua, a legendary Grand Canyon river guide, navigates a wooden dory through the Colorado River's Crystal Rapid, among the Canyon's most challenging and dangerous rapids. Grua, who died in 2002, and two friends set a record in 1983 by rowing through the 277-mile Canyon in 37 hours. This run, in 1974, was a more leisurely trip.
John Blaustein



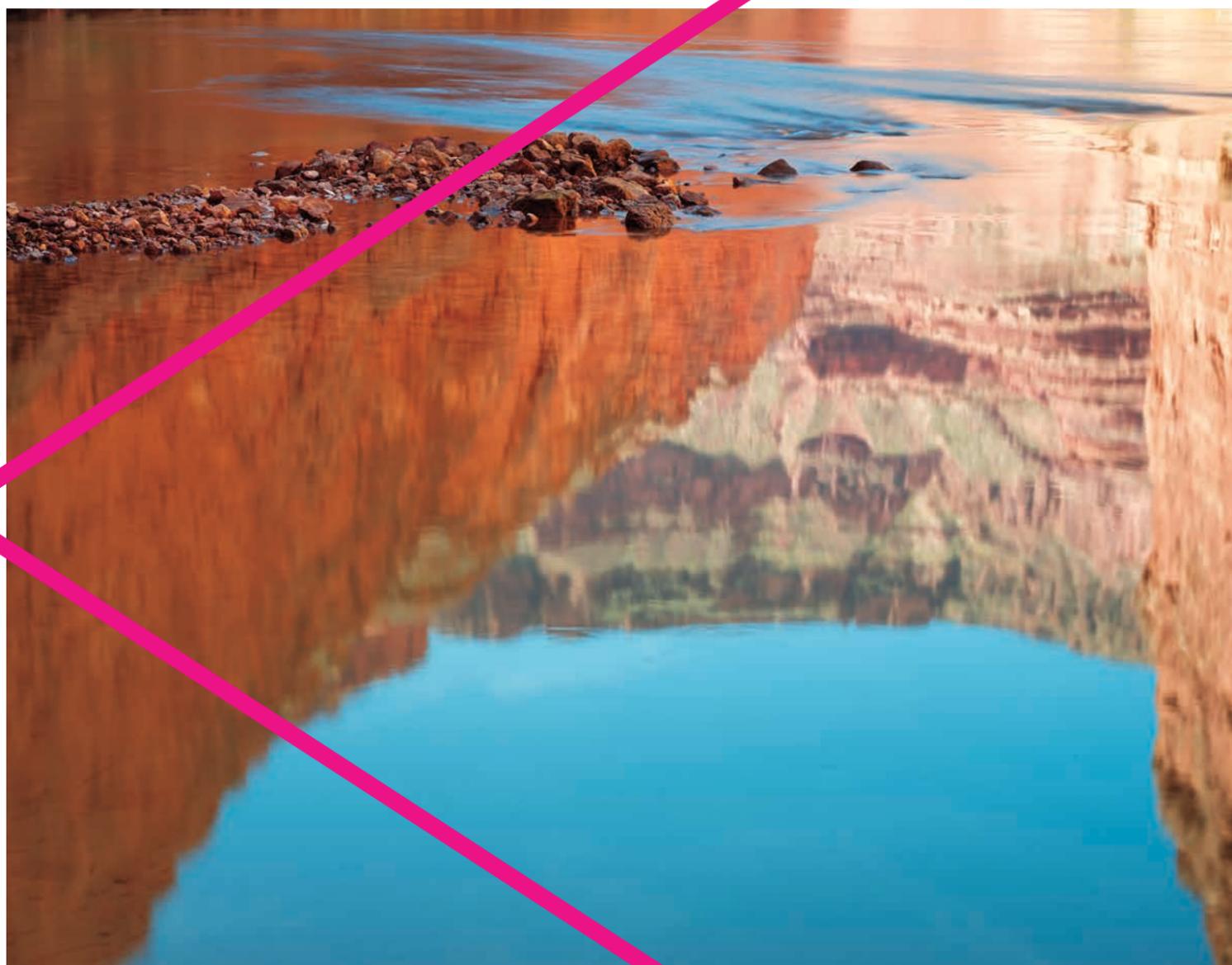


Badger Creek Rapids roars at sunrise in the depths of Marble Canyon, the section of the Grand Canyon upstream from the Colorado River's confluence with the Little Colorado River. In the distance, to the north-west, are the Vermilion Cliffs.
Gary J. ...

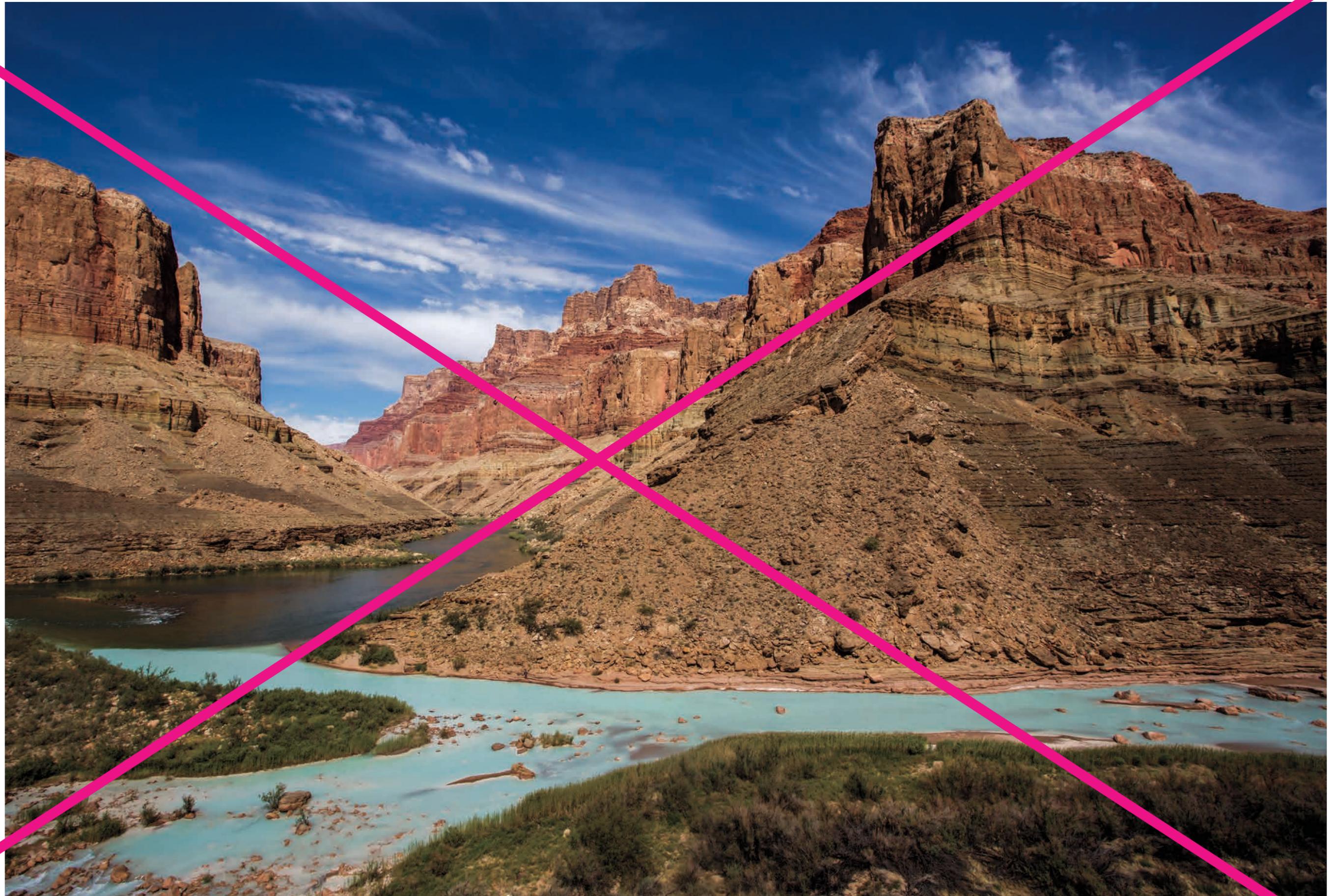


The towering cliffs of the Grand Canyon dwarf a solitary boat on the Colorado River. In 1909, more than 25,000 people took boat trips in the Canyon.

John Blaustein



LEFT: Cardenas Butte and Escalante Butte rise above the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. These features are below the South Rim's Desert View Watchtower, near the eastern edge of Grand Canyon National Park. *Adam Schallau*
ABOVE: As the Colorado's current streams over a gravel bar, the river's calm water mirrors the Canyon's sheer cliffs. *Mark Dykinga*



The turquoise water of the Little Colorado River flows into the Colorado River at the edge of Marble Canyon. The Little Colorado's distinctive color is a result of its mineral content.
Amy S. Martin



ABOVE: The steep walls of Marble Canyon flank the Colorado River. This view is near the mouth of Nankoweap Creek, which empties into the Colorado. *Marc Muench*
RIGHT: Toroweap Overlook offers a view of the Colorado about 3,000 feet below. Reaching this remote North Rim viewpoint requires a long drive on rough dirt roads in a high-clearance vehicle. *David Muench* [AH](#)

