

# Grand Canyon Vacation Guidebook

## How to Get the Most Out of Your Grand Canyon Vacation

Thank you for choosing Grand Canyon.com as your Southwestern vacation specialist! You've chosen a truly extraordinary place for your next vacation, and our mission is to help you get the most of your trip. Having lived and worked in the Grand Canyon area for over 20 years, our staff has made a few observations and picked up some "insider tips" that can help save you time, money and hassle - sometimes all three at once!

If you've gotten most of your Grand Canyon vacation planned by now - booked your flights, reserved your rental car, secured hotel rooms, mapped your itinerary, etc. - then take your left hand, put it on your right shoulder, and pat yourself on the back! You can **skip to Travel Tip #9!**

For those who've just now decided on the Grand Canyon as their next travel destination, we hope you'll find this guide helpful in coordinating a trip you'll be smiling about for years to come! We'll help you put it all together from beginning to end, to the Grand Canyon and beyond, plus - we'll show you how to do it all online. So set aside a few minutes of quiet time at your home computer (or go get your laptop), grab a map or road atlas, a pen and/or a highlighter, maybe a beverage, and....

*Let's get YOU to the Grand Canyon!*



## Travel Tip 1 – How Do I Find Grand Canyon on a Map?

The Grand Canyon Park is located in Northern Arizona. It is made up of several distinct areas: **Grand Canyon National Park South Rim**, **Grand Canyon National Park North Rim**, the **Havasupai Indian Tribal Park**, and **Grand Canyon West** on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. Finding these areas on a GPS or online mapping site can be difficult as direct mail service is not yet available to these areas. What's more, popular sites such as MapQuest or Google may inadvertently give inaccurate information. At GrandCanyon.com, we've found that mapping these areas is best done as follows:



- **Grand Canyon South Rim:** use the locator code for Grand Canyon National Park Airport, "GCN." The park is 5 miles due North of the Airport.
- **Grand Canyon North Rim:** use "Jacob Lake, Arizona" as your reference point. The park is 50 miles due South of Jacob Lake.
- **Grand Canyon West:** use "Meadview, Arizona" as your reference point, Grand Canyon West is 15 miles East of Meadview.
- **Havasupai:** Not applicable - there is no road access to this area. It is also closed due to flooding and not scheduled to reopen until Summer 2009.

[GrandCanyon.com's Grand Canyon Map Page](#)

**Insider tip:** DO NOT RELY 100% ON YOUR GPS OR OTHER AUTOMATED NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WHEN DRIVING IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY. Area road information remains incomplete, and you may inadvertently be routed onto unpaved roads, which can be impassable in inclement weather or to vehicles without 4-Wheel drive. Most rental car insurance policies WILL NOT cover damage sustained by taking vehicles off-road!

## Travel Tip 2 – Which Grand Canyon Park Should I Visit?

The Grand Canyon park area can be experienced in many different ways from several different sides. Which side you visit depends on several factors, such as the time of year you're traveling, who you're traveling with, how much time you have to spend, and what kinds of activities you would like to take part in on your Grand Canyon vacation. Depending on these factors, too, you may even be able to experience more than one Grand Canyon park.

**Grand Canyon National Park South Rim** is open year-round and considered by many to be the "true Grand Canyon." Here you'll find the vast, expansive views most often seen in magazines and on TV. From the South Rim, you can view the Grand Canyon from close to two dozen vantage points, each with their own unique attributes, some of which you can see the Colorado River from. Approximately 5 hours' drive from Las Vegas or Phoenix, the South Rim is the most easily accessible from most major Western cities and therefore is the most heavily visited. At 7,000' above sea level, the South Rim has four distinct seasons of weather from warm, dry summers to cold, snowy winters.

Grand Canyon South Rim is most frequently chosen by first-time visitors to the area not only for its beautiful views, but for its abundance of visitor services and family-oriented activities. There are 6 hotels inside the park, and 5 outside the park in the community of Tusayan. Restaurants, gift shops, visitor information and [Grand Canyon tours](#) are most plentiful at Grand Canyon South Rim. Popular gateway communities are **Williams, Flagstaff and Page-Lake Powell**. Grand Canyon South Rim is also recommended for those traveling with young children, as there is more for them to do – and more that they *can* do - at the South Rim than at the North Rim or West Rim. Hotel reservations for this area should be made 6 to 9 months in advance during peak travel season.



**Grand Canyon National Park North Rim** is only open from mid-May through mid-October and is strikingly different from the South Rim. The North Rim receives only a fraction of the visitation the South Rim does. This is partially due to it being less accessible from most major Western cities than the South Rim: 6 hours' drive from Las Vegas, 8 hours' drive from Phoenix, and 7 hours' drive from Salt Lake City. While the South Rim has close to two dozen major viewpoints, the North Rim has only three, which tend to highlight the width of the Grand Canyon more than its depth. Seeing the Colorado River is next to impossible from the North Rim. At 8,000' above sea level, spring and fall days at the North Rim are crisp, and summers are warm and pleasant. Nighttime lows remain quite cold until late spring, and can dip back down below freezing as early as August.

The only in-park lodge at the North Rim, the Grand Canyon Lodge, has a couple hundred cabins and some motel rooms. Out-of-park lodging is also limited, with two small facilities situated within an hour of the park. The next nearest lodging is about 90 minutes from the park in **Kanab, Utah**. Grand Canyon North Rim is best visited outdoors-minded people seeking a quiet getaway, especially those who've already been to the South Rim. Visitors traveling in the fall, particularly late September, should seriously consider at least a brief visit to the North Rim to experience the spectacular fall colors of the Kaibab National Forest. Because of its high altitude, Grand Canyon North Rim is not recommended for those with cardiac or respiratory ailments. It is also not recommended for families traveling with younger children, especially those who have a high requirement for sensory stimulation.

**Grand Canyon West** is open year-round. It is a Tribal Park owned and operated by the Hualapai Indian Nation that garnered sudden international fame with its star attraction: the Grand Canyon Skywalk. Grand Canyon West is most easily accessible from Las Vegas by car (3 hours - however, the main access road to the complex is presently unpaved for 15 miles) or by package tour. Grand Canyon West has two primary viewpoints, from which the depth of the Grand Canyon is very pronounced and the Colorado River more easily visible. At 4,000' above sea level, Grand Canyon West is a true desert landscape.



**Grand Canyon West** is very pleasant in early spring and late fall, and bearable in wintertime. Late spring and summer at Grand Canyon West are extremely hot, with daytime highs of 120° F, dust storms and high winds frequently reported.

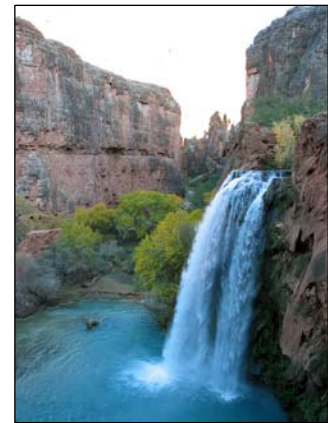
**There is no lodging in the immediate area of Grand Canyon West.** The nearest hotel lodging is in Kingman, Arizona, 90 minutes' drive away. In addition to the Skywalk, Grand Canyon West has a small airport, café, Western town, Indian Village, and an amphitheatre where visitors can watch Native American dances or cultural performances. Several Grand Canyon helicopter tour companies operate bases at Grand Canyon West offering chopper rides to the bottom of the canyon for smooth water pontoon boat rides on the Colorado River. Grand Canyon West is a good choice for Las Vegas visitors with limited time for a Grand Canyon experience. It is also an excellent option for those who want to get to the bottom of the Grand Canyon with minimal effort.



Families traveling with very young children, extreme seniors, or anyone in less than robust health should probably pass on Grand Canyon West due to its dry desert climate and present lack of infrastructure.

The Hualapai Tribe also operates the Grand Canyon's *only* 1-Day White Water Rafting Expedition from the Hualapai Lodge in Peach Springs, Arizona. Inner Canyon Jeep Tours, which take visitors to the bottom of the Grand Canyon down the Diamond Bar Road on the Hualapai Indian Reservation, are available from Williams or Grand Canyon South Rim.

**Havasu Canyon:** Also located West of Grand Canyon National Park and the home of the Havasupai Indians, Havasu Canyon is a true oasis in the desert. Its prize asset is three world-famous blue-green waterfalls: Navajo Falls, Mooney Falls and Havasu Falls. Getting there is not easy: it is only accessible by foot, horseback or helicopter. There is no road access whatsoever. Entrance to the canyon for riders and hikers is via a 12-mile trail whose starting point is at Hualapai Hilltop, located 68 miles Northeast of Peach Springs. Helicopter airlifts are also available from the Hilltop on a first-come first-served basis.



Visitor facilities include a small hotel, campground, general store and post office. The falls are located along a 3-mile trail from Supai Village. For more information on reservations for lodging, camping, saddle and pack horses, or helicopter transport, visit [www.havasupaitribe.com](http://www.havasupaitribe.com), or ask about Papillon Helicopters' exclusive [Havasupai Heli-Hike Day Tour](#) from Grand Canyon National Park Airport. Havasu Canyon is best visited by those who have planned ahead, and are healthy enough to make the 12 mile trek into and out of the Grand Canyon by foot or horseback. Those who arrange helicopter transport to Supai Village must still remember it is a 3-mile walk - each way – via a hot, dusty trail to the waterfalls. Havasu Canyon is not recommended for families traveling with young children or anyone in questionable health.

**ADVISORY:** Havasu Canyon and the infrastructure of Supai Village was heavily damaged by a flash flood in August of 2008. It is closed to visitors at press time (January 2009) and is not expected to reopen until Summer of 2009. For updates, revisit the tribe's website.

### Travel Tip 3 – What's the Best Time of Year to Go?

The four seasons are very distinct at the Grand Canyon, and not just in terms of weather. When you choose to travel will depend largely on who you're traveling with. Most families, for example, will invariably visit the Grand Canyon in the spring and summer, when school is out. If you're traveling with your spouse, a group of adults or perhaps solo, you'll no doubt have more flexibility.

For those able to pick and choose when to visit the Grand Canyon, **our favorite times of year** are **late spring** and **early fall**. By late spring, we mean late April to early May. At this time of year, Grand Canyon weather is typically very sunny and pleasant, with daytime highs at the South Rim ranging from 65° to 75°F. Breezy afternoons are the norm (as they are year-round), and wintry weather has been known to resurface at that time of year, but in general, the spring break crowds have subsided slightly and have yet to return to peak of summer levels. Grand Canyon North Rim is not open until mid-May, therefore **you would be limited to visiting either Grand Canyon South Rim or Grand Canyon West in the springtime.**



**Insider Tip:** Spring can be an excellent time for viewing wildflowers throughout Arizona. It is, of course, contingent on sufficient precipitation. To monitor wildflower blooms throughout the Southwest, visit [www.DesertUSA.com](http://www.DesertUSA.com) and click on the "Wildflower Report" link.

At GrandCanyon.com, **our favorite time of year** is **early fall** (mid-September to early October). Grand Canyon weather is about as close to perfect as it gets with daytime highs also in the 65-75° range. Late September is prone to occasional afternoon thunderstorms, but in general, sunny, breezy days predominate. The crowds also tend to thin out in the fall as schoolchildren get back into their regular routines. As mentioned in Travel Tip #2, **Grand Canyon South Rim** and **Grand Canyon West** are **open year-round**, so fall is a good time to visit both of these areas as well.

**Insider tip:** **early autumn** is prime time for a visit to the **Grand Canyon's prettier, cooler and quieter side – the North Rim**. At 8,000', Grand Canyon North Rim supports plant and animal life that the drier South Rim cannot. In addition to Ponderosa pine trees, the Kaibab National Forest on the North Rim has oaks, birches, aspens and even some trees in the maple family. In about mid-September, the forest breaks out in a dazzling array of autumn color that has to be seen to be believed (photo above right). The North Rim is in recovery from a major forest fire that took place in 2006, so there is a large burn area about 25 miles North of the park. Access to that area may be limited to facilitate revegetation and clean-up efforts.



**Summertime** is the **Grand Canyon's warmest and most crowded time of the year**. If you're not traveling with children and don't have your heart set on having access to lots of services, activities, etc., here again, consider a visit to Grand Canyon's North Rim. If you are traveling with children, however, the South Rim will be your best bet as it has more of a variety of hotels, activities and tours that are kid-friendly. At 4,000' in altitude, **Grand Canyon West** is more typical of a desert landscape, meaning **treeless and HOT**. **If extreme heat bothers you, Grand Canyon West is best avoided in the summertime.**



In **wintertime**, the Grand Canyon almost becomes a different world. The time period **from November through February is unquestionably the quietest time of year** at the park, with only 15% of its annual visitation occurring then. **Since Grand Canyon North Rim closes from mid-October to mid-May**, you would want to **choose between Grand Canyon West and Grand Canyon South Rim for a wintertime visit**. Winter, as you can imagine, is very cold, with average daytime highs ranging from 35-50°F.

**Grand Canyon West** will be slightly warmer. Nights are even chillier, typically getting down to the teens and even below zero on occasion. And of course, snow is a contingency one always has to plan for. But, if you're seeking peace and solitude, and a photo opportunity like no other, winter is a wonderful time to visit the Grand Canyon. Most of the popular Grand Canyon tours are still operating, including those that go to the bottom.

**Insider tip:** Save money by scheduling your trip between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, when [Grand Canyon hotels discount](#) season can mean anywhere from \$10 to \$40 a night savings!

## Travel Tip 4 - How Do I Get to the Grand Canyon?

### FLYING:

Most visitors begin their Grand Canyon vacations from one of several metropolitan airports within a day's drive of the park. In order of popularity, they are:

**1. ✈ Las Vegas, Nevada (LAS),**

280 miles from the *South Rim*, average drive time 5 hours; 310 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 5.5 hours

**2. ✈ Phoenix, Arizona (PHX),**

240 miles from the South Rim, average drive time 4.5 hours; 375 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 6.5 hours

**3. ✈ Los Angeles (LAX),**

500 miles from the *South Rim*, average drive time 7.5 hours; 570 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 9 hours;

**4. ✈ Albuquerque, New Mexico (ABQ),**

400 miles from the *South Rim*, average drive time 7 hours; 490 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 8.5 hours;

**5. ✈ Denver (DEN),**

710 miles from the *South Rim*, average drive time 12 hours; 670 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 11.5 hours; or

**6. ✈ Salt Lake City, Utah (SLC),**

410 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 7 hours



**Commuter flights** are also offered into several municipal airports closer to the park:

✈ **Flagstaff, Arizona (FLG)** – connect from Phoenix or Los Angeles,

85 miles from the *South Rim*, average drive time 1.5 hours;

230 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 5 hours.

✈ **Page, Arizona (PGA)** – connect from Phoenix or Denver.

150 miles from the *South OR North Rim*,

average drive time 2.5 hours.

✈ **St. George, Utah (SGU)** – connect from Salt Lake City

165 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 3 hours



Car rentals are available at all the above airports. For availability and pricing of flights and car rentals, call (800) 916-8530.

✈ **Grand Canyon National Park Airport [South Rim] (GCN)** is primarily used as a sightseeing and general aviation airport. Limited scheduled flights are available through [Scenic Airlines](#) out of Las Vegas/Boulder City (61B). Charter service is offered from other cities. Located in Tusayan, 1 mile South of the park entrance, drive time to South Rim 10 minutes. No car rentals offered, but taxi service is available on an on-call basis.

## DRIVING:

One of the most challenging aspects of Grand Canyon park travel is the distances between places. Things are more spread out here than you're probably used to, so unless you fly into one of the airports located near the park, be prepared to spend some time behind the wheel. You're on vacation, so relax and enjoy the scenery! But don't forget it can be a long way between gas stations, so fill up when you get the chance (*see [Travel Tip 26](#) about gas prices*).

## DRIVING TO THE SOUTH RIM:



🚗 **From Las Vegas, Nevada** - take Highway 93 Southeast to Kingman, Arizona; in Kingman, take I-40 East to Williams, Arizona; from Williams take exit #165 North to Grand Canyon National Park. Average drive time: 5 hours.

**Insider tip:** Leaving Las Vegas? Get an early start to avoid bypass construction delays at Hoover Dam (completion slated for 2010).

🚗 **From Phoenix, Arizona:** Take Interstate 17 North to Flagstaff, Arizona; from Flagstaff, \*take Highway 180 Northeast to Valle, Arizona; from Valle, take Highway 64 North to the Grand Canyon. \* 🚗 **OR:** \*from Flagstaff take Interstate 40 to Williams, Arizona; from Williams, take Highway 64 55 miles North to Grand Canyon Village. *The latter route is the better alternative in case of inclement weather.* Average drive time: 4.5 hours

🚗 **From Flagstaff, Arizona:** Take Highway 180 30 miles Northeast to Valle; From Valle, take Highway 64 25 miles North to Grand Canyon Village. 🚗 **OR** take Interstate 40 to Williams, Arizona; from Williams, take Highway 64 55 miles North to Grand Canyon Village. *The latter route is safer in inclement weather.* Average drive time: 1.5 hours.

**From Williams, Arizona:** Take Highway 64 North approximately 60 miles. Average drive time: 1 hour.

**From Page, Arizona:** Take Highway 89 South to Cameron, Arizona; from Cameron, take Highway 64 West to Grand Canyon Village. Average drive time: 2.5 hours.

## DRIVING TO THE NORTH RIM:

**REMINDER: Grand Canyon North Rim is CLOSED from October 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>.**



**From Las Vegas, Nevada:** Take Interstate 15 Northeast to St. George, Utah; from St. George, take UT-9 to Hurricane, Utah; in Hurricane, take UT-9 through Zion National Park to Kanab, Utah; in Kanab, follow Highway 89 to Fredonia, Arizona, where UT-11 becomes Alt-89 (89A). Take 89A to Jacob Lake, Arizona. From Jacob Lake, Arizona, take Highway 67 South 60 miles into the park. Average drive time: 6 hours.

**From Phoenix, Arizona:** Take Interstate 17 to Flagstaff, Arizona. In Flagstaff, take US-89 to Bitter Springs, Arizona; from Bitter Springs, take Alternate 89 (89A) to Jacob Lake, Arizona. From Jacob Lake, Arizona, take Highway 67 South 50 miles into the park. Average drive time: 7.5 hours.

**From Salt Lake City, Utah:** Take I-15 South. About 10 miles South of Beaver, Utah, take UT-20 East for about 20 miles. Take US89 South to Kanab, Utah. In Kanab, follow the signs to Fredonia, Arizona, where UT-11 becomes Alt-89 (89A). Take 89A to Jacob Lake, Arizona. From Jacob Lake, Arizona, take Highway 67 into the park. Avg drive: 8 hours.

**From Page, Arizona:** Take US89 South to Bitter Springs, Arizona; from Bitter Springs, take Alternate 89 (89A) to Jacob Lake, Arizona. From Jacob Lake, Arizona, take Highway 67 South 50 miles into the park. Average drive time: 2.5 hours.

## DRIVING TO GRAND CANYON WEST:

**Before you commit to driving to Grand Canyon West, note that 15 miles of its primary access road is unpaved.** Only properly equipped vehicles (4WD with adequate clearance) should travel this road. Rental car agencies openly discourage their clients from driving on this road as their insurance policies will NOT cover damage sustained by driving off-road. ***It is strongly recommended that you use Grand Canyon West’s “Park and Ride” service, available from the turn-off near Meadview, Arizona for a nominal fee.***



**From Las Vegas, Nevada:** Take U.S. 93 south to Hoover Dam; continue south another 40 miles to the Dolan Springs/Meadview City/Pierce Ferry Road exit. Turn left and follow Pierce Ferry Road to Diamond Bar Road (about 28 miles). Turn right at the sign and stay on Diamond Bar Road to Grand Canyon West (about 21 miles). Average drive time: 3 hours.

**From Phoenix, Arizona:** Take U.S. Highway 93 Northwest 105 miles; get on Interstate 40. Take I-40 West to Kingman, Arizona. In Kingman, take U.S Highway 93 north about 30 miles to Dolan Springs/Meadview City/Pierce Ferry Road exit. Follow Pierce Ferry Road to Diamond Bar Road (about 28 miles). Turn right at the sign and stay on Diamond Bar Road to Grand Canyon West. Average drive time: 5 hours.

**From Grand Canyon South Rim:** Take AZ64 South to Williams, Arizona, get on Interstate 40. Take I-40 West to Kingman, Arizona. In Kingman, take U.S Highway 93 north about 30 miles to Dolan Springs/Meadview City/Pierce Ferry Road exit. Follow Pierce Ferry Road to Diamond Bar Road (about 28 miles). Turn right at the sign and stay on Diamond Bar Road to Grand Canyon West. Average drive time: 4 hours.

### BY TRAIN:

Scheduled train service is provided by AMTRAK from many major U.S. cities to Williams or Flagstaff, Arizona. For more information on scheduled train service to Grand Canyon gateway cities call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). Open Road tours offers daily shuttle service from both Williams and Flagstaff to Grand Canyon South Rim (see Contact List, page 35).

**Insider tip:** AMTRAK’s arrival and departure times to Williams and Flagstaff are somewhat inconvenient. Westbound trains arrive/depart very late in the evening (10-11 PM); Eastbound trains arrive/depart very early in the morning (4-5 AM). This can make hotel arrangements problematic since early check-ins and/or late check-outs are usually not available.




**From Williams, Arizona:** get to Grand Canyon South Rim “Old West” style, on the [Grand Canyon Railway](#) ! Relive the journey undertaken by travelers throughout two centuries, in a genuine steam train dating back to the early 1900’s, aboard one of five classes of passenger cars: **Pullman Coach, Budd Coach, First Class, Observation Dome and Luxury Parlor Car.** The Grand

Canyon Railway operates year-round, rain or shine (except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), departing daily from Williams, Arizona, with a 3-4 hour layover at the South Rim (layover time varies by season). Overnight packages are also available where you can spend the night at the historic Grand Canyon Railway Hotel in Williams and/or inside Grand Canyon National Park. Visitors traveling during the winter season can also take advantage of special discounts, or enjoy the popular Polar Express Tour.

**Insider tip:** *The Pullman Coach car of the Grand Canyon Railway is not air-conditioned, which is not a problem in fall, winter or spring, but can be uncomfortable in the summer months. If you prefer an air-conditioned ride, choose First Class, Observation Dome or Luxury Parlor Cars. Children must be at least 11 to ride in the Dome or Parlor cars; all ages are welcome in First Class and Coach. For more information, visit [www.GrandCanyon.com](http://www.GrandCanyon.com) or call 1-866-944-7263 or 7-928-645-6845*

## BY BUS:

 [Greyhound](#) has **scheduled bus service** to Grand Canyon gateway cities such as **Phoenix, Flagstaff, Las Vegas and St. George (Utah)**. Scheduled shuttle service from **Phoenix, Flagstaff and Williams** is provided several times daily by [Open Road Tours](#) (p. 35).



A **guided Grand Canyon Bus Tour** is a great way to see the Grand Canyon when your time and/or funds are limited. From **Las Vegas**, Motorcoach day tours to both [Grand Canyon South Rim](#) and [Grand Canyon West](#) are offered daily. Prices include pickup and dropoff at most major hotels on the Strip and Downtown, plus lunch. Popular add-on options include a [30-minute helicopter ride for the South Rim tour](#) and the Grand Canyon Skywalk for the West Rim Tour. Duration from hotel to hotel is 15 hours for the South Rim tour and 12 hours for the West Rim Tour.

Day bus tours are also offered from other destinations such as Phoenix/Scottsdale, Flagstaff and Sedona (see Contact List, pages 35).

## Travel Tip 5 - Where Should I Stay?



There are 6 hotels inside the park at **Grand Canyon South Rim**: the **El Tovar Hotel, Kachina Lodge, Thunderbird Lodge, Bright Angel Lodge, Maswik Lodge and Yavapai Lodge**. The El Tovar Hotel and Bright Angel Lodge are registered National Historic Landmarks. The El Tovar Hotel, Kachina Lodge, Thunderbird and Bright Angel Lodge are situated on the very rim of the canyon; Maswik and Yavapai Lodge are ¼ mile and 1 mile from the canyon rim respectively.

Grand Canyon South Rim hotels are typically booked 8 months to a year in advance from mid-March through mid-September, as well as for major wintertime holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and the Martin Luther King and Presidents' Day holidays. All in-park lodging at the South Rim is managed by Xanterra South Rim LLC. For reservations, visit [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com) or call 888-297-2757, or 303-297-2757

Inside the park at the **North Rim**, there is only one hotel: the **Grand Canyon Lodge**, which consists of cabins and some motel rooms. This lodge is also usually booked well in advance during season, which is only from mid-May through mid-October. The concessionaire for Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim is **Forever Resorts**. For reservations and information, visit [www.grandcanyonlodgenorth.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodgenorth.com) or call 877-386-4383.



**If your trip is within peak season and less than 3 months away, you are unlikely to be able to secure lodging inside the park.** Your best bet will be to look to park's "gateway communities" (cities and towns located nearby) for your Grand Canyon lodging.

## South Rim Gateway Lodges and Communities

Tusayan is located an easy **7 miles (10 minutes)** from **Grand Canyon South Rim**. The most popular hotels in this area among GrandCanyon.com's clients are:

- **The Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn**

This Grand Canyon hotel offers the most for families, like an on-site play center with a 6-lane bowling alley, video arcade, and billiard tables. The Squire offers both fine dining and family style restaurants, as well as 2 cocktail lounges, gift shop, outdoor pool and Jacuzzi, workout room, salon, gift shop, even a cowboy museum. Other hotels in Tusayan include:



- **The Grand Hotel**, Tusayan's newest hotel
- **The Quality Inn Canyon Plaza**, next door to the IMAX Theatre
- **The Holiday Inn Express**, which has year-round heated indoor pool
- **The Red Feather Lodge**

For availability and pricing of these hotels, call (800) 916-8530.

If hotel rooms are not available in Tusayan, your next best options will be:

- [The Grand Canyon Inn](#) in Valle, Arizona, 30 miles South of the park
- [The Cameron Trading Post](#) in Cameron, Arizona 60 miles East of the Village
- [Williams, Arizona](#) , 60 miles South of the park
- [Flagstaff, Arizona](#) , 85 miles Southeast of the park
- [Page/Lake Powell, Arizona](#) , 150 miles Northeast of the South AND North Rim

## North Rim Gateway Lodges and Communities

If you're going to Grand Canyon North Rim, a variety of lodging choices are available in several neighboring towns:

- [The Kaibab Lodge](#) , 30 miles North of the park (*open seasonally*)
- [The Jacob Lake Inn](#) at Jacob Lake, Arizona, 60 miles North of the park
- [Marble Canyon Lodge](#) , at Lees Ferry, Arizona, 90 miles North of the park
- [Cliff Dweller's Lodge](#) , at Lees Ferry, Arizona, 90 miles North of the park
- [Kanab, Utah](#) , 100 miles Northwest of the park



- [Page/Lake Powell, Arizona](#)

- 150 miles Northeast of the North AND South Rim
- [St. George, Utah](#) , 180 miles Northwest
- [Springdale, Utah](#) , 180 miles Northwest, near Zion National Park

For availability and pricing of hotels in Kanab, Page/Lake Powell, St. George or Springdale, call 1-800-916-8530.

## Grand Canyon West Lodging

The nearest lodging to Grand Canyon West is in [Kingman, Arizona](#) , about 90 minutes Southwest of Grand Canyon West. Laughlin, Nevada, 2 hours away, is another excellent choice. For more information on hotels in these cities, or any other stops on your tour, visit [www.GrandCanyon.com/hotels.html](http://www.GrandCanyon.com/hotels.html) or call (800) 916-8530.



In **Peach Springs**, the **Hualapai Lodge** offers hotel-style accommodations, with a restaurant and gift shop, about 2.5 hours away from Grand Canyon West. For booking information visit [www.destinationgrandcanyon.com](http://www.destinationgrandcanyon.com) , or phone 928-769-2230). 10 minutes South of Peach Springs is the **Grand Canyon Caverns Inn**, a family-owned facility (photo left) easy access of the **Grand Canyon Caverns** ([www.gccaverns.com](http://www.gccaverns.com) or phone 928.422.3223).

**Insider tip:** Hualapai Lodge is situated near a train route and trains pass frequently at night. Light sleepers may prefer to choose the Grand Canyon Caverns Inn.

## Travel Tip 6 - How About Camping or RV Parks?

At **Grand Canyon South Rim**, trailer sites with hook-ups and tent sites are offered at **Trailer Village**, which is managed by Xanterra South Rim LLC ([www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com) , 888/297-2757 or 303/297-2757). Tent sites and limited trailer sites are also offered at **Mather Campground**, which is near Trailer Village. Mather Campground does not have hook-ups for trailers, but does have a dump station, pay showers and a Laundromat at the Camper Services building.



At the **North Rim**, the campground is open from mid-May through mid-October. There are no trailer hook-ups, but a dump station is available. In-park campgrounds for both North and South Rims are administered by the **National Park Reservation Service**. Advance reservations are strongly recommended for Grand Canyon camping during peak travel periods. Reservations for Grand Canyon and other National Park campgrounds can be made by phone at 877-444-6777 or on-line at [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov)

For **Grand Canyon West**, the nearest RV parks will be at least 2 hours away at **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** ([www.nps.gov/lame](http://www.nps.gov/lame)). Tent camping is also allowed at Lake Mead. Both tent and RV sites are also available at the **Grand Canyon Caverns Inn**.

### First-come, First-Serve Camping



There are a few **Grand Canyon campgrounds which are operated on a first-come, first-served basis**. 2 miles South of Tusayan, the U.S. Forest Service's [10-X Campground](#) offers "dry camping" from May through October. There are no utilities or hook-ups at individual campsites, but pit toilets and cold water spigots are located throughout the campground. 26 miles East of Grand Canyon Village is the [Desert](#)

[View Campground](#). Run by the National Park Service, it is also open to tent campers and trailers, though there are no hook-ups.

In Valle, 30 miles South of Grand Canyon South Rim, a remnant of true-blue American roadside kitsch still stands: **the Flintstones Bedrock City**. Built in 1972 (under the official auspices of Hanna-Barbera, no less), you can't miss Bedrock City. Here, campers can park their trailers or tents next door to colorful replicas of Fred and Wilma's house (or Barney and Betty's if one prefers). There's a theatre on-site that plays (what else?) Flintstones cartoons, a diner that serves up Brontosaurus Burgers and a "kiddie train" that tours a "volcano." Though showing its age according to recent visitors, many still get a kick out of Bedrock City's unabashedly cheesy character. Located at the junction of Highway 64 & 180. For more information, call (928) 635-2600.



**At the North Rim**, the [Tuweep](#) (also known as Toroweap) Campground is located in the remote Arizona Strip on the Northwest side of the canyon. The National Park Service oversees this facility, which is known as a "primitive campground:" picnic tables, fire grates, and composting toilets are provided, but no electricity or water is available. Sites may fill during spring months, especially on weekends.

The [DeMotte Campground](#) is run by the U.S. Forest Service. Due to its location just 7 miles from the park, it is a popular RV and tent camping spot for Grand Canyon North Rim visitors. During the height of visitor season the campground – which does not accept advance reservations – is usually full by noon each day. DeMotte is a "dry" campground. All North Rim campgrounds are open from mid-May through mid-October, weather permitting.

On both the North and South Rims, "**dispersed camping**" or "**camping-at-large**" is permitted within National Forest Lands as long as one's vehicle is situated ¼ mile or more from the main highway. Some restrictions may apply, particularly at the North Rim.

The gateway communities of Williams, Flagstaff, Page, and Kanab, Utah also have many fine RV Parks and Campgrounds. For more information, visit [www.rvpark.com](http://www.rvpark.com)

**Insider tip:** Before you commit to camping, remember that nights get cold up here. Overnight lows in the 20's are reported as late as Memorial Day. Bring a good sleeping bag!

**Reader Tip:** "If you don't wish to bring your own camping equipment, you can rent it (tents, sleeping bags, etc.) in Las Vegas ([www.westernwanderer.com](http://www.westernwanderer.com)), Flagstaff ([www.peacesurplus.com](http://www.peacesurplus.com)) or at Grand Canyon South Rim's Canyon Marketplace (928/638-2622)." – Jill G.

## Travel Tip 7 - How Long Should I Stay?

The typical Grand Canyon family vacation is two or three days. Strange as it may sound, if you have a week or more to work with, we don't recommend you spend the entire time at the Grand Canyon. Why? Because there are so many other beautiful places in the area to see, like Sedona, Lake Powell, Zion, or Bryce Canyon. There's also Monument Valley, Navajo National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Marble



Canyon, Lees Ferry, Kodachrome Basin, and the Paria Canyon Wilderness, just to name a few.

Grand Canyon.com is also a member of the **Grand Circle Association**, another excellent source for information about travel destinations around the Grand Canyon area. Get their free travel guide at [www.grandcircle.org](http://www.grandcircle.org)

## Travel Tip 8 - Do I Have to Pay to Visit Grand Canyon?

Yes, Grand Canyon National Park is a Federal Fee Area. It is **\$25 per vehicle to enter the park** via the **South Rim** or **North Rim**. Persons entering the park by bicycle, foot, motorcycle, bus, train or other type of commercial vehicle must pay a fee of \$12 per person. Your entrance fee is good for one week's time, so be sure to keep your receipt with you each time you exit and re-enter the park.



**Insider tip:** Avoid long lines at the South Rim by arriving early, or prepay your park entrance fee *before you get there* at one of two National Park Service Pay Stations: the [Valle Travel Stop](#) in Valle, Arizona (between Williams and the South Rim at the Junction of Highway 180 & 64) or at [the IMAX Theatre](#) in Tusayan (1 mile South of the Park Entrance). This will allow you to enter the park via one of two Express Lanes.

Grand Canyon West is part of the **Hualapai Indian Tribal Lands**, which are separate from the National Park. **Entrance fees start at \$29/person**. Activities such as sightseeing tours, helicopter flights, cultural performances or the [Grand Canyon Skywalk](#) cost more.

*If you're visiting two or three National Parks on your trip, see [Travel Tip 22](#) about the "America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Lands Access Pass."*

## Travel Tip 9 - Can I Drive My Car in the Park?

All viewpoints on the **North Rim** are usually accessible to private vehicles. The North Rim is recovering from a major forest fire which occurred in 2006, so temporary road closures may remain in effect to facilitate restoration efforts. These should primarily affect off-road areas, but for your safety, steer clear of the burn area and obey all road closure signs.



On the **South Rim**, the **Hermit's Rest Road (a.k.a. the West Rim Drive)** is **closed to private vehicles from March through November**, during which time complimentary shuttle service is offered to these overlooks. This shuttle line is known as the "[Hermit's Rest Route](#)" or the "[Red Line](#)" and begins at the West Rim Interchange near Bright Angel Lodge.

Shuttle service is also offered to the various hotels, restaurants and gift shops in the *Grand Canyon Village* area. The "[Village Loop Route](#)," also known as the "[Blue Line](#)" runs year-round. **It is highly recommended that you use this shuttle service whenever possible.**

**Parking spaces inside the park are at a premium during peak travel periods.** Shuttles pick up at several stops every 10 to 15 minutes from sunrise to sunset. Check your information packet that you receive at the park gates for exact times. The “Desert View Road” (a.k.a. the East Rim Drive) is open to private vehicles year-round, with the exception of Yaki Point and the South Kaibab Trailhead. This area is served by shuttle busses for Grand Canyon hikers (the [“Kaibab Trail Route”](#) or the [“Green Line”](#)) year-round. When you enter the park, you will be given a map and schedule of activities by the staff at the entrance gate. These will indicate which roads you can use to tour Grand Canyon South Rim. Be sure to obey any and all road closure signs you may encounter.

At **Grand Canyon West**, *which is separate from Grand Canyon National Park*, you can drive your vehicle to the entrance (remember that the main access road is unpaved), or use the [“park and ride” shuttle](#) offered at the Grand Canyon West turn-off near Meadview. Advance reservations are required for this service. Call (702) 260-6506. Once in the complex, you would need to purchase tickets for rim-top bus transfers at the tour desk.

### Traveler Tip 10 –

#### What Are the “Don’t Miss” Places at the Grand Canyon?

At the South Rim, you’ll get your first view of the Canyon from **Mather Point**. Here, you should also take the opportunity to visit the **Canyon View Information Visitor Center** just across the street.

**Yavapai Point** is 1 mile West of Mather Point. Here you can learn more about the complex geological forces that shaped the Grand Canyon (and get a great view of it, too!) One mile West of the park business center is **Grand Canyon Village Historic District**. Here you should park your vehicle and walk the easy **Rim Trail** along the Canyon Rim, or ride the **free shuttle**. Don’t forget to stop and explore the hotels, gift shops and museums dating back to the early 1900’s: the El Tovar Hotel, Hopi House, Verkamp’s, Kolb Studio and Bright Angel Lodge. If you have more time, try to explore the 26-mile **East Rim Drive** and its many beautiful overlooks.



At the **North Rim**, **Point Imperial** is reached by a winding scenic road lined with pine, birch and aspen trees. A stunning, expansive overlook, you can see Marble Canyon, the Painted Desert and all the way across to the South Rim from Point Imperial. **Cape Royal** is a more vertically oriented viewpoint where you can see the Unkar Delta of the Colorado River through Angel’s Window, which is literally a “hole in the wall” of the Grand Canyon. At **Bright Angel Point**, you can walk out to several smaller overlooks of the Grand Canyon, plus walk through the historic **Grand Canyon Lodge**. You might even take in a ranger program or view the educational displays at the visitors’ center nearby.

At **Grand Canyon West**, the main canyon overlooks are **Eagle Point** and **Guano Point**. **Eagle Point** is named for the appearance of an eagle in flight in the rock face to the East. This jagged, vertical viewpoint has excellent views of the Colorado River, plus an amphitheatre and Indian Village.



Grand Canyon West is also the site of the [Grand Canyon Skywalk](#), a glass-lined cantilevered bridge projecting 70' out from the lip of the canyon, making you feel as though you're floating high in the air above the Colorado River. At **Guano Point**, named for a defunct mining operation, you can sit down to a barbecue meal with the very edge of the Grand Canyon mere feet from your table. Take a walk around the point and take a look at some of the old mining equipment, or sign up for a helicopter ride to the bottom!

### Travel Tip 11 – Can I Bring My Dog?



Dogs are welcome at Grand Canyon South Rim. **They must be leashed at all times and remain ONLY on rimside trails.** Dogs are not allowed on ANY inner canyon trails, nor are they allowed in hotels, restaurants, gift shops or other public places (service dogs for the disabled excepted). **Pets must NEVER be left unattended in a hotel room, campsite or a parked car.** Dogs get dehydrated, too, so bring enough water for your dog when out exploring. At the **South Rim** of the Grand Canyon there are **two pet-friendly hotels**: the [Red Feather Lodge](#) and the [Grand Hotel](#) in Tusayan. Pets are not allowed to stay overnight in any of the in-park hotels, but there is a kennel inside the park. Advance reservations are recommended [(928) 638-2631 or (928) 638-0534]. Pet-friendly hotels and dog boarding facilities are also available in [Williams](#) or [Flagstaff](#).

On the **North Rim**, dogs are permitted *only* on the bridle path connecting the lodge to the North Kaibab trail. The National Park Services goes as far as to suggest that pets be left at home when you visit the North Rim. The closest pet-friendly property to Grand Canyon North Rim is the Holiday Inn Express in [Kanab, Utah](#) (1.5 hours away). Other pet-friendly lodging is available in [Page, Arizona](#) (2.5 hours away). The Page-Lake Powell area also has a couple of dog boarding facilities, where advance reservations are recommended: Anderson's Feed & Fence at (928) 645-3633, or the Page Animal Hospital at (928) 645-2816.

Dogs are not allowed at **Grand Canyon West**, except certified service dogs for the disabled.

If you stay at a hotel, a deposit will be required for your dog. Commercial boarding facilities will require proof of current vaccinations. For availability and pricing of pet-friendly hotels in the area, call (800) 916-8530. For more information on traveling with your dog, visit [www.thetravelerscompanion.com](http://www.thetravelerscompanion.com).

**Reader Tip:** “Dogs are not allowed on **any** tours (except for certified service dogs). If you're going on a tour that starts early in the morning, you will need to arrange to have your pet kenneled *the night before*. Make sure you plan accordingly!” – Anne M.



### Travel Tip 12 - How's the Weather?

**Summertime** Grand Canyon weather runs the gamut from warm and dry to rainy and stormy. Daytime highs at the **South Rim** range from 85-90°F; the **North Rim** usually runs about 10° cooler. Nighttime lows can dip down into the 40's and 50's, and temperatures drop quickly after sunset.

**Grand Canyon West** and the **Inner Canyon corridor trails** are just plain HOT, with temperatures of 110°-120° frequently reported. July through September is known as “monsoon season,” which is typified by brief but intense thunderstorms that move in from the South in the afternoon hours.

**Spring** and **Fall** are the best times of year to visit the Grand Canyon. Average daytime highs range from the 60’s to the ‘70’s on the **South Rim** and about 10° cooler on the **North Rim** (*though the North Rim is not open in the springtime*). Nights are still chilly with lows ranging from the 20’s to the 40’s. **Grand Canyon West** will typically run 10-15° warmer than the South Rim. Spring and Fall weather is also best for inner canyon hiking, with average highs ranging from 80 to 90°F at the bottom of the canyon, which is *much* more bearable than the oppressive and dangerous heat of summer. **Wintry weather is known to make the occasional appearance in early spring and late fall**, though, so **monitoring the weather prior to your trip is important at these times of the year**.

In **wintertime**, Grand Canyon weather varies from **blue skies to blizzards**. Average daytime highs at the **South Rim** can range from the 30’s to the ‘60’s. **Nights are VERY cold** with average lows ranging from subzero to the upper 20’s. Grand Canyon South Rim is 7,000’ above sea level, which means it snows up here, with accumulations of 12” or more occurring occasionally. Most storm systems usually drop just a few inches of snow that melt within a few days. **Grand Canyon West** is only 4,000’ above sea level, so it is typically 10 to 15° warmer there than it is at the South Rim. The **North Rim** is closed during the winter months due to heavier snowfalls.

**Windy afternoons are common year-round**. Be prepared by carrying a light jacket and maybe a rain poncho in case precipitation is expected. Check the weather as your trip date gets closer, either on your favorite weather website using the zip code **86023**, [or check our weather page](#) for up-to-the-minute conditions and 10-Day Forecasts.

### **Travel Tip 13 – Will My Cell Phone Work in the Park?**

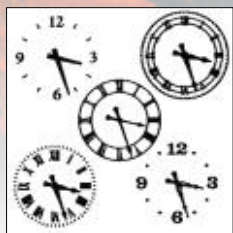
Don’t count on it 100%. The primary providers in the Grand Canyon area are Alltel and Verizon, but even their customers report occasional inconsistencies with their service due to the ruggedness of the terrain and the altitude. More towers have been built in the area in recent years, which has improved the quality of service greatly, but you will still find areas of the Southwest where there is no reception at all. If you need to provide a phone number for family or work to contact you, give them your hotel phone numbers.

### **Travel Tip 14 – Can I Bring My Laptop or Check E-mail?**

Most Grand Canyon hotels in Tusayan have in-room wireless internet. There is also an Internet Café in Tusayan. Inside the park, Maswik and Yavapai Lodges have internet kiosks available for a nominal fee. If you’re visiting the **North Rim**, the closest place to check your e-mail will be Vermillion Espresso in Kanab, Utah (1.5 hours away), or Beans Coffee House in Page, AZ (2.5 hours). For **Grand Canyon West**, Kingman, Arizona (1.5 hours away) is the closest location with internet access.



## Travel Tip 15 – Is That the Right Time?



The Grand Canyon is on Mountain Standard Time year-round. **Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Indian Reservation) does NOT observe Daylight Saving Time**, which means that **when the rest of the country “springs forward” and “falls back,” we don’t**. Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado all observe daylight savings time. Arizona is on the same time as Nevada during the summer months; Utah, New Mexico and Colorado are all one hour ahead. During the winter months, Arizona is one hour ahead of Nevada, but on the same time as Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. **Be sure you keep this in mind when scheduling activities, especially those that require you to cross time zones** (e.g., driving from Las Vegas to Williams for the Grand Canyon Railway during Standard Time months, or from Grand Canyon to the Navajo Indian Reservation during Daylight Savings Time periods). **When in doubt, check it out.**

## Travel Tip 16 - So, How About Those Mule Rides?



Grand Canyon Mule Rides are *extremely* popular and typically book up 9 months to a year in advance during peak travel season (March through October). Grand Canyon mule trips on the **South Rim** are managed by [Xanterra](#), who can be reached at 888/297-2757 or 303/297-2757. *Before you make that call,* you should know that there are physical requirements that all mule riders must meet with **no exceptions**. On the **South Rim**, they are:

- No rider may weigh more than 200 pounds fully dressed (ALL riders are weighed, and if you weigh 201, *you will not ride*)
- All riders must be 4’7” tall (children are measured if necessary);
- All riders must speak and understand English (if in doubt, they check you out!)
- No pregnant women.
- Grand Canyon Mule Trips are not recommended for those with chronic back, hip, neck or knee problems, or for those afraid of heights or large animals.

**Insider Tip:** demand for Grand Canyon South Rim mule trips does subside a bit during the winter months, which means you may have a chance of lucking out on a cancellation if you travel between November and February and *if you call for reservations promptly*. You should also be healthy enough to handle cold temperatures and possibly rain or snow.

On the **North Rim**, mule trips are offered by **Canyon Trail Rides**, who can be reached at 435-679-8665, or online at [www.canyonrides.com](http://www.canyonrides.com) Weight limits for North Rim mule riders vary from 200 to 220 lbs depending on the length of the ride; there are also age limits for North Rim mule trips as opposed to height limits. *Grand Canyon North Rim mule trips run from mid-May to mid-October only, weather permitting.*

**Grand Canyon West** does not offer inner canyon rides, but they do have horseback rides on the rim, or you can take a helicopter to the bottom of the canyon. For more information on activities at Grand Canyon West, visit [www.destinationgrandcanyon.com](http://www.destinationgrandcanyon.com).

If a mule ride is not for you, GrandCanyon.com has other ways to get you to the bottom of the Canyon. Visit our website for more information, and take particular note of tours like the “[Colorado River Heli Adventure](#)” the “[Colorado River Day Float Trip](#),” “[Canyon River Adventure](#),” the “Las Vegas [Grand Voyager](#)” and the “[Inner Canyon Jeep Tour](#).”

**Travel Tip 17 - Are River Rafting Trips Available?**

Yes, there are a variety of one-day Grand Canyon river rafting trips – both smooth water AND white water! **Float trips** (no rapids) are offered out of **Grand Canyon South Rim, Page/Lake Powell, Flagstaff, Sedona, and Las Vegas** from March through October. Children must be at least 4 years old to take part. Tours to **Grand Canyon West** include pontoon boat rides and are available year-round, weather permitting, with no age limit.



**One day White Water Rafting Trips** originate from **Peach Springs, Arizona**, but it is recommended that you actually set aside 2 days for the trip so you can include an overnight stay in the Peach Springs area the night before. Children must be at least 8 to participate in a white water trip. Grand Canyon white water trips are available from March through October. **Multi-day Grand Canyon white water rafting trips** require a time commitment of **4 days to three weeks**, and are usually booked about a year in advance. See **Travel Tip #16** regarding our most popular Grand Canyon rafting trips!

For more information on multi-day white water trips, contact Rivers & Oceans in Flagstaff, Arizona, at 1-800-476-4576 or [www.rivers-oceans.com](http://www.rivers-oceans.com)

**Travel Tip 18 – Are Grand Canyon Air Tours Fun and Safe?**

A **Grand Canyon air tour** is the best value for the money, allowing you to see the most of the Grand Canyon in the shortest amount of time. Indeed, by flying over the canyon, you’ll get to see areas even the most skilled of hikers would be hard-pressed to get to! Grand Canyon overflights are available by **airplane** or **helicopter** and originate at **Grand Canyon National Park Airport (GCN) in Tusayan**. Overflights and air/ground combination tours are offered from Las Vegas **Boulder City Municipal Airport (61B)**.



**Grand Canyon Airlines** offer [50-minute Grand Canyon overflights](#) in **19-passenger Twin Otter Airplanes** from Grand Canyon National Park Airport (GCN) at the South Rim. [Air Grand Canyon](#) is another touring airline, operating canyon overflights in **6-passenger Cessna** airplanes out of Grand Canyon South Rim (GCN).

**Scenic Airlines** (who also fly **Twin Otters**) offers [50-minute Grand Canyon West overflights](#), [air/ground tours to the South Rim](#) and [airplane/helicopter combination tours to Grand Canyon West](#) and the bottom of the Grand Canyon from Las Vegas/Boulder City (61B).

Air/ground combination tours range from 7 to 9 hours in length. For a complete list of Grand Canyon Air Tour operators, see our Contact List, pgs 33-34.

Grand Canyon Helicopter tours are provided from **Grand Canyon South Rim** and **Las Vegas/Boulder City** by **Papillon Helicopters** and its subsidiary, **Grand Canyon Helicopters**. Grand Canyon helicopter tours from Las Vegas/Boulder City include overflights of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, or you can choose to add a [landing on the Canyon floor at Grand Canyon West](#). **Papillon** and **Grand Canyon Helicopters** also offer 30- and 50-minute overflights of the Grand Canyon from the Grand Canyon South Rim. Flights from the South Rim are unable to descend below the canyon rim, with the exception of an exclusive tour offered by **Papillon** from Grand Canyon South Rim to the beautiful waterfalls of the [Havasupai Indian Reservation](#) (operation of which has been suspended temporarily due to the closure of the reservation following a flash flood).



**Papillon** conducts their flights aboard **Bell Jet Ranger Helicopters** (photo above right), a very reliable and well-known type of helicopter used internationally for a variety of purposes. These helicopters seat 5-6 passengers depending on weights. One row of seats on this aircraft does face away from the pilot, but this does not tend to distract from one's view or quality of experience.



**Grand Canyon Helicopters'** flights are conducted aboard American Eurocopter **Eco-Star EC130 Helicopters** (photo left), a more modern helicopter built expressly for sightseeing. Eco-Stars can seat 6-7 passengers depending on weight. Featuring large "bubble" style windows and larger seats - all of which face forward - the Eco-Star is the "greener" choice for Grand Canyon helicopter flights. With its special tail rotor design (known as a *finestron*), the Eco-Star offers a flight that is markedly quieter than the Bell. In fact, its sound and emissions output is well below the standards set by the National Park Service.

Grand Canyon helicopter tours are more expensive than airplane tours. Due to the larger size and more complex design of the Eco-Star helicopters, Grand Canyon Helicopters' flights are a bit more expensive than Papillon's. **Helicopters are allowed to fly lower** than airplanes, giving you **the feeling of being closer to the Grand Canyon**. **Airplanes**, because of their higher airspeeds and **higher flight altitude**, will allow you to see more in terms of square mileage and **give you a better appreciation of how the Grand Canyon fits in relation to the surrounding terrain**.

**Grand Canyon flight routes are strictly regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration**, therefore flight duration, price, etc. will be extremely similar no matter which company you choose to fly with. It is because of these standards that **all Grand Canyon air tour operators have excellent safety records**. For a complete list of Grand Canyon Helicopter Tour operators, turn to our Contact List, pg 34.

**Insider tip:** if you can, schedule your Grand Canyon air tour for the morning hours (between 8 am and 10 am) - cooler temperatures equal smoother flights! Mid-day sun tends to wash out the colors of the canyon and afternoons tend to be *very* windy.

### Travel Tip 19 – What’s Appropriate for Kids or Seniors?

All Grand Canyon tours are **family-oriented** and **appropriate for most ages**, with little or no strenuous activity required. Some Grand Canyon tours do have some age restrictions, such as river rafting trips (**Travel Tip #17**), and **Inner Canyon Jeep Tours** (children must be at least 5). Children of all ages are welcome on Grand Canyon air tours, Grand Canyon helicopter tours, in-park bus tours, rimside jeep tours and the Grand Canyon Railway. On some jeep or van tours you will be required to provide a car seat for infants and younger children. On the Grand Canyon Railway, children of all ages may ride the Coach or First Class cars, but must be at least 11 to ride the Observation Dome or Luxury Parlor cars. The Coach and First Class Cars on the Grand Canyon Railway have wheelchair lifts. Children under the age of 2 may qualify as “lap children” on some tours and therefore may ride free of charge.



The National Park Service also offers a variety of quality free programs, such as lectures, slide shows, guided hikes, and the world-famous “**Junior Ranger**” Program. Some of these programs are wheelchair accessible. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) or [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org). In Tusayan, just outside the park, be sure to visit the **National Geographic Visitors’ Center**. While you’re there, be sure to check out the spectacular IMAX Movie “**Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets.**”

### Travel Tip 20 – Where is the Grand Canyon Skywalk?



**THE GRAND CANYON SKYWALK IS NOT LOCATED AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK.** It is located at **Grand Canyon West**, a Native American Tribal Park located 3 hours’ drive **Southeast of Las Vegas**. This innovative and controversial attraction, a glass-bottomed horseshoe-shaped walkway jutting seventy feet out from the lip of the canyon opened in March 2007 at **Grand Canyon West**. It is an example of a cantilevered structure, which means that no struts or support beams are visible, so you feel like you’re floating high in the air hundreds of feet above the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Remember that getting to this area is not necessarily easy (see Travel Tips #2 and #4). The main access road from Meadview is unpaved for 15 miles and not recommended for travel by rental car. **It costs approximately \$80/person to experience the Grand Canyon Skywalk for those who drive themselves to the area.** To **minimize hassle** and expense for yourself, strongly consider taking part in a **package tour from the Las Vegas area** such as the [Las Vegas Grand Canyon West Motorcoach Tour](#) or the [Indian Adventure Skywalk Air/Ground Tour](#). The price of your tour includes pickup and dropoff at your hotel (most major hotels on the Strip and Downtown) and lunch. On the Indian Adventure Skywalk Tour, admission to the Skywalk is also included; those who opt for the Motorcoach tour would simply purchase their tickets for the Grand Canyon Skywalk on-site at Grand Canyon West. Tour length is approximately 12 hours for the Motorcoach and 7.5 hours for the air/ground tour.



Cameras, cell phones and other personal items will not be allowed to be carried onto the Skywalk to protect the clarity of the glass. Even if the Skywalk doesn't appeal to you, Grand Canyon West still warrants consideration as an expeditious and exciting alternative to the South Rim or North Rim, especially when your time is at a premium, but you know you've come too far not to see the Grand Canyon.

**Insider tip:** Grand Canyon West is a Native American Tribal Park, NOT a National Park. Your America the Beautiful Federal Lands Access Pass and/or Grand Canyon Entrance Pass will NOT grant you access to this area. Payment of a separate entrance fee will be required.

### Travel Tip 21 - Do I Need a Permit for Grand Canyon Hiking?

Permits are not required for day hikes. You still need to do your **homework and know your limitations, especially in the summertime**. Always remember that for every hour you hike down, it will take 2 hours to hike back up. Food and water should be taken if you plan on spending any more than an hour or going further than one mile round-trip. **FOR YOUR SAFETY, HIKING RIM TO RIVER AND BACK IN A DAY IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED AT ALL TIMES!** If you're with small children or seniors at the **South Rim**, a good short hike that will allow you to experience the inner canyon without stress or strain is to hike to the "First Tunnel" down the **Bright Angel Trail**. If you're in relatively good health and are up for a little more of a challenge, **Cedar Ridge** on the **South Kaibab Trail** offers outstanding views. The hike is 3 miles round-trip, requiring 3 hours to complete on average. The Kaibab Trailhead is at Yaki Point, which is only accessible by shuttle.



On the **North Rim**, a good short hike is to **Coconino Overlook** down the **North Kaibab Trail**, 1.5 miles (2 hours average) round-trip. Another moderate inner canyon hike from the North Rim is **Cliff Spring Trail**. The trailhead is off the road near Cape Royal, and the hike is 2 miles round-trip along a forested ravine. It runs past a historic Anasazi rock granary to Cliff Spring, a spring that trickles from under a prominent rocky overhang.

If you want to take an **overnight hike in the canyon, back-country camping permits or reservations at Phantom Ranch are required**. Back-country permits and lodging at Phantom Ranch are also **typically booked months ahead**. If you're interested in an overnight hike in the Grand Canyon, you must make your reservations ASAP. For more information on Phantom Ranch, visit [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com) For information on obtaining a backcountry hiking permit, visit [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) **During the summer months, try to schedule any hiking during the cooler parts of the day. Avoid hiking in the inner canyon during the mid-day hours if at all possible.** Better yet, schedule your trip for early spring, late fall or even winter.

**CAUTION:** No matter what time of year you visit, BE CAREFUL when engaging in ANY kind of physical activity, no matter how easy it may seem. The South Rim is 6,500' above sea level; the North Rim is 1,000' higher. If you plan to walk any distance longer than a mile, pack some nutritious, high-energy snacks. Carry water and DRINK IT.

**Travel Tip 22 - Should I Get the “America The Beautiful” Pass?**

If you plan on visiting a few National Parks and/or Federal Fee areas within one year’s time, the “America the Beautiful” National Parks and Federal Lands Access Pass would be a worthwhile purchase. For \$80, you and everyone in your vehicle are granted access to **all National Parks, Monuments and Federal Fee Areas in the United States for one year**; the pass also covers entrance



and amenities fees at sites managed by the **Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the USDA Forest Service.** Visitors 62 or older qualify for a Senior Pass, which grants you lifetime access to all National Parks for a one-time fee of \$10. If you are disabled, ask about the free Access Pass. Senior and Access Passes must be obtained in person. *The “America the Beautiful Pass” does not grant access to State Parks or Native American Tribal Parks such as Monument Valley or Grand Canyon West.*

**Insider tip:** Save even more time by purchasing your pass *before* you go on vacation at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass> or call 1-888-ASK-USGS. Due to the high cost of international postage, overseas visitors are advised to simply purchase the pass at the first National Park Service station they encounter on their vacation.

**Travel Tip 23 - Any Good Restaurants in the Area?**

Tons! The **El Tovar Hotel Dining Room** is probably the **South Rim** area’s most famous, featuring a palate-pleasing fusion of Southwestern and Continental cuisine. Reservations are recommended for dinner (call (928) 638-2631) and breakfast and lunch are also served. The



**Arizona Room** is another excellent choice for lunch or dinner, located at Bright Angel Lodge (it typically closes for winter). **Bright Angel Lodge** also features a family-style restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. **Maswik and Yavapai Lodges** have cafeteria-style facilities (Yavapai may be subject to winter closures).

**Insider tip:** If you’re going to any of the rimside restaurants for lunch, try to get there before the Grand Canyon Railway arrives.

You’ll also find many good restaurants outside the park. In **Tusayan** (7 miles from the Park), the Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn’s **Coronado Room** offers a fine dining experience, and a coffee-shop is located next door. **JJK’s Restaurant**, in the **Quality Inn Canyon Plaza’s** Atrium features family-style dining in a most unique setting, or enjoy cowboy style cuisine at the **Grand Hotel’s Canyon Star** restaurant. Another restaurant that’s a *personal favorite* of just about everybody at GrandCanyon.com is the [Cameron Trading Post](#) on the Navajo Indian Reservation. A real Old West commerce center dating back to 1916, the house specialty is the Navajo Taco. It’s located 60 miles from the park, but the scenic drive and delicious meal make the Cameron Trading Post well worth the trip.



**Insider tip:** the Navajo Taco comes in “regular” and “mini” size. Unless you’re ravenously hungry, order the mini. If not, be prepared to take home a “doggie bag.”



On the **North Rim**, the **Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room** offers an upscale menu at reasonable prices in a warm, earthy atmosphere. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served. Reservations are strongly recommended for dinner. See page 38 of our contact list for phone numbers. The Grand Canyon Lodge also offers a chuck-wagon style **Cowboy Cookout** experience. *Remember – the North Rim Lodge is only open through October 15th!* 50 miles North of the Park, the [Jacob Lake Inn](#) has an old-fashioned diner known throughout the region for its delicious ice cream shakes and huge home-made cookies.

In **Page, Arizona**, you can choose from fast-food chains and independently owned family-style restaurants. If a big hearty breakfast is what you're after, the **Ranch House Grille** is famous for its slogan "bring your appetite, you're gonna need it." **Stromboli's Italian Restaurant** serves "calzones as big as your head" from early March through late October. **Pinciotti's** Italian Restaurant is open year-round. **The Mandarin Gourmet's** all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet is a local favorite. In the mood for Mexican? **Fiesta Mexicana** will satisfy your appetite for the spicy stuff. For a good quick lunch or dinner, **Slackers** features "fast food fit for grown-ups." Wondering "where's the beef?" It's at **Ken's Old West**, the **Glen Canyon Steakhouse** or the **Dam Bar & Grille**. And believe it or not, you can even get sushi here at the ultra-cool **Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge** (right).



Looking for a dining experience where getting to the restaurant is half the fun? Situated between Page, Arizona and Kanab, Utah is a popular local spot called the [Paria Outpost](#). Open for dinner only on Friday and Saturday nights mid-March through early October, the Outpost serves an all-you-can-eat Texas-style barbecue buffet, surrounded by the beauty of the Paria Canyon area. Or, between Bitter Springs and Jacob Lake, stop by the [Marble Canyon Lodge and Trading Post](#) for classic home-made American food with the Vermillion Cliffs and the Colorado River Gorge just steps from your table. Just down the road, the [Cliff Dweller's Lodge](#) is one of Northern Arizona's "best kept secrets" serving almost-gourmet food in the unlikeliest of places.



Flagstaff, Williams, Sedona, Page, Kanab or St. George also have many choices of both chain and independent restaurants. Check the local newspapers, TV or radio stations, the local Chamber of Commerce or Visitor Information Center, or your hotel front desk for recommendations. *The majority of restaurants and bars in the area are smoke-free.*

### Travel Tip 24 – How Should I Dress?

In the Southwest, our style is best summed up with "The 2 C's:" "CASUAL" and "COMFORTABLE." Even the area's more upscale restaurants have a *very* relaxed dress code, if they even have one at all – they know you're here to enjoy the outdoors! At the El Tovar Hotel, for example, they just ask that you not wear shorts to dinner. Pack a pair of khakis and maybe one long sleeve shirt; that should be as "formal" as you'll need. In **summertime, t-shirts and shorts** are usually sufficient for daytime wear, but do bring a light jacket as nights still get chilly and temperatures tend to drop quickly after sunset.

During the **early spring and late fall** months, you'll want to be prepared to put on **extra layers** as morning temperatures are definitely on the cool side. In the **winter** (November through February), **hats, scarves, gloves, sweaters**, etc. should be included in your Grand Canyon vacation gear. Snow or no snow, it's still cold (usually).

As to footwear, leave the wing-tips and high heels at home. You'll want to wear shoes that are comfortable for walking. Even if you plan to take it easy, many walkways in the area are unpaved, so **choose a shoe with at least a minimum of tread**. If you're the type of person who lives in sandals, forego the flip-flops and pick up a pair of heavy-duty sandals such as **Keens, Tevas** or **Chacos**. Invented by a Colorado River guide, these "sports sandals" have sturdy soles and Velcro ankle straps that will keep most pebbles and stickers at bay while hiking through the desert, yet allow you to walk through water without removing your shoes (or worrying about ruining them). You can wear them with socks in cooler weather, and they last forever. Similar sandals are sold at most retail shoe stores.



### **Travel Tip 25 – We Want to See the Grand Canyon; the Kids Want to Play in the Water**



If vacation just isn't vacation without water, consider making **Lake Powell** your "base camp" for exploring the Grand Canyon area. Located near the Arizona/Utah border, Lake Powell and the **Glen Canyon National Recreation area** boast stunning scenery, fun activities and lots of water! Lake Powell is situated almost exactly between the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon, which means that either side of the canyon would be an easy 2.5 hour drive. Other attractions nearby are **Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Monument Valley, Coral Pink Sand Dunes, Kodachrome Basin, Paria Canyon** - just to name a few.

Other popular things to do in the Page/Lake Powell area include **rafting, scenic cruises to Rainbow Bridge** and other attractions on the lake, **dinner cruises, slot canyon tours**, hiking, **scenic flights, boating**, swimming (around mid-April through mid-October!) and world-class **fishing**. There are also many events and festivals held throughout the year, especially during the fall (see **Travel Tip #27**). At the Helping Hands Fall Festival in October, citizens of the town pool their carved jack-o-lanterns in an attempt to break the record for the most lit pumpkins in one place. November's hot air balloon regatta is a three day event culminating with a night-time balloon glow right on the very main street of Page. [Room rates](#) and gas prices in Page are typically very reasonable. For more information about including Page/Lake Powell in your vacation plans, call Grand Canyon.com at (866) 944-7263 or (928) 645-6845. For more information on the Lake Powell/Glen Canyon National Recreation area, visit [www.nps.gov/glca](http://www.nps.gov/glca) . For Lake Powell water temperatures and fishing information, visit [www.wayneswords.com](http://www.wayneswords.com)

**Travel Tip 26 – How are Gas Prices Out There?**

They are high around Grand Canyon South Rim, but you can find surprisingly reasonable gas prices in some of the surrounding areas. Just remember it can be a long way between gas stations, so fill ‘er up when you have the chance. Also, the best gas prices are not necessarily where you’d expect to find them. Check out [www.arizonagasprices.com](http://www.arizonagasprices.com) , or [www.utahgasprices.com](http://www.utahgasprices.com) .



**Travel Tip 27 – Are Any Events or Festivals Going On?**



Lots of them, and not just at the Grand Canyon! The many charming and friendly small towns surrounding the Grand Canyon have concerts, fairs, lectures and other family-oriented events that celebrate everything from Route 66 to rodeos and more. Spring, summer and fall, predictably, are when most events occur. Activities do tend to taper off during the winter months, but then again there are lots of Christmas craft shows and holiday lighting displays. Everyone is invited! For more information about events taking place during your vacation, inquire at your hotel front desk when

you arrive in the area, check the local newspapers, or tune in to local TV or radio stations (photo at left: the Page/Lake Powell Hot Air Balloon Regatta, first weekend in November).

**Travel Tip 28 – Is there a “Grand Canyon East?”**

Officially, not yet. But like Grand Canyon West, the tribal park of the Hualapai Indians, “Grand Canyon East” could become a household name in the foreseeable future. Like Grand Canyon West, the extreme Eastern portion of the Grand Canyon is also Native American tribal land, in this case, belonging to the Navajo Indian Nation. Upon exiting Grand Canyon National Park via the Eastern border, one automatically enters the Navajo Indian Reservation, and their part of the Grand Canyon has features and attractions that are definitely worth a visit.



About 15 miles East of Desert View is one potential “focal point” of Grand Canyon East, the Little Colorado River arm, or as it is known locally, “the LCR” (photo above right). This tributary of the Colorado, whose water flow varies in volume and color according to the season, has carved an extremely deep yet beautiful canyon that one can see by an easily accessible overlook from Highway 64. Many Native artisans also have booths at this overlook where visitors can browse for hand-made crafts and other mementos of their visit.



In the nearby town of Cameron, Arizona, visitors can experience a real Old West commerce center dating back to 1915. The Cameron Trading Post houses one of Northern Arizona’s finest collections of arts and crafts representing many Southwestern Indian Tribes. It also has a small hotel, art gallery, gas station and convenience store, but perhaps its most famous attribute is its restaurant and the house specialty, the world-famous Navajo Taco (see Travel Tip #23)!

**NEW Special Section: "You Asked, We Answered!"**

**Travel Tip 29 – "Can I Light Fireworks on 4<sup>th</sup> of July?"**



**Absolutely not!** Fireworks are illegal within National Park boundaries. Brush fires are a very real danger (as was proven by the 2006 Warm Fire at the North Rim), and it's simply not worth the risk. Instead, plan to attend a **professional fireworks display** in one of the various towns around the Grand Canyon such as **Williams, Flagstaff, Page or Kanab, Utah**. Check local newspapers, TV or radio stations when you arrive in the area. Even if fireworks are nixed due to dry conditions, there will probably still be parades, carnivals and other events that you can attend or participate in (see Travel Tip #28).

**Travel Tip 30 – "Where Can I Watch the Super Bowl, March Madness, the Playoffs, the World Series, Etc?"**

Sports fans can catch the games they want to see at one of several sports lounges in the Grand Canyon area. Inside the park, the **Maswik Lounge and Sports Bar** has not one, but *seven* TV's tuned to sporting events around the world. Outside the park, the **Best Western Grand Canyon**



**Squire Inn** has an excellent sports lounge with billiard tables. Across the hall is the Squire's world-famous family play center, which means that while you watch the game, the rest of the family can enjoy bowling, video games and other activities. Across the street, the **Grand Hotel's Canyon Star Saloon** has a big screen TV as well. The gateway communities of Williams and Flagstaff (home of [Northern Arizona University](#) ) also have several fine pubs and cocktail lounges that cater to sports fans.

**Travel Tip 31 – "What if the Weather Turns Bad?"**

So what DO you do if your Grand Canyon vacation gets rained out, fogged in, snowed on or otherwise? You don't hang out in your room and mope, that's for sure. Just take things indoors. Here are a few things you can do if Grand Canyon weather is less than ideal:

**Foul-weather activities at the Grand Canyon:**

- **Visit the Yavapai Observation Station** - HUGE picture window offering spectacular views of Grand Canyon. Of course, if it's raining or snowing, there might not be much of a view at all, but they do have a nice bookstore that's open from 8 AM to 8 PM. This historic building recently underwent a renovation. .
- Learn about Grand Canyon art and photography from the early days to modern times at the **Kolb Studio** located near the Bright Angel trailhead. This was the residence of Ellsworth and Emery Kolb, who were amongst the first to photograph and film the Grand Canyon. The home has been converted to a bookstore and museum, and the auditorium also hosts the annual "[Arts for the Parks](#)" Exhibit at certain times of the year.
- Learn about one of America's early hoteliers at the **Fred Harvey Museum**. Located inside Bright Angel Lodge just off the main lobby, you'll not only learn a lot about [Fred Harvey](#) himself, but you'll also get a kick out of seeing how much a meal cost in 1910, the unique designs of the tea service used in the "Harvey House" dining rooms back in the

heyday of train travel, the prim and proper uniforms worn by the now-legendary “[Harvey Girls](#).” The small museum also has a fireplace whose hearth was built from stones representing each rock layer in the Grand Canyon itself.

- **Shop.** Whether you window shop or shop for real, it’s a fun and educational experience at the Grand Canyon. Many of Grand Canyon South Rim’s gift shops are located inside historic buildings. The [Hopi House](#) , a 101-year-old replica of a Hopi pueblo designed by premier female architect [Mary Jane Colter](#), contains one of the park’s finest collections of jewelry, pottery, basketry and rugs made by hand by members of Arizona’s many Native tribes. Hopi House also offers more moderately priced mass-produced product lines. Across the way from Hopi House, the [El Tovar Hotel](#) Lobby is not only a nice cozy place to hang out and sip hot coffee, the display case in the center of the room shows the “cream of the crop” of hand-made Native American jewelry. Many pieces are prizewinners at the [Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial](#) , an annual gathering of Native artists in Gallup, New Mexico.



- Visit the **Canyon View Information Plaza**. Located across from Mather Point, Canyon View is now the park’s official visitor facility. Here you will find informative displays, a large bookstore, and ample restrooms. Because this facility was designed as the terminus for a mass transit system that is not yet operating, you cannot drive to it. Park your car and ride the [free shuttle](#) or walk the short trail from Mather Point.

- Take part in a ranger-led program. Though most of these are outdoor programs, there are many that take place indoors at locations such as the Shrine of the Ages, Kolb Studio, Canyon View Information Plaza, etc. Check your copy of the Grand Canyon Guide (a newspaper that you’ll receive upon entering the park), or visit [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) .

All these activities are things you can do within Grand Canyon Village, the main visitor service area at Grand Canyon South Rim. *If road conditions permit*, take a drive along the 26-mile East Rim Drive of the Grand Canyon and do the following:

- **Visit the Tusayan Ruins and Museum** - located three miles west of Desert View and 22 miles east of Grand Canyon Village on Desert View Drive. Open daily year-round (*but may be closed due to inclement weather*), 9am to 5pm. A visit to Tusayan Museum will provide a glimpse of Pueblo Indian life at Grand Canyon some 800 years ago, admission is free. A self-guiding trail leads through the ruin. Ranger-led tours are offered daily. Educational materials are sold in the non-profit bookstore.



- **Visit the Desert View Watchtower and Trading Post:** Another masterpiece from architect Mary Jane Colter, the 70-foot watchtower opened in 1932. The structure is reminiscent of ancestral Puebloan (aka ‘*Hisatsinom*’ or ‘*Anasazi*’) towers found near Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, bearing strongest resemblance to a particular ruin

preserved at Hovenweep National Monument. Those willing to climb to the top are rewarded with spectacular views of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River on a clear day. On a cloudy day, the tower's interior also offers a glimpse of Indian culture in the form of ceremonial paintings by Hopi artist Fred Kabotie. Next door, the trading post offers a snack bar and souvenir shop.

Remember, the above activities are located on the East Rim Drive of the canyon, a very twisty, windy road, and one best avoided if it happens to be snowing. Just South of Grand Canyon Village, the community of Tusayan also offers a variety of activities that can help save the day (not to mention your vacation!):

- **Let's Bowl!** Bring the family down to [the Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn](#)'s on-site play center, featuring a 6-lane bowling alley, video games, pool tables (at the Sports Lounge across the hall). [Not staying at the Squire](#) ? No problem - this facility is open to all area visitors.
- **Some mamas *did* let their babies grow up to be cowboys**, and cowboys are celebrated in several places in Tusayan. The Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn has a small cowboy museum located in the main lobby near the gift shop. You can see actual branding tools used on livestock in this area. Across the street at [the Grand Hotel](#), fine examples of Western art can be found throughout the lobby. This hotel also has a wonderful Christmas craft show in December. The Grand Hotel pays "architectural homage" to the El Tovar.
- **Get pampered in "grand" style.** Get a haircut, a facial, maybe even a "mani and a pedi." Yes, you can do that sort of thing at the Grand Canyon. The [Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn](#) has a salon and spa just down the hall from the family play center. Prior appointment required, make yours by calling (928) 638-2681.
- **See the IMAX Movie "Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets."** White-water rafting, helicopters yanking and banking through the Little Colorado River Gorge, stunning photography.... it's only 40 minutes long, but you'll feel as though you've been down in the depths of the canyon when you walk out of the National Geographic IMAX Theatre. The film is shown every hour on the half hour from 10.30 AM to 6.30 PM in shoulder season, 8.30 am to 8.30 pm in peak.

**Travel Tip 32 – “Can You Ski or Snowboard There?”**

There are actually quite a few ski areas in the Southwest. The last couple of winters haven't brought the usual amounts of snow, but if it does happen to snow when you visit, check out the [Arizona Snow Bowl](#) in Flagstaff. At the Grand Canyon, cross-country skiing is possible in the Kaibab National Forest. You can rent skis at the Canyon Marketplace, and break trail virtually wherever you want. Occasionally, tracks will be groomed at the Arizona Trail, 10 minutes from Grand Canyon Village on the East Rim Drive. The White Mountains are within half a day's drive of Phoenix, with Pinetop-Lakeside's [Sunrise Park Resort](#) providing ample opportunities for all kinds of wintertime activities. Further North, [Brian Head, Utah](#) is located about 3 hours from Page/Lake Powell, Arizona.



## Travel Tip 33 – “Can We Get Married at Grand Canyon?”



Yes, you can! Like a wedding taking place anywhere else, though, advance planning is key to a successful event at the Grand Canyon. It should be pointed out that **the Grand Canyon is best for smaller, less formal gatherings.** The park does not have facilities for large audiences (exception: the Shrine of the Ages, which seats 250+).

Some services, such as florists and wedding cake designers, are located as far away as Flagstaff. **If you would like to get married outdoors** at the North or South Rim, **a Special Use Permit must be obtained from the National Park Service.** These cost anywhere from \$150 to \$250 depending on where your wedding will be held and are non-refundable. *Only certain sites are authorized for outdoor weddings.* These are located away from major traffic areas so as not to conflict with other visitors' enjoyment of the Grand Canyon. You must also have an Arizona marriage license, and arrange for someone to perform the ceremony. For more information on facilities, clergy and guidelines for Grand Canyon Weddings, visit [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) and look at the section marked “Fees and Reservations.” You can download a permit application from there as well.

Indoor weddings do not require special use permits. Grand Canyon Lodge at the North Rim does not host weddings or receptions, but Grand Canyon South Rim does have several banquet rooms available for these types of functions. For assistance, contact Xanterra South Rim LLC at 928-638-2631 and ask for the special events coordinator.

There is also a professional event planner located in Flagstaff who can help with these arrangements. Visit [www.northernarizonaweddingplanner.com](http://www.northernarizonaweddingplanner.com) or call 877-527-0690. Weddings can also be held at the bottom of the canyon at **Grand Canyon West**, where many helicopter operators offer round-trip packages from – where else? - Las Vegas.

**Insider tip:** weather can be highly unpredictable at Grand Canyon. If you plan an outdoor wedding at the South Rim, coordinate a “back-up” indoor location with Xanterra, just in case!

## Travel Tip 34 –

### “Should I Reconfirm My Arrangements Before I Travel?”

Absolutely! Even if you made all your arrangements online, chances are a live human being was involved in the process, and humans are, well, human. So taking this one last step will go a long way towards resolving any potential problems before they ruin your vacation outright. Most Grand Canyon tour operators strongly advise (if not adamantly demand) a reconfirmation call for this very purpose. One to two weeks before you get ready to travel, take a few minutes of your time to phone your airlines, car rental agencies, as well as hotels, tour operators and restaurants just to make sure everything is O.K. Feel free to use the “notes” section of this travel planner – that’s what we put it there for! List all your arrangements in chronological order, including your reservation number. Be sure to note the name of the person you spoke with to reconfirm. If possible, keep your notes in your carry-on luggage or purse so you always have them within easy access. Consider purchasing trip insurance to protect your family’s investment.

## Travel Tip #35 – Last Word/First Word

**SAFETY FIRST – ALWAYS!** The last thing we want to hear about is your long-awaited vacation being ruined by an accident or other mishap. Here are a few last tips culled from years of experience seeing all kinds of people get into all kinds of trouble on their Grand Canyon vacations.

1. Practice defensive driving. You're sharing the roadways with thousands of other people who are just as unfamiliar with the area as you are, many of whom are used to driving on the left hand side of the road, or are operating a recreational vehicle for the first time. **Use your headlights, even during the daytime.** Don't follow the car in front of you too closely. *Avoid stopping suddenly in the middle of the road.* If you see an animal, pretty view, or something you want to photograph, pull off the side of the road to where it's safe, then take your picture. If you find yourself lost, again, pull off to the side of the road to where you are out of the way of traffic, then look at your map.

*If you're visiting in wintertime, remember that winter driving poses its own set of hazards.* If you're unaccustomed to driving in snow, *take it slow.* Better yet, curl up next to a nice cozy fire with a cup of hot chocolate and stay off the road altogether. If you must drive in winter, be sure to check road conditions before you head out. Inquire at your hotel front desk or visit [www.az511.com](http://www.az511.com) for road conditions or closures.



2. The altitude can affect your attitude. Grand Canyon's South Rim is over 6,000' above sea level; the North Rim is over 7,000.' Acclimation takes about two weeks for a person in good health. Individuals with heart or lung problems should exercise care when visiting the Grand Canyon. If your physician advises you not to go to such high altitudes, Grand Canyon West is only 4,000' high (but *very hot* in the summertime). Even if you're healthy, don't overdo it. If you need to take a break, TAKE A BREAK!

3. Watch children and pets at all times. Many canyon viewpoints do not have guardrails, so approach the rim slowly, and keep your pets leashed always. NEVER leave a pet or a child unattended in a parked car, even with the windows cracked open. Temperatures inside parked vehicles can reach in excess of 150°F with alarming speed during the summer months. Even at cooler times of the year, leaving a child or pet in a parked vehicle is unsafe. Don't do it!

4. This is the desert (but then again, it's not!). Don't let pleasant temperatures on the canyon rim or even a little rain or snow fool you. Conditions here are probably much drier than you're used to. **Carry water and drink it.** Protect yourself from the sun. Wear a **hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.** Carry lip balm and moisturize often.

**Insider tip:** You'll find that your hair dries out a lot easier than at home, and hotels typically provide shampoo, but not conditioner. Bring your own. Contact lens wearers also report that the dry climate is hard on their eyes, so bring a spare pair of glasses.

**Extreme weather dangers:** Prolonged dry weather and windy conditions make the area susceptible to **dust storms**. Use caution when driving through flat, sandy terrain or unplanted agricultural fields. If you are caught in a dust storm while driving, pull off the highway a safe distance until the disturbance passes. **Flash floods** can happen even when you can't see a cloud in the sky! Check weather before venturing into slot canyons or riverbeds. NEVER try to drive across a flooded roadway. **Lightning storms** can also be treacherous. Avoid standing on the canyon rim or any high, exposed area during a thunderstorm. If you feel your hair stand on end, or smell sulphur, take cover! **Blizzards** are particularly dangerous on the highways. Avoid driving during severe snowstorms if at all possible. Road closures may result. For more information, visit the Arizona Department of Public Safety's website at [www.azdps.gov](http://www.azdps.gov) or the Arizona Department of Transportation at [www.az511.com](http://www.az511.com)



5. **Watch out for wildlife and don't feed them.** Deer and elk are notoriously nocturnal and can dart out in front of you before you have time to react. Obey the speed limit and be alert when driving after dark. During the daytime, it's not unusual to see deer, elk, squirrels and birds come right up to people and beg for food. These creatures may look perfectly tame, but they're not. Squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents also have fleas, which harbor infectious diseases. Enjoy the wildlife from a distance. Also, hunting is prohibited, as is throwing objects at animals or birds.



6. **When it gets dark, it gets really, really dark.** Artificial lighting is kept to a minimum in the National Parks, which makes the darkness more pronounced than you may be used to. Many of the hotel rooms inside the park are situated in the woods, too, so **bring a flashlight or headlamp** along on your sunset walk. Blindly stumbling around in unfamiliar territory is not only unnerving, but unsafe.



7. **BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE!** 2006 was a particularly bad season for forest fires as demonstrated by large-scale blazes in Sedona and at the North Rim. Fire danger could carry over into subsequent years without adequate precipitation, which may mean foregoing campfires and abstaining from smoking. **Obey any and all fire restrictions in the parks you visit!** Make sure that your campfire is completely out by dousing it, stirring it and dousing it again. If you smoke, grind your cigarette out in the dirt (but never on a stump or log), and NEVER toss a lit cigarette out your car window.

8. **For Lake Powell Visitors: No cliff diving, no teak surfing and no kite tubing!** Be aware of the dangers of **carbon monoxide**. Children must wear a US Coast Guard approved life vest around the water at all times. For more information on safety at Lake Powell, visit [www.nps.gov/glca](http://www.nps.gov/glca) or [www.carbon-monoxide-poisoning.com](http://www.carbon-monoxide-poisoning.com) Want more information on Lake Powell? Order your **Lake Powell Vacation Guidebook** by calling 866-944-7263 or 928-645-6845 or e-mail [info@grandcanyon.com](mailto:info@grandcanyon.com)



## Getting the Most Out of Your Grand Vacation Contact List

### Grand Canyon Hotels

- South Rim:** Xanterra South Rim LLC: ☎ 1-888-297-2757 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-303-297-2757 (International)  
🌐 [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)
- North Rim:** Forever Resorts ☎ 1-877-386-4383 (Toll Free/US)  
🌐 [www.grandcanyonlodgenorth.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodgenorth.com)

### Gateway Community Hotels

- (Tusayan, Williams, Flagstaff, Page-Lake Powell, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Sedona)  
☎ 1-800-916-8530 (Toll Free/US)  
🌐 <http://www.grandcanyon.com/hotels.html>

### Grand Canyon Camping

- South Rim:** Trailer Village ☎ 1-888-297-2757 (Toll Free/US)  
(RV sites with hook-ups) ☎ 1-303-297-2757 (International Toll)  
🌐 [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)
- Mather Campground ☎ 1-877-444-6777  
(tent & RV sites, no hookups) 🌐 [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov)
- North Rim:** Grand Canyon Campground ☎ 1-877-444-6777  
(tent & RV sites, no hookups) 🌐 [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov)

### Grand Canyon Mule Rides










- South Rim:** Xanterra South Rim, LLC ☎ 1-888-297-2757 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-303-297-2757 (International Toll)  
🌐 [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)
- North Rim:** Canyon Trail Rides ☎ 1-435-679-8665  
🌐 [www.canyonrides.com](http://www.canyonrides.com)

*Weight, height, English fluency strictly enforced; no pregnant women.  
Trips typically booked 9 months to a year in advance.*

### Grand Canyon Air Tours (Plane)






















- Grand Canyon Airlines ☎ 1-866-235-9422 (Toll Free/US)  
(Grand Canyon South Rim, ☎ 1-928-638-2407 (International Toll)  
Las Vegas/Boulder City) 🌐 [www.grandcanyonairlines.com](http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com)
- Scenic Airlines ☎ 1-800-634-6801 (Toll Free/US)  
(Grand Canyon South Rim, ☎ 1-702-638-3200 (International Toll)  
Las Vegas/Boulder City) 🌐 [www.scenic.com](http://www.scenic.com)

## Grand Canyon Plane Tours (cont'd)

<u>Air Grand Canyon</u> Grand Canyon South Rim	 1-800-247-4726 (Toll Free/US)  1-928-638-2686 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.airgrandcanyon.com">www.airgrandcanyon.com</a>
<u>Westwind Air Service</u> Phoenix/Deer Valley	 1-888-869-0866 (Toll Free/US)  1-480-991-5557 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.westwindairservice.com">www.westwindairservice.com</a>
<u>Vision Air/Vision Holidays</u> North Las Vegas:	 1-800-256-8767 (Toll Free/US)  1-702-647-7000 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.visionholidays.com">www.visionholidays.com</a>

*For more information on scheduled airline service to Las Vegas (LAS), Phoenix (PHX), Flagstaff (FLG) and Page (PGA) call your travel agent or preferred airline or visit <http://www.grandcanyon.com/airline-tickets.html>*

## Grand Canyon Air Tours (Helicopter)

<u>Papillon Helicopters</u>	Grand Canyon  Las Vegas	 1-800-528-2418 (Toll Free/US)  1-928-638-2407 (International Toll)  1-888-635-7272 (Toll Free/US)  1-702-736-7243 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.papillon.com">www.papillon.com</a>
<u>Grand Canyon Helicopters</u>	Grand Canyon  Las Vegas	 1-800-541-4537 (Toll Free/US)  1-928-638-2764 (International Toll)  1-800-541-4537 (Toll Free/US)  1-702-835-8477 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com">www.grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com</a>
<u>Maverick Helicopters</u>	Grand Canyon  Las Vegas	 1-888-261-4414 (Toll Free/US)  1-928-638-2622 (International Toll)  1-888-261-4414 (Toll Free/US)  1-702-261-0007 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.maverickhelicopter.com">www.maverickhelicopter.com</a>
<u>Sundance Helicopters</u>	Las Vegas	 1-800-653-1881 (Toll Free/US)  1-702-736-0606 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.sundancehelicopters.com">www.sundancehelicopters.com</a>
<u>Heli USA</u>	Las Vegas	 1-800-359-8727 (Toll Free/US)  1-702-736-8787 (International Toll)  <a href="http://www.sundancehelicopters.com">www.sundancehelicopters.com</a>

## Grand Canyon Bus/Van Tours

### Scenic Airlines (Las Vegas/Boulder City):

(Day tours from Las Vegas to Grand Canyon South Rim and Grand Canyon West)

☎ 1-800-634-6801 (Toll Free US)  
☎ 1-702-638-3200 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.scenic.com](http://www.scenic.com)

### Xanterra South Rim LLC

(In-park bus tours, Grand Canyon South Rim)

☎ 1-888-297-2757 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-303-297-2757 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)

### American Dream Tours

(Day Tours from Flagstaff and Williams, to Grand Canyon South Rim)

☎ 1-888-203-1212 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-527-3369 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.americandreamtours.com](http://www.americandreamtours.com)

### Southwest Custom Tours

(Day Tours from Phoenix/Scottsdale to Grand Canyon South Rim, Sedona, Southern Arizona and Mexico)

☎ 1-800-513-1381  
☎ 1-602-971-1381  
📄 [www.southwesttours.com](http://www.southwesttours.com)

### Great Ventures Tours (Sedona)

(Day tours from Sedona and Flagstaff to Grand Canyon South Rim, Page, and Grand Canyon West)

☎ 1-800-578-2643 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-282-4451 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.greatventures.com](http://www.greatventures.com)

### Open Road Tours

(Tours and shuttles from Phoenix to Flagstaff, Williams, Sedona and Grand Canyon South Rim)

☎ 1-800-766-7117 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-602-997-6474 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.openroadtours.com](http://www.openroadtours.com)

### Grayline Tours

(Day and overnight tours from Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles to Grand Canyon South Rim)

☎ 1-800-634-6579 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-303-394-6920 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.grayline.com](http://www.grayline.com)

*For information on scheduled bus service to Phoenix, Flagstaff, Las Vegas and elsewhere, visit [www.Greyhound.com](http://www.Greyhound.com) or call 1-800-231-2222*

## Grand Canyon Train Tours

### Grand Canyon Railway (Williams, Arizona)

☎ 1-800-THE-TRAIN (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-635-4224 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.thetrain.com](http://www.thetrain.com)

*For information on scheduled train service to Williams or Flagstaff, or Thruway service to Phoenix or Las Vegas, contact AMTRAK 1-800-872-7245 or visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)*

## Grand Canyon Hiking

Phantom Ranch Lodging and Meals:  
(Xanterra South Rim LLC)

☎ 1-888-297-2757 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-303-297-2757 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)

Campgrounds (Inner Canyon only [*includes Bright Angel & Cottonwood campgrounds*])

**Backcountry permit requests accepted by fax, mail, or in person only**

National Park Service/  
Backcountry Reservations Office

☎ 1-928-638-7888 (recorded message)  
☎ 1-928-638-2125  
📄 [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca)

Downloadable permit application:

<http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/permit-request.pdf>

To mail completed application: Backcountry Information Center / GCNP,  
P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon AZ, 86023

## Grand Canyon Rafting/Grand Canyon West Tours

### ***From Grand Canyon South Rim:***

Grand Canyon Airlines  
(Colorado River Day Float Trip,  
Canyon River Day Adventure)

☎ 1-866-235-9422 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-638-2407 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.grandcanyonairlines.com](http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com)

Scenic Airlines  
(Half-Day Plane/Helicopter/Pontoon  
Boat Combination Tours to  
Grand Canyon West)

☎ 1-800-634-6801 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-702-638-3200 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.scenic.com](http://www.scenic.com)

### ***From Las Vegas/Boulder City:***

Scenic Airlines  
(Half-Day Plane/Helicopter/Pontoon  
Boat Combination Tours to  
Grand Canyon West)

☎ 1-800-634-6801 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-702-638-3200 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.scenic.com](http://www.scenic.com)

Black Canyon Adventures  
(Half-Day Float Trips from  
Boulder City)

☎ 1-800-455-3490 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-702-294-1414 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.blackcanyonadventures.com](http://www.blackcanyonadventures.com)

### ***From Page/Lake Powell:***

Colorado River Discovery  
(Half Day Smooth Water Float)

☎ 1-888-522-6644 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-645-9175 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.raftthecanyon.com](http://www.raftthecanyon.com)

### ***From Sedona or Flagstaff:***

Great Ventures Tours (Sedona)  
(Colorado River Day Float Trips  
from Sedona and Flagstaff;

☎ 1-800-578-2643 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-282-4451 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.greatventures.com](http://www.greatventures.com)

***From Peach Springs:***

Hualapai River Running One-Day  
Grand Canyon White Water Rafting

☎ 1-800-855-9550 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-769-2219 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.destinationgrandcanyon.com](http://www.destinationgrandcanyon.com)

*All Grand Canyon Rafting tours listed above are one day in duration or less.  
For information on multi-day Grand Canyon White Water Rafting Trips,  
Contact Rivers & Oceans at 1-800-473-4576 or visit [www.rivers-oceans.com](http://www.rivers-oceans.com)*

**Grand Canyon Area Jeep/4x4 Tours*****From Grand Canyon South Rim:***

Grand Canyon Jeeps & Safaris  
(Canyon Pines, Sunset and  
Indian Cave Paintings Tours)

☎ 1-800-320-5337 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-638-5337 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.grandcanyonjeeptours.com](http://www.grandcanyonjeeptours.com)

Grand Canyon Old West Jeep Tours  
(Inner Canyon Jeep Tours)

☎ 1-866-638-4386 (Toll Free/US)  
📄 [www.grandcanyonatvadventures.com](http://www.grandcanyonatvadventures.com)

***From Las Vegas:***

Pink Jeep Tours:  
(Day trips to Grand Canyon West,  
Valley of Fire, Red Rock Canyon)

☎ 1-888-900-4480 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-702-895-6777 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.pinkjeep.com](http://www.pinkjeep.com)

**Antelope Canyon Jeep Tours (Page, Arizona)**

Antelope Canyon Tours  
(slot canyon tours, Lake Powell area)

1-866-645-9102 (Toll Free/US)  
☎ 1-928-645-9102 (International Toll)  
📄 [www.antelopecanyon.com](http://www.antelopecanyon.com)

Chief Tsosie's Antelope Slot Canyon Tours  
(slot canyon tours, Lake Powell area)

☎ 1-928-645-5594  
📄 [www.antelopeslotcanyon.com](http://www.antelopeslotcanyon.com)

Slot Canyon Hummer Adventures  
(Waterholes Canyon, Page area)

☎ 1-928-645-2266  
📄 [www.slotcanyonhummeradventures.com](http://www.slotcanyonhummeradventures.com)

**Paria Canyon Tours (near Page, Arizona)**

Paria Outpost & Outfitters  
(guided hiking & 4WD tours to  
Paria Canyon, Coyote Buttes,\*  
"The Wave"\* \*permits required)

☎ 1-928-691-1047  
📄 [www.paria.com](http://www.paria.com)

**Lake Powell Boat Tours & Dinner Cruises (Page, Arizona)**

Lake Powell Resort  
(boat tours to Rainbow Bridge,  
Navajo Canyon, Dinner &  
Breakfast Cruises)

☎ 1-888-896-3829  
☎ 1-928-645-1070  
📄 [www.lakepowell.com](http://www.lakepowell.com)

**Grand Canyon Area Dinner Reservations**

**South Rim:**

El Tovar Hotel Dining Room  
(928) 638-2631 extension 6432

*Dinner reservations accepted up to 6 months in advance for El Tovar Hotel guests  
Guests staying elsewhere may make reservations up to 30 days in advance*

The Coronado Room (inside the Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn)  
(928) 638-2681

*Reservations strongly recommended during peak travel season*

**North Rim:**

Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room  
January 1st through April 26<sup>th</sup>: (928) 645-6865  
May 11th through October 14<sup>th</sup>: (928) 638-2611

*Reservations accepted for dinner only*

*Grand Canyon North Rim is only open from May through October*

***All other area restaurants are first-come first serve***

***- Thank you again for purchasing our Travel Guide! If you  
have any suggestions or comments, please e-mail***

***[faq@grandcanyon.com](mailto:faq@grandcanyon.com) -***









## **Thank you for reading our Grand Canyon Vacation Guidebook**

We hope this travel guide has helped you plan your Grand Canyon vacation efficiently and easily. As we continually strive to improve this and other in-house publications, we welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please contact us at (866) 944-7263 [Toll Free in the US] or International Toll, (928) 645-6845, or e-mail [faq@grandcanyon.com](mailto:faq@grandcanyon.com)

**Thank you again, and Happy Travels!**

**(866) 944-7263**

**(928) 645-6845**

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