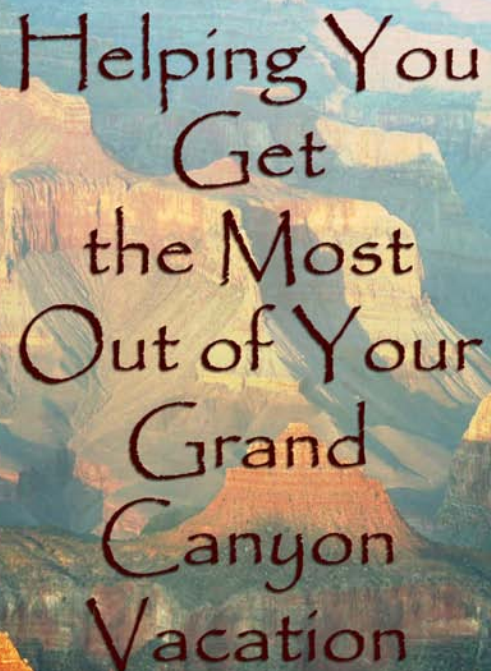


The Insider's Guide to the Grand Canyon



Helping You
Get
the Most
Out of Your
Grand
Canyon
Vacation



Summer Travel Guide

Grand
Canyon.com

Let's get
started
and get
YOU
to the
Grand
Canyon!

Thank you for choosing GrandCanyon.com as your Southwestern vacation specialist! You've chosen a truly extraordinary place for your summer 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 a few "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 get to **skip to Chapter 8** of this little guide!

For those who've just now decided on the Grand Canyon for summer vacation, we hope you'll find this guide helpful in putting together a trip you'll be smiling about for years to come!

Before you dig in, we recommend that you have a few minutes of quiet time, a map or road atlas, a pen and/or a highlighter, maybe a beverage, and your "[Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#)."





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Travel Tip 1:

Where Is the Grand Canyon?

Grand Canyon National Park is in Northern Arizona.

Travel Tip 2:

What Side Can I See it From?

Grand Canyon South Rim and West Rim (a.k.a. "*Grand Canyon West*") are open year-round. Grand Canyon North Rim is open from mid-May through mid-October.

Travel Tip 3:

How Do I Find it on a Map?

Your [Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#) has one. You can also find several excellent maps on our website. To find the Grand Canyon's location on MapQuest or Yahoo!, use Zip code "**86023**" or "**Grand Canyon, Arizona**" for Grand Canyon South Rim. You can also use Airport Locator Code "GCN."

In our experience, mapping Grand Canyon North Rim is a bit tricky. We've found it best to use **Jacob Lake, Arizona** as your reference point, and from there, the park is 60 miles South. For Grand Canyon West (a.k.a. the "West Rim,") **Meadview, Arizona** seems to be the closest mappable location.

Insider Tip:

Be sure to do a "reality check" on all roads you plan to travel. Some mapping sites may inadvertently route you through unpaved roads, which can be impassable in inclement weather or to vehicles without 4-Wheel drive. **When in doubt, check it out.** Inquire at your hotel front desk, or check road conditions online. For Arizona, use www.az511.com; for Utah, visit www.dot.state.ut.us Note that most rental car insurance policies WILL NOT cover damage sustained by taking vehicles off-road!

Travel Tip 4:

How Do I Get to the Grand Canyon?

FLYING:

Most visitors begin their Grand Canyon vacations from one of four metropolitan airports within a day's drive of the park:

- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Salt Lake City, Utah (SLC), 410 miles from the *North Rim*, average drive time 7 hours OR
- ✦ 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.

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

- ✦ Flagstaff, Arizona (FLG), served by America West/Mesa Airlines out of Phoenix, 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), served by United Express/Great Lakes Airlines out of Phoenix or Denver, 150 miles from the *South OR North Rim*, average drive time 2.5 hours.
- ✦ St. George, Utah (SGU), served by Delta/Skywest Airlines out of 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.

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Grand Canyon National Park Airport [South Rim] (GCN) is primarily used as a sightseeing airport. Limited scheduled flights are available through Scenic Airlines out of Las Vegas. 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 travel is the distances between places. Things are a lot more spread out here than you're probably used to, so unless you fly into one of the smaller airports located near the park, be prepared to spend a good bit of 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 chapter 24 about finding the best gas prices).

Around here,
we have a
saying:
*"Before you
get
somewhere,
you have to
drive through
a whole lot of
nowhere."*

Insider tip:

Get an early start to avoid construction delays at Hoover Dam.

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.
- **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. Average drive time: 4.5 hours
- **From Williams, Arizona**: Take Highway 64 North approximately 60 miles. Average drive time: 1 hour.
- **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. Average drive time: 1.5 hours.
- **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:

☞ **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 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 South 60 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 South 60 miles into the park.

☞ **From Page, Arizona:** Take US89 West 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 South 60 miles into the park.

Need a Las Vegas Grand Canyon tour map, or a door-to-door itinerary customized just for you? Call GrandCanyon.com at (866) 944-7263 or e-mail info@grandcanyon.com

Insider Tip:

Neither the Coach nor Club cars of the Railway offer air-conditioning. If you prefer an air-conditioned ride, choose First Class, Observation Dome or Luxury Parlor Car. Children must be at least 11 to ride in the Dome or Parlor cars; all ages are welcome on the First Class Car. Consult your [Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#), or call GrandCanyon.com for booking information at (866) 944-7263.

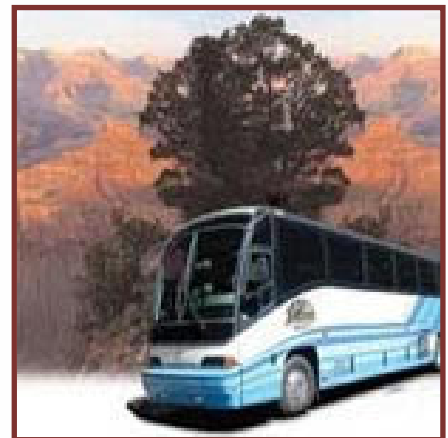
BY TRAIN *to the South Rim:*

From Williams, Arizona: get to the Grand Canyon 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. The Grand Canyon train departs daily from Williams, Arizona, with 3.5 hour layover at the South Rim. Overnight packages are also available.



BY BUS:

A Grand Canyon Bus Tour from Las Vegas, Phoenix, Sedona or Flagstaff is a great way to see the Grand Canyon when your time and/or money are limited. Scheduled bus service is also available from Phoenix or Flagstaff. For more information on these, contact GrandCanyon.com at (866) 944-7263.



Travel Tip 5:

Where Do I Stay?

Grand Canyon hotels are typically booked 8 months to a year in advance for summer. All hotels inside the park at both the North and South Rim are administered by the concessionaire, Xanterra Parks & Resorts (888/297-2757; www.grandcanyonlodges.com). If your trip is less than 3 months away, you are unlikely to be able to secure lodging inside the park. Your best bet will be to look at the park's "gateway communities" (cities and towns located nearby) for your Grand Canyon lodging.

South Rim Gateway Communities

Tusayan is located an easy 7 miles (10 minutes) from Grand Canyon South Rim. Here is where you'll find our preferred hotel property, 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 a cocktail lounge, gift shop, outdoor pool and Jacuzzi, workout room, salon, gift shop, even a cowboy museum.

North Rim Gateway Communities

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

- Jacob Lake, Arizona, 60 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, at the Western entrance of Zion National Park

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

- Williams, Arizona, 60 miles South
- Cameron, Arizona, 60 miles East
- Flagstaff, Arizona, 85 miles Southeast
- **Page/Lake Powell, Arizona**, 150 miles Northeast of the South AND North Rim

GrandCanyon.com's preferred hotel for the North Rim is the **Best Western Arizona Inn** in **Page/Lake Powell, Arizona**. For more information on Grand Canyon hotels, visit www.GrandCanyon.com or call (800) 916-8530.

Travel Tip 6:

How About Camping or RV Parks?

Advance reservations are also recommended for Grand Canyon camping. At the South Rim, trailer and tent sites are offered at Trailer Village, which is administered by the in-park concessionaire, Xanterra Parks & Resorts (www.grandcanyonlodges.com). Xanterra can be reached at 888/297-2757. Tent sites and limited trailer sites (no hook-ups) are also offered at Mather Campground. In-park campgrounds for both North and South Rims are administered by the National Park Reservation Service. Reservations can be made by phone at 800/365-2267 or on-line at <http://reservations.nps.gov>. 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

Travel Tip 7:

How Long Should I Stay?

The typical Grand Canyon family vacation is two or three days (see Travel Tip 18).



You tell us how much time you have to spend, and we can tell you how best to use it, whether you have a day, a weekend, a week, or more. Tell us how you're getting here, how much driving you're willing to do (or not do), and we'll help you coordinate a vacation that will last a lifetime in your memories, whether you're coming through Phoenix or Las Vegas, staying inside the park, or making Flagstaff, Williams, Sedona or Page/Lake Powell your "home base" for exploring the area.

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. Persons entering the park by bicycle, foot, motorcycle, bus, train or other type of commercial vehicle must pay a fee of \$10 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.

Pre-purchasing your Grand Canyon Pass will allow you to pass through the Express Lane when entering the park at the South Rim. **Are you visiting more than one National Park on your vacation?** Read chapter 20 or visit www.nationalparks.org to learn more about the National Park Pass.

Travel Tip 9:

Can I Drive My Car in the Park?

All viewpoints on the North Rim are accessible to private vehicles.

On the South Rim, the West Rim/Hermit's Rest Road is closed to private vehicles, as is Yaki Point on the East Rim/Desert View Road. Complimentary shuttle service is offered to these viewpoints, as well to the various hotels, restaurants and gift shops in the Grand Canyon Village area.

Parking spaces inside the park are at a premium. Shuttles pick up the various stops approximately every 10 minutes from sunrise to sunset. Check your information packet that you receive at the park gates for exact schedules. The East Rim/Desert View Road is open to private vehicles year-round.

Insider Tip:

Avoid long lines at the South Rim by getting there early, or prepay your park entrance fee **before you get there** at one of two National Park Service Pay Stations located at 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).

It is highly recommended that you use the shuttle service whenever possible.

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. Be sure to obey any and all road closure signs you may encounter.



Travel Tip 10:

Can I Bring My Dog?

Dogs are welcome in the park as long as they are leashed at all times and remain ONLY on rimside trails. Dogs are not allowed on ANY inner canyon trails, nor are they allowed in any hotels (unless specified as pet-friendly), restaurants, gift shops or other public places (service dogs for the disabled excepted).

At the South Rim of the Grand Canyon there are **two pet-friendly hotels**: the Red Feather Rodeway Inn 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. Call (928) 638-2631 or (928) 638-0534. Pet-friendly hotels and dog boarding facilities are also available in Williams or Flagstaff.

There is a
Pet Kennel
inside the
Park.



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On the North Rim, dogs are permitted **ONLY** on the bridle path connecting the lodge to the North Kaibab trail. The closest pet-friendly properties to Grand Canyon North Rim will be the Holiday Inn Express in Kanab, Utah (1.5 hours away). Other pet-friendly lodging is also available in Page, Arizona (2.5 hours away).

GrandCanyon.com works with the **Best Western Arizona Inn in Page**, who charge a pet deposit of \$10 per animal. The Page/Lake Powell area also has a couple of dog boarding facilities, where advance reservations are also recommended. Call Anderson's Feed & Fence at (928) 645-3633, or Thistle Hill Farms (located near Paria Canyon between Kanab and Page) at (928) 691-0224.

If you stay at a hotel, a deposit will probably be required for your dog. Deposit amounts vary from hotel to hotel. For availability and pricing of these hotels, call (800) 916-8530. For more information on travelling with your dog, visit www.dogfriendly.com.

Travel Tip 11:

How's the Weather?

Grand Canyon weather in summertime runs the gamut from warm and dry to rainy and stormy (some of us "old-timers" have seen it snow in June!). As a rule, daytime highs at the South Rim range from 85-90°F; the North Rim usually runs about 10° cooler. The inner canyon is just plain **HOT**, with temperatures of 110°-120° reported.

Summer is also known as "*monsoon season*," where storm clouds move in from the South in the afternoon. This results in thunderstorms that are typically brief, but often intense. Lightning strikes and flash flooding occur frequently at this time of year, so use caution when standing on the canyon rim or hiking in the inner canyon, slot canyons or river washes.

Insider tip:

Dogs get dehydrated, too! Carry plenty of water for your dog both on the road and on the trail.

During the summer months, **hikers are advised to schedule the most strenuous part of their walk for early morning or late afternoon to avoid the dangers of the oppressive mid-day heat.**

Use caution 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! Fire danger will also be extremely high. Obey any and all restrictions in the parks you visit.

Rain or no rain, *afternoons are typically windy*. Nighttime lows can dip down into the 40's and 50's, and temperatures drop quickly after sunset. 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.

At press time (April 2006), the weather has been the typical "mixed bag" of sun and rain, but statistically, the Southwest is still in the midst of a drought that is expected to continue.

Travel Tip 12:

Will My Cell Phone Work in the Park?

Don't count on it. The primary providers in the Grand Canyon area are Alltel and Verizon, but even their subscribers report occasional inconsistencies with their service. This is due to the ruggedness of the terrain and the altitude. If you need to have a phone number for family or work to get a hold of you, your best bet is to provide your hotel phone numbers. Contact GrandCanyon.com for assistance at (866) 944-7263.

Travel Tip 13:

Can I Bring My Laptop or Check E-mail?

GrandCanyon.com's preferred hotel, the [Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn](#), has DSL in its Deluxe Rooms. If you are not staying at the hotel, there is also a DSL connection in the lobby where you can plug in your laptop. At press time (April 2006), an Internet Café is scheduled to open in Tusayan this summer; otherwise, the only other place where you can check your e-mail at

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the South Rim is the Xanterra Parks & Resorts Employee Recreation Center inside the park. If you're visiting the North Rim, the closest place to check your e-mail will be the Jacob Lake Inn (1 hour North of the Park), Vermillion Espresso in Kanab, Utah (1.5 hours away), or Beans Coffee House in Page, AZ (2.5 hours).

Travel Tip 14:

Is That the Right Time?

The Grand Canyon is on Mountain Standard Time *year-round*. Arizona does not observe daylight savings time (exception: the Navajo Indian Reservation). 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. Be sure you keep the time zones in mind when scheduling activities.

Travel Tip 15:

So, How About Those Mule Rides?

If you don't have reservations by now, you're not likely to be able to take a mule trip. Grand Canyon Mule Rides are extremely popular and typically sold out 9 months to a year in advance. GrandCanyon.com has other ways to get you to the bottom of the Canyon. See your [Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#) for more information, and take particular note of tours like the "[Colorado River Day Float Trip](#)," "[Canyon River Adventure](#)," and our popular Las Vegas Grand Canyon Tour, the "[Grand Voyager](#)."



Grand Canyon Mule rides are extremely popular and must be booked well in advance.

The trip is also not recommended for those with back, hip or knee problems, fear of heights or large animals. Contact GrandCanyon.com for suggestions on other ways to get to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

If you'd like to try your luck with the Mule Rides, you must call the in-park concessionaire Xanterra Parks & Resorts at 888/297-2757.

Before you make that call, however, you should know that there are physical requirements that all mule riders must meet - **no exceptions**. They are:

1. No rider may weigh more than 200 pounds fully dressed (ALL riders are weighed, and if you weigh 201, you will not ride);
2. All riders must be 4'7" tall (children are measured if necessary); 3. All riders must speak and understand fluent English (if in doubt, they check you out); and
3. No pregnant women.

Travel Tip 16:

Are River Rafting Trips Available?

Yes, we offer a variety of one-day Grand Canyon river rafting trips – both smooth water AND white water! Consult your [Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#), or call GrandCanyon.com at (866) 944-7263 for more information. Float trips (no rapids) can be enjoyed by children as young as 5 and are offered out of Las Vegas, Grand Canyon South Rim, Flagstaff, Sedona, Page/Lake Powell, and Grand Canyon West. 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 at beautiful Hualapai Lodge the night before. Children must be at least 8 to participate in a white water trip.



Visit our website and [watch videos](#) of our most popular Grand Canyon rafting trips!

Travel Tip 17:

What's Good for Kids or Seniors?

All Grand Canyon tours described in your [Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#) are family-oriented and appropriate for children and seniors, with virtually no strenuous activity required. Grand Canyon river rafting trips do have some age restrictions (see the above paragraph), but children of all ages are welcome on Grand Canyon air tours, Grand Canyon helicopter tours, jeep tours and the Grand Canyon Railway. On some jeep and 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, Club or First Class cars, but must be at least 11 to ride the Observation Dome or Luxury Parlor cars.

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. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/grca or www.nationalparks.org

In Tusayan, just outside the park, visit the *National Geographic Visitors' Center*. While you're there, be sure to check out the spectacular IMAX Movie "Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets."

Ask how
GrandCanyon.com
can save you 20% on
your IMAX tickets!
Call (866) 944-7263.

Travel Tip 18:

Do I Need a Permit for Grand Canyon Hiking?

If you'd *just like to take a day hike*, then no, *a permit is not required*. 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 openly and strongly discouraged at all times!

If you're with small children or the elderly, 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 up for a little more of a challenge but nothing too radical, Cedar Ridge on the 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.

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.

If you are wanting to take an overnight hike in the canyon, back-country camping permits or reservations at Phantom Ranch are required. Here again, *if you don't have reservations by now, you're unlikely to be able to get them*. For more on lodging at Phantom Ranch, visit www.grandcanyonlodges.com For more information on backcountry hiking permits, visit www.nps.gov/grca.



Travel Tip 19:

Should I Spend My Whole Week There?



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, Kodachrome Basin, Paria Canyon Wilderness. The possibilities are too numerous to do justice to here!

Give us a call at (866) 944-7263 and we'll happily help you coordinate a vacation that's relaxing, rewarding and fun.

GrandCanyon.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.

Travel Tip 20:

Should I Get a National Park Pass?

If you're visiting more than one National Park on your vacation, a National Park Pass is a great deal. For \$50, you and everybody in



your vehicle are granted access to all National Parks, Monuments and Federal Fee Areas in the United States for one year (except Indian Tribal Parks). Visitors 62 or older qualify for a Golden Age Passport, which grants you lifetime access to all National Parks for a one-time fee of \$10.

Insider Tip:

Purchase your National Park Pass *before* you go on vacation at www.nationalparks.org or call 1-888-Go-Parks. Golden Age Passports must be purchased in person. If you are disabled, ask about the Golden Access Passport.

Insider Tip:

If you're going to any of the rimside restaurants for lunch, try to get there before the Grand Canyon Railway arrives. The Grand Canyon Railway arrives at 11:15 AM and 12:15 PM (May 27-September 4), dropping off hundreds of visitors to compete for those few tables.

Travel Tip 21:

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 Steakhouse is another excellent choice for dinner, located at Bright Angel Lodge. Bright Angel Lodge also features a family-style restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Maswik and Yavapai Lodges have cafeteria-style facilities.

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. The Quality Inn's Atrium restaurant 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. The gift shop and gallery also have one of the area's finest collections of Native American crafts. 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."



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On the North Rim, the Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room offers an upscale menu at reasonable prices in a warm, earthy atmosphere. 60 miles North of the Park, the Jacob Lake Inn has an old-style diner known throughout the region for its delicious ice cream shakes and huge home-made cookies. Situated between Page, Arizona and Kanab, Utah is a popular local eatery called the Paria Outpost. Open for dinner only on Friday and Saturday nights, the Outpost serves an all-you-can-eat Texas-style barbecue buffet, surrounded by the beauty of the Paria Canyon area.

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 boasts "*calzones as big as your head!*" 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, the Sandwich Place features "fast food fit for grown-ups."

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, or your hotel front desk for recommendations.

A dining
experience at
the North
Rim Lodge
can't be beat!

Travel Tip 22:

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). At the El Tovar Hotel, for example, they just ask that you not wear shorts to dinner (they know you’re here to enjoy the outdoors!). Pack a pair of khakis and maybe one long sleeve shirt; that should be as “formal” as you’ll need.

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 Tevas. Invented by a Colorado River guide, Tevas (or “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. These types of sandals are sold at most retail shoe stores. For more information visit www.teva.com.

Travel Tip 23:

We Want to See the Grand Canyon; the Kids Want to Play in the Water

If summer vacation just isn't summer vacation without making a splash, consider making Lake Powell your "base camp" for exploring Northern Arizona and Southern Utah. 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 also 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 away (perfect day trip!).



Other attractions nearby are Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Monument Valley, Coral Pink Sand Dunes, Kodachrome Basin, Paria Canyon, and that's 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, Paddlewheel dinner cruises, safari-style slot canyon tours, hiking, scenic flights, and fishing, which is expected to be superb this year. Room rates and gas prices in Page are typically very reasonable.

For more information about including Page/Lake Powell in your vacation plans, call GrandCanyon.com at (866) 944-7263.

GrandCanyon.com's preferred hotel at Lake Powell is the **Best Western Arizona Inn**. For Lake Powell water temperatures and fishing information, visit www.wayneswords.com.

Consider
using
Page/Lake
Powell
as your
Base Camp.

Insider Tip:

The best gas prices are not necessarily where you'd expect to find them. Some good websites to check out are www.arizonagasprices.com, www.utahgasprices.com and www.gasbuddy.com.

Travel Tip 24:

How are Gas Prices Out There?



At press time (April 2006), Arizona gas prices ranged from \$2.35 a gallon to \$2.89 a gallon; Utah gas prices ranged from \$2.08 to \$2.54/gallon.

Travel Tip 25:

Can I Light Fireworks on 4th of July?

Absolutely not! Fireworks are illegal within National Park boundaries. Besides, brush fire danger is expected to be at unprecedented high levels this summer. It's not worth the risk. Some cities or towns in the area such as Williams, Flagstaff, Kanab and Page usually have their own Fourth of July celebrations, but at this point (April 2006), it's hard to say whether or not they'll have fireworks. Check the local newspapers, TV or radio stations when you arrive in the area. Even if fireworks are nixed, there will probably still be parades, carnivals and other events that you can attend or participate in. Take a look at the next chapter:



Travel Tip 26:

Are Any Events or Festivals Going On?

Lots of them! You can gaze at the stars in Flagstaff, perfect your fishing skills in Page, sample world-class chili in Williams, or listen to some “mountain music” at Mormon Lake. On the Utah side, you can enjoy everything from classic cars to cowboy poetry in Kanab,



watch hot air balloons take flight in Panguitch, or hang with the locals at the Paria River.

If you'll be visiting around the 4th of July, there will be many Independence Day celebrations taking place in picturesque

small towns across the region. You're all invited! Visit www.arizonaguide.com or www.kaneutah.com for more information about events around the area, or check the local newspapers, TV and radio stations, or inquire at your hotel.

Travel Tip 27:

What is “Grand Canyon West?”

Grand Canyon West (also known as the “West Rim”) is another developed area of the Grand Canyon located on the Hualapai Indian Reservation just North of Peach Springs, Arizona. If you have limited time for a Grand Canyon trip, and you're going to be passing through Las Vegas, Phoenix, Page or Sedona, a trip to Grand Canyon West may be just what you're looking for. Grand Canyon West offers opportunities like helicopter trips to the bottom of the canyon, where you can take a float trip, even have a champagne picnic, or not. If you're content to enjoy the view from the rim, GrandCanyon.com has tours for you, too. Take a look at your [Grand Canyon Top Tours Brochure](#) for some suggestions.

There will be
many
Independence
Day
celebrations
in the area.

Remember that Grand Canyon West is lower in altitude than the North or South Rims, which means that it's VERY hot in the summertime. Also, one of the main access roads to Grand Canyon West is unpaved for about 40 miles and heavily traveled by buses and other commercial vehicles. Most rental car companies strongly discourage you from taking their vehicles to this area and you could be liable for any damage sustained by doing so.

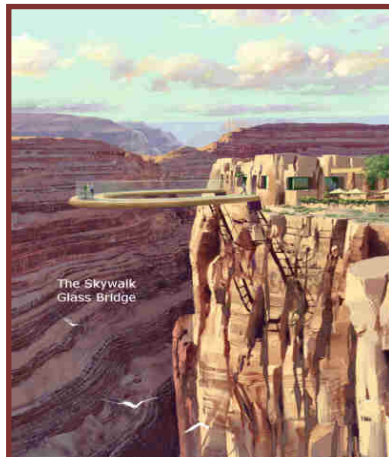
Travel Tip 28:

What is the "Grand Canyon Skywalk?"

The Grand Canyon Skywalk is an amazing attraction slated at press time (April 2006) to open at year's end at Grand Canyon West. This glass-bottomed horseshoe-shaped walkway will jut seventy feet out from the lip of the canyon, which means that you'll feel like you're floating 4,000 feet in the air above the Colorado River! It will also have a café and gift shop attached to it in the future.

Even though the Skywalk probably won't be ready for you on this trip, Grand Canyon West still warrants consideration as an expeditious and exciting alternative to the South Rim or North Rim, especially if you're in Las Vegas, Phoenix, or Sedona, your time is at a premium, but you know you've come too far not to see it.

Come walk
out 70 feet
over the edge
of the Grand
Canyon with
only glass
beneath your
feet!



Travel Tip 29:

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.

2. The altitude can affect your attitude. Grand Canyon's South Rim is 6,000' above sea level; the North Rim is at 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're walking the rim or hiking in the canyon and need to take a break, TAKE A BREAK!

Remember
Safety First
and if you
need to take
a break,
**TAKE A
BREAK!**

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.

3. Watch children and pets at all times. Many canyon view points 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!
4. This is the desert. Don't let pleasant temperatures on the canyon rim or even a little rain fool you. Conditions here are probably much drier than you're used to. Take care not to become dehydrated, especially when exerting yourself (even slightly). **Carry water and drink it.** Protect yourself from the sun. Wear a **hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.** Carry lip balm and moisturize often.

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 are also a very real danger at this time of year, 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. For more information, visit the Arizona Department of Public Safety's website at www.azdps.gov.

5. Watch out for wildlife on the highway and **don't feed them.** Deer and elk are notoriously nocturnal and can dart out from the forest before you have time to react. Obey the speed limit and keep your eyes open for them when driving after dark. During the daytime, it's not unusual to see deer, elk, squirrels and birds



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come right up to people and beg for food.

These creatures may look perfectly tame, but they're not. Animals that become accustomed to human handouts lose their ability to fend for themselves, and can become aggressive when food runs out. "People food" is not good for them anyway. Squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents also have fleas, which harbor infectious diseases. Enjoy the wildlife from a distance. Look, but don't touch. Remember, this is a National Park where hunting is prohibited, as is throwing objects at animals or birds.

6. Be careful with fire! Fire danger is going to be extremely high this summer. That 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.
7. For Lake Powell Visitors: No cliff diving, and no teak surfing! Be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide when boating (for more information, visit www.cdc.gov).

For more excellent tips on making your Grand Canyon vacation a safe one, visit www.arizonaredcross.org.

Don't
Feed the
Animals
and be
especially
careful with
Fire.

Thank you for reading GrandCanyon.com's
First Annual Summer Travel Guide

We welcome
any
comments,
suggestions
or questions
you may
have.



We hope this guide has helped you plan your Grand Canyon summer vacation efficiently and easily. We look forward to publishing this and other special holiday and seasonal guides annually. As this is our inaugural edition of this guide, we welcome and encourage 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 info@grandcanyon.com.

Thank you again, and Happy Travels!

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