Grand Canyon National Park

Welcome to Grand Canyon

Where is it?
Grand Canyon is in the northwest corner of Arizona, close to the borders of Utah and Nevada. The Colorado River, which flows through the canyon, drains water from seven states, but the feature we know as Grand Canyon is entirely in Arizona.

GPS Coordinates
North Rim Visitor Center
36°11'51"N 112°03'09"W

South Rim Visitor Center
36°03'32"N 112°06'33"W

Desertview Watchtower
36° 2’ 38” N 111° 49’ 33”W

Park Passes
Admission to the park is $25 per private vehicle; $12 per pedestrian or cyclist. The pass can be used for seven days and includes both rims. Single vehicle park passes may be purchased outside the park’s south entrance in Tusayan, Arizona at:
- Grand Hotel
- Grand Canyon Squire Inn
- Canyon Plaza Resort
- Red Feather Lodge
- RP Stage Stop
- Xanterra Trading Post
- Imax—National Park Service Desk
- Grand Canyon Flight—at the Grand Canyon Airport

An $80 Annual Pass provides entrance into all national parks and federal recreational lands for one year.

U.S. citizens 62 or older can obtain a lifetime Senior Pass for $10 allowing free entrance to all national parks.

U.S. citizens who are permanently disabled are eligible for a free Access Pass.

Fees collected support projects in the park. Click here for more information about passes.

The Guide
For park ranger programs, services, hours of operation and other current information, see Grand Canyon National Park’s seasonal newspaper The Guide. The park publishes an edition for both the North and South Rims.

Accessibility
For information about accessibility in Grand Canyon National Park please see Accessibility Guide.

Pets
Pets are allowed inside the park but must be leashed at all times and are not allowed below the rim. Persons wishing to take service animals below the rim must check in at the Backcountry Information Center. For more information click here.

The Park is Open
The South Rim is open all year, unlike the North Rim which closes November or early December due to snow and re-opens in mid-May. Park entrances remain open 24 hours a day. Although the park never closes, hours for visitor centers and businesses vary seasonally.
Getting to Grand Canyon

**Private Vehicle**

**South Rim**
From the south—exit I-40 at Williams, Arizona, and proceed north on Arizona Hwy 64 or exit on U.S. 180 in Flagstaff and follow it to the intersection with Hwy 64.

From the north—take U.S. Hwy 89 or 160 to Hwy 64 in Cameron, Arizona. Proceed west on 64 to the East Entrance of the park.

**North Rim**
Take Hwy 89A to Jacob Lake, Arizona, and turn south onto Arizona Hwy 67 to the North Entrance of the park.

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**Airline**
Serves Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Limited flights go to Flagstaff, Arizona. Rental cars are available at any of these airports to continue to either rim in Grand Canyon National Park. Shuttle service is available from the Phoenix area to the South Rim via Flagstaff (see center column).

**Grand Canyon Airlines**
Flies from Boulder City, Nevada, near Las Vegas, to the Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, Arizona. Shuttle or taxi service is available from the airport to the South Rim. No rental cars are available at Grand Canyon Airport.

(866) 235-9422
www.grandcanyonairlines.com

**Train**
Amtrak
Stops at Williams and Flagstaff, Arizona. Shuttle service runs from Flagstaff to the South Rim (see center column).
www.amtrak.com

Grand Canyon Railway
Runs a daily excursion train from Williams, Arizona, to the South Rim. The train leaves Williams at approximately 10:00 a.m. and arrives at the canyon by noon. It leaves the canyon at 3:30 p.m. and arrives back at Williams about 5:00 p.m.
(800) THE-TRAIN
www.thetrain.com

**Bus**
Greyhound Bus Lines
Offers service from Flagstaff and Williams to points nationwide.
(800) 231-2222
www.greyhound.com

**Shuttle Service**

**Arizona Shuttle**
Service between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon twice daily, also serving Phoenix and Tucson and other locations in Arizona.
(877) 226-8060 or (928) 226-8060
www.arizonashuttle.com

**Grand Canyon Shuttle Service**
Service between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon, as well as between the North and South rims.
(888) 215-3105
www.grandcanyonshuttles.com

**Transcanyon Shuttle**
Provides transportation between the North and South rims. From mid-May to mid-October there is one trip each way daily.
(928) 638-2820
www.trans-canyonshuttle.com
## Weather

### Seasonal Conditions, Temperatures, and Precipitation

#### Summer
*June through August on the rims
*May to September in the canyon.

Beautiful weather shines on the rims, while brutal heat tortures the inner canyon. The high elevation and low humidity cause dramatic changes in temperatures from day to night; bring a jacket. Frequent thunderstorms in July, August, and early September provide dramatic canyon vistas; stay away from the canyon rim if lightning is present. The excessive heat in the canyon can be dangerous and even fatal to unprepared hikers.

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#### Spring and Fall
*April, May, September, and October on the rims
*March, April, October, and early November in the canyon.

Come prepared for a variety of conditions during these changeable seasons. May and October typically may be dry, but snow on the rims is not unusual. Late April and May potentially feature strong winds on the rims. These can be the best times for hiking in the canyon, making overnight permits harder to obtain for popular camp spots.

#### Winter
*November through March on the rims
*December into February in the canyon.

While the South Rim remains open year-round, the road to the North Rim closes with the first heavy snowfall. Canyon views may be obscured during passing storms, but the canyon formations highlighted by snow are unforgettable. Entrance fees are not refunded due to weather. South Rim roads are plowed, but temporary closures may occur.

#### Sunrise and Sunset
Consider admiring a sunset at any point along the canyon’s rim. Some viewpoints are more popular than others but a Grand Canyon sunset is inspiring wherever you see it. If you desire a solitary experience, consider waking up early and seeing a sunrise.

#### A Shocking Experience
Grand Canyon thunderstorms are common in late summer. While bringing much needed water and life to this arid landscape, storms also bring lightning that can be deadly. If a storm approaches, stay away from the canyon rim and move into a vehicle or building.
South Rim

Grand Canyon vistas are indescribable. Some are considered more popular than others, but no view of the canyon is a bad view.

**Hermit Road:** Travel the 7-mile (11 km) Hermit Road. Stop at nine scenic viewpoints and numerous un-named overlooks.

**Desert View Drive:** Explore along 25 miles (40 km) with views of the Colorado River and Grand Canyon Supergroup. Climb to the top floor of Desert View Watchtower for a 360-degree view.

**Colorado River:** See portions of the Colorado River from viewpoints along Hermit Road, Desert View Drive, and from Yavapai and Mather points.

**Things to do**
- **See the Park Film:** This 22-minute introduction film repeats on the hour and half-hour in Grand Canyon Visitor Center.
- **Attend a Free Park Ranger Program:** Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. See the current list of programs in *The Guide*, South Rim edition.
- **Go on a Hike:** See page 12 for rim and inner canyon day hiking information.
- **Ride a Bicycle:** Journey through the inner forest and along the canyon rim on the Greenway Trail.

**Viewpoints**

**Parking and Shuttle Buses**

Grand Canyon’s South Rim can be very busy. Parking near Grand Canyon Visitor Center is usually a good choice for most visitors. Parking in the historic Grand Canyon Village can be difficult and time consuming.

Shuttle buses are free and operate like a city bus system. Running clean burning fuel, these buses are an easy way to see many popular points on the South Rim. See *The Guide* for routes, stops, and information.

Shuttle buses are equipped with bicycle racks, wheelchair ramps, and a “kneel” to reduce step. Please note wheelchairs larger than 30 inches (76 cm) wide by 48 inches (121 cm) deep cannot be accommodated on shuttle buses; this includes most motorized scooters.
South Rim

**Information**

The National Park Service staffs several visitor centers on the South Rim. All are open every day of the year; hours vary seasonally.

**Village Area**

**Grand Canyon Visitor Center**

Plan your visit, and learn about Grand Canyon through the free park film, exhibits, and nearby viewpoints.

**Backcountry Information Center**

Chat with park rangers to obtain backcountry information and permits.

**Kolb Studio**

View exhibits in the restored 1904 Kolb brothers' home and photography studio.

**Verkamp’s Visitor Center**

Visit one of the oldest buildings in Grand Canyon Village and discover community history.

**Yavapai Geology Museum**

Find answers to your questions with 3D maps and exhibits about the geologic story you see through the windows.

**Desert View Area**

**Tusayan Museum and Ruin**

Look into the past and present day lives of thriving American Indian communities. Located 3 miles (4.8 km) west of Desert View.

**Desert View Visitor Center**

Explore how Grand Canyon inspired artists, writers, musicians, and conservationists.

A National Park Service passport cancellation stamp is available at these facilities, except for the Backcountry Information Center. The stamp is also available at Indian Garden, Phantom Ranch, and North Rim.

**In the Park**

**Mather Campground**

Operated by the National Park Service and located near Grand Canyon Village, campsites are $18 per night. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). Open year-round; reservations strongly recommended April through October. Operates on a first-come, first-served basis December 1 to March 1.

(877) 444-6777
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

**Desert View Campground**

Operated by the National Park Service and located 25 miles (40 km) east of Grand Canyon Village. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). $12 per site per night. Open from mid-May to mid-October on a first-come, first-served basis; no reservations.

(888) 297-2757
[www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)

**Outside the Park, Tusayan, AZ**

Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn

(800) 937-8376
[www.grandcanyonsquire.com](http://www.grandcanyonsquire.com)

Canyon Plaza Resort

(800) 995-2521
[www.grandcanyonplaza.com](http://www.grandcanyonplaza.com)

Grand Hotel

(888) 634-7263
[www.grandcanyongrandhotel.com](http://www.grandcanyongrandhotel.com)

Holiday Inn Express

(866) 561-2425
[www.redfeatherlodge.com](http://www.redfeatherlodge.com)

**Food and Beverage**

**Sit Down Restaurants**

The Arizona Room

Bright Angel Restaurant

El Tovar Dining Room

**Cafeteria Style Restaurants**

Maswik Cafeteria

Yavapai Cafeteria

**Other Dining Options**

Bright Angel Coffee House

Bright Angel Fountain

Canyon Village Deli

Maswik Pizza Pub

Desert View Snackbar

Hermits Rest Snack Bar

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**7 Mile Lodge**

(928) 638-2291

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Holiday Inn Express

(866) 561-2425
[www.redfeatherlodge.com](http://www.redfeatherlodge.com)

**7 Mile Lodge**

(928) 638-2291
Less visited than the South Rim, the North Rim offers solitude with quiet canyon views. The North Rim is open mid-May until mid-October or depending on the snow. For more information see The Guide, North Rim edition.

**Driving Viewpoints**
- **Point Imperial:** Travel 11 miles (18 km) to view Mt. Hayden and Marble Canyon along this beautiful 20-minute, one-way drive from the visitor center.
- **Cape Royal:** Drive 23 miles (37 km) to explore Angels Window and ancestral Puebloan ruins at Walhalla Glades. Allow plenty of time to enjoy this 45-minute, one-way drive from the visitor center.

**Things to Do**
- **Attend a Free Park Ranger Program:** Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. See the current list of programs in The Guide, North Rim edition.
- **Enjoy the View:** From North Rim Lodge, trails along the rim, or out on the Walhalla Plateau.
- **Go on a Hike:** See page 12 for rim and inner canyon day hiking information.
- **Ride a Bicycle:** Permitted on all roads unless posted; prohibited on all trails, except the Bridle Trail.

**Tuweep/Toroweap**
This seldom-visited portion of the park boasts awe-inspiring views, but the 60 miles (97 km) of unpaved road to access from Fredonia, Arizona is rough and dusty with no services.

Visitors should start with a high clearance vehicle, a full tank of gas, and two spare tires. The road ends at Toroweap Overlook; campground, picnic tables, and composting toilets nearby. No water, electricity, or telephone service available at the site.
North Rim

Food and Beverage

In the Park
Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room
Offering a view of the canyon; reservations for dinner recommended.

Deli in the Pines
In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex; open daily.

Roughrider Saloon
In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex; open daily.

Coffee Shop
Located in the Roughrider Saloon; offers coffee, bagels, and baked goods in the morning and light fare, appetizers, and cocktails later in the day.

Grand Canyon Cookout Experience
A Western dining event with live entertainment. Reservations recommended; inquire at the lodge front desk or call: (928) 638-2611.

Outside the Park
DeMotte Campground
U.S. Forest Service campground 16 miles (28 km) north of North Rim. No hookups or reservations. Opens in late-May for the summer months; $17 per night. Information: (928) 643-7395.

Jacob Lake Campground
Operated during summer months by the U.S. Forest Service; 45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim. No hook-ups; $17 per night. Reservations for group site: (877) 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

Kaibab Camper Village
This commercial campground is located 0.25 mile (0.5 km) south of Jacob Lake on Arizona hwy 67. Open May 15 to October 15; full hook-ups available. (928) 643-7804 (928) 526-0924, during the off-season (800) 525-0924, outside Arizona.

Lodging

In the Park
Grand Canyon Lodge
Check the lodge for same day availability. Make advanced reservations with Forever Resorts; lodging books well in advance.
(877) 386-4383
www.grandcanyonforever.com

Outside the Park
Kaibab Lodge
Located 18 miles (30 km) north of North Rim; open mid-May to early November and includes a restaurant and store. Some services may remain open after facilities in the park close for the season.
(928) 638-2389
www.kaibablodge.com

Jacob Lake Inn
Located 45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim in Jacob Lake, AZ; open year-round. Includes a restaurant, store, and gas station with pay at pump available 24 hours daily. Propane is available.
(928) 643-7232
www.jacoblake.com

North Rim Visitor Center

Start your North Rim adventure at the North Rim Visitor Center; explore exhibits, ask a park ranger questions, and make sure you bring The Guide, North Rim edition with you.

The visitor center features a bookstore operated by the Grand Canyon Association, a non-profit park partner since 1932. Every purchase supports Grand Canyon National Park.
Tours and Trips

Air Tours

Fixed Wing Airplane
Air Grand Canyon
(800) 247-4726
www.airgrandcanyon.com

Grand Canyon Airlines
(866) 235-9422
www.grandcanyonairlines.com

Helicopter
Grand Canyon Helicopters
(800) 541-4537
www.grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com

Maverick Helicopters
(888) 261-4414
www.maverickhelicopter.com

Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters
(888) 635-7272
www.papillon.com

Mule Trips

For mule trip information click here.

South Rim
Xanterra Parks & Resorts
6312 S. Fiddlers Green Circle
Suite 600N
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(303) 297-2757 or (888) 297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

North Rim
Grand Canyon Trail Rides
PO Box 128
Tropic, UT 84776
(435) 679-8665
www.canyonrides.com

Bus Tours
South Rim

Daily park tours to Hermits Rest and Desert View, as well as sunrise and sunset tours available. Tour guides explain history and geology while you relax and enjoy canyon views.

Xanterra Parks and Resorts
6312 S. Fiddlers Green Circle
Suite 600N
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(303) 297-2757 or (888) 297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Wheelchair-accessible coaches available by prior arrangement.
For many, rafting down the Colorado River through the Southwest canyons becomes the ultimate adventure, a life-changing experience. Several options allow exploring the river on a diversity of time spans and budgets.

### 1-Day Commercial Trips
Half-day and all-day smooth-water float trips travel 15 river miles (24 km) from Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry, March 1 to November 30.

**Colorado River Discovery**
(888) 522-6644
[www.raftthecanyon.com](http://www.raftthecanyon.com)

### 2–5 Day Lower Gorge River Trips
Private river trips can float 52 river miles (84 km) from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead. Permits are available starting one year in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. The National Park Service does not assess permit fees for this section of the river, but the Hualapai Tribe charges access fees for crossing their reservation. For information and applications. Click here.

### 12–25 Day Trips
Since demand far exceeds supply, non-commercial permits to travel 226 river miles (364 km) from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek are dispensed via a weighted lottery. Each February, the National Park Service conducts a main lottery to assign the majority of launch dates for the next year. Additional follow-up lotteries occur throughout the remainder of the year to re-assign cancelled or left over trips. Click here for more information.

### 3–18 Day Commercial Trips
The following companies offer river trips through Grand Canyon, traveling 226 river miles (364 km) from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek. Each company offers a variety of trips lasting three to 18 days in large motorized rafts, oared rafts, paddle rafts, and dories. Contact each company for details.

- **Aramark-Wilderness River Adventures**
  (800) 992-8022
  [www.riveradventures.com](http://www.riveradventures.com)
- **Arizona Raft Adventures**
  (800) 786-7238
  [www.azraft.com](http://www.azraft.com)
- **Arizona River Runners**
  (800) 477-7238
  [www.raftarizona.com](http://www.raftarizona.com)
- **Canyon Explorations/Canyon Expeditions**
  (800) 654-0723
  [www.canyonexplorations.com](http://www.canyonexplorations.com)
- **Canyoneers, Inc.**
  (800) 525-0924
  [www.canyoneers.com](http://www.canyoneers.com)
- **Colorado River & Trail Expeditions, Inc.**
  (800) 253-7328
  [www.crateinc.com](http://www.crateinc.com)
- **Grand Canyon Dories**
  (800) 346-6277
  [www.oars.com/grandcanyon/dories.html](http://www.oars.com/grandcanyon/dories.html)
- **Grand Canyon Discovery, Inc.**
  (800) 786-7238
  [www.grandcanyondiscovery.com](http://www.grandcanyondiscovery.com)
- **Grand Canyon Expeditions Co.**
  (800) 544-2691
  [www.gcex.com](http://www.gcex.com)
- **Hatch River Expeditions**
  (800) 856-8966
  [www.hatchriverexpeditions.com](http://www.hatchriverexpeditions.com)
- **Moki Mac River Expeditions**
  (800) 284-7280
  [www.mokimac.com](http://www.mokimac.com)
- **O.A.R.S. Grand Canyon**
  (800) 346-6277
  [www.oars.com](http://www.oars.com)
- **Outdoors Unlimited**
  (800) 637-7238
  [www.outdoorsunlimited.com](http://www.outdoorsunlimited.com)
- **Tour West**
  (800) 435-9107
  [www.twriver.com](http://www.twriver.com)
- **Western River Expeditions**
  (866) 904-1160
  [www.westernriver.com](http://www.westernriver.com)
Hiking the Corridor Trails—Bright Angel, South Kaibab, North Kaibab

**Map Key**
- Toilets
- Drinking Water: Year round. Carry backup water purification.
- Drinking Water: Seasonal May-Sept. Carry backup water purification.
- Campground
- Emergency Phone
- Ranger Station
- Emergency Clinic

**Warning!**
Do not hike to the river and back in one day

Be Prepared: **There is no water on the South Kaibab Trail.**
### South Rim

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<th>Destination</th>
<th>Round trip distance</th>
<th>Approximate time round trip</th>
<th>Elevation change</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rim Trail (mostly flat, many sections suitable for wheelchairs)</td>
<td>Follows the rim for 13 miles (21 km)</td>
<td>Your choice 15 minutes to all day</td>
<td>200 feet 60 m</td>
<td>Mostly paved, except dirt from Monument Creek Vista east to Powell Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright Angel Trail (steep, but popular)</td>
<td>1½-Mile Resthouse</td>
<td>3 miles 4.8 km 2–4 hours</td>
<td>1,131 feet 345 m</td>
<td>Restrooms Water May–October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-Mile Resthouse</td>
<td>6 miles 9.6 km 4–6 hours</td>
<td>2,112 feet 644 m</td>
<td>Restrooms Water May–October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indian Garden</td>
<td>9.2 miles 14.8 km 6–9 hours</td>
<td>3,060 feet 933 m</td>
<td>Restrooms Water year-round</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### South Kaibab Trail (steep with expansive views)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Round trip distance</th>
<th>Approximate time round trip</th>
<th>Elevation change</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trail begins south of Yaki Point; you must ride the free shuttle bus to the trailhead. Best views for a relatively short hike, but no water. Upper portion of trail subject to strong afternoon sun. Signs identifying turn-around spots may not be in place.</td>
<td>Ooh Aah Point 1.8 miles 2.9 km</td>
<td>1–2 hours</td>
<td>600 feet 180 m</td>
<td>No water First view east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Ridge</td>
<td>3 miles 4.8 km 2–4 hours</td>
<td>1,140 feet 347 m</td>
<td>Restrooms No water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skeleton Point</td>
<td>6 miles 9.7 km 4–6 hours</td>
<td>2,040 feet 622 m</td>
<td>No water Second hitching rail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### North Rim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Round trip distance</th>
<th>Approximate time round trip</th>
<th>Elevation change</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bright Angel Point (rim trail with spectacular views)</td>
<td>Bright Angel Point 0.5 miles 0.8 km</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>200 feet 60 m</td>
<td>No water. Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widforss Trail (rim trail blending forest and canyon scenery)</td>
<td>Widforss Point 10 miles 16 km</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>200 feet 60 m</td>
<td>No water. Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### North Kaibab Trail (steep, forested on upper section)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Round trip distance</th>
<th>Approximate time round trip</th>
<th>Elevation change</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The trailhead is two miles (3 km) north of Bright Angel Lodge. This steep trail begins in the forest, but descends quickly into the canyon. Mules may be encountered. Trail opening can be delayed by winter damage.</td>
<td>Coconino Overlook 1.4 miles 2.3 km</td>
<td>1–2 hours</td>
<td>800 feet 245 m</td>
<td>No water Expansive view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supai Tunnel</td>
<td>4 miles 6.4 km 3–4 hours</td>
<td>1,450 feet 445 m</td>
<td>Seasonal water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hiking Tips

Leave No Trace
Leave No Trace, a nonprofit organization, promotes responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. All Grand Canyon backcountry users are asked to follow the Leave No Trace principles to minimize impacts on the landscape as a result of their activities. While enjoying your visit, please consider the following to help protect Grand Canyon for future generations.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare.
   • Learn the conditions along the route you plan to hike.
   • Know the weather forecast.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.
   • Stay on trails; do not cut switchbacks.
   • Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is prohibited.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly.
   • Bury solid human waste at least 200 feet (60 m) from water in a shallow cat hole 4 – 6 inches (10 – 15 cm) deep and 4 – 6 inches in diameter.
   • To wash yourself and dishes, carry water 200 feet (60 m) from the water source.
   • Pack out what you bring in, including toilet paper and all trash.

4. Leave What you Find.
   Do not disturb any cultural resources including artifacts or other archeological remains.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts.
   • No campfires allowed in Grand Canyon National Park backcountry.
   • Do not burn toilet paper.


7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors.
   Let nature’s sound prevail. Keep loud voices and noises to a minimum.

For more information, visit www.lnt.org.

Hike Smart
Grand Canyon is a place of extremes. Summer heat can become fatal in the inner canyon, while snow and ice can lead to icy circumstances during winter. A hiker’s best defense is being prepared for all situations.

5 Strategies for an Enjoyable Hike
1. Always check on weather and trail conditions before starting your hike. Talk with park rangers in the Backcountry Information Center or National Park Service visitor centers.
2. During summer, hike before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. In winter, hiking poles help with balance on icy trails.
3. Double your calories, double your fun. Consume salty snacks and water on any hike lasting longer than 30 minutes. Snack every time you drink.
4. For every hour hiking in the canyon, drink one quart/liter of water.
5. Rest often: sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 5- to 10-minute break once every hour.

Gear
• Dress in layered clothing for snow, rain, sun, wind, heat, and cold.
• Wear and bring sunscreen. Re-apply regularly.
• Wear a hat that covers your ears and carry a headlamp to use in the dark.
• Bring food, water, a map, first aid kit, and any medicine you may need.
• Use over-the-shoe traction devices and hiking poles to assist you in snowy or icy conditions.

Remember:
• It takes twice as long to hike up as it took to hike down.
• Hiking to the river and back in one day is dangerous and never recommended due to long distances and a near 5,000 foot (1,524 m) one-way elevation change!
• Persons wishing to take a service dog below the rim must check in first at the Backcountry Information Center.
• Colorado River is fast, wide, and cold (55°F / 13°C). Do not swim in the river.
• Rocks tossed over or dislodged by taking shortcuts can injure hikers below.
• A permit is required to camp in the backcountry. Stop by the Backcountry Information Center to obtain a permit.

Colorado River is fast, wide, and cold (55°F / 13°C). Do not swim in the river.
Backcountry Information Centers

South Rim
Open daily
8:00 a.m.–noon and 1:00–5:00 p.m.
Year round

North Rim
Open daily
8:00 a.m.–noon and 1:00–5:00 p.m.
Mid-May to mid-October or later, depending on weather

Contact
Mail: Backcountry Information Center
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

E-mail: grca_bic@nps.gov
Fax: (928) 638-2125
Tel: (928) 638-7875
1:00 – 5:00 p.m, Monday – Friday

For backcountry information click here

Do I Need a Permit?
Permits are required for all overnight backcountry use including:
• overnight hiking
• overnight horseback riding
• overnight cross-country ski trips
• off-river overnight hikes by river trip members
• overnight camping at rim sites other than developed campgrounds

Day hiking, day horseback riding, river trips, mule trips, and overnight stays in dormitories or cabins at Phantom Ranch do not need a backcountry permit.

How to Apply
All overnight backcountry permits must be obtained through the Backcountry Information Center. Only fax, mail, or in-person requests will be accepted. Telephone and e-mail requests are not accepted.

Fees
A $10 non-refundable fee will be charged for each permit issued; plus $5 per person per night for below the rim camping and $5 per group per night to camp on the rim.

Backcountry permits do not include park entrance fees and once submitted cannot be refunded. Permits cancelled at least four days in advance will receive a hiker credit (minus a $10 cancellation fee) valid for one year.

Frequent hiker memberships are available for $25. The initial $10 fee will be waived for each permit obtained by the trip leader; membership valid for 12 months from purchase date.
When to Apply
Popular use areas and campsites fill up quickly. Submitting requests on the earliest allowed date is strongly recommended. The Backcountry Information Center accepts permit applications no earlier than the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start of the trip (see chart below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For hikes with start dates within:</th>
<th>Submit written request on or after:</th>
<th>In-person requests receive immediate response on or after:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>October 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>October 1</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>September 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the Backcountry Information Center needs time to process and mail responses, written requests will not be accepted 21 days before the proposed start date. Only in-person requests will be considered within this time frame.

Length of Stay
During spring, summer, and fall, camping in designated campsites or campgrounds is limited to two nights (consecutive or non-consecutive) per hike. From November 15 to February 28, up to four nights will be allowed at Indian Garden, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood campgrounds. Trips are limited to a maximum of seven nights per use area; however, overall trip lengths are not limited.

Group Size
Groups are restricted to 11 or fewer people. More permits are available for small groups (one to six people) than for large groups (seven to 11 people). Limiting the size of your group increases the chances of obtaining a permit. Do not obtain multiple permits for the same night for the same campground or use area or all permits will be void.

Use Areas
The backcountry is divided into use areas, ranging from several hundred acres to several thousand acres. Each use area has an overnight capacity based on the size of the area, the number of suitable campsites, the area’s ecological sensitivity, its management zoning, and its history. A list of use areas and additional information is posted online here.

Permit Responses
All written requests are responded to via U.S. mail only. Please allow at least three weeks for processing. When space is available and all fee requirements are met, a permit will be issued and mailed to the trip leader. If you have been denied a permit through the mail, you may want to consider day hikes or attempt to obtain a last minute, walk-in permit in person at the Backcountry Information Center on either rim as appropriate.
Get Involved

Junior Ranger
Grand Canyon National Park and over 250 national parks offer a FREE Junior Ranger Program. At Grand Canyon, people ages four and older are invited to pick up a Junior Ranger Booklet at any National Park Service visitor center. Parents, consider making a great memory and become a Junior Ranger with your child; there is no age limit! Available at Phantom Ranch, South Rim, and North Rim (summer only).

To Participate:
• Attend a free park ranger program.
• Complete four activities for your age group.
• Bring your completed booklet back to any National Park Service visitor center to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.

Environmental Education

Teachers: Class Trips and Workshops
Park rangers conduct curriculum based programs that support and enhance information learned in the classroom. The program encourages students to explore, experience, and engage in the learning process, while taking place along the rim of Grand Canyon—an inspirational backdrop for learning.
Information:
(928) 638-7931
www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers

Expeditions for Teens
High school youth from all over the country explore Grand Canyon during hiking, rafting, and camping adventures.
www.nps.gov/grca/forkids/camp.htm

Expeditions with Grand Canyon Youth
Experience the beauty, adventure, and learning that only a river trip can provide. This program is designed to have a positive impact on youth—an impact that reaches far beyond the time they spend on the river.
www.gcyouth.org

Volunteer
Want to make a difference during your stay? Volunteer at Grand Canyon!
You can help Grand Canyon in a variety of ways, from enhancing visitor services to sharing your specialized expertise to help protect and preserve park resources.
Log on to www.volunteer.gov to learn about current volunteer opportunities in Grand Canyon National Park.

Vegetation
Work with the National Park Service’s Vegetation Program to restore native plant communities and protect the ecological integrity of Grand Canyon National Park. Contact the Vegetation Program Volunteer Coordinator at (928) 638-7753 for information about potential accommodations and upcoming opportunities.

Artist-in-Residence
The Artist-in-Residence Program offers professional artists the opportunity to spend three weeks on either rim in provided housing.
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI)
GCFI offers fun and informative educational classes and tours for everyone—from thrill-seekers to chill-seekers. On day hikes, backpacks, and whitewater rafting trips, GCFI’s expert instructors share the must-see wonders of Grand Canyon with park visitors. These courses treat young and old, small groups and solo travelers, to what is often described as the trip-of-a-lifetime!
Information:
(866) 471-4435
www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute
Grand Canyon Proudly Recycles

Throughout the park you will find recycling receptacles. Below is a list of accepted recyclables.

**Aluminum**—Beverage and food cans; clean aluminum foil.

**Cardboard**—Please break down boxes.

**Chipboard**—Packaging or tissue, personal hygiene, dry food, cereal, cake mixes, shoe, gift, and detergent boxes. No frozen food, milk, juice, or produce boxes.

**Glass**—Bottles only; please do not include Pyrex, plate, or auto glass.

**Junk Mail and Letters**—Includes self-sealing and window envelopes.

**Magazines and Catalogs**—Glue-bound magazines only. No paperback, hardback, or phone books.

**Metal**—Food cans (rinse cans), metal lids, empty aerosol cans, galvanized steel. No metal fittings, piping, valves, and sheet metal.

**Newspaper and Office Paper**—White and colored paper, manila folders, manila envelopes. Shredded paper in clear plastic bags. No thermal fax paper or confetti.

**Plastics**—All rigid plastics #1 thru #7. These include all soda, detergent, water, and shampoo bottles, milk jugs, plastic food containers, and all lids (remove lids from bottles). No plastic bags or styrofoam.

Place the following items in a trash dumpster: styrofoam or packing peanuts, Pyrex, plate glass or auto glass, waxed cardboard, carbon-paper, large pieces of steel, iron, brass, or copper.

Please put trash in proper receptacles and if full, find an empty one in another location. Cigarette butts are litter too; extinguish and place in trash cans or ashtrays.

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**Reduce, Reuse, REFILL!**

Did you know that Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site? In an effort to reduce litter in this world-class landscape, plastics in the park’s waste stream, and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), the National Park Service and its partners, including the Grand Canyon Association, Delaware North Companies, and Xanterra South Rim, have developed a reusable water bottle program.

**We have filling stations!** Filling stations that provide fresh Grand Canyon spring water are now available throughout the park:

### South Rim
- Hermits Rest
- Bright Angel Trailhead
- South Kaibab Trailhead
- Canyon Village Market
- Desert View Market
- Verkamp’s Visitor Center
- Grand Canyon Visitor Center
- Yavapai Geology Museum
- Desert View Visitor Center
- Maswick Lodge

### North Rim
- Visitor Center
- Administration & Backcountry Office
- North Kaibab Trailhead

**Fill ‘er up!** What can you do to help? Bring or buy a reusable water bottle and fill it up for free. You can purchase reusable, souvenir water bottles at all park retailers.

**Why refill?** When you refill your bottle you:
- Enjoy fresh Grand Canyon spring water.
- Reduce litter within the park, plastics in the waste stream, and GHGs.
- Save money—Grand Canyon spring water is FREE!
- Help save our environment!
Beyond The Rims

Kaibab National Forest—Surrounding both South and North Rims, discover unique experiences in National forests. www.fs.usda.gov/main/kaibab/home

South Rim
Tusayan Ranger District
176 Lincoln Log Loop
PO Box 3088
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023
(928) 638-2443

North Rim
North Kaibab Ranger District
430 South Main Street
PO Box 248
Fredonia, Arizona 86022
(928) 643-7395

Havasupai Indian Reservation
The Havasupai Tribe lives in a large tributary canyon on the south side of the Colorado River approximately 190 miles (310 km) west of Grand Canyon Village. The reservation lies outside the boundaries of the park and is administered by the Tribe. The Village of Supai is accessible only by an 8-mile (13-km) hike or horse ride.

To obtain a hiking permit or make reservations at the lodge at Supai:
(928) 448-2121 Tourist Office
(928) 441-2111 Lodging
www.havasupai-nsn.gov

The Skywalk at Grand Canyon West
Not located in Grand Canyon National Park, this glass walkway protruding over the rim is on the Hualapai Indian Reservation located at the west end of Grand Canyon approximately 250 miles (400 km) from the South Rim or 90 miles (145 km) from Las Vegas, Nevada. Stop by any National Park Service visitor center for information.

The Skywalk is a Hualapai Tribal business. For information or to make reservations:
(888)-868-9378 or (928)-769-2636
www.grandcanyonwest.com

Photo courtesy Hualapai Tourism
You can make a difference at Grand Canyon National Park!

With your help, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA) supports an impressive variety of projects and programs that help ensure that all visitors are able to enjoy the awe-inspiring wonder of Grand Canyon.

GCA cooperates with the National Park Service to fund new exhibits, scientific research, trail restoration, wildlife monitoring, ecological restoration, support for the arts, and historic building preservation.


Want to do something grand? Grand Canyon Field Institute offers 100+ classes annually that vary from a few hours of personal interpretation to multi-day guided trips into the canyon.

Teachers can benefit from GCA’s outreach program, including educational Travelin’ Trunks and DVDs for loan.

How Can I get involved?
Join the Grand Canyon Association today. Members receive exclusive benefits and discounts. For more information visit a GCA bookstore, call toll-free (800) 858-2808 or www.grandcanyon.org.