



# Trip Planner

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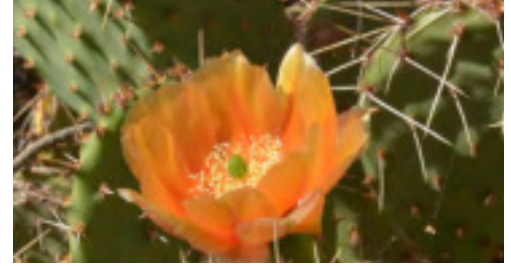
## Navigating *Trip Planner*

This document uses links to ease navigation. A box around a word or website indicates a link.





# Welcome to Grand Canyon



## Welcome to Grand Canyon National Park!

For many, a visit to the Grand Canyon is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I hope you find the following pages useful for trip planning. Whether your first visit or your tenth, this planner can help you design the trip of your dreams.

As we welcome over 6 million visitors a year to Grand Canyon, your safety is of the utmost importance to me. I want you to have an enjoyable and memorable visit but most importantly I want you to have a safe visit. Use this information to start planning how you will explore Grand Canyon but don't be afraid to check in with park staff when you get here. Our knowledgeable rangers can help perfect any itinerary you put together and ensure you leave with happy memories.

Exploring any park, Grand Canyon included, can have some dangers. Be sure you are drinking enough water and eating salty snacks (if hiking). Look down to see where your feet are; I know the views are breathtaking, but don't forget to keep a safe distance from the rim of the Canyon. Wildlife can be cute or even majestic but maintaining a safe distance and not feeding the animals is best for you and the animal. Just by being aware of these few safety best practices and using all of the trip planning resources available here, I know that you will have a fantastic experience visiting us at Grand Canyon National Park!

Thank you,

Christine Lehnertz, Superintendent



# General Information



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Located entirely in northern Arizona, the park encompasses 277 miles of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers to visitors on the rim. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

## **Grand Canyon National Park**

Superintendent Christine Lehnertz  
PO Box 129  
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023 USA

## **Park Headquarters**

928-638-7888

## **Website**

[www.nps.gov/grca/](http://www.nps.gov/grca/)



## **Park Openings and Closings**

The Village and Desert View on the South Rim are open all year and park entrances remain open 24 hours a day. North Rim facilities open mid-May and close mid-October. Park entrances remain open 24 hours a day during this time. Hours for visitor centers and businesses vary throughout the year.

## **Park Information**

The park produces a *Pocket Map* with a North Rim and South Rim edition that contains a map and information about services, facilities, and park ranger programs. It is available in French, German, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. A hiking brochure is available for those planning to hike one of the park's main trails down into Grand Canyon. An *Accessibility Guide* is also available. Obtain publications at entrance stations, visitor centers, or at [go.nps.gov/136ojl](http://go.nps.gov/136ojl)

## **Accessibility**

For information about accessibility in Grand Canyon National Park, see [go.nps.gov/1rtxl2](http://go.nps.gov/1rtxl2)

## **Pets**

Pets must be leashed at all times and may not be taken below the rim, inside buildings, or on shuttle buses. Persons wishing to take service animals below the rim must check in at the Backcountry Information Center. A kennel on the South Rim provides animal boarding.

[go.nps.gov/loxbia](http://go.nps.gov/loxbia)

## **Park Entrance Fees**

Fees collected support projects in the park. Admission to the park is \$35 per private vehicle; \$30 per motorcycle; and \$20 per person entering the park via Grand Canyon Railway, park shuttle bus, private rafting trip, walking, or riding a bicycle. The pass can be used for seven days and includes both rims. Pay fees at park entrance stations or at some businesses outside the park. Every year the National Park Service offers entrance fee free days. For complete fee information, including Annual, Active Military, Senior, and Access passes visit [go.nps.gov/y5uu6f](http://go.nps.gov/y5uu6f)

## **Sustainability**

Grand Canyon National Park incorporates sustainability into all aspects of its operations. Use your refillable water bottle to fill up on free Grand Canyon spring water at major trailheads, visitor centers, grocery stores, and lodges. Please recycle—recycling receptacles are conveniently located and as common as trash receptacles. Discover what else you can do to protect the environment while traveling here and beyond at [go.nps.gov/1b2rzt](http://go.nps.gov/1b2rzt)

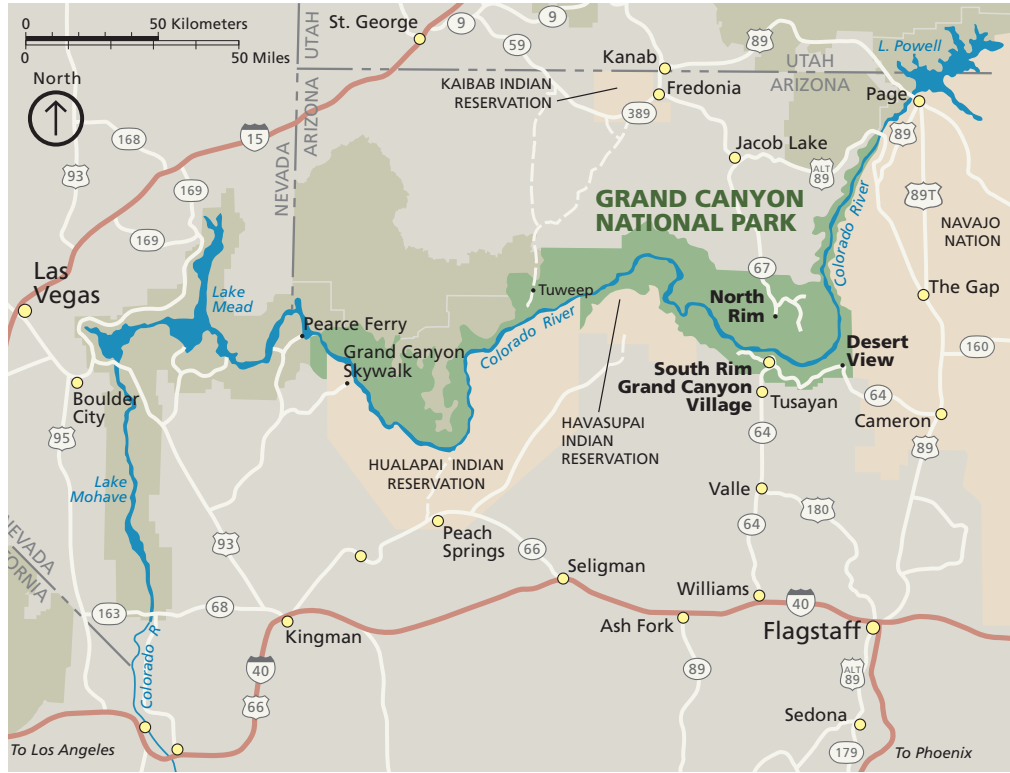


The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**



# Getting To Grand Canyon



## Private Vehicle

### SOUTH RIM

From the south—exit I-40 at Williams, Arizona, and proceed north on AZ 64; or exit on US 180 in Flagstaff, Arizona, and follow US 180 to the intersection with AZ 64, then turn north and follow AZ 64 to the South Entrance of the park.

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

### NORTH RIM

Take US 89A to Jacob Lake, Arizona, and turn south onto AZ 67 to the North Entrance of the park.

## Coordinates\*

### GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER (SOUTH RIM)

Latitude, Longitude: 36° 03'32"N 112° 06'33"W  
UTM Zone 12, NAD 83: 400093 East, 3991074 North

### DESERT VIEW WATCHTOWER (DESERT VIEW)

Latitude, Longitude: 36° 2'38"N 111° 49'33"W  
UTM Zone 12, NAD 83: 425584 East, 3989159 North

### NORTH RIM VISITOR CENTER (NORTH RIM)

Latitude, Longitude: 36° 11'51"N 112° 03'09"W  
UTM Zone 12, NAD 83: 405379 East, 4006465 North

## Shuttle Service

### ARIZONA SHUTTLE

Service between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon three times a day; also serves Phoenix, Tucson, and other locations in Arizona.

928-350-8466  
arizonashuttle.com

### TRASCANYON SHUTTLE

Provides daily trips each way between the North and South rims from mid-May to mid-October. Also runs in off-season from October 16 through November 15, but must call first to confirm.

928-638-2820  
trans-canyonshuttle.com

### FLAGSTAFF SHUTTLE AND CHARTER

Year-round custom service for individuals and groups from Flagstaff, Sedona, and Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada, to the South and North rims.

888-215-3105  
flagshuttle.com

\*GPS may be unreliable in the area.  
Be prepared with a map or atlas.

## Airport

Airlines serve Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Limited flights go to Flagstaff, Arizona. Rent a car at any of these airports to continue to Grand Canyon National Park or reserve a shuttle to the park from Phoenix or Flagstaff.

### GRAND CANYON AIRLINES

Fly from Boulder City, Nevada, near Las Vegas, to Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, Arizona. Ride a taxi from the airport to the South Rim; rental cars not available at Grand Canyon Airport.

866-235-9422  
grandcanyonairlines.com

## Train

### AMTRAK

Stops at Williams and Flagstaff, Arizona. Shuttle service runs from Flagstaff to the South Rim.

800-872-7245  
amtrak.com

### GRAND CANYON RAILWAY

The train leaves Williams Depot at 9:30 am and arrives at Grand Canyon Depot at 11:45 am. The train departs Grand Canyon at 3:30 pm, arriving in Williams at 5:45 pm. A second departure may be offered during peak periods; call for information.

800-843-8746  
thetrain.com

## Bus

### GREYHOUND

Serves Flagstaff and Williams, Arizona.  
800-231-2222  
greyhound.com

## Tusayan Route Shuttle Bus

### PARK AND RIDE: WE'LL BE YOUR GUIDE

Why wait in lines and drive in circles looking for parking? During the busy season, long entrance station lines and difficult to find parking can take the enjoyment out of your trip. Park in the gateway community of Tusayan and ride a shuttle bus into the park. The Tusayan Route operates from March to September. After making four stops in Tusayan, the shuttle bus heads straight to the Grand Canyon Visitor Center, where you can begin your Grand Canyon experience. No lines, no hassles, no fuss!  
go.nps.gov/1nw8ff

# Weather

Current and Year-Round Weather and Road Conditions [go.nps.gov/grca\\_wr](https://go.nps.gov/grca_wr)



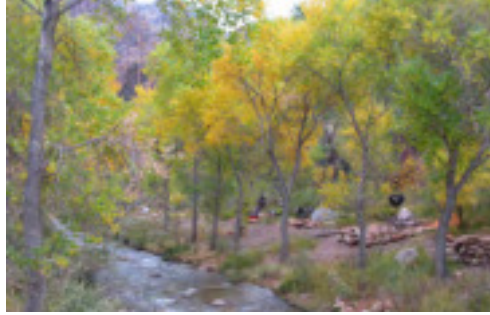
## SUMMER

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 causes dramatic changes in temperature from day to night; bring a jacket. The excessive heat in the canyon can be dangerous and even fatal to unprepared hikers. Average rim temperatures range from 48°F (9°C) to 83°F (28°C). Inner canyon temperatures range from 72°F (23°C) to 104°F (40°C).

## LIGHTNING DANGER

Common during summer, monsoon storms bring dangerous lightning. When you hear thunder, move away from the canyon rim. Do not stand under trees. Seek shelter inside vehicles, shuttle buses, or buildings; note that shuttle buses only stop at designated bus stops and will not pick you up on the side of the road during a storm. Be aware of possible floods and falling rocks during and after storms.



## 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 are typically dry, but snow on the rims is not unusual. Late April and May feature strong wind on the rims. Seasonable weather in the canyon offers some of the best times for hiking, making permits harder to obtain for overnight camping. Average rim temperatures range from 32°F (0°C) to 63°F (17°C). Inner canyon temperatures range from 56°F (13°C) to 82°F (28°C).



## WINTER

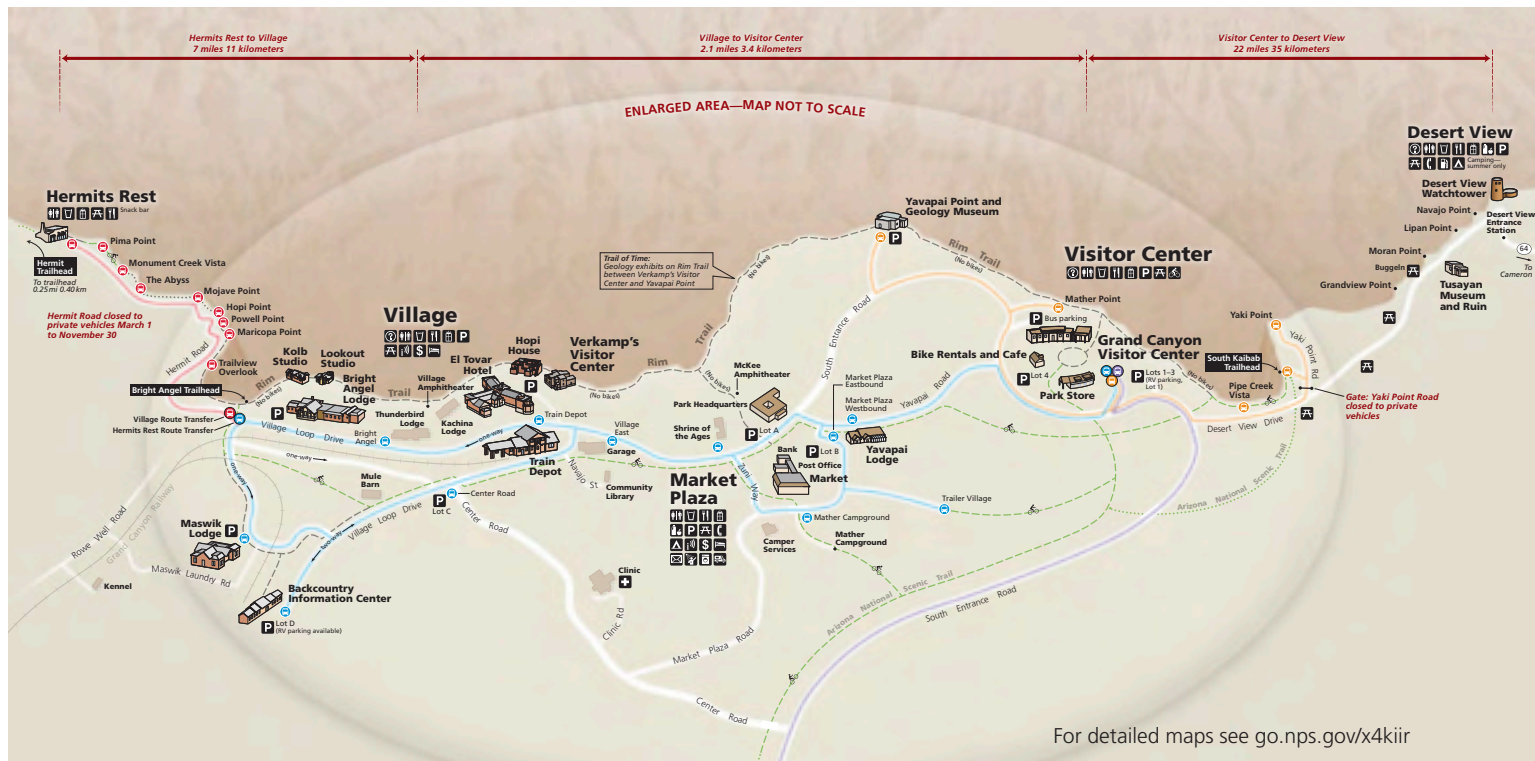
November through March on the rims  
December to February in the canyon

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 canyon formations highlighted by snow are unforgettable. Grand Canyon National Park does not refund entrance fees due to weather. The park plows South Rim roads, but temporary closures may occur. Average rim temperatures range from 19°F (-7°C) to 45°F (7°C). Inner canyon temperatures range from 36°F (2°C) to 56°F (13°C).





# South Rim



For detailed maps see [go.nps.gov/x4kiir](http://go.nps.gov/x4kiir)

## Parking and Shuttle Buses

The South Rim experiences crowded conditions throughout the year. Parking near the Grand Canyon Visitor Center fills by 10 am during busy periods. For surviving busy times see [go.nps.gov/gc\\_tips](http://go.nps.gov/gc_tips)

Find additional parking found in lots A–D.  
Find shuttle bus stops in or near all parking areas. [go.nps.gov/gc\\_parking](http://go.nps.gov/gc_parking)

Consider using the free shuttle bus system. Running on natural gas, these fully-accessible buses offer easy access to many popular viewpoints and hiking and bicycling opportunities along the South Rim. [go.nps.gov/gc\\_shuttle](http://go.nps.gov/gc_shuttle)

## Viewpoints

Choose from dozens of beautiful and unique overlooks. Enjoy fantastic vistas no matter the viewpoint.

### HERMIT ROAD

Travel the 7-mile (11 km) Hermit Road. Stop at nine scenic viewpoints and numerous unnamed overlooks. Shuttle buses and bicycles only March 1 to November 30.

### DESERT VIEW DRIVE

Drive along 22 miles (35 km) for views of the Colorado River. Climb to the top floor of Desert View Watchtower for a 360-degree view.

### COLORADO RIVER VIEWS

Look down on 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

*Grand Canyon: A Journey of Wonder*, a 22-minute introductory film, repeats on the hour and half-hour in Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

### ATTEND A FREE PARK RANGER PROGRAM

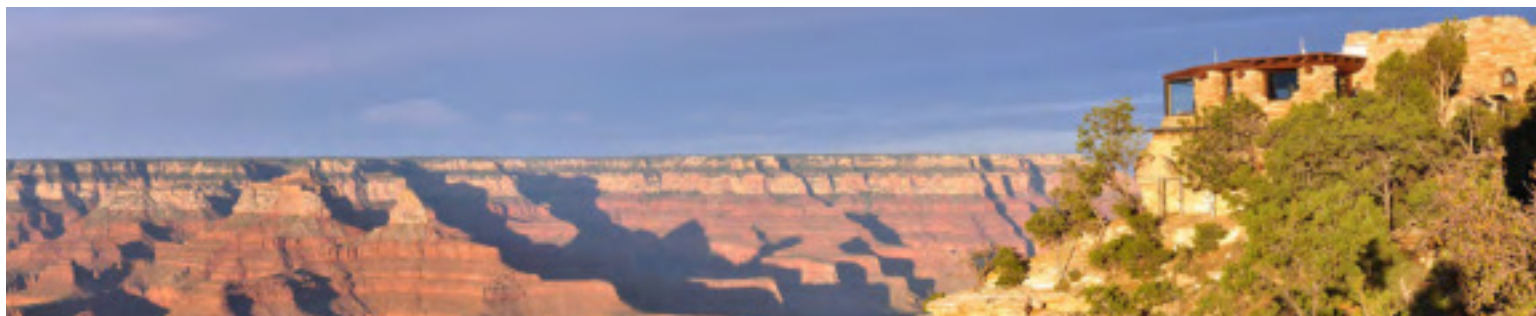
Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. Check visitor centers or [go.nps.gov/gc\\_programs](http://go.nps.gov/gc_programs) for a full listing of park ranger programs.

### GO ON A HIKE

See page 13 for rim and inner canyon day hiking information. Use free shuttle buses to access trails.

### RIDE A BICYCLE

Journey through the forest and along parts of the canyon rim on the Greenway Trail. [go.nps.gov/1v2hmb](http://go.nps.gov/1v2hmb)



# South Rim Services and Facilities



## Information

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

### VILLAGE

#### Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Plan your visit, and learn about Grand Canyon through the free park film and exhibits. Offers close access to Mather Point.

#### Backcountry Information Center

Learn about inner-canyon hiking; 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 the Village and explore more than 100 years of 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

#### Desert View Watchtower

Inspired by ancient pueblos, this Mary Jane Colter building offers spectacular views of Grand Canyon and the Painted Desert.

#### 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.



## Camping

### IN THE PARK

#### Desert View Campground (NPS)

\$12/night; no hookups. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). Open mid-April to mid-October on a first-come, first-served basis; no reservations. Located 22 miles (35 km) east of the Village.

#### Mather Campground (NPS)

\$18/night; no hookups; dump station available. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). Open year-round; reservations strongly recommended April through October. Operates first-come, first-served from the end of November to early March. 877-444-6777  
recreation.gov

#### Trailer Village (Delaware North Companies)

Pull-through sites with hookups. Reservations recommended. Open year-round. 877-404-4611  
visitgrandcanyon.com

### OUTSIDE THE PARK, TUSAYAN, ARIZONA

#### Camper Village (Private)

Hookups, coin-operated showers, laundry, propane, dump station, and store; open year-round. 928-638-2887  
grandcanyoncampervillage.com

#### Ten-X Campground (Kaibab National Forest)

No hookups or showers. Most individual sites first-come, first-served. Some individual and all group sites available by reservation. Open May through September. Reservations: 877-444-6777 or recreation.gov  
Information: 928-638-2443



## Lodging

### IN THE PARK

Reservations should be made well in advance as facilities tend to be full for much of the year. Off-season rates available.

#### Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts

Offers accommodations at Yavapai Lodge. 877-404-4611  
visitgrandcanyon.com

#### Xanterra Parks & Resorts

Offers accommodations at El Tovar Hotel and Bright Angel, Kachina, Maswik, and Thunderbird, lodges. 888-297-2757  
grandcanyonlodges.com

### OUTSIDE THE PARK IN TUSAYAN, ARIZONA

#### Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn

800-622-6966  
grandcanyonsquire.com

#### Grand Canyon Plaza Hotel

800-995-2521; pets ok  
grandcanyonplaza.com

#### The Grand Hotel

888-634-7263  
grandcanyongrandhotel.com

#### Holiday Inn Express

928-638-3000  
gcanyon.com

#### Red Feather Lodge

800-538-2345; pets ok  
redfeatherlodge.com

#### 7 Mile Lodge

928-638-2291; no reservations

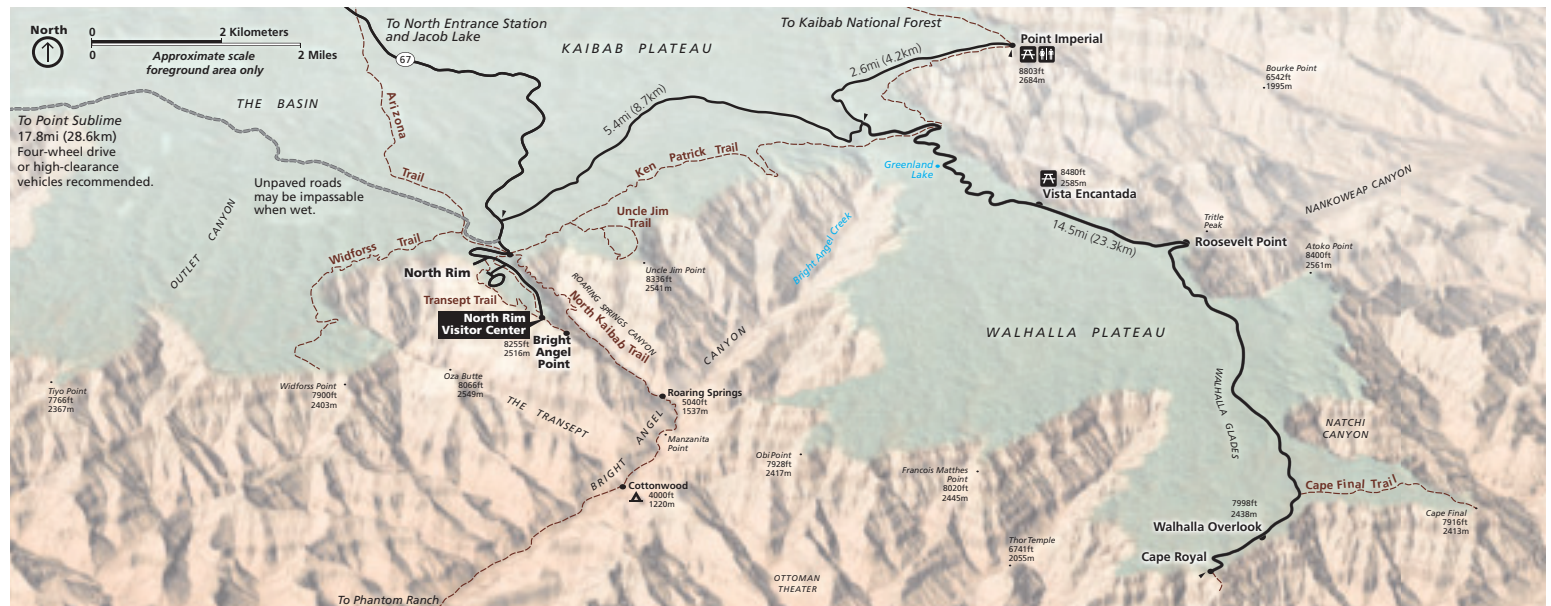
## Other Services

The Village features a variety of services, including restaurants, gift shops, post office, bank, general store, garage, kennel, laundry, showers, taxi, and more. [go.nps.gov/o2ib4w](http://go.nps.gov/o2ib4w)

Tusayan, Arizona, offers additional restaurants, gift shops, groceries, and a gas station.



# North Rim



## Information

Less visited than the South Rim, the North Rim offers quiet canyon views. North Rim facilities are open mid-May to mid-October.

### NORTH RIM VISITOR CENTER

Explore exhibits, talk to a park ranger, and visit the bookstore operated by the Grand Canyon Association.

### BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION CENTER

Located in the Administrative Building, learn about inner-canyon hiking and obtain backcountry information and permits for overnight hikes.

## Things to Do

### ATTEND A FREE PARK RANGER PROGRAM

Discover Grand Canyon's hidden secrets. See the current list of park ranger programs at the North Rim Visitor Center.  
[go.nps.gov/gc\\_activities](http://go.nps.gov/gc_activities)

### ENJOY THE VISTAS

View the canyon from Grand Canyon Lodge, trails along the rim, or the scenic drives on the Walhalla Plateau leading to Point Imperial and Cape Royal.

### GO ON A HIKE

See page 13 for rim and inner canyon day hiking information.

### RIDE A BICYCLE

Permitted on all roads unless posted; prohibited on all trails, except the Bridle and Arizona trails.

## Driving Viewpoints

### POINT IMPERIAL

Travel 11 miles (18 km) from the visitor center to view Mount Hayden and Marble Canyon along this beautiful 20-minute drive each way.

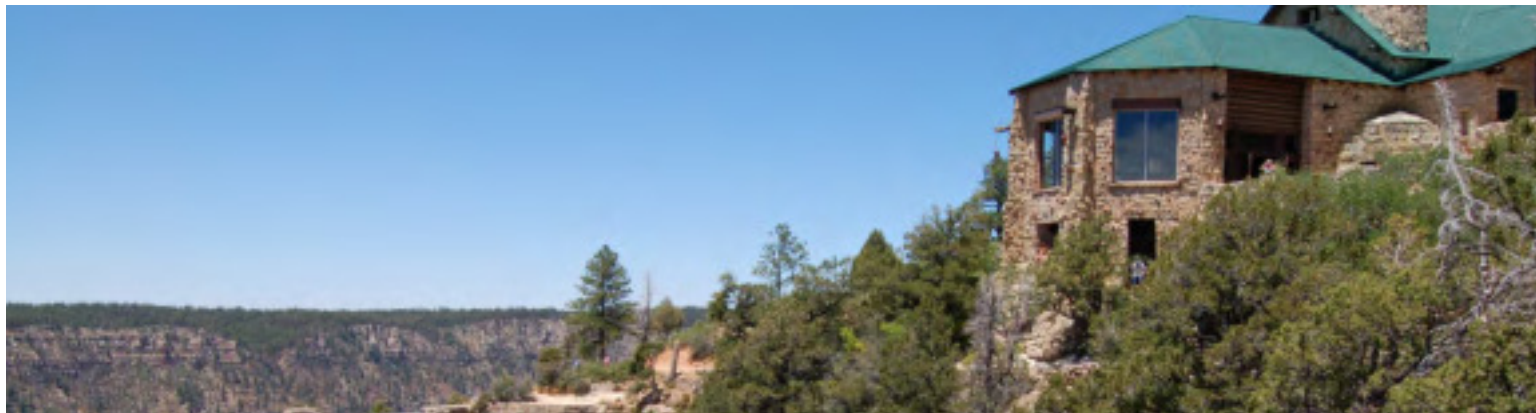
### CAPE ROYAL

Drive 23 miles (37 km) from the visitor center to explore Angels Window and ancestral Puebloan ruins at Walhalla Glades. Allow plenty of time to enjoy this 45-minute drive each way.

**Note:** Vehicles longer than 30 feet (9 m) not recommended on the roads to Point Imperial and Cape Royal.



# North Rim Services and Facilities



## Camping

### IN THE PARK

#### North Rim Campground (NPS)

\$18–\$25/night. No hookups; dump station available. Stays limited to seven days per season. Open May 15 to October 31. Campground fills most nights; advanced reservations strongly recommended.

877-444-6777  
recreation.gov

### OUTSIDE THE PARK

#### DeMotte Campground (US Forest Service)

18 miles (28 km) north of North Rim. \$20/night; no hookups or reservations. Open May 15 to October 15.

Reservations for half the sites: 877-444-6777 or recreation.gov

Information: 928-643-7395  
fs.usda.gov

#### Jacob Lake Campground (US Forest Service)

45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim. \$20/night; no hookups. Open May 15 to October 15.

Reservations for camp site: 877-444-6777 or recreation.gov

Information: 928-643-7395  
fs.usda.gov

#### Kaibab Camper Village (Private)

Located 0.25 mile (0.5 km) south of Jacob Lake on Arizona Highway 67. Open May 15 to October 15; full hookups available.

928-643-7804

928-526-0924, during the off-season  
kaibabcampervillage.com



## Lodging

### IN THE PARK

#### Grand Canyon Lodge

Make reservations with Forever Resorts; books well in advance. Check the lodge for same day availability. Open May 15 to October 15.

877-386-4383  
grandcanyonforever.com

### OUTSIDE THE PARK

#### Kaibab Lodge

Located 18 miles (30 km) north of North Rim; open May 15 to October 15 and includes a restaurant and store.

928-638-2389  
kaibablodge.com

#### Jacob Lake Inn

Located 45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim in Jacob Lake, Arizona; open year-round. Includes a restaurant, store, and gas station with pay at pump available 24 hours daily. Propane available.

928-643-7232  
jacoblake.com



## Food and Beverage

### IN THE PARK

#### Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room

Offers a view of the canyon; reservations for dinner recommended; open daily.

#### 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.

#### Chuckwagon Buffet

Located in the Grand Canyon Lodge. Purchase an all-you-can eat or a one-time-through ticket and take your dinner from the auditorium to the veranda.

## Other Services

The North Rim offers a variety of other services including fuel, garage, laundry, showers, post office, and more. [go.nps.gov/o2ib4w](https://go.nps.gov/o2ib4w)

# Tours and Trips

## Air Tours

All scenic air tours originate from Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, Arizona, outside the South Rim of the park. Companies offer both fixed-wing and helicopter tours daily.

### FIXED-WING

#### Grand Canyon Airlines

866-235-9422

[grandcanyonairlines.com](http://grandcanyonairlines.com)

#### Westwind Air Service

888-869-0866

[westwindairservice.com](http://westwindairservice.com)

#### Vision Airlines

800-256-8767

[visionholidays.com](http://visionholidays.com)

### HELICOPTER

#### Grand Canyon Helicopters

855-326-9617

[grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com](http://grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com)

#### Maverick Helicopters

888-261-4414

[maverickhelicopter.com](http://maverickhelicopter.com)

#### Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters

888-635-7272

[papillon.com](http://papillon.com)

## Mule Trips

Mule trips make daily excursions and overnight trips into the canyon.

For information visit

[go.nps.gov/14jx4c](http://go.nps.gov/14jx4c)

### SOUTH RIM

#### Xanterra Parks & Resorts

303-297-2757 or 888-297-2757

[grandcanyonlodges.com](http://grandcanyonlodges.com)

### NORTH RIM

#### Grand Canyon Trail Rides

May 15 to October 15

435-679-8665

[canyonrides.com](http://canyonrides.com)

## Bicycle Rentals and Tours

Bicycle, wheelchair, and stroller rentals are available from March to January, weather permitting. Rent a bicycle for a self-guided tour of the rim or enjoy seasonally offered guided bicycle tours. Closed Christmas Day.

#### Bright Angel Bicycles and Café

928-638-3055

[bikegrandcanyon.com](http://bikegrandcanyon.com)

## Bus Tours

Daily South Rim tours to Hermits Rest and Desert View, as well as sunrise and sunset tours. Tour guides explain history and geology while you relax and enjoy canyon views. Wheelchair-accessible coaches available by prior arrangement.

#### Xanterra Parks & Resorts

303-297-2757 or 888-297-2757

[grandcanyonlodges.com](http://grandcanyonlodges.com)





## River Adventures

For an ultimate adventure and a life-changing experience, raft the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. Several options allow exploring the river on a diversity of time frames 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.

#### Glen Canyon Rafting Hospitality

800-992-8022

[riveradventures.com/glen-canyon-float-trips/glen-canyon-float-trip-experience/](https://riveradventures.com/glen-canyon-float-trips/glen-canyon-float-trip-experience/)

### 2-5 DAY LOWER GORGE RIVER TRIPS

Private river trips can float 52 river miles (84 km) from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead. Permits 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 visit: [go.nps.gov/sxsoub](https://go.nps.gov/sxsoub)

### 3-18 DAY COMMERCIAL TRIPS

The following companies offer three- to 19-day river trips through Grand Canyon, traveling 226 river miles (364 km) from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek. Companies offer a variety of trips in large motorized rafts, oared rafts, paddle rafts, and dories.

#### Aramark-Wilderness River Adventures

800-992-8022

[riveradventures.com](https://riveradventures.com)

#### Grand Canyon Expeditions Co.

800-544-2691

[gcex.com](https://gcex.com)

#### Arizona Raft Adventures

800-786-7238

[azraft.com](https://azraft.com)

#### Grand Canyon Whitewater

800-343-3121

[grandcanyonwhitewater.com](https://grandcanyonwhitewater.com)

#### Arizona River Runners

800-477-7238

[raftarizona.com](https://raftarizona.com)

#### Hatch River Expeditions

800-856-8966

[hatchriverexpeditions.com](https://hatchriverexpeditions.com)

#### Canyon Explorations/ Canyon Expeditions

800-654-0723

[canyonexplorations.com](https://canyonexplorations.com)

#### O.A.R.S. Grand Canyon

800-346-6277

[oars.com](https://oars.com)

#### Canyoneers, Inc.

800-525-0924

[canyoneers.com](https://canyoneers.com)

#### Outdoors Unlimited

800-637-7238

[outdoorsunlimited.com](https://outdoorsunlimited.com)

#### Colorado River & Trail Expeditions, Inc.

800-253-7328

[crateinc.com](https://crateinc.com)

#### Tour West

800-435-9107

[twriver.com](https://twriver.com)

#### Grand Canyon Dories

800-346-6277

[oars.com/grandcanyon/dories.html](https://oars.com/grandcanyon/dories.html)

#### Western River Expeditions

866-904-1160

[westernriver.com](https://westernriver.com)

### 12-25 DAY PRIVATE TRIPS

Since demand far exceeds supply, the park dispenses non-commercial permits to travel from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek via a weighted lottery. Each February, a main lottery assigns the majority of launch dates for the next year. Additional follow-up lotteries occur throughout the remainder of the year to re-assign cancelled trips. [go.nps.gov/ig4s55](https://go.nps.gov/ig4s55)

# Hiking Map

## Legend

- Toilets
- Drinking Water: Year-Round  
*Always carry backup water purification.*
- Drinking Water: Seasonal  
*Always carry backup water purification.*
- Emergency Phone
- Campground  
*Camp in designated sites only; permit required*
- Ranger Station: Year-Round
- Ranger Station: Seasonal
- First Aid

### North Rim

Full services May 15 to October 15  
located 1.7 miles (2.7 km) from  
trailhead



**Do not swim in the Colorado River! Dangerous currents and cold water temperatures can be deadly.**



### South Rim

Services available year-round

South Kaibab Trailhead closed to private vehicles. Access only via free shuttle bus.



# Day Hiking

Hiking in Grand Canyon creates life changing experiences and lasting memories. Proper planning ensures good hiking memories. See page 14 for hiking tips.

Hiking to the Colorado River and back in one day is dangerous and not recommended. Summer heat occasionally causes fatalities. In winter, cold temperatures and slippery trails can cause accidents and hypothermia.

If you desire an overnight hike see pages 15–16 and contact the Backcountry Information Center for permits.

South Rim	Destination	Distance Round Trip	Time Round Trip	Elevation Change	Notes
Rim Trail					
Mostly flat; many sections suitable for wheelchairs. Easy walks and quiet views. Follows the rim from Hermits Rest east to South Kaibab Trailhead. Begin from any viewpoint and use the free shuttle buses to customize your trip; see the South Rim <i>Pocket Map</i> for route information.	Follows the rim for 13 miles (21 km)	Your choice	15 minutes to all day	200 feet 60 m	Mostly paved, except dirt from Monument Creek Vista east to Powell Point
Bright Angel Trail					
This popular, steep trail into the canyon begins west of Bright Angel Lodge. Upper portion provides some afternoon shade. Water available year-round at Indian Garden, subject to breaks in the pipeline.	1 ½-Mile Resthouse	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	2,112 feet 644 m	Toilets Water May–October
	3-Mile Resthouse	6 miles 9.6 km	4–6 hours	2,112 feet 644 m	Toilets Water May–October
	Indian Garden	9.2 miles 14.8 km	6–9 hours	3,060 feet 933 m	Water year-round Toilets
South Kaibab Trail					
Trail begins south of Yaki Point at the South Kaibab Trailhead; you must ride the free shuttle bus to the trailhead. Best views for a relatively short and steep hike, but no water. Upper portion of trail subject to strong afternoon sun with little or no shade. Signs identifying turn-around spots may not be in place.	Ooh Ahh Point	1.8 miles 2.9 km	1–2 hours	600 feet 180 m	No water First view east
	Cedar Ridge	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	1,140 feet 347 m	No water Toilets
	Skeleton Point	6 miles 9.6 km	4–6 hours	2,040 feet 622 m	No water Hitching rail
North Rim	Destination	Distance Round Trip	Time Round Trip	Elevation Change	Notes
Bright Angel Point					
A short walk on a paved rim trail leads to a spectacular view of the canyon. Trail begins at the log shelter in the parking area by the visitor center or at the porch behind Grand Canyon Lodge. Trail not wheelchair accessible.	Bright Angel Point	0.5 miles 0.8 km	30 minutes	200 feet 60 m	No water
Widforss Trail					
Even a short walk along this rim trail blending forest and canyon scenery can be very satisfying. Take the dirt road 0.25 miles (0.4 km) south of the road to Cape Royal for one mile (1.6 km) to the trailhead.	Widforss Point	9.6 miles 15.5 km	6 hours	200 feet 60 m	No water Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead
North Kaibab Trail					
The trailhead is two miles (3 km) north of Grand Canyon Lodge. This steep trail begins in the forest, but descends quickly into the canyon. Mules may be encountered. In the spring, trail opening may be delayed for repairs.	Coconino Overlook	1.4 miles 2.3 km	1–2 hours	800 feet 245 m	No water Expansive view
	Supai Tunnel	4 miles 6.4 km	3–4 hours	1,450 feet 445 m	Water May–October

# Hiking Tips

## Prepare a Day Pack With:

### WATER

Pack at least two liters of water depending on hike intensity and duration. Always bring a water treatment method in case of pipeline breaks or repair work.

### FOOD

Salty snacks and high-calorie meal(s).

### FIRST AID KIT

Include prescription medications, blister care, duct tape, and pocket knife.

### MAP OR TRAIL GUIDE

Know your route, including trail quality and water resources.

### FLASHLIGHT OR HEADLAMP

Include spare batteries; you may end up hiking in the dark unexpectedly. Cell phones may not provide adequate light and will run out of power.

### SUN PROTECTION

Sunscreen, wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses.

### COMMUNICATION

Yelling, a whistle, signal mirrors, and cell phones—while service is limited, phones can be helpful.

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

A lightweight tarp provides shade and shelter.

### CORRECT GEAR

Layer clothing to protect yourself from the weather. Wear broken-in hiking shoes with good soles. Bring hiking poles to lessen the impact on your joints.

## Danger!

### DAY HIKES TO THE RIVER

*Hiking to the river and back in one day is never recommended* due to extreme weather, long distances, and a near 5,000-foot (1,500 m) elevation change each way.

### HEALTH RISKS

Familiarize yourself with the symptoms and treatment for heat-related illnesses, hypothermia, dehydration, and electrolyte imbalances.

### OVEREXERTION

People often have overly ambitious plans and fail to pace and take care of themselves. If you feel unwell, you must rest. Remember it takes twice as long to hike up as it does to hike down.

### NO SWIMMING

The Colorado River is fast, wide, and cold (46°F / 8°C) year-round. Do not swim in the river—you will perish!

### DO NOT THROW ROCKS

Rocks or other objects tossed over the edge or dislodged by taking shortcuts can injure hikers and wildlife below.

## Hike Smart

### PLAN

Keys to a successful hike include knowledge, preparation, and a good plan. Grand Canyon is not the place for spontaneity. Always check weather and trail conditions before you hike.

### EAT AND DRINK

Snack every time you drink water or sports drink.

### REST

Sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 10-minute break at least once every hour. If you do not feel well, rest until you feel better.

### LEAVE NO TRACE

Day hikers can leave quite a mark in the canyon—literally. Write a postcard to your friends instead of writing on walls. Take your trash back out with you, including toilet paper. Do not feed the wildlife, and guard your food from food-habituated animals.

*Stay together, follow your plan, and know where and how to seek help.*

## Hiking Safety Information

### SUMMER

[go.nps.gov/iopezu](https://www.nps.gov/iopezu)

### WINTER

[go.nps.gov/1fx2nh](https://www.nps.gov/1fx2nh)





# Backpacking

## Backcountry Information Centers

### Contact

**Mail:** Grand Canyon Permits Office  
National Park Service  
1824 S. Thompson St., Suite 201  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001 USA

**Email:** [grca\\_bic@nps.gov](mailto:grca_bic@nps.gov)

**Fax:** 928-638-2125

**Tel:** 928-638-7875; answered  
8 am–5 pm Mountain Standard Time,  
Monday to Friday

Backcountry information:  
[go.nps.gov/1lvc55](http://go.nps.gov/1lvc55)



#### **SOUTH RIM**

Open daily  
8 am–noon and 1–5 pm  
Year-round



#### **NORTH RIM**

Open daily  
8 am–noon and 1–5 pm  
Mid-May to mid-October  
Located in the Administration and Backcountry  
Office

### Do I Need a Permit?

Grand Canyon National Park requires permits for all overnight backcountry camping including:

- hiking
- horseback riding
- cross-country ski trips
- off-river hikes by river trip members
- 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

Obtain all overnight backcountry permits through the Backcountry Information Center. The park only accepts fax, mail, or in-person requests; telephone and email requests are not accepted.

### Permit Cost

\$10 per permit plus \$8 per person or stock animal per night camped below the rim and \$8 per group per night camped above the rim. Denied requests will not incur a charge.

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 charge), valid for one year.





## When to Apply

The furthest in advance permit requests are considered by the Backcountry Information Center is the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start month.

The park begins accepting these earliest consideration requests starting about 10 days before the first of the month that is four months prior to the proposed start month. All earliest consideration requests received by 5 pm mountain standard time on the first of the month are randomly ordered for processing. Once this is completed all later requests are considered in the order received.

Apply early! Popular use areas/campsites fill up the first week of the first month they become available for permit requests. Verbal in-person permit requests are only considered for start dates one to three months out.

Written requests are not accepted for permits with proposed start dates less than 21 days out. Only in-person requests will be considered within this time frame.

## Permit Responses

Grand Canyon National Park responds to all written requests via US mail only. Please allow at least three weeks for processing. The park issues a permit and mails it to the trip leader when space is available and all fee requirements are met. 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-up permit in person at the Backcountry Information Center.

## Last Minute Permit for Corridor Campgrounds

A limited number of last minute walk-up permits are available at the South Rim and/or North Rim Backcountry Information Center for Corridor Campgrounds (Indian Garden, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood Campgrounds). These last minute permits are issued in person only, are for one or two consecutive nights, and cannot be purchased more than one day prior to the start of a hike.

For hike dates during the month of:	Submit written request starting:	Requests received by 5 pm MST on this day get earliest consideration:	In-person verbal requests accepted on or after:
January	August 20	September 1	October 1
February	September 20	October 1	November 1
March	October 20	November 1	December 1
April	November 20	December 1	January 1
May	December 20	January 1	February 1
June	January 20	February 1	March 1
July	February 20	March 1	April 1
August	March 20	April 1	May 1
September	April 20	May 1	June 1
October	May 20	June 1	July 1
November	June 20	July 1	August 1
December	July 20	August 1	September 1

## Use Areas

Grand Canyon National Park divides the backcountry into use areas, ranging from several hundred 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. For a list of use areas and additional information visit [go.nps.gov/whgm99](http://go.nps.gov/whgm99)

## Length of Stay

Camping in the Bright Angel, Indian Garden, Cottonwood, Hermit, Monument, Horseshoe Mesa, and Tapeats use areas is limited to two nights (consecutive or non-consecutive) per campsite or campground per hike. One exception is made to this rule: from November 15 to February 28, up to four nights will be allowed in Bright Angel, Indian Garden, or Cottonwood campgrounds. In use areas other than the seven listed above, 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.



# Get Involved

## Teachers

**FIELD TRIPS, CLASSROOM RANGERS, DISTANCE LEARNING, AND TEACHER WORKSHOPS**

Using Grand Canyon as a teaching tool, park rangers conduct curriculum-based field trips, in-class presentations, and live, two-way video distance learning programs for grades K–12. Students engage in real-world exploration of concepts related to geology, ecology, and human history. 928-638-7931

[nps.gov/grca/learn/education](https://nps.gov/grca/learn/education)

## University Students

**GRAND CANYON SEMESTER**

Grand Canyon National Park partners with Northern Arizona University and Prescott College to offer a unique, semester-long program. Grand Canyon Semester immerses students in a place-based learning experience using Grand Canyon as a classroom and laboratory. Classroom academics combine with field opportunities to create an unparalleled learning environment. [nau.edu/Honors/GCS/](https://nau.edu/Honors/GCS/) [prescott.edu/academics/certifications/a-grand-canyon-semester.php](https://prescott.edu/academics/certifications/a-grand-canyon-semester.php)

## 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.

Visit [volunteer.gov](https://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 opportunities and accommodations.

## Junior Ranger

Grand Canyon National Park and over 250 national parks offer a free Junior Ranger Program. At Grand Canyon, ages four and older can 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 year-round at Phantom Ranch, Indian Garden, and the South Rim; available on the North Rim in the summer only.

### TO PARTICIPATE

Attend a free park ranger program. Complete four activities for your age group. Bring your completed booklet back to any Grand Canyon visitor center to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.





# Outside the National Park

## Kaibab National Forest

Surrounding both South and North rims, discover unique experiences in national forests.

[fs.usda.gov/main/kaibab/home](https://fs.usda.gov/main/kaibab/home)

### SOUTH RIM

Tusayan Ranger District  
176 Lincoln Log Loop  
PO Box 3088  
Grand Canyon,  
Arizona 86023 USA  
928-638-2443

### NORTH RIM

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



Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service,  
Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest

## Havasupai Indian Reservation

Havasupai tribal lands include a large tributary canyon on the south side of the Colorado River, approximately 190 miles (310 km) west of the Village. The reservation lies outside the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park and is administered by the Tribe. Access the Village of Supai 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

[havasupai-nsn.gov](https://havasupai-nsn.gov)



## The Skywalk at Grand Canyon West

Located west of Grand Canyon National Park, this glass walkway protrudes over the rim on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. The Skywalk is a Hualapai tribal business located 250 miles (400 km) from the South Rim, or 90 miles (145 km) from Las Vegas, Nevada.

For information or to make reservations:

888-868-9378 or 928-769-2636

[grandcanyonwest.com](https://grandcanyonwest.com)

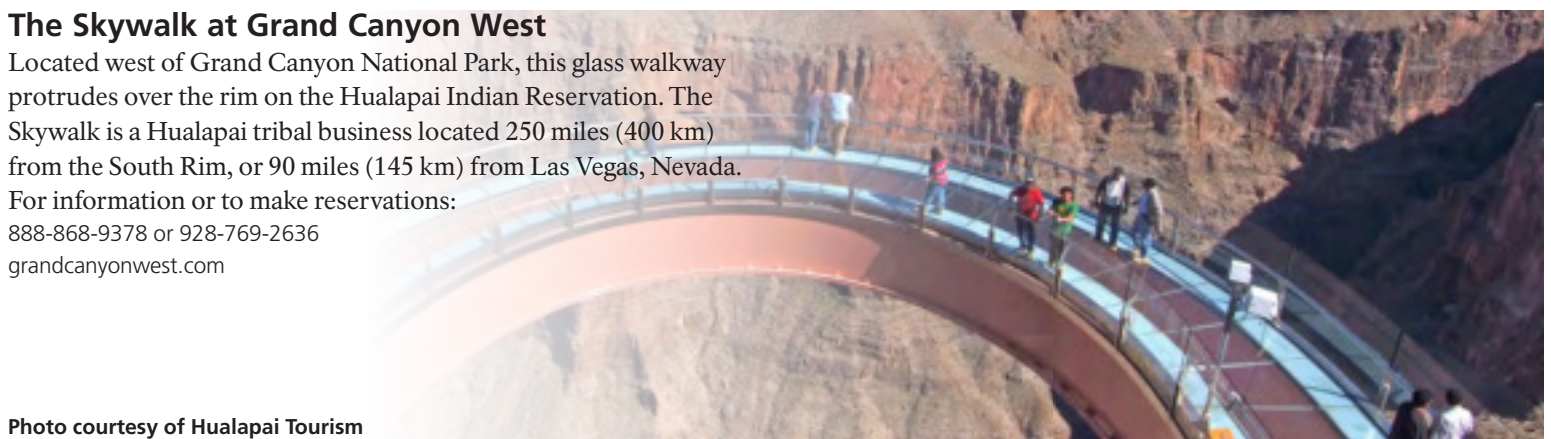
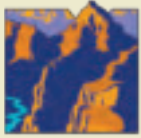


Photo courtesy of Hualapai Tourism



# Park Partners



**Grand  
Canyon  
Association**

Be a Part of Something Grand  
*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 all visitors enjoy the awe-inspiring wonder of Grand Canyon.

As the park's official nonprofit partner, GCA cooperates with the National Park Service to operate bookstores in seven locations in the park. Bookstore purchases help fund new exhibits, scientific research, trail restoration, wildlife monitoring, ecological restoration, support for the arts, Junior Ranger and education programs, and historic building preservation.

## DISCOVER THE PARK WITH THE GRAND CANYON FIELD INSTITUTE

From hiking and backpacking to yoga and photography, you can participate in education classes throughout the park. Call 866-471-4435 or visit [grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute)

## TAKE GRAND CANYON HOME WITH YOU

Join the Grand Canyon Association today. Members receive exclusive benefits and discounts. For information, visit a GCA bookstore, call toll-free 800-858-2808, or visit [grandcanyon.org](http://grandcanyon.org)



Bright Angel Bicycles rents bicycles and serves food near Grand Canyon Visitor Center.



Canyon Trail Rides provides North Rim visitors with mule trips into the canyon.



Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts provides services at Desert View, and operates Yavapai Lodge, Trailer Village, and Canyon Village Market.



Forever Resorts operates the Grand Canyon Lodge, shops, and restaurants on the North Rim.



Grand Canyon Railway serves the city of Williams, Arizona, and the Village on the South Rim.



Xanterra Parks & Resorts provides lodging, dining, transportation services, and shops at Grand Canyon's South Rim. Et re plitatus

