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WELCOME

Welcome to the rocky splendor of Grand Canyon National Park. At 277 river-miles long, an average of 10 miles wide and nearly a mile deep, Grand Canyon is widely proclaimed as one of the wonders of the natural world. It was established as a forest reserve by President Benjamin Harrison in 1893 and later set aside as a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. It received official national park status in 1919 and celebrated its centennial in 2019. Since then, millions of visitors have journeyed to see this awe-inspiring sight.

The National Park Service works together with Aramark, Grand Canyon National Park Lodges, Delaware North Parks and Resorts at Grand Canyon, and Grand Canyon Conservancy to provide a memorable experience for visitors to Grand Canyon. These partners have provided this *American Park Network* guide to enhance your appreciation and enjoyment of the park. The guide has been made possible by the support of the sponsors whose messages appear inside. During your visit, keep in mind the importance of respecting the park's fragile resources so others have the same opportunity to enjoy them in the years to come.



PARK OPERATIONS UPDATE

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there will be modified operations throughout Grand Canyon National Park during 2021. Scan this QR Code to see all the latest updates



FUN FACTS

Establishment: Grand Canyon gained national park status in 1919 and celebrated its centennial in 2019.

Plants and Animals: The Utah juniper, shrubby cliff rose, ponderosa pine, sagebrush, and pinyon pine all grow in the park. If you are going wildlife watching, be sure to look for the desert bighorn sheep, coyote, California condor, Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, bobcat, and mountain lion.

Land Area: The park encompasses 1,218,375 acres and lies on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona.

Elevation: The highest overlook in Grand Canyon is Point Imperial on the North Rim at 8,803 feet.

Popular Activities: On most days, people can be found biking, hiking, fishing, and rafting all across the park. Helicopter and air tours are also an eye-popping way to explore the Canyon.

Camping: The park offers developed campgrounds in both rims of Grand Canyon. Camps in the North Rim are only open May through October. Backcountry camping is also available with a permit.

Hiking: Hiking the trails in Grand Canyon is an unforgettable experience, but it is important to be prepared so that exploration doesn't turn dangerous. Always bring extra water and food, and remember to check the trail's level of difficulty. Trails along the rim are mostly flat, whereas trails into the canyon are very steep.

Biking: While some trails are for pedestrians only, trails marked as part of the Greenway system are open to both cyclists and pedestrians. Bikes are allowed on all roads open to vehicles. Be sure to bring enough water and food, and check weather reports before biking.

Lodging: In the South Rim, there are hundreds of reservable rooms, cabins, and suites, so visitors have a variety of options—from rustic to luxurious.

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PRINCIPALS

Mark J. Saferstein - Founder & Editor-in-Chief
Joel S. Saferstein
Alex Frenkel

TECHNOLOGY

Scott Falconer

EDITORIAL / PRODUCTION

Editors: Sophie Macomber, Rachael Mamane,
Hira Piracha, Amanda Strube, Theo Rossi,
Lori Lee, Erika Skogg
Photo Editors: Wendy Willis
Production Managers: Mario Arce,
Walter Jeronimo
Lead Designer: Dennisse Cruz
Graphic Designers: Michael Cohen,
Alberto Garcia, Alejandro George,
Tatiana Hurtado, Emerson Martinez

ADVERTISING SALES & MARKETING (212) 581-3380

adsales@americanparknetwork.com
Business Development: Randy Burton,
Ron Frederick, Pat Keane, Kristi Rummel

American Park Network

41 East 11th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10003




@OhRanger

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Distribution requests
distribution@americanparknetwork.com

Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi™ installation/sponsorship
wifi@americanparknetwork.com

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Cover: South rim at sunset
Tracie Louise/iStock

PLAN YOUR VISIT



Open year-round, the South Rim of Grand Canyon has two entrances. The South Entrance is on Arizona Highway 64, accessible from Flagstaff or Williams. The East Entrance is on Arizona Highway 64 from U.S. Highway 89 at Cameron.

FEES AND PASSES

Entrance is \$35 per vehicle, \$30 for motorcyclists, and \$20 for individuals entering on foot or by bicycle, bus, train, or boat. The fee is good for seven consecutive days from the date of purchase on either rim. A 12-month **Grand Canyon Pass** is \$70. Visitors can also use the America the Beautiful Annual Pass, which costs \$80 for 12 months of unlimited visits to federal lands with no entrance fee.

Passes can be purchased at any park entrance station or downloaded to your mobile device from **recreation.gov** or in the **Recreation.gov** app.

Please note that some of the museums and services offered may be closed or operating with restrictions or limitations due to the pandemic. Visit **nps.gov/grca** for the most up-to-date information.

EVERY KID OUTDOORS

To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, the Obama Administration partnered with the Federal Land Management Agencies to launch the **Every Kid Outdoors** initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for every fourth grade student across the country and their families to experience their federal public lands and waters in person and discover our wildlife, resources, and history for free.

All kids in the fourth grade have access to their own **Every Kid Outdoors** pass at **everykidoutdoors.gov**. This pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying

FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES

A federal recreation pass is helpful if you plan to visit many national parks, forests, or other federal lands. For information, **call (888) 275-8747**, or visit **store.usgs.gov/pass**.

Type	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80 \$20	General Public Senior Pass (62+)	This one-year pass is available on site, by phone, or online (see above).
Senior Pass	\$80	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site, via mail order, or online. ID required.
Military Pass	Free	U.S. military members and their dependents, Gold Star families, and veterans	This one-year pass is available on site or online. ID (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) required.
Access Pass	Free	U.S. residents with permanent disabilities	This lifetime pass is available on site, via mail order, or online. ID and documentation required.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 cumulative volunteer service hours	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.

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passengers in a private noncommercial vehicle to the park. Obtain and print the pass by visiting **everykidoutdoors.gov** and present it at the park. The Every Kid Outdoors pass is valid until August 31, 2022.

GETTING TO THE SOUTH RIM

Car: From the west, take Highway 64 at Williams to the South Entrance (59 miles). From the east, you can take I-40 to Highway 89 to Highway 64, and then proceed to the East Entrance. From Flagstaff, take Highway 180 to Highway 64, and then continue to the park (80 miles). From the northeast, take U.S. Highway 160 to Highway 89 to Highway 64, and then proceed to the East Entrance.

Train: Amtrak serves both Williams and Flagstaff. Connecting and regularly scheduled rail service from Williams is available on **Grand Canyon Railway**. Passengers travel aboard a vintage train offering six classes of service for this scenic, two-and-a-quarter-hour ride. See the “Grand Canyon Railway” chapter for more information.

Airlines: Grand Canyon Scenic Airlines flies daily from the Las Vegas area to Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, seven miles south of Grand Canyon Village. Taxi service to and from Grand Canyon Airport is available. American Airlines and United fly into nearby Flagstaff.

Bus: Groome Transportation (formerly Arizona Shuttle) offers service from Williams and Flagstaff to Grand Canyon. Call **(928) 421-1163**, or visit **groometransportation.com/arizona** for reservations. Flagstaff Shuttle and Charter also operates from Flagstaff, Sedona, Phoenix, and Las Vegas. Call **(888) 215-3105**, or visit **flagstaffshuttles.com**.

South Rim to North Rim Shuttle: Between mid-May and mid-October, Trans-Canyon Shuttle runs a daily, five-hour, rim-to-rim shuttle. Visit **trans-canyonshuttle.com**, or call **(928) 638-2820** for reservations.



Rental Car: You may rent cars in Flagstaff or Williams. There are no rentals at Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan.

Taxi: The Xanterra Taxi Service offers 24/7 transport between South Kaibab Trailhead and Grand Canyon Village, as well as between the Village and Grand Canyon Airport. Contact **(928) 638-2631** to book.

GETTING AROUND

Free Shuttle Bus Service: Shuttles arrive every 15 to 30 minutes on set routes and stop at concession facilities, visitor centers, trailheads, campgrounds, and scenic overlooks. Shuttles run from an hour before sunrise to an hour after sunset, and later in the Village area. From May to September 2022, a shuttle will run between Tusayan and the Grand Canyon Visitor Center from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily. For up-to-date information on bus routes, visit **nps.gov/grca/planyour-visit/shuttle-buses.htm**

WEATHER

The South Rim is located in an exposed high-



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desert region renowned for temperature extremes, and weather can change abruptly. Summers are warm and dry, but prone to thunderstorms and quick temperature drops. Winters bring freezing temperatures and snowstorms.

The 5,000-foot elevation change between the top and bottom means, in summer, rim temperatures in the 70s to 80s (21° to 32°C) can mean temperatures exceeding 110°F (43°C) at the bottom. Spring and fall are pleasant and warm. Wear a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, sturdy footwear, thick socks, and layered clothing. Bring water and high-energy foods.

PARK PUBLICATIONS

North and South Rim Pocket Map and Services Guides provide information about visitor services, facilities, and viewpoints. Free copies are available at park entrance stations and visitor centers, as well as online. For the interactive *Trip Planner* (available in eight languages), visit nps.gov/grca.

GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Information on hikes, ranger-led programs, shuttle buses, bicycling, and indoor activities are available, as well as orientation maps. The **Visitor Center** is home to a park store, a shuttle bus interchange, and restrooms. Hours change seasonally. Guided tours and bicycles are available for rent from Bright Angel Bicycles and Café at Mather Point. “Grab and go” food service is also available year-round at the Café.

Exhibits include the “*Science on a Sphere*” production, which projects the changing Earth through time on a large globe, as well as a curated set of historic artifacts. There is also a display featuring data on the center’s solar panels and their energy production. ♿

YAVAPAI GEOLOGY

MUSEUM

Located a half-mile west of Mather Point, this facility promises visitors panoramic views of the canyon through large observation windows, as well as outstanding exhibits and touchable maps of the canyon. **Yavapai Geology Museum** also contains a park store, operated by Grand Canyon Conservancy. Hours change seasonally; check nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/yavapai-geo.htm for current information. ♿

VERKAMP'S VISITOR CENTER

The South Rim’s most recently opened visitor center is in one of its oldest buildings. Verkamp’s Visitor Center features displays on the history of Grand Canyon Village and has a Grand Canyon Conservancy park store. Hours change seasonally; check nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/verkamps.htm for current information. ♿

TUSAYAN MUSEUM AND RUIN

Walk the trail around an ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) village while exploring Desert View Drive to learn more about Grand Canyon’s cultural history. The museum interprets the ancestral Puebloan culture and American Indians that have a tie to Grand Canyon and houses a Grand Canyon Conservancy park store. The **Tusayan Museum** is located 22 miles east of the Village and three miles west of Desert View. The museum is currently closed; check nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm for updates.

KOLB STUDIO

This site was the home and studio of pioneering photographers and filmmakers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb. Perched at the head of the Bright Angel Trail, the studio houses a Grand Canyon Conservancy park store and an exhibit

hall featuring the brothers' work. The studio is currently closed; check nps.gov/places/000/kolb-studio.htm for updates.

DESERT VIEW CONTACT STATION

The Watchtower Kiva Room, located on the ground level of the tower, offers excellent views of the canyon and includes a Grand Canyon Conservancy store. The store's hours of operation change seasonally; the tower itself is currently closed. Check nps.gov/places/000/desert-view-watchtower.htm for updates. ♿

VISITOR SERVICES

BANKING

Chase Bank at Market Plaza has a 24-hour ATM outside. The branch does not provide in-person services. Maswik Lodge and El Tovar Hotel also have ATMs.

BICYCLE RENTAL

Bright Angel Bicycles and Café rents comfortable cruiser-style bikes, e-bikes, trailers, wheelchairs, and strollers so visitors can explore the park in a more sustainable manner. Located at Mather Point next to Grand Canyon Visitor Center, they also have a full-service espresso bar and offer a variety of drinks, soups, and sandwiches. Reservations are recommended. For more information, please call (928) 679-0992, or visit bikegrandcanyon.com.

BOOKSTORES

Grand Canyon Conservancy is the official nonprofit park partner. They operate park stores; proceeds are donated to the park. These stores are located at the North Rim Visitor Center, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, Yavapai Geological Museum, Verkamp's Visitor Center, Desert View Watchtower, Kolb Studio,

and Tusayan Museum; the latter two stores are currently closed. They carry books, trail guides, T-shirts, gift items, children's materials, and more. For information, call (928) 638-7030, or visit grandcanyon.org.

GIFT SHOPS AND CURIOS

There are a number of gift shops located around the park that offer a variety of gifts, curios, and souvenirs. Shop hours change seasonally. For information about each shop, please call (928) 638-7888, or visit nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/bookgift_srim.htm.

Hopi House opened in 1905. It features an extensive collection of American Indian collectible handicrafts, including pottery, rugs, and jewelry. It is located across from El Tovar.

The **Lookout Studio** is on the South Rim and was designed to blend in with its setting. Two viewing porches are open in good weather. Rock and fossil specimens, traditional souvenirs, books, and photographic prints are on sale. The studio is a short walk west of Bright Angel Lodge.

Hermits Rest Gift Shop sells traditional gifts, souvenirs, and American Indian handicrafts. It is located at the end of scenic Hermit Road.

Located 23 miles east of Grand Canyon Village at the park's East Entrance, the 70-foot-tall **Desert View Watchtower** was designed as a re-creation of ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) towers. It has a Grand Canyon Conservancy book and gift shop.

The Desert View Trading Post carries American Indian jewelry, rugs, and traditional canyon souvenirs.

The El Tovar Hotel Gift Shop carries jewelry, clothing, sundries, books, and souvenirs. It is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. all year.

The Bright Angel Gift Store offers gifts, souvenirs, books, T-shirts, and supplies for mule or hiking tours. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

The Maswik Lodge Gift Shop carries gifts, books, souvenirs, American Indian jewelry, postcards, and T-shirts. It is open from at least 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and sometimes longer, depending on the season.

LAUNDRY & SHOWERS

Coin-operated shower and laundry facilities are available next to Mather Campground. They are open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

LOST & FOUND

Items lost in the park may be held at the South or North Rim Visitor Centers. For items lost or found in hotels or restaurants, call **(928) 638-2631**. For items lost or found at all

other locations, call **(928) 638-7798** during business hours.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Call **911** for emergency medical care (9-911 from guest rooms). North Country Grand Canyon Clinic, located on Clinic Road, is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily during summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day) and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays during winter. Please call **(928) 638-2551** for more information.

POST OFFICE

A post office is located in Market Plaza. Its hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Closed Saturdays and Sundays.

 IMPORTANT NUMBERS	
Park Headquarters and Information	(928) 638-7888 • nps.gov/grca
Emergencies	911 or 9-911 (from lodge)
Emergency Vehicle Repair/Towing	(928) 638-2225 or (928) 638-2631, ext. 6502 after hours
Backcountry Information (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	(928) 638-7875
Grand Canyon Conservancy	(928) 638-2481 • grandcanyon.org
Lodging and Accommodations - South Rim Xanterra Properties	(928) 638-2631 (on-site) (888) 297-2757 • grandcanyonlodges.com
Delaware North Properties	(877) 404-4611 • visitgrandcanyon.com
Lodging and Accommodations - North Rim Aramark Destinations	(877) 386-4383 or (480) 337-1320 grandcanyonforever.com
Grand Canyon Railway	(800) 843-8724 or thetrain.com
Lost and Found Items in hotels, restaurants, or lounges For items lost or found at all other locations	(928) 638-2631, ext. 6503 (928) 638-7798
Road and Weather Conditions Arizona Highway conditions	(928) 638-7496 511
Tour Information	(928) 638-2631
Taxi Services	(928) 638-2822

PUBLIC WIFI

Public WiFi is available in the Canyon Village Market Deli and the Yavapai Lodge lounge on the South Rim. On the North Rim, free public WiFi is available at the General Store (Camper Store) at the entrance to the North Rim Campground. The park has a slow connection and limited bandwidth, so it's not ideal for much more than checking email or very light browsing. In Tusayan, there is free public WiFi at the Grand Canyon IMAX and Visitor Center.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Many denominations hold services across the park. A schedule is posted on bulletin boards at campgrounds, the post office, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, Verkamp's Visitor Center, and the Shrine of the Ages.

SERVICE STATIONS

The nearest gas station is located in Tusayan, seven miles outside of the park. It is advisable to fill up before entering the park.

The **Desert View Chevron** is located 26 miles east of Grand Canyon Village. It operates self-service with credit card year-round.

For minor repairs and towing, the Public Garage is located next to Grand Canyon National Park Lodges General Office. The Garage is open 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. daily. Call **(928) 638-2225**. After hours, call **(928) 638-2631**.

SPECIAL SERVICES ♿

Many of the programs, facilities, and activities in the park are fully accessible, or accessible with assistance, to visitors with physical disabilities, and are indicated by this symbol: ♿. A free *Accessibility Guide* is available at NPS visitor centers, park entrance stations, and at nps.gov/grca.

Wheelchairs: Wheelchairs are available for rent at Bright Angel Bicycles for \$11.50.

The facility is located next to Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Permits: Scenic Drive Accessibility Permits let visitors with mobility concerns access Hermit Road and Yaki Point Road. Temporary permits can be obtained at entrance stations and visitor centers. The permits do not enable users to park in handicap parking spots.

Visually Impaired Visitors: Some ranger programs are adapted to meet the needs of visually impaired visitors. Audio descriptions are available for exhibits at Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Assisted-listening and audio-descriptive devices are available for the park movie.

Shuttle Bus: All shuttle buses in the park are wheelchair accessible (for chairs smaller than 30 inches wide by 48 inches long).

Lodging: Concessioners offer a growing number of wheelchair-accessible guest rooms in many South Rim lodges.

Trails and Campgrounds: Much of the paved portion of the Rim Trail is wheelchair accessible. Mather and North Rim campgrounds include sites that are wheelchair accessible.

STORES & SUPPLIES

Within the park, DNC Parks and Resorts operates two grocery stores and a gift shop. The company also owns the Tusayan General Store, located one mile from the south entrance to the park and seven miles from the Village.

General Store (Market Plaza): Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; **(928) 638-2262**.

Desert View Market: Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; **(928) 638-2393**.

Yavapai Gift Shop: Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Tusayan General Store: Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Call **(928) 638-2854**, or visit visitgrandcanyon.com.

GRAND CANYON RAILWAY AND HOTEL

More than 100 years ago the first passenger train arrived at the South Rim. Today, **Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel** continues this tradition by providing daily service between Williams, Arizona, and Grand Canyon National Park. Every day, except December 25, vintage trains travel from Williams to the canyon. The railway operates one train most of the year and adds a second during busier times. Vintage diesel engines power the trains year round.

Passengers travel in vintage coaches built by the **Pullman Company** and Budd Manufacturing Company and arrive steps from the edge of the South Rim in just two hours and 15 minutes. Upgraded classes of service are also available and include First Class, Dome Class, Luxury Dome Class, and Luxury Parlor Class. All passengers are treated to a **Wild West Shootout** in Williams prior to boarding the train, and cowboy singers and musicians entertain travelers during the journey. On the return trip to Williams, the notorious Cataract Creek Gang boards for a fun mock train robbery.

You'll arrive at the South Rim refreshed and ready to enjoy the afternoon! While most passengers enjoy riding from Williams to the canyon and back on the same day, many spend a night or more on the South Rim before returning to Williams by rail. The railway provides travel packages suiting a variety of budgets.

Note: The train departs Williams at 9:30 a.m. daily and arrives at the South Rim at 11:45 a.m. It returns at 3:30 p.m., arriving in Williams at 5:45 p.m. During peak periods a second departure and return are added. Schedules can change without notice.

The Polar Express Train is a special holiday experience that runs to the North Pole from early November through late December. All aboard for the Polar Express!

Don't miss special steam locomotive departures celebrating their role in railroad history. The Railway features several steam-powered runs to the canyon with additional short steam trips throughout the year. Call **(800) THE TRAIN**, or visit **thetrain.com** for more information.





Grand Canyon attracts the attention of the world for many reasons, but perhaps its greatest significance lies in the geological record preserved and exposed here. The rocks provide the region's geological history.

THE CANYON'S GEOLOGIC STORY

Grand Canyon tells two separate geologic stories. The older story is the one revealed in the rocks exposed in the walls of the canyon. These rocks provide a record of the **Paleozoic Era** (541-252 million years ago). At the bottom of the canyon there are outcrops of **Precambrian rocks** that are almost two billion years old!

The second geologic story at Grand Canyon concerns the origin of the canyon itself: When and how did it come to be? Grand Canyon owes its existence to the downcutting of the Colorado River. The forces on the canyon walls that have shaped and continue to widen the canyon today—running water from rain, snowmelt, and tributary streams that enter the canyon throughout its length—are equally important.

Grand Canyon owes its distinctive shape to the different rock layers in the canyon walls. Each responds to erosion in a different way: Some form slopes, some form cliffs, some erode more quickly than others. The vivid colors of many of these layers are due mainly to trace amounts of various minerals, which impart subtle hues of red, yellow, and green to the canyon walls. Sparse vegetation in the dry canyon climate makes it easy to see the rock layers.

HOW OLD IS THE CANYON?

The early history and evolution of the **Colorado River** is the most fascinating aspect of Grand Canyon geology. The erosion that shaped the canyon occurred only in the past 5 to 6 million years, a blink of the eye in geological terms, and insignificant relative to the two billion-year-old rocks at the canyon bottom.

CARVING THE CANYON

About 70 million years ago, a 130,000 square-mile area of the southwestern United States called the **Colorado Plateau** was gradually lifted up thousands of feet high as the Pacific tectonic plate crashed against it and went under the North American plate (close to the modern-day California coastline), sending powerful geologic reverberations eastward that created the Rockies.

Grand Canyon began to appear 5 to 6 million years ago as snowmelt water from the Rockies found its way through and linked together older, shorter canyon segments. The new through going Colorado River reached the Gulf of California about 5 million years ago. Now sediment-laden, the river and its tributaries deepened and widened, the canyon with the aid of rain, ice, and gravity, to its present 10-mile average width.

THE CANYON TODAY

Since 1964, Hoover and **Glen Canyon Dams** have harnessed the Colorado River for water storage and hydroelectric generation and controlled the seasonal floodwaters that did much to form Grand Canyon. Grand Canyon Dam purges the powerful river of many of its erosive sediments by leaving them behind in Lake Powell, which is located in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

WHO'S WHO AT THE PARK



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for the overall management of Grand Canyon National Park. As a bureau of the Department of the Interior, the NPS has responsibility for preserving the natural and cultural values of our national parks, protecting the wildlife therein, and providing use and enjoyment of the parks for the public.

The NPS cooperates with other agencies and organizations to extend the benefits of resource conservation, preservation, and outdoor recreation to all park visitors. Contact the NPS at Grand Canyon National Park Headquarters, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; call **(928) 638-7888**; nps.gov/grca.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK LODGES AND GRAND CANYON RAILWAY & HOTEL

Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (GCNPL) is operated by Xanterra Parks and Resorts under contract with the National Park Service to operate hotels, lodges, restaurants, sightseeing tours, mule rides, retail shops, a service station, and other visitor services at the South Rim. Its affiliate, Grand Canyon Railway, LLC, operates Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel, which originates in Williams, Arizona, and makes daily round-trips into the park.

The mission of GCNPL and Grand Canyon Railway is to preserve the famous Fred Harvey tradition of service and to maximize the visitor experience, while protecting Grand Canyon as a national treasure. For more details or to plan a trip, please call **(928) 638-2631**; visit grandcanyonlodges.com or thetrain.com.

DELAWARE NORTH PARKS AND RESORTS AT GRAND CANYON

DNC operates grocery, food service, and retail stores at Grand Canyon Village Market; lodging, retail, and food services at Yavapai Lodge; retail, food services, grocery, and a service station at Desert View; the public laundromat and showers known as Camper Services; and the Trailer Village RV campground.

DNC is committed to protecting this special place and "Creating Special Experiences One Guest at a Time." For more information, contact DNC Parks and Resorts at Grand Canyon, P.O. Box 159, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; **(928) 638-2262**; or explore visitgrandcanyon.com.

ARAMARK DESTINATIONS

Aramark Destinations operates Grand Canyon Lodge-North Rim, the only lodging located in the North Rim portion of Grand Canyon National Park. The Lodge is located at Bright Angel Point and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987. Spend a night in a Frontier, Western, or Pioneer cabin. For information about Aramark Destinations, go to **AramarkParks.com**. The 2022 season runs from May 15 to October 15. For information about the Grand Canyon Lodge-North Rim, visit grandcanyonforever.com.

GRAND CANYON CONSERVANCY FIELD INSTITUTE

Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute (GCCFI) offers single and multi-day learning adventures throughout Grand Canyon National Park. A program of Grand Canyon Conservancy, the GCCFI has been sup-

porting education, science, and research at Grand Canyon National Park since 1932.

Participants enjoy an expert's take on Grand Canyon while enjoying a trip of a lifetime. Topics include geology, botany, archaeology, American Indian history, photography, and a variety of other topics.

The GCCFI offers classes throughout the year, which are typically limited to fewer than a dozen participants. Check the website for current program status and registration. For more information, visit grandcanyon.org/classes-tours, or call toll free (866) 471-4435.

GRAND CANYON TRUST

Grand Canyon Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau. The Trust has field offices located in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. The Trust focuses on sustaining and restoring the Greater Grand Can-

yon region, an area of 11.5 million acres including Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and Flagstaff.

Become a member of the Trust or volunteer your time in the Canyon. For information about the Trust, call **(928) 774-7488** or visit grandcanyontrust.org.

GRAND CANYON CONSERVANCY

Founded in 1932, the nonprofit, cooperating conservancy assists the NPS with interpretative and visitor-related activities in the park. It publishes literature about Grand Canyon and operates stores in the park.

Each year, they provide millions of dollars and countless service hours to Grand Canyon National Park. For membership applications and for more information, stop by a park store, contact Grand Canyon Conservancy at P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, call **(928) 638-2481**, or visit grandcanyon.org.

As the official philanthropic and collaborative partner of Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon Conservancy's mission is to inspire generations of park champions to cherish and support the natural and cultural wonder of Grand Canyon.



**GRAND CANYON
CONSERVANCY**

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

grandcanyon.org

PARK REGULATIONS & SAFETY



Nearly 6 million people visit Grand Canyon every year. Help preserve and protect the park for your fellow visitors and for future generations.

PARK REGULATIONS

CAMPING

To protect the park's fragile environment, camping is allowed only within designated campsites. If you wish to camp anywhere in the park, other than in developed campgrounds on the North Rim or the South Rim, you must obtain a permit from the Backcountry Information Center. Please see the "Camping" chapter for more information.

FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS

Fireworks are not allowed in Grand Canyon National Park. Rules regarding firearms, including air pistols and rifles, bows and arrows, and crossbows and slingshots, vary by park unit and may be prohibited for your safety and the safety of other visitors. Please check with NPS regarding where firearms may be carried in Grand Canyon National Park.

FIRES

Because of the extreme fire danger, campfires are permitted only at the grills at Mather, Desert View, and North Rim campgrounds and may be completely prohibited during the driest weeks of summer. Use portable stoves or canned heat instead. For more information about fire regulations, please inquire at the nearest visitor center.

HANG GLIDING

Hang gliding is strictly prohibited for your safety. Violators are subject to fines.

HIKING

Please stay on established trails. Taking shortcuts destroys fragile desert vegetation and causes rapid erosion.

PETS

Pets are allowed on paved rim surface trails and in rim campgrounds but must remain leashed. Service animals are the only animals allowed on trails below the rim. Check in with the Backcountry Information Center before taking your service animal on the trails. Pets are not allowed on shuttle buses or in most buildings except Yavapai Lodge, which has pet-friendly rooms.

The Grand Canyon Kennel near Maswik Lodge offers day and overnight boarding for cats and dogs. Proof of pet vaccinations is required and reservations are recommended. For more information, call **(928) 638-0534**.

SPEED LIMITS

Obey all posted park speed limits for everyone's safety. The maximum speed in the park is 45 mph.

VANDALISM

Leave cultural, natural, and historic features, including rocks, plants, fossils, and artifacts, alone. Disturbing or removing any park resources is strictly prohibited. It is also unlawful to deface any park features.

Numerous organizations and individuals work to protect Grand Canyon

National Park and make sure each visitor's stay is enjoyable.

PARK SAFETY

SWIMMING

The NPS strongly discourages swimming in the Colorado River, as the water is exceptionally cold, and the current is deceptively strong. Don't risk it, as it could cost you your life.

WILDLIFE

All the animals you see in the park are wild and capable of defending themselves when they feel threatened. For your own safety and the well-being of the animals, please do not attempt to approach or feed wildlife. Always keep your distance, even when taking photographs. Keep at least 100 feet, or about six car lengths, between you and wildlife at all times.

There have been a number of incidents at Grand Canyon National Park where animals had to be euthanized because they ingested plastic wrappers and other litter that interfered with their ability to digest food. The promise of an easy meal lures the deer to eat plastic bags, food wrappers, and plastic twine, along with potato chips, crackers, and cookies, leaving them sick and weak. Please make sure not to leave any waste behind.

Deer and **elk** expecting handouts can be aggressive and have kicked, butted, gored, and bitten visitors at Grand Canyon. **Bighorn sheep, coyotes, and rock squirrels** are among other animals who will beg and bite. **Mountain lions** do live in the park. If you encounter one, keep your distance and never turn your back to it. Maintain eye contact, and make yourself seem larger than you are to discourage predatory behavior.





STAYING SAFE AT GRAND CANYON



Don't overexert yourself in an effort to view park sights. The South Rim is 7,000 feet above sea level, and attempting several hikes in a short time period is taxing, especially for visitors from lower elevations, or those with heart or respiratory problems.

Never try to hike from the rim to the Colorado River and back in one day.

Remember that trails descend nearly 5,000 feet, heat is extreme, and you must climb uphill at the end of the day when you are most tired. Every year, at least 300 hikers in distress are reported on the Bright Angel and South Kaibab trails.

Use extra caution when hiking and walking during summer months. The summer sun is very strong and temperatures often exceed 105°F. Wear a hat, use sunscreen, eat salty snacks, and drink a gallon of water per person per day. Hike in the early morning or late

afternoon and rest often. Remember to allow twice as much time to climb out of the canyon as in.

Other than short day hikes, hiking alone in the canyon is not a good idea. Always let a friend know where you're going, so someone can find you if you don't return on time. Park rangers will not start a search unless you are reported missing.

Be careful when exploring the canyon edge and **watch your footing.** Keep a close eye on children, especially at viewpoints along the rim.

The weather at Grand Canyon can change very quickly. In such an open landscape, lightning poses danger during sudden summer storms. These storms also bring flash floods down tributary canyons, a hazard to inner canyon hikers. Watch the skies, and check daily weather forecasts.

PRESERVATION



Like many of America's national parks, Grand Canyon National Park is in danger of becoming a victim of its own popularity. In 1919, during its first year as a national park, fewer than 45,000 people visited. In 2021, **visitation grew to more than 4.5 million!** It is important to minimize our environmental impact on the park in order to protect it.

AIR POLLUTION

Despite the air being some of the cleanest in the United States, air pollution from faraway cities, **smelters**, and neighboring **power plants** continues to reduce visibility at Grand Canyon up to 25 percent below natural levels.

In September 1991, significant progress was made in reducing air pollution

with the signing of a historic agreement between Grand Canyon Trust and the owners of the Navajo Generating Station, which reduced sulfur emissions by 90 percent.

Efforts are paying off and regulators are working with industry, environmental groups, and the public to find better ways of reducing pollution. In 1977, Congress selected special areas like Grand Canyon to receive the highest degree of protection from air pollution by setting a goal to clean all human-caused haze from these landscapes.

WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

The National Park Service has installed 15 water bottle filling stations throughout Grand Canyon National Park. The filling stations are located in high traffic areas on both rims of the park as part of a green initiative on behalf of the NPS.

Plastic bottles can take hundreds of years to biodegrade and are a major source of litter. By drinking from a reusable bottle, visitors keep trash out of the park and waste stream. Visitors now have free and easy access to Grand Canyon spring water and are encouraged to bring a refillable bottle. Park stores sell reusable bottles for as little as a few dollars; they make a wonderful souvenir and help the environment. All of the filling stations offer year-round water access, except for the seasonal stations located at North Kaibab Trailhead and North Rim Visitor Center. Finding clean, portable water in the park has never been easier. Do your part to keep the park clean.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Pack out what you pack in. Dispose of waste properly, and use recyclable supplies.

Don't feed the animals. When wild animals cease to find their own food, they are no longer part of the balance of nature.

Stay on established trails. By taking shortcuts you may get lost, and you can damage vegetation and cause erosion.

Camping. Obey park regulations, and camp only in designated camping areas.

Recycling. Dispose of your recyclable refuse in the specially marked recycling bins.

Water. You are urged to be conservative in using water (although be sure to drink enough of it).

SIGHTS TO SEE



Whether you stay on the South Rim or descend into the inner canyon, there is much to see in Grand Canyon.

THE VILLAGE

Grand Canyon Village is a good starting point. The **Rim Trail** follows the rim east from Hermits Rest to South Kaibab Trailhead on Desert View Drive. Stop off at **Yavapai Geology Museum** for an introduction to Grand Canyon geology. The popular **Bright Angel Trail**, which leads into the inner canyon, begins just west of Bright Angel Lodge.

Concessioner Fred Harvey built several lodges and gift shops in the Village, in cooperation with the Santa Fe Railway, beginning in 1905 with **El Tovar Hotel**. Esteemed architect Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter designed many of the buildings here, including the **Hopi House** (1905), **Bright Angel Lodge** (1935), **Lookout Studio** (1914), and **Hermits Rest** (1914) on Hermit Road. Colter buildings outside of the Village include **Phantom Ranch** at the bottom of the canyon (1922) and the **Desert View Watchtower** (1932). **Verkamp's**, constructed in 1906, is one of the canyon's oldest continuously operated stores and is now a visitor center and Grand Canyon Conservancy park store.

Kolb Studio, founded by photographers Ellsworth and Emery Kolb in 1904, hosts rotating art and history exhibits that feature the canyon region and a Grand Canyon Conservancy park store (Note: the studio is temporarily closed). Grand Canyon Railway pulls into the historic depot daily, except Christmas Day. See the "Grand Canyon Railway" chapter for information. Walk the 2.8-mile Trail of Time

along the rim between Maricopa Point and Yavapai Geology Museum. As you walk this geological timeline, you can touch rocks from each of the canyon layers.

THE SOUTH RIM DRIVES

Just west of the village, the 14-mile round-trip Hermit Road takes in Hopi, Maricopa, and Pima view-points, as well as the breathtaking Abyss, where the Great Mohave Wall plunges 3,000 feet to the sweeping Tonto Platform above the visible Colorado River. Powell Point has a memorial to river runner John Wesley Powell.

The road is closed to private vehicles from March 1 to November 30. Visitors must ride the free **Hermit Road (Red Route) Shuttle**, or travel by bicycle, or on foot. It is possible to get off at one stop, enjoy a scenic walk along the **Canyon Rim Trail**, then get back on the bus at the next stop.

Hermits Rest, at the west end of Hermit Road has a gift shop, snack bar, and restrooms. Although the road ends at Hermits Rest, Grand Canyon continues for another 180 miles, accessible by horse or foot through the undeveloped areas of the park and the Havasupai and Hualapai Indian Reservations.

Desert View Drive is a scenic road that begins near the visitor center. Private vehicles can drive east along the canyon rim for 23 miles to Desert View and the East Entrance to the park. The road features marvelous panoramic views of the canyon and the Colorado River. There is parking at every viewpoint, and the road is open to private vehicles all year. **Yaki Point** offers glorious, unobstructed canyon views and



an ideal vantage point to see the sunrise and sunset. The South Kaibab Trail is one of few trails that leads you along a ridge down into the canyon offering spectacular open views. Yaki Point and the South Kaibab Trailhead are only reachable by free Kaibab (Orange Route) shuttle from the visitor center, bicycle, or on foot.

At **Grandview Point**, miner Pete Berry built a trail in the 1890s that led down to his mine at **Horseshoe Mesa**. See what remains of it on the Grandview Trail, a steep, rough, unmaintained route for experienced hikers only.

Moran Point offers a very tranquil and peaceful spot, as it is not frequented by as many visitors as some other locations.

Take a tour of **Tusayan Museum** and **Pueblo** (Ruin) and view a small, 12th-century ancestral Anasazi pueblo. Its displays showcase several of the modern tribes, including the nearby Hopi. The Museum and Pueblo is currently closed until further

notice. **Desert View**, where the Vermilion Cliffs, San Francisco Peaks, Painted Desert, and Colorado River come into view, is the pièce de résistance of your drive. Visit the ground floor of Colter's Watchtower to view the canyon through a series of reflectoscopes (the upper floors are currently closed). Desert View has a market, ice cream/coffee bar, pay-at-the-pump service station, and seasonal campground, in addition to hosting the East Entrance to the park.

THE INNER CANYON

The inner canyon may only be reached from the rim by a strenuous, minimum two-day hike or mule trip. The **Bright Angel** and **South Kaibab trails** intersect with several other trails. **Phantom Ranch** and **Bright Angel Campground** are popular overnight stops. All dormitories and showers at Phantom Ranch are currently closed due to an ongoing renovation project.



Grand Canyon was carved over millions of years and has been significant to humans since its discovery. The **Paiutes** call the plateau that the canyon cuts through Kaibab, or “Mountain Lying Down.” **John Wesley Powell** was the first American to consistently use and publish the name “Grand Canyon” in the 1870s. No matter what name it is called, Grand Canyon is awe-inspiring for all who behold it.

NATIVE AMERICANS

About 12,000 years ago, paleo-hunters chased big game in the Southwest. They were followed by hunter-gatherers of the **Desert Archaic** culture who inhabited Grand Canyon until about 1,000 B.C.

The introduction of agriculture allowed family groups to settle in one place by supplementing game and native plants with cultivated corn. By A.D. 500, a new culture group, named the “Basketmakers” for their finely woven baskets, sandals, and other textiles, inhabited Grand Canyon. They lived in semi-subterranean pit houses and rock shelters and hunted deer, rabbits, and bighorn sheep. They supplemented their diet of wild foods with corn and squash.

Between 1,200 and 700 years ago, the ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) people took center stage in the cultural history of Grand Canyon. Mostly sedentary, ancestral Puebloans made their living primarily through agriculture. They lived in small and large villages of above-ground stone houses using subterranean structures (kivas) for ritual and community purposes.

About 4,000 ancestral Puebloan sites have been found within park boundaries, including **Tusayan Ruin**, which was con-

structed in A.D. 1185. The Spanish word *pueblo*, meaning “town,” referred to the apartment-style masonry compounds the ancestral Puebloans excelled in building.

Some anthropologists speculate that a prolonged drought, in conjunction with over-utilization of natural resources, led the ancestral Puebloans to leave Grand Canyon by the early 1200s. They moved east to the lands of the Western Pueblos, where their descendants—the Hopi of Arizona and the Zuni of New Mexico—continue many of the traditions of their ancestors.

NATIVE NEWCOMERS

In the 1300s, a new hunter-gatherer tribe, the **Cerbat**, moved into Grand Canyon. Descendants of these people make up the **Hualapai** and **Havasupai** tribes which occupy reservations in the western canyon.

Archaeological evidence suggests that the last Native Americans to arrive at Grand Canyon were the **Navajo**, or the Diné (Athabascan people related to the Apache), who moved here from the Northwest around A.D. 1400. The Navajo were hunter-gatherers who learned agriculture from the Pueblos and later obtained horses and sheep from Spanish settlers. Raiding was a key component to their lifestyle, which combined with their adaptability, allowed them to dominate the region. Today, after centuries of sporadic inter-tribal conflict, as well as clashes with new Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo arrivals, the Navajo represent the largest Native American tribe in the United States. Their reservation abuts the eastern section of the canyon.

NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE & THEIR CRAFTS



The Native American communities surrounding the Grand Canyon actively maintain their ancient cultures and traditions. They have long been associated with exquisite but functional crafts that reflect their close ties with nature. Fine collectibles created by native artisans began to be marketed to outsiders in the 1880s through places such as **Hubbell Trading Post** on the **Navajo Reservation**—still an active trading post that is famous for its Ganado red blankets.

Any of the five reservations close to Grand Canyon make a fascinating day trip for adventurous travelers. Most reservations welcome visitors who are interested in learning about their culture and who show respect for privacy and property.

HAVASUPAI

The Havasupai, or “**People of the Blue-Green Waters**,” live in Havasu Canyon, a tributary of the Grand Canyon. They continue to farm as they have for centuries, but also welcome visitors to their reservation. The waterfalls near Havasu Creek and the annual Peach Festival in August are both popular destinations. Tourism has been suspended for 2022 and is expected to restart in 2023; for more information call the tourist office and campground at **(928) 448-2121** or the lodge at **(928) 448-2111**, or visit **theofficialhavasupaitribe.com**. Supai is accessible on foot, horseback, or via helicopter.

HOPÍ

The Hopi are peaceful farmers directly descended from the ancestral **Puebloans (Anasazi)**. Their lifestyle on the mesas is typical of other Pueblo villages. Considered the most adept dryland farmers in the world, they grow corn in mostly non-irrigated plots (depending on the summer rains) at the base of the mesas. The small Hopi Reservation is concentrated in Pueblos on three mesas in northeastern Arizona and is completely surrounded by the Navajo Reservation.

Old Oraibi has been occupied since A.D. 1150, making it one of America's oldest continuously inhabited villages. The Hopi are renowned for their silverwork, baskets, elaborately designed pottery, and kachinas—wooden spirit dolls used in their ceremonies. Contact the Hopi Tribal Council, P.O. Box 123, Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039; call **(928) 734-2441**; or visit **hopi-nsn.gov** for more information. Please contact the reservation before visiting at this time. *Note: Photography is not allowed on the reservation.*

HUALAPAI

The Hualapai live just south of the western portion of the national park. Farming, cattle raising, forestry, and tourism are their primary occupations. They are best known for their celebrated **basketry**, which evolved from hunter-gatherer traditions, and their exquisite dolls. In strikingly modern contrast, the **Skywalk**, managed by

NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE & THEIR CRAFTS

the Hualapai Tribe and located on tribal lands, allows visitors to venture out on a horseshoe-shaped steel frame with glass floor and sides that project about 70 feet from the canyon rim. The Skywalk is part of several different tour packages at Grand Canyon West. Contact the Hualapai Tribal Council, P.O. Box 179, Peach Springs, AZ 86434; visit grandcanyon-west.com; or call (928) 769-2636 for more information.

NAVAJO

Some Navajo continue to live in traditional six- or eight-sided houses, known as hogans, and raise sheep, goats, and corn. The 16-million acre **Navajo Reservation**, which begins near the East Entrance of the park, is the largest in the country. Some of the numerous scenic and historic attractions are **Monument Valley**, **Canyon de Chelly**, **Little Colorado River Gorge**, **Rainbow Bridge** in **Glen Canyon**, dinosaur tracks near **Moenave**, **Grand Falls**, and **Window Rock** (Navajo Tribal Headquarters). The Navajo are famous for

their finely woven rugs, silver and turquoise jewelry, and sand paintings. For COVID-19 visitation status, contact the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, P.O. Box 4950, Window Rock, AZ 86515 or call (928) 871-7198. You can also contact the Navajo Tourism Department, P.O. Box 663, Window Rock, AZ 86515; call (928) 810-8501; or visit discovernavajo.com.

KAIBAB BAND OF PAIUTE INDIANS

The Kaibab-Paiutes live north of Grand Canyon on the Arizona Strip. Their reservation lies adjacent to **Pipe Spring National Monument**, a historic western ranching operation built up around an 1870 fortified dwelling. The hunter-gatherer origins of the Paiutes are most evident in their prized “wedding baskets” and other basketry. Contact the Kaibab-Paiute Tribal Council, Tribal Affairs Building, HC 65 Box 2, Fredonia, AZ 86022 or call (928) 643-7245 for more information. For COVID-19 updates, visit www.kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov.

Today, there are 11 American Indian tribes with ancestral ties to Grand Canyon National Park. The Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Las Vegas Paiute, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, San Juan Southern Paiute, Yavapai-Apache, and the Pueblo of Zuni all work with NPS staff to identify and monitor a multitude of park resources. The entire canyon, from rim to rim, has been designated as a Traditional Cultural Property. This means the canyon plays an active role in the historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices of the affiliated tribes. Within the park, there are archaeological sites, shrines, resource

locations, seeps, springs, and animals that are viewed by the affiliated tribes as traditional or sacred in their importance.

THE SPANISH

In 1540, a Spanish nobleman, **Francisco Vásquez de Coronado**, led the first expedition of Europeans from Mexico into the Southwest in search of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola that were reputed to contain great riches. While Coronado continued on to modern-day New Mexico (perhaps as far as Kansas), he dispatched Garcia Lopez de Cárdenas and several men northward. With the help of Hopi guides, Cárdenas became the first Euro-

pean to see Grand Canyon, and yet the Spaniard left frustrated, unable to cross the impassable void. Coronado and his men returned to Mexico empty-handed, where their lack of success on behalf of the Spanish Crown led to their court-martial.

AMERICA'S WESTWARD EXPANSION

When the Santa Fe Trail, linking Missouri to New Mexico, opened to east-west trade in 1821, intrepid fur trappers, traders, and fortune hunters traveled through the region en route to California. In 1848, much of the Southwest was ceded to the United States following the war with Mexico, leading the government to dispatch army surveyors to chart the unknown southwestern territory. The year 1857 brought a U.S. Army survey party led by **Lieutenant Joseph Ives** to explore Grand Canyon region. In his 1858 report, Ives was pessimistic.

JOHN WESLEY POWELL

In 1869, Major John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran, and his nine companions became the first European-American men to journey 1,000 miles on the Green and Colorado River from Wyoming through Grand Canyon. Powell and his party braved dangerous rapids, searing heat, sinking morale, and the loss of three men to complete their remarkable feat. Powell's notes on the trip, and a second expedition, provided invaluable information about one of the last unexplored areas of the United States. Like John Muir, Powell was one of a distinctive 19th-century breed. He advocated wise use of water in the West and defended American Indian rights. He was instrumental in founding the **U.S. Geological**

Survey and the U.S. Bureau of American Ethnology, now the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, and also negotiated Native American peace treaties for the government.

THE CANYON BOOMS

In the late 1800s, the government promoted the West as a land of abundant resources. The discovery of zinc, copper, and lead in Grand Canyon led miners to stake claims. Extraction and transportation of ore from the canyon proved difficult, and some miners abandoned their claims in order to pursue a more lucrative, less dangerous option: tourism.

FRED HARVEY COMPANY

In the early 1900s, Fred Harvey started providing the finest visitor services on any public land. The **El Tovar Hotel**, designed by Charles Whittlesey, and built by Santa Fe Railway, opened in 1905. The Fred Harvey Company first hired **Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter** as an interior decorator, but she also took on the responsibility for the architecture of many of the buildings. Colter remained with the company until 1948.

NATIONAL PARK STATUS

The 1906 Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities helped President Theodore Roosevelt make part of Grand Canyon a national monument in 1908. In 1919, Congress passed a bill allowing for the expansion to a national park. Current park boundaries were established in 1975, when Marble Canyon and Grand Canyon national monuments were joined to the park. Grand Canyon was named a World Heritage Site in 1979 in recognition of the universal value of its exceptional natural resources.

THINGS TO DO



The South Rim of the park is open all year. Each season has its own mood and activities. No matter what time of year you decide to visit the park, there is always something to see. Check out what there is to do in each season in Grand Canyon, as well as its unique features.

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL

When spring arrives in the high country, a trip into the canyon brings desert warmth and colorful wildflowers that bloom as early as March. Warm summer days are busy with excitement as people from every corner of the Earth visit Grand Canyon. Warm temperatures continue well into fall, but nights are cooler.

YAVAPAI GEOLOGY MUSEUM

The museum features great views of the canyon and a variety of ranger-led programs, such as talks about Grand Canyon's geology and wildlife. It also features exhibits on geology and how the canyon was formed, as well as a bookstore and gift shop.

GRAND CANYON VILLAGE SHUTTLE SERVICE

Hop on one of the free shuttles that runs along the rim, from Hermits Rest to Yaki Point. The shuttle system serves most viewpoints, trailheads, businesses, campgrounds, and visitor centers in between, as well as Tusayan. The shuttle operates with frequent service from before sunrise to after sunset. Parking your car and riding the shuttle is the easiest way to explore the South Rim area. Routes may have altered operation schedules in 2022. Check nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit or the *South Rim Pocket Map and Services Guide* for more shuttle information.

TUSAYAN RUIN SELF-GUIDING TRAIL

Starting at the museum, take an entertaining or informative tour with a ranger or follow a self-guiding trail through the remains of a 12th-century ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) village. This trail is currently closed until further notice.

PARK MOTORCOACH TOURS

Grand Canyon National Park Lodges has operated motorcoach sightseeing tours in the southwest since the early 1900s. Experienced and entertaining guides chauffeur visitors to major viewpoints along the rim of Grand Canyon in motorcoaches and vans. Wheelchair-accessible motorcoaches are available by prior arrangement. Please call **(888) 297-2757**, or stop by the transportation desks in the Bright Angel and Maswik or the desk in El Tovar to check current tour operations schedule.

BICYCLING

Bicycle rentals are available seasonally from Bright Angel Bicycles near Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Bicycles are allowed on the same roads that are open to other vehicles. By Arizona law, bicyclists must follow the same regulations as other vehicles and should always ride on the right with the flow of traffic. Bicyclists must pull off the road and dismount their bicycles when shuttle buses are attempting to pass. Bicycles are not allowed on any pedestrian paths, including the Rim Trail.

Bicycles are permitted on the paved Greenway Trails from the South Kaibab Trailhead to the railroad depot, as well as the North Rim Bridle Trail. A section of the Greenway just east of Hermits Rest is open

to bicycles and pedestrians. Be sure to take a map with you to determine which roads you would like to take while biking.

GREENWAY TRAIL

Part of the Greenway Trail leads from the South Kaibab Trailhead to the railway depot in the Historic District. This paved trail, designed to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and visitors using wheelchairs, parallels the main park road. Another 2.3-mile segment provides a bike path between The Abyss and Hermits Rest. It is accessible by shuttle buses equipped with bicycle racks, or visitors can ride on the Hermit Road from the Village out to the Greenway.

A new bicycle path stretches 6.6 miles between the gateway community of Tusayan and Grand Canyon Visitor Center. The route connects to Trailer Village and Mather Campground.

FISHING

The best time of year to fish in Grand Canyon section of the Colorado River is in the fall and winter, and anglers should be prepared for a long, two-day round-trip hike to the river. Arizona state fishing licenses are required for any fishing in the park. Purchase a license at azgfd.com or ask at the General Store in Market Plaza, Lees Ferry Anglers, or the Marble Canyon Lodge Trading Post. Fishing is also available at Lees Ferry, where the park officially begins; you can drive right up to the river. For current fees and regulations, please call **(928) 638-2262**.

HELICOPTER AND AIR TOURS

Aerial tours of Grand Canyon by small plane or helicopter are offered daily by

several air tour companies operating out of Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan. Contact the transportation desks of Bright Angel, Maswik, and Yavapai lodges; the concierge at El Tovar Hotel; call **(928) 638-2631 ext. 6015**; or visit azdot.gov/about/grand-canyon-airport/tour-operators-grand-canyon-airport.

GO RIDE A MULE

Mule rides into the canyon have been popular since the Bright Angel Trail opened to tourists in 1891. To take a mule trip, you must be in good shape, at least 9 years old, and taller than 4 feet 9 inches. Riders must weigh less than 200 pounds for the Phantom Ranch ride and under 225 pounds for the Canyon Vistas Mule Ride, and speak and understand English. Reservations are essential as mule rides can be booked well in advance, but visitors may place their names on a daily waiting list for cancellations. For further information, check at Bright Angel Lodge transportation desk or call **(888) 297-PARKS (297-2757)**.

GRAND CANYON IMAX THEATER

If you are looking for a great way to take a break from the heat and sunshine, the Grand Canyon Visitor Center IMAX Theater presents **Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets**, a 34-minute film that takes you on a trip through time.

Learn about ancient Native American inhabitants and Spanish explorers, who were the first Europeans to discover Grand Canyon; join Major John Wesley Powell on his journey down the Colorado River in 1869; and soar over cliffs for majestic views of Grand Canyon.

Hourly shows run daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Facilities include a souvenir store

and the National Park Service desk, which sells Grand Canyon National Park Passes.

The food court offers a Pizza Hut Express. The Visitor Center is located on Highway 64 south of the park entrance. For more information, please contact Grand Canyon Visitor Center, 450 State Route 64, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 or call **(928) 638-2468**.

SMOOTH WATER RAFT TRIP

Nothing beats a float down the Colorado River from below Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry. These trips start either from Page, Arizona, or with transportation from the South Rim. Visit raftthecanyon.com for rafting information. For a round-trip ride from the South Rim please call **(866) 235-9422** or **(888) 297-2757**.

GRAND CANYON STAR PARTY AND NIGHT SKY PROGRAM

Away from large populated cities, the Colorado Plateau is home to one of the few remaining areas of natural darkness. The absence of light pollution creates ideal conditions for stargazing. Our dark skies are under threat, however, and reducing light pollution is critical to keeping natural lightscapes. The NPS runs the Night Sky Program to monitor dark night skies and keep light pollution in check.

To give visitors a chance to experience spectacular views, Grand Canyon holds an annual Star Party. The event will run from June 18-25, 2022. There will be educational presentations given each night at 8 p.m., followed by ranger-led constellation tours at 9 p.m., 9:30 p.m., and 10 p.m. Amateur astronomers volunteer to give free programs and free telescope viewing for visitors.

The star party is free and held on both the South Rim and the North Rim. Reservations are not required. It is important to wear warm clothing because the temperature drops quickly after sunset. For more information, visit nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/grand-canyon-star-party.htm.

WINTER

When most people think of Grand Canyon, few envision snow or cooler temperatures. When the canyon is covered in a mantle of white, the rim tempts cross-country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts. The winter is as good a time as any to get out and explore. Some South Rim lodges offer reduced winter rates and packages. The North Rim area is closed in the winter.

VISITOR SERVICES

All roads to the South Rim remain open year-round and complete services, activities, and tours are available, weather permitting. Advance hotel reservations are still advisable despite winter being the least busy season at the park. This is especially true during the holiday season, when crowds are larger.

PARK PROGRAMS

Different guided tours and programs are offered in Grand Canyon during the winter as opposed to the summer. See posters within the park, or visit nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/ranger-program.htm.

OUTSIDE THE PARK

ANTELOPE CANYON

Located on the Navajo Reservation, Antelope Canyon is one of the most photographed slot canyons in the West. It is an approximately two-hour drive and worth the trip. For more information or



to confirm if it is open to the public, call **(928) 810-8501** or visit **navajonation-parks.org**. The Navajo Nation mandates mask usage in public indoor and outdoor spaces.

HAVASU FALLS

Cascading over rocks and into stunning turquoise waters, Havasu Falls is an oasis in the middle of the desert. Havasu Falls sits on the Havasupai Reservation and is sacred to those who live on the land. Havasupai means “people of the blue-green waters,” a fitting name connected to the surrounding beauty. The trailhead to the falls is over 200 miles from Grand Canyon Village. The distance from trailhead to the falls is a 10-mile hike, which requires a permit from the Havasupai tribe. Tours are the best way to see the falls. Entry to the falls can be denied if flooding has occurred so be sure to check before you leave. Visit **www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/havasupai.htm**

or **theofficialhavasupaitribe.com** for updates. As of press time, the Reservation has suspended tourism until 2023. NPS has requested all river trips, both commercial and non-commercial, to bypass Havasu Canyon on the Colorado river, located at river mile 157.

GRAND CANYON SKYWALK

Located on the Hualapai Indian Reservation, the Skywalk gives visitors an opportunity to stand 4,000 feet above the Colorado River. With glass floors and walls, the Skywalk extends 70 feet over the canyon and simulates the feeling of floating.

The Skywalk is located 250 miles away from the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Purchase tickets online. Consult the website for directions; GPS is often unreliable. For information, please visit **grandcanyonwest.com** or call **(888) 868-9378**.

CAMPING



Campers have their personal choice of two NPS campgrounds and one RV campground on the South Rim. There are also numerous primitive backcountry campgrounds and two other campgrounds located just outside the park.

PARK REGULATIONS

Store your food and any attractive-smelling items (such as shampoo, toothpaste, and soap) safely out of reach of animals, either in your car on the rim or by placing items in a backpack and hanging them in the backcountry. If you are in an established backcountry campground, store your food and utensils in the provided ammo cans, or hang from poles if available.

Camping outside designated camping areas is prohibited and may result in a substantial fine. The canyon ecosystem is very fragile; therefore, hikers are urged to follow “**Leave No Trace**” principles.

Fires are allowed in grills in rim campgrounds, but wood gathering is not allowed. Fires may be prohibited during the driest early summer weeks. Purchase wood or charcoal at Canyon Village Market. Open fires are strictly prohibited in the backcountry because of the danger of wildfires. Charcoal and ash also take hundreds of years to disintegrate in the arid environment. *Always pack out your trash and any other litter you find.*

BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

Overnight visitors to backcountry areas on or below the rim (except for those with reservations at Phantom Ranch) must first obtain a backcountry permit. Permit request forms can be downloaded online at nps.gov/grca. From July 1, 2022, permits will cost \$10 plus \$12 per person or stock animal per night camped below the rim, or \$12 per group per night camped above the rim. Sites operate on a first-come, first-served basis. For your own safety, let a family member or friend know your itinerary before you depart.

Day hikes do not require a permit. Submit permit requests in person at the Backcountry Information Center, by mail, or by fax to **(928) 638-2125**. Telephone reservations are not accepted. Please have alternative routes or dates planned, as your first choices may not be available. For more information about traveling to the backcountry, visit nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm. The Backcountry Information Center can also provide detailed trail information.



GRAND CANYON CAMPGROUNDS

Campground Months open • Location	FEE	NUMBER OF SITES	HOOKUPS	TOILETS	GROUP SITES	SHOWERS	
ON THE RIM							
Mather Year-round (by reservation Mar 1-Nov. 30) • One mile southwest of the Grand Canyon Visitor Center	\$18/ \$50 for group sites	327		•	•	•	
Desert View ♿ Mid-April to Mid-October (by reservation) • 25 miles east of the visitor center	\$18	49		•			
Trailer Village ♿ Year-round (by reservation) • Adjacent to Mather	\$61 to \$71	123	•	•		•	
BACKCOUNTRY*							
Indian Garden Year-round • 4.5 miles from the South Rim Bright Angel trailhead, 3,040 feet below the rim.	Permit required	15		•	•		
Cottonwood Year-round • 16.6 miles from the South Rim Bright Angel trailhead on North Kaibab Trail.	Permit required	12		•	•		
Bright Angel* Year-round • 9.3 miles from the Bright Angel trailhead just south of Phantom Ranch. Currently operating at half-capacity.	Permit required	32		•	•		
OUTSIDE THE PARK							
Camper Village Year-round • Tusayan, AZ 10 miles south of Grand Canyon Village.	\$25 to \$66	29	•	•	•	•	
Ten-X Mid-May to End of September • Two miles south of Tusayan.	\$20/tent; \$125 to \$175 group rate	70		•	•		

Rates are subject to change. Tax and utility fees may apply.

*A backcountry permit (\$10 plus \$8 per person or stock animal per night camped below the rim and \$8 per group per night camped above the rim) is required for all overnight backcountry use with the exception of a stay at the Phantom Ranch dorms or cabins. For permit requests, call **(928) 638-7875**. If you arrive without a permit, go directly to the Backcountry Information Center (open 8 a.m. to noon; 1 to 5 p.m.). Visit nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm for more information.

WALKING & HIKING



The descent into Grand Canyon presents a thrilling trip back in time, offering views of up to 1.8 billion years of the Earth's evolution. The two geologic eras span the ages of the rocks—not just the age of the erosion that created the canyon. Excellent maps and trail pamphlets are available at visitor centers and park stores. This is just a sample of how you can enjoy the canyon on foot.

PERMITS

Permits for overnight backcountry hikes are available to download at nps.gov/grca. Please see the “Camping” chapter for more information.

PLAN AHEAD

To have a safe and enjoyable hike, it's important to plan ahead. Preparation, self-reliance, and good choices are

SOUTH RIM WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail Trailhead	Roundtrip Distance Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Description
Rim Trail <i>Any point in the village/Hermit Road</i>	13 miles one way <i>Easy</i>	7,200 feet <i>Level</i>	Extending from the South Kaibab Trailhead off Desert View Drive west to Hermits Rest, this excellent walking trail offers quiet views of the scenic inner canyon. Nearby shuttle bus stops let you walk as long as you like and shuttle back.
Bright Angel Trail <i>West of Bright Angel Lodge</i>	Up to 18 miles <i>Difficult</i>	6,840 feet -4,440 feet	This maintained trail follows switchbacks through the several rock layers to Indian Garden Campground and the Inner Gorge. A detour on the Plateau Point Trail allows a dramatic gorge overlook. Overnight hikes require a <i>backcountry permit</i> .
South Kaibab Trail <i>One mile south of Yaki Point on Yaki Point Road, by shuttle bus only (Orange/Kaibab Rim Route)</i>	Up to 12.6 miles <i>Difficult</i>	7,200 feet -4,780 feet	This trail is one of the few in the park that follows a ridge rather than side canyons. It is steep with no water, dropping 5,000 feet in 6.3 miles, and crosses the Kaibab Suspension Bridge en route to Phantom Ranch/Bright Angel Campground. Overnight hikes require a <i>backcountry permit</i> .
Hermit Trail <i>500 feet west of Hermits Rest</i>	19.4 miles <i>Difficult</i>	6,640 feet -4,340 feet	This unmaintained route leads from the canyon rim all the way to the Colorado River, and includes views of Hermit Gorge, the remains of Hermit Camp and Santa Maria Spring. Overnight hikes require a <i>backcountry permit</i> .
Grandview Trail <i>Grandview Point on Desert View Drive</i>	Up to 6 miles <i>Strenuous</i>	7,400 feet -2,500 feet	This trail descends onto Horseshoe Mesa where you can see remnants of Pete Berry's mining operation, as well as the blue copper ores that the Hopi once gathered for paint.

crucial to ensure you don't run into any danger during your hike. When choosing a trail, don't overestimate your capabilities—you are responsible for your own safety as well as the safety of everyone else in your party. Once you decide on the trail you're going to hike, you can begin to prepare. Know what your destination will be and how you'll get there. Identify where water is available throughout your hike, and make sure to get the weather forecast on the day of your trip. Never plan to hike alone, and always inform someone of your itinerary before you head out.

TRAIL SAFETY

It's important to remember you'll be hiking at high elevation in hot, dry desert conditions with steep climbs. If you're hiking into the canyon, be conservative in planning your hike—most people

who hike in the canyon for the first time report it was more difficult than expected. Always stay on the trail, and never shortcut switchbacks. If you encounter a mule, remember that they have the right of way. Step off the trail on the uphill side away from the edge. Don't forget to take a 10-minute break every hour; drink and eat often. Always keep it slow—if you can talk while you hike, you're going at the right speed. It will take you longer to hike back up the canyon than it will to hike down. Prepare one-third of your time to hike down the canyon and two-thirds to hike up.

If you have medical issues, limit both your exertion and your exposure to the heat. The altitude, strenuous climbing, dehydration, and intense heat of Grand Canyon can combine to make medical problems worse. Stay within your training, physical limitations, and abilities.



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Grand Canyon ranges from an elevation of 1,100 feet along the river at the canyon's western end to nearly 9,000 feet on the North Rim. This substantial elevation range provides suitable conditions for a variety of habitats, from desert scrub and lush riparian areas at the bottom of the canyon, to the majestic forests of the rims.

FLORA

The park provides a home to over 1,750 plant species, an incredible diversity in what might first appear to be a dry, rocky, challenging place to survive.

Spruce-fir and **mixed conifer forests** dominate the park's North Rim. Although evergreens dominate the area, it is also home to some deciduous species, including the **quaking aspen**, which brighten the fall landscape.

Ponderosa pine forests are prominent on the South Rim and at lower elevations on the North Rim. After years of suppressing the natural fires in these forests, park managers are now restoring them through planned fires and manual tree thinning. These efforts create more open, healthier, and natural forests, with grasses, forbs, and shrubs thriving below the trees. In the fall, **gambel oak** are visible in the understory as their leaves turn orange and yellow.

Throughout the year, the flower and seed stalks of a variety of grasses glisten in the sunlight, attracting a diversity of wildlife.

Pinyon-juniper woodlands occur on both the South and North Rims of the park, and extend into the canyon to about 4,000 feet, covering nearly one-third of the park's total acreage.

From the edges of the pinyon-juniper woodlands to the canyon bottoms, the

aridity, soils, elevation, and other factors combine to create the perfect environment for **desert scrub** vegetation, which covers more than half the park's area.

Characteristic desert scrub species include **banana yucca**, with fibers used to make sandals and clothing; **agave**, which sends up a towering, conspicuous stalk with yellow flowers; **barrel cactus**, with their dangerously long spines; and **ephedra**, which appears completely leafless.

Spring and summer rains often cause park areas to erupt in color, highlighted by tips of ocotillo's bright reddish-orange flowers. The yellows and pinks of the **Engelmann's prickly pear**, **beavertail cactus**, and **grizzly bear cactus** are among the most vivid plants within the inner canyon landscape. Look for bright-red **Indian paintbrush**, soft pinkish-white **mariposa lilies**, yellow **desert senna**, and pinkish-purple **four o'clock** along the trails.

On the rim, keep an eye out for **purple asters**, **yellow sunflowers**, **golden western wallflowers**, **orange globemallow**, **red and blue penstemon**, **white candy-tuft**, and hundreds of other wildflowers.

ANIMALS

On the South Rim, you'll more than likely encounter the rock squirrel and large tassel-eared **Abert squirrel**. On the North Rim, you may see a **Kaibab squirrel**, which lives only in the ponderosa pine forests of the Kaibab Plateau and on nearby Mount Trumbull. This rare species has a distinct charcoal-gray body, a white tail and a tuft of fur on the top of each ear. Other park residents include **coyotes**, **ring-tail cats**, **mule deer**, **bobcats**, **mountain lions**, **wild**



turkeys, even numerous smaller animals, and more than 370 species of birds.

Desert bighorn sheep are shy, sure-footed creatures that are able to move at will around the seemingly inaccessible ledges and outcroppings of the canyon between river and rim. They forage along the river and among the rocks from river to rim in search of vegetation that prospers in soil pockets. Ten types of hawks and eagles have been seen in the park, but the one most visible is the **red-tailed hawk**, which patrols the airways, buoyed along by air currents.

The cliffs of the Grand Canyon are sometimes home to the magnificent **golden eagle**, a powerful apex predator. The eagle uses its excellent eyesight to hunt for small rodents from hundreds of feet in the air. The bird can carry away astonishingly large prey, including bighorn lambs.

There are more than 20 species of desert lizards that inhabit the park. They are able to tolerate higher temperatures than snakes, but are frequently unable to bear sizzling temperatures in the inner gorge. The **chuckwalla** is the largest and most distinctive of them. You may also come across a **short-horned lizard** or a banded western collared lizard.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED ANIMALS

Although animals sometimes appear cute, it is crucial that visitors not feed or approach them. Feeding animals can potentially make them sick and dependent on humans. When animals lose their natural fear of people, they are more inclined to approach you.

Always keep your distance from wildlife. If frightened or threatened, animals will defend themselves. This can result in human injury or damage to vehicles.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



BOBCAT ears are pointy and black-tipped with black hair tufts spiking upward. The bobcat is named for its bobbed tail. These animals are active at twilight and dawn, but shift to a diurnal schedule in winter to sync with the activity of its prey. Bobcats roam two to seven miles at a time, along a habitual route in search of food. • **Weight** 20 lbs • **Length** 2–4 ft • **Active** year-round.

CALIFORNIA CONDOR adults have wings that are black with white triangular markings on the underside. They feed on carcasses and their bald heads and necks keep carrion from sticking to them. Nearly extinct just a few years ago, condors now soar through the skies along the canyon's rim. • **Weight** 15–25 lbs • **Height** 45–55 in • **Wingspan** 9–10 ft • **Active** year-round, generally near the rim.



COYOTE cries and yips are among the most distinct sounds of the American West. Smaller than wolves, coyotes are successful predators, but are also opportunistic, eating small mammals, reptiles, insects, and fruit. They are capable of killing significantly larger animals when they hunt in packs. • **Weight** 20–30 lbs • **Length** 3–4.5 ft • **Active** year-round.

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP are a subspecies of bighorn sheep that reside throughout the Southwest. Unlike their cousins, they can go extended periods of time without water. Their unusual padded hooves allow them to climb steep and rocky terrain quickly and gracefully—especially when escaping predators. • **Weight** 150–200 lbs • **Height** 5–6 ft • **Active** year-round.



ELK are a non-native species that are larger than mule deer. Elk are brown with a tan rump patch. Mule deer are smaller, grey-brown, and have mule-like ears. Elk are most often seen on the South Rim and should be avoided. They eat plants and twigs and are most active at dawn and dusk. Elk can reach almost twice the weight of a single mule deer. • **Weight** 325–1,000 lbs • **Length** 6–8 ft. • **Active** year-round.

MULE DEER inhabit the rim and more rugged parts of the park and are distinct because of their mule-like ears, from which they earned their name. These herbivores feed on plants and twigs, and are active at dusk, dawn, and night. Mule deer leap and bound, landing on all fours simultaneously. • **Weight** 70–475 lbs • **Length** 4–7.5 ft • **Active** year-round.

LODGING & DINING



After an active day exploring Grand Canyon, visitors can relax at any of the park's 900-plus rooms, cabins, and suites. Choose from among three historic lodging establishments and four motel-style lodges, all with complimentary WiFi in the lobbies. Food service is available in or near all lodges. Advance reservations are suggested and may be made up to 13 months prior to your planned arrival.


Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (GCNPL) and **Delaware North Parks and Resorts** offer visitors a variety of quality dining options, catering to every taste and budget. From April through October, avoid waiting times by dining early. Elegant or simple buffet-style and set menu banquets can be arranged for large groups. Please be prepared for some facilities to be closed, operating at different hours, or have limited service due to pandemic rules and regulations.


For reservations at **GCNPL properties and restaurants**, call **(888) 297-2757** or **(303) 297-2757**, or make reservations at **grandcanyonlodges.com**. All facilities are non-smoking. For group rooms (10 or more), group train travel, and group meal arrangements, contact GCNPL's Group Sales Office at **(800) 843-8723**.

For reservations at **Delaware North**

Parks and Resorts properties and restaurants, call **(877) 404-4611**, or book online at **visitgrandcanyon.com**.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK LODGES

El Tovar Hotel is the architectural crown jewel of Grand Canyon and some of the best architecture in a national park. The hotel is constructed of native stone and Oregon pine to resemble European hunting lodges. Designed by **Charles Whittlesey** to complement the wonder of the canyon, it is appropriately a registered **National Historic Landmark**. The **El Tovar Dining Room** is a world-renowned restaurant that offers fine dining with spectacular canyon views. For lighter fare and a full bar, head to the **El Tovar Lounge**. 

Bright Angel Lodge, located on the site of the historic Bright Angel Camp on the South Rim is a Registered National Historic Landmark. This log and native stone lodge and rustic cabins were designed by **Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter**. 

Fred Harvey Burger is a cozy, informal spot for moderately priced, wholesome meals. Cocktails, wine, and vegetarian options are available. **Bright Angel Fountain**

KEY

	Breakfast		Lobby bar		Cable Television
	Lunch		Bicycle rental		Free Wi-Fi
	Dinner		Tour & Activities desk		Wheelchair Access
	Open in winter		General Store		Outside the Park
	Reservations suggested		ATM		Medical Clinic
	Lounge		Pool		Service Station



serves hot dogs, sandwiches, ice cream, and cold fountain beverages and is one of the South Rim's most popular gathering places. Open seasonally. Debit/credit only. **B L D**

Canyon Coffee House offers coffee, cold brew, juice, and a selection of fresh continental breakfast items for those on the go. Open seasonally. Debit/credit only. **B**

Fred Harvey Tavern offers drinks and light fare from 11 a.m. until closing. **L D**

The Arizona Steakhouse serves fine southwestern cuisine with views of the canyon. **L D**

Open seasonally, **Phantom Ranch** is located on the canyon floor and provides a respite for mule riders and backpackers traveling on the Bright Angel, North Kaibab, or South Kaibab trails. Only accessible by mule, foot, or river raft, the Ranch's cabins were designed by **Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter** and constructed of wood and uncut river boulders in 1922. Hiker dormitories are closed until further notice. The **Phantom Ranch Canteen** serves hearty breakfasts, sack lunches, hiker's stew, and steak dinners to adventurous travelers. Meals must be reserved before your descent. **B L D**

Hermits Rest Snack Bar, located at the end of Hermit Road, offers beverages, sandwiches, and light snacks. **B L D**

Maswik Lodge is located at the southwest end of Grand Canyon Village area. Named for the Hopi kachina who guards Grand Canyon, it boasts modern rooms just a short walk from the rim. Rooms at the newly built Maswik Lodge South will be available starting June 1, 2022.

Check **www.grandcanyonlodges.com** for updates. **Maswik Food Court** serves cafeteria-style food from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Maswik Pizza Pub serves pizza, salads, soft drinks, and a selection of draft beer, bottled beer, and wine in the evenings. As of April 2022, it was closed indefinitely. **B L D**



DELAWARE NORTH LODGING & DINING

Yavapai Lodge is nestled amid the pinyon and juniper forest next to Market Plaza. It is the park's largest lodging facility, comprised of a main lodge with central registration and east and west branches. Featuring modern motel-style rooms, the lodges were remodeled in 2015 and are open seasonally. The **Yavapai Tavern** has a full bar and also serves lunch and dinner. It features local craft beer and gourmet burgers. **Yavapai Coffee Shop** serves great coffee and offers many health-conscious options, perfect before you head out on a hike. Dining options may be changed or closed as a result of pandemic



Desert View Trading Post & Ice Cream is located 25 miles east of Grand Canyon Village at Desert View. It offers coffee drinks and snacks, including locally made fudge. **B L D**

Canyon Village Market is located at the General Store in Market Plaza and offers chicken dinner to go, hot and cold selections, daily specials, and vegetarian options. **B L D**

PLAN YOUR VISIT

NORTH RIM



Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim is located in northern Arizona, 220 miles by road from the South Rim. Its visitation is only one-tenth that of the South Rim; however, it is certainly within reach. Take the scenic Kaibab Plateau-North Rim Parkway (Route 67) leaving U.S. 89A at the junction at Jacob Lake. This road follows 43 miles through forests and meadows to the North Rim of Grand Canyon. Highway 67 is closed from the first heavy snowstorm in November through May 15. Concession facilities on the North Rim close on October 15. The entrance into the park closes in late November. The NPS is continuing to evaluate and adapt to changing COVID-19 guidance, and is adjusting operations as needed. If you have questions, contact the park at **(928) 638-7888** or please visit nps.gov/grca.

GETTING TO THE NORTH RIM

By Air: Delta Connection serves **St. George, Utah**, the nearest public transportation departure point to the North Rim. Airlines also serve Las Vegas, Nevada. Pulliam Airport in Flagstaff, AZ is about four hours from the North Rim and has daily commercial service. Scenic Airlines flies to Grand Canyon Airport (10 miles from the South Rim) from the Boulder City Airport, which is located approximately 30 minutes from Las Vegas. From southwest destinations, please call **(800) 634-6801**. Once at the South Rim, you can take a shuttle to the North Rim.

By Van: Rim-to-rim transportation is available multiple times a day. The vans leave the North Rim and arrive

at the South Rim in about five hours. Reservations are required, call Trans Canyon Shuttle at **(928) 638-2820**. For fees and service dates, please visit trans-canyonshuttle.com.

By Rental Car: Rental cars are available in Las Vegas, Nevada; Flagstaff, Arizona; and St. George, Utah.

FEES AND PASSES

See a complete list of fees and passes in the "Plan Your Visit" chapter.

VISITOR CENTER

The NPS North Rim Visitor Center is adjacent to Grand Canyon Lodge. There are exhibits, a bookstore, and accessible restrooms. Park rangers at the North Rim offer numerous free, educational activities, including nature walks, geology talks, and evening programs. For general park information, call **(928) 638-7888**.

PARK NEWSPAPER

A free guide, the *North Rim Pocket Map and Services Guide*, lists services and activities. Download the North Rim guide online at nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit or pick up a copy at a park entrance or visitor center. Information about ranger programs can also be found at go.nps.gov/gc_programs and on posters within the park.

DINING

Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room is rustic yet elegant and offers superb views of the canyon. The dining room is open daily for breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m.



to 2:30 p.m., and dinner 4:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Dinner reservations are required. For more information, call **(928) 638-8562** or **(480) 392-5622**.

Deli in the Pines is also located in Grand Canyon Lodge complex and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Picnic lunches may be ordered from the cashier.

Rough Rider Saloon, open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., is located in Grand Canyon Lodge Complex.

Coffee Saloon, also located in the Grand Canyon Lodge, offers fine coffees, breakfast burritos, and baked goods. Open daily from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

VISITOR SERVICES

CAMPING

Motor homes and trailers up to 35 feet long can be accommodated at the North Rim Campground. A sanitary dump station is available. There are no hookups. For more information, see the “North Rim Things To Do” chapter.

GASOLINE AND DIESEL

Regular, unleaded, and diesel fuel is available on the access road leading to the North Rim Campground; 24-hour pumping with credit or debit cards. Five miles north of the park boundary, gas and diesel are available at the North Rim

Country Store (except during winter when the road to the North Rim is closed).

GIFTS

Gifts and souvenirs, including American Indian crafts, may be purchased at the gift shop in Grand Canyon Lodge complex. It is open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

GROCERIES

Groceries, gifts, camping, hiking, and backpacking supplies, as well as sundries, are sold at the General Store, located across from the North Rim Campground. It is open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

GUIDED AND SELF-GUIDING TOURS

Mule trail rides are available. Schedules are posted in the lobby of Grand Canyon Lodge where tickets may also be purchased. For advance reservations, contact Canyon Trail Rides, P.O. Box 128, Tropic, UT 84776 or call **(435) 679-8665**. You can also visit **canyonrides.com** for information on schedules and fees.

HIKING

Please see the “North Rim Things To Do” chapter for more information.

LODGING

Grand Canyon Lodge was originally designed in the 1920s by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, who also designed the world-famous Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite and the lodges at Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. Underwood’s design burned down in the 1930s and was rebuilt with some changes to the design.

A National Historic Landmark, the lodge is now an informal and spacious hotel. Constructed of massive limestone walls and timbered ceilings, it features dramatic vistas

of the canyon and the surrounding area.

Accommodations are in heavy demand May through October. Prospective visitors should try to make their reservations several months in advance, if possible. Visit **grandcanyonforever.com** or call toll-free **(877) 386-4383** or **(928) 638-2611**.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Dial **911** from a pay phone or residence. Dial **9-911** from your lodge room.

POST OFFICE

A post office is located in Grand Canyon Lodge complex. It is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Stamps are available in the Gift Shop on weekends.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

See park bulletin boards for days and times, or visit **www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/religious-services.htm** for more information.

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Showers and laundry are located near the North Rim Campground. They are open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. from mid-May to mid-October. Facilities may be limited in 2022.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Some North Rim viewpoints, facilities, and trails are wheelchair-accessible, or accessible with assistance. Inquire at the NPS Visitor Center near the lodge for an Accessibility Guide or download a copy online.

WEATHER INFORMATION

Please call **(928) 638-7888** for more information.

SIGHTS TO SEE

NORTH RIM



The extraordinary beauty of Grand Canyon stirred poetic expression in the Paiutes, who called the North Rim plateau **Kaibab**, or “Mountain Lying Down.” They also named other plateaus of the North Rim: **Kanab**, meaning “Willow”; **Uinkaret**, or “Place of Pines”; and **Shivwits**, meaning “Whitish Earth” or “Coyote Springs.” The four plateaus run along the North Rim offering a breathtaking array of sights, a range of geologic features, and miles of rugged territory to explore.

Kaibab, the easternmost plateau, is where Grand Canyon Lodge and major trailheads are located. If time allows,

explore the other, more remote plateaus of the North Rim as well. Roads are unimproved and high-clearance vehicles are recommended. To the west is the Kanab Plateau with the spectacular Kanab Canyon. Uinkaret Plateau is home to Toroweap Point where, for over 1.2 million years, molten rock poured over the rim, coated the canyon walls with lava, and temporarily dammed the river. Hurricane Cliffs mark the beginning of the fourth plateau, the Shivwits.

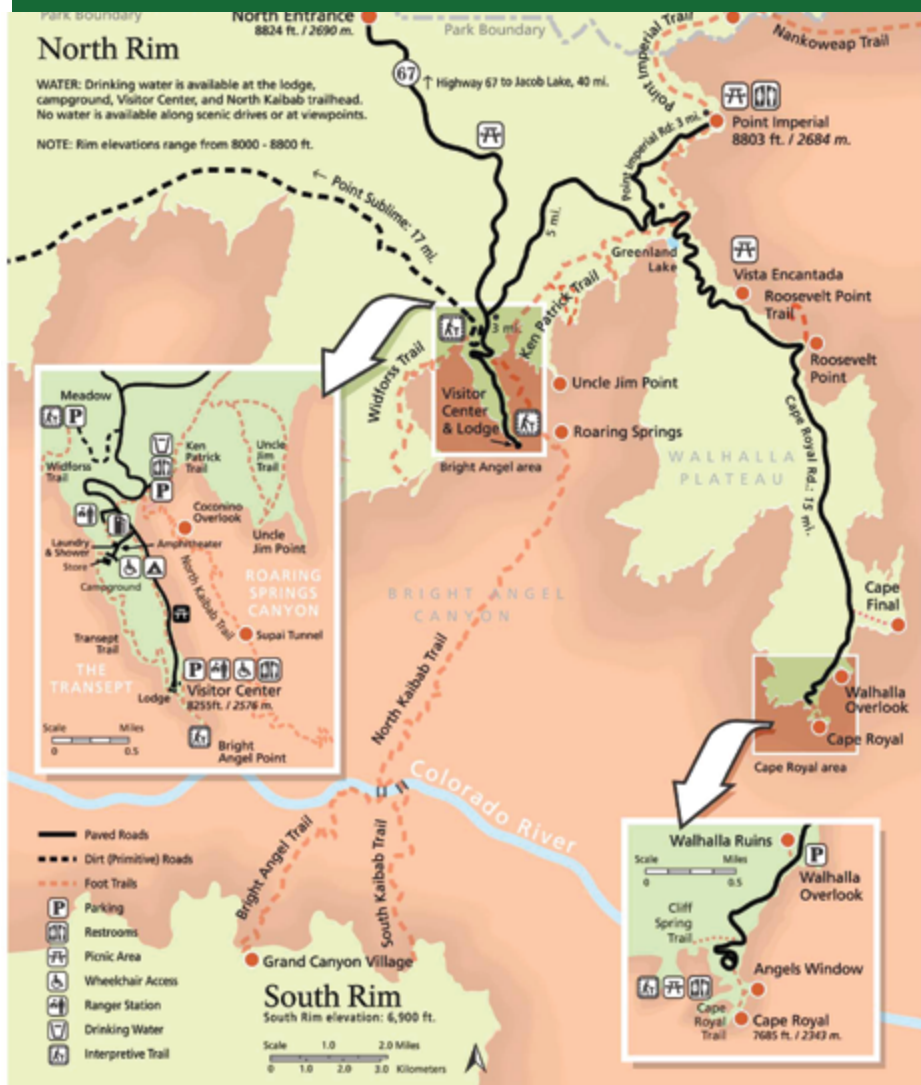
To experience the wonders of the North Rim, you might begin with a short walk on a paved trail from Grand Canyon Lodge to Bright Angel Point, which provides a spectacular view of the canyon. From this point, you can see and hear **Roaring Springs** more than 3,000 feet below the rim. It is the sole source of drinking water for both the North and South rims. Roaring Springs begins as snowmelt on the Kaibab Plateau, gushes out of the rocky canyon wall, and is then gradually captured and pumped back up to the rims.

From Bright Angel Point there are also good views of Bright Angel, Transept, and Roaring Springs side canyons. The South Rim and the San Francisco Peaks are visible in the distance.

Two driving trips offer spectacular views. **Point Imperial**, which is 11 miles from Grand Canyon Lodge, is the highest point on either rim. You can see Mount Hayden and Saddle Mountain while witnessing a beautiful view of eastern Grand Canyon National Park. **Cape Royal**, 14 miles from the junction of the Point Imperial and Cape Royal roads, is the departure point for a self-guiding trail that winds its way to Angels



MAP OF NORTH RIM



Window Overlook, which provides stunning vistas of the canyon and the Colorado River.

You can descend into the canyon by hiking down the **North Kaibab Trail**, the only maintained inner canyon trail from the North Rim. It can be a leisurely stroll for a few hundred yards, a strenuous

9.4-mile round-trip hike to Roaring Springs, or a two- to three-day round-trip trek to Bright Angel Campground, 14 miles below the North Rim at the canyon's bottom. The trail may not be open until mid-May or June. Permits are required for all overnight camping trips.

THINGS TO DO

NORTH RIM



The North Rim boasts spectacular scenery on the cool, moist Kaibab Plateau. Warm-weather activities include **hiking, camping, photography, wildlife observation, pack tours, and ranger programs.**

Highway 67 into the North Rim opens May 15 and closes with the first significant snowfall, which usually occurs in November or December.

CAMPING

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds in the North Rim, and

reservations fill up quickly. Make reservations at **recreation.gov** or call **(877) 444-6777**. The North Rim Campground has 87 sites and can accommodate RVs.

Cottonwood Campground is located halfway down the North Kaibab Trail along Bright Angel Creek. An overnight permit is required to camp and costs \$10, plus \$12 per person or stock animal, per night. Purchase backcountry passes ahead of time. For more information, contact Grand Canyon Permits Office, 1824 S. Thompson St., Suite 201, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 or call **(928) 638-7875**, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NORTH RIM WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail Trailhead	Roundtrip Distance Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Description
Transept Trail Grand Canyon Lodge	3 miles Easy	8,160 feet 100 feet	Follows the canyon rim from Grand Canyon Lodge to the North Rim Campground.
North Kaibab Trail Grand Canyon North Rim	Distance and hiking times vary Strenuous	8240 feet -5,760 feet	This is the only maintained trail into the canyon from the North Rim. Even a short hike to Coconino Overlook (1.4 miles round-trip) or Supai Tunnel (4 miles round trip) can give you an appreciation for the canyon's rich natural beauty and immense size.
Cape Final Trail 2.5 miles north of Cape Royal parking area	4 miles round-trip Moderate	7,850 feet 210 feet	A 2-mile walk from dirt parking area to Cape Final. This trail offers a magnificent view of the canyon.
Roosevelt Point Trail Roosevelt Point Overlook	0.2 mile round-trip Easy	8,100 feet Level	This trail is a short, secluded woodland loop with spectacular views. There are benches for relaxed enjoyment of the canyon.
Widforss Trail Widforss Trail parking area	10 miles Moderate	8,160 feet 300 feet	This trail blends forest and canyon scenery. Even a short walk can be very satisfying. Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead.
Uncle Jim Trail North Kaibab Trail parking lot	5 miles Moderate	8,350 feet 275 feet	Winds through forest with views of the canyon and North Kaibab trail switchbacks.
Ken Patrick Trail North Kaibab Trail parking lot	20 miles Moderate	8,819 feet 369 feet	Winds through forest along the rim from Point Imperial to North Kaibab Trail Parking area. Certain trail sections might be impassible.

VIEW ANOTHER GRAND CANYON.



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PHOTOGRAPHY



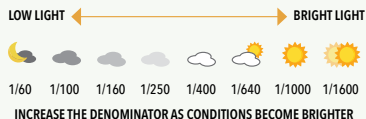
Just as large scale paintings and photographic surveys were once the catalyst for Congress to create the first national parks, photographs and videos created by today's visitors continue to inspire a passion for the preservation of these awe-inspiring places. Today more than ever, these wild and captivating environments offer us the much needed opportunity to reconnect with nature; places to recharge our metaphorical batteries. The following tips will help enhance your photography and video work both technically and aesthetically, and empower you to contribute to the ongoing visual preservation of the wildlife and landscapes of our national parks, and have fun doing it!

- **Timing is everything.** The best time to photograph is during the soft golden hours—at dusk and dawn—when the light is soft. When your shadow is longer than you are, you've got the best light!
- **Stay in the shallows.** To easily achieve the cinematic, blurred background look, move away from your subject matter and use your telephoto lens to zoom in and compress the image's foreground to background to create a shallow depth of field.
- **Go with the flow.** Fight the desire to constantly follow wildlife, and let the action naturally enter and exit your frame.
- **Framing.** Seek out natural framing elements—trees and branches, rock formations, knot holes—to add more layers to your image. Leave space around wildlife to frame them within their natural habitat.

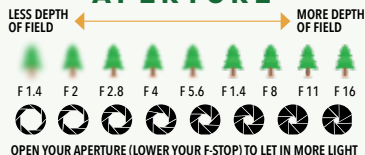
- **The eyes have it.** Change your perspective whenever possible to photograph at an intimate eye level with your subject. Place eyes in the power points (the intersection of rule of third guidelines) and keep them in sharp focus.
- **Use a monopod.** If you are using a heavy telephoto lens for photos or video, consider using a monopod to stabilize it (one can be attached to either the base of the camera or lens). Many hiking poles serve double duty and convert to monopods.
- **Do photo yoga.** Snap a few versions of a composition with a variety of perspectives, both vertical and horizontal. The best image is not likely the first one you take.
- **Shoot in burst mode.** Increase the probability that you'll capture a candid behavior, head position or unique angle of your subject by taking many pictures at once using your camera's burst mode.
- **Steady as you go.** Investing in a pan-and-tilt tripod head will allow you to move your camera smoothly on top of a tripod and avoid hand-held camera shake that will distract from your footage.

CHEAT SHEET

SHUTTER SPEED



APERTURE



ISO



JUST FOR KIDS



Here are just a few activities kids can enjoy at Grand Canyon National Park:

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Explore and learn all about Grand Canyon with the park's Junior Ranger Book! Kids ages 4 and up can receive a Junior Ranger badge and certificate by completing a range of activities. For further information, ask at a visitor center or Grand Canyon Conservancy bookstore. You can also check out nps.gov/grca/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm.

RIDE THE RAILS

Grand Canyon Railway will take your family back to the Old West on a vintage train ride to Grand Canyon after a rousing send-off at the Williams Depot.

WATER

Why was water so important in forming Grand Canyon? Why is it important for you to drink lots of water here? Make a list of how water is used at Grand Canyon.



PEDAL POWER

Grand Canyon boasts miles of stunning paved roads and gorgeous bicycle greenways along the rim. Best of all, they are low-traffic and relatively safe for kids. Bikes are available for rent at Bright Angel Bikes at Mather Point. Don't forget a helmet!

ACTIVITY BOOKS

Children's activity books are available at the El Tovar, Bright Angel, and Arizona Room restaurants. These educational books also reward kids who visit select gift shops with stickers and prizes for collecting all four. Activity books are also available at Hermits Rest and the Desert View Watchtower.

TAKE A HIKE

Walk the Trail of Time between Yavapai Geology Museum and Verkamp's Visitor Center. Along this 1.3-mile hike on the Rim Trail, you can touch rocks almost 2 billion years old. This is one of the most popular rim walks in the park. Guided walks and hikes with park rangers are also offered; check posters within the park or nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/ranger-program.htm for current schedules.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARK

Explore the rocks in front of Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Each has etched-in designs of fossils, animal tracks, and even a condor silhouette. Follow the "Poem Circle" around the plaza to learn about Grand Canyon plants and animals. You can even pet the granite sculpture of a life-size mountain lion.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A DAY

Even a single day on the South Rim of the park can afford with spectacular vistas and fascinating points of interest.

GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Stop at Grand Canyon Visitor Center for an orientation to the park or to enjoy the view from Mather Point. For more information, please see the “Plan Your Visit” chapter.

DESERT VIEW DRIVE

Tracing the South Rim for 25 miles between the Village and Desert View, Desert View Drive features striking canyon vistas, Tusayan Ruin and spectacular views from

the Desert View Watchtower, the San Francisco Peaks, and the Vermilion Cliffs.

HERMIT ROAD AND RIM TRAIL

Enjoy this 14-mile round-trip by convenient shuttle or on a 15.6-mile journey on foot along the Rim Trail. The route includes nine main viewpoints along Hermit Road.

HIKING

Even in a day, you can still hike a short way into the canyon along the Bright Angel or South Kaibab trails. Remember that aridity and high elevation makes hiking the canyon challenging. Don't overexert yourself and allow twice as much time to hike up as it takes to hike down.

MULE RIDES

Enjoy canyon views from atop a mule. A Canyon Vistas Mule Ride is a 4-mile, 3-hour adventure along the East Rim that includes two hours in the saddle. See the “Things to Do” chapter for more information.

MOTORCOACH TOUR

Enjoy an escorted tour of Hermit Road or Desert View Drive. See the “Things to Do” chapter for more information.

YAVAPAI GEOLOGY MUSEUM

Catch spectacular views of the canyon from large observation windows or outside viewpoints. Displays inside the historic building explain the geology of the park. Visit nps.gov/grca/planyour-visit/sr-programs.htm for information on ranger-led programs.



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