What to do and Where to go in Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon Guide & Maps

North Rim

Drive with care
- Observe posted speed limits.
- Maximum speed limit is 45 mph.
- Watch for pedestrians and wildlife.
- Increase caution at night and during wet conditions.

What Time Is It?
Most of Arizona, including Grand Canyon National Park, remains on Mountain Standard Time year-round. Arizona is on the same time as California and Nevada, and one hour behind Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

Emergency: 911
24 hours-a-day dial
911 from any phone
9-911 from hotel phones

Plan Your Visit
Ranger-Led Programs
Park Map and Trail Guides
Hiking Information
Services
Many More Answers to Your Questions...

Look Inside
**Welcome to the North Rim**

Sitting atop the Kaibab Plateau 8,000 to 9,000 feet (2,400 - 2,750 m) above sea level with lush green meadows surrounded by a mixed conifer forest sprinkled with white-barked aspen, the North Rim is an oasis in the desert. Here you may observe deer feeding, coyote chasing mice in the meadows, a mother turkey leading her young across the road, or a mountain lion slinking off into the cover of the forest.

Visitors in the spring may see remnants of winter in disappearing snowdrifts or temporary mountain lakes of melted snow. The summer with colorful wildflowers and intense thunderstorms comes and goes all too quickly, only to give way to the colors of fall. With the yellows and oranges of quaking aspen and the reds of Rocky Mountain maple, the forest seems to glow. Crispness in the air warns of winter snowstorms soon to come.

Although only ten miles as the raven flies from the South Rim, the North Rim offers a very different visitor experience. Solitude, awe-inspiring views, a slower pace, and the feeling of going back in time are only a few of the many attributes the North Rim has to offer. Discover the uniqueness of the North Rim.

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**Personalize Your Grand Canyon Experience**

There are many ways to experience Grand Canyon. Individual interests, available time, and weather can influence a visit. Refer to the maps on pages 8-9 to locate the places mentioned below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drop by the visitor center</td>
<td>• Open 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. after October 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Talk with a ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Enjoy the interpretive exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend free ranger programs</td>
<td>• Walks and programs are listed on page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a drive to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Point Imperial</td>
<td>• Highest point on either rim (8803 ft/2742 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 miles/18 km one-way</td>
<td>• Spectacular views of Mt. Hayden and Marble Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minute drive one-way</td>
<td>• View a landscape changed by fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cape Royal</td>
<td>• Walk the nature trail to view the Colorado River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 miles/37 km from the visitor center; 45 minute drive one-way</td>
<td>• Visit Angels Window Overlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Stop at scenic overlooks along the way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• View ancestral Puebloan ruins at Walhalla Overlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go on a hike</td>
<td>• Ask at the visitor center for information on trails and safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Walk to Bright Angel Point</td>
<td>• See and hear Roaring Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 mile / 0.8 km round trip</td>
<td>• Excellent views of the South Rim, side canyons and the distant San Francisco Peaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Walk the rim trails</td>
<td>• See pages 8-9 for details about Widforss, Transept, and other trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Day hike into Grand Canyon</td>
<td>• Even a short hike down the North Kaibab Trail will help you experience the enormity of the canyon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• It takes twice as long to hike up as it does to hike down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Backpack in the canyon</td>
<td>• Do not attempt to hike to the river and back (28 mi/45 km) in one day!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride a bicycle</td>
<td>• Permit and fees required; see page 12 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Permitted on paved and dirt roads unless posted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prohibited on all trails, except the Bridle Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Roads can be congested. Bicycle safety. Wear a helmet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ride single file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rentals available at Forever Resorts’ Service Station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Become a Junior Ranger!

Grand Canyon National Park offers a Junior Ranger program for children ages 5 and older. To take part in the FREE program, pick up a Junior Ranger booklet at the North Rim Visitor Center. Complete activities listed for the appropriate age level and attend a ranger-led program. Bring your completed booklet back to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.

Additional Junior Ranger programs are available at Desert View, Phantom Ranch, the South Rim, and over 250 National Parks, Seashores, and Monuments nationwide.

Funded by Grand Canyon Association.

Sunrise and Sunset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunrise</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>5:22 a.m.</td>
<td>7:28 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>5:17 a.m.</td>
<td>7:34 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>5:14 a.m.</td>
<td>7:39 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>5:12 a.m.</td>
<td>7:43 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>5:11 a.m.</td>
<td>7:46 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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<td>June 20</td>
<td>5:12 a.m.</td>
<td>7:48 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>5:14 a.m.</td>
<td>7:49 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>5:17 a.m.</td>
<td>7:49 p.m.</td>
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<td>July 11</td>
<td>5:21 a.m.</td>
<td>7:47 p.m.</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
<td>5:25 a.m.</td>
<td>7:44 p.m.</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>5:30 a.m.</td>
<td>7:39 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>5:36 a.m.</td>
<td>7:34 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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<td>August 8</td>
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<td>7:27 p.m.</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
<td>5:47 a.m.</td>
<td>7:19 p.m.</td>
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<td>August 22</td>
<td>5:52 a.m.</td>
<td>7:10 p.m.</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
<td>5:58 a.m.</td>
<td>7:01 p.m.</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
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<td>6:51 p.m.</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>6:09 a.m.</td>
<td>6:40 p.m.</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>6:14 a.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>6:19 a.m.</td>
<td>6:20 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>6:25 a.m.</td>
<td>6:09 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>6:31 a.m.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>6:37 a.m.</td>
<td>5:50 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>6:43 a.m.</td>
<td>5:42 p.m.</td>
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Full Moon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Moon rise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>8:14 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>7:58 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>8:03 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>7:08 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>6:35 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>6:05 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bison or Buffalo?

During your travels on the North Rim you may encounter wildlife you did not expect in northern Arizona – what appear to be bison, or as they are better known, buffalo. In the early 1900’s, two colorful North Rim characters, Charles “Buffalo” Jones and Uncle Jim Owens, attempted to establish a herd of hybrid cattle, crossing bison with cattle in an attempt to produce heartier livestock and meat with less fat content. Such crosses are referred to as cattalo or beefalo. The herd was originally managed in House Rock Valley, outside and to the northeast of the Canyon.

Over time, these “beefalo” have moved from the drier, less desirable conditions of House Rock Valley up into the park where forage and water are more abundant. Park rangers have recently observed beefalo as far west as Powell Plateau. There is no historic evidence of bison occurring at the North Rim so these animals are considered non-native.

While the beefalo are cross-bred with domestic cattle, remember that these are wild animals and can do bodily harm. Do not approach them or allow any wildlife to approach you!

Interagency Annual Pass

If you are a frequent visitor to National Park Service or other federal agency sites that charge entrance fees, you may be interested in the America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass. The $80.00 pass is valid for one year from the time of first use.

The program also offers a lifetime senior pass ($10.00) for U.S. citizens 62 or over and a free access pass for citizens with permanent disabilities. Those who already have a Golden Age or Golden Access pass do not need to obtain the new passes.

The interagency pass may be purchased at park entrance stations, Grand Canyon Association bookstores, or online at http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html. Your Grand Canyon entrance fee may be applied toward the purchase of the pass.

The Visitor Center

is a great place to start your adventure on the North Rim. Bring this newspaper with you and speak with a ranger who will be happy to help with questions you may have. The visitor center features interpretive exhibits and a bookstore.

The Grand Canyon Association, a non-profit park partner since 1932, operates the bookstore, where your tax-free purchases help support special programs and research projects in Grand Canyon National Park. Ask about the benefits of becoming a Grand Canyon Association member. To learn more about classes, programs, books and products, inquire at the bookstore, call (800) 858-2808 or visit www.grandcanyon.org.

To reach the visitor center, park in the designated parking area (map on pages 8-9) and walk to the south end of the parking lot. The North Rim Visitor Center is open daily 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m from May 15 - October 15 and 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. after October 15.
**Programs and Events**

Where to go and what to do

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**Artist-in-Residence**

The wonder and majesty of the national parks have been preserved and celebrated in many ways - through photography, music, painting, sculpture, performance, and the written word. Artists frame our heritage for those who visit now, those who will come in the future, and those who will know the park only through this artistic legacy.

This relationship continues, with artists from all genres participating in the Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program. Grand Canyon hosts a seasonal program on the North Rim and a year-round program on the South Rim. Artists participating on the North Rim this year:

- Sharin Smelser - quiltwork, photography
- Thea Gavin - painter: water, pastel, acrylic
- Tony Amadore - singer/songwriter
- Ruane Miller - painter: gouache, digital

Ask at the visitor center for program dates and times of free public programs given by our artists. To learn more about the AiR program or if you are interested in applying for a residency: www.nps.gov/grca/supportyourpark/air.htm

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**North Rim Star Party:**

**June 18 - 25**

Explore the night sky with Phoenix Saguaro Astronomy Club volunteers. Enjoy a slide presentation and then view the night sky through their telescopes. Dress warmly.

Check the visitor center or program flyers for slide show presentation times. Telescope viewing continues into the night.

Please observe the “low light” restrictions for better viewing of the night sky. Watch for special daytime viewings of the sun through a filtered telescope.

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**Western Arts Day:**

**July 9**

Western Arts Day celebrates the western culture which helps define what Grand Canyon, northern Arizona, and southern Utah are today, focusing on music and poetry. Programmed activities take place in various locations throughout the North Rim developed area.

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**Native American Heritage Days:**

**August 11 - 12**

The eighteenth annual Native American Heritage Days will honor Grand Canyon’s original inhabitants and others who have contributed to its colorful history on Thursday and Friday, August 11 and 12.

Heritage Days began in 1994 with individuals from the Kaibab Band of the Paiutes, the last native group to occupy, on a seasonal basis, the North Rim area. The event has grown over the years to include a variety of presenters from traditionally associated tribes.

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**Symphony of the Canyon:**

**August 13**

Symphony of the Canyon presents a musical interpretation of Grand Canyon. This seventeen-year tradition brings southern Utah and northern Arizona musicians from pre-teen to more than 70 years old together sharing their talents. For more information regarding this event, contact Forever Resorts at the Grand Canyon Lodge: (928) 638-2611.

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**Critter Note**

At first glance, the golden-mantled squirrel appears to be a chipmunk (also a squirrel) on steroids. The easiest way to tell the difference between the golden-mantled squirrel and a chipmunk is by the distinct lines displayed on a chipmunks’ face. Take another look. If the stripes are missing, chances are you are looking at a golden-mantled squirrel. Remember, not only is it illegal to feed the animals but the cute little critters may just bite the hand that feeds them. As with all rodents, squirrels may have disease carrying fleas, ticks and/or lice. Take precautions to keep rodents out of your bags, vehicles, rooms, tents, etc.
# Ranger-Led Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature Walk</td>
<td>North Rim Visitor Center</td>
<td>May 28 - October 15</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flashback - A Glimpse of History</td>
<td>Grand Canyon Lodge</td>
<td>Check at the visitor center</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>15-20 minutes</td>
<td>Check at the visitor center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Way Cool Canyon</td>
<td>North Rim Campground</td>
<td>June 11 - August 28</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Into the Past</td>
<td>Walhalla Overlook</td>
<td>Check at the visitor center</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>30-40 minutes</td>
<td>Check at the visitor center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s Rockin’? - Grand Canyon Geology</td>
<td>Grand Canyon Lodge</td>
<td>May 15 - October 15</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>30 - 40 minutes</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condor Talk</td>
<td>Grand Canyon Lodge</td>
<td>May 15 - October 15</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>30 - 40 minutes</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campfire Program</td>
<td>North Rim Campground</td>
<td>May 27 - September 24</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>35 - 45 minutes</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Program</td>
<td>Grand Canyon Lodge</td>
<td>May 15 - October 15</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>35 - 45 minutes</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Programs</td>
<td>Check at the visitor center for location, dates and times of special programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children must be accompanied by an adult at all programs.**

- All outdoor programs may be cancelled in inclement weather or when lightning danger is present.
- These programs are wheelchair accessible with assistance. Wheelchairs are available for loan during the day at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.
- These programs are designed specifically for children and their parents. Ideal for meeting the ranger program requirement for Grand Canyon’s Junior Ranger badge. Any ranger program, however, may serve the requirement on page 1 of the Junior Ranger Activity Booklet.
Life on the North Rim

Who we were, who we are, and who we share this area with

Brighty of the Grand Canyon

In 1953 Marguerite Henry wrote Brighty of the Grand Canyon. Ever since, children and adults have been fascinated by the small burro who played a role in Grand Canyon history. Who was Brighty? How much of this tale is true?

There was a real Brighty. He lived at Grand Canyon from around 1892 until 1922. He was given the name “Bright Angel” after the creek that flowed into the canyon from his home on the North Rim, but everyone called him Brighty. He spent his summers carrying water from a spring to early tourist accommodations on the North Rim. He was tolerant of children, who would ride on his back for hours. Most of the events and people in Marguerite Henry’s book were based on fact: Brighty was the first to cross the new bridge at the bottom of the canyon, and he did meet Teddy Roosevelt.

In spite of his friendliness toward people and his willingness to act as a beast of burden, he was essentially a wild creature who roamed the canyon at will. It is this spirit of independence, more than anything, that has captured the hearts of readers for years. Today a life-sized bronze statue of Brighty (the work of sculptor Peter Jepson) sits in Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim, where he is admired and remembered by children and adults alike. Legend has it that a rub on the nose brings good luck.

Let Wildlife Be Wild

The North Rim is well known for its wildlife. Deer, turkeys, coyotes, and Kaibab squirrels can frequently be seen in the lush meadows and forests. For your own safety and the well-being of the animals, when viewing wildlife:

- **Keep your distance.** Deer and bison can be aggressive. Discourage animals from approaching you. Scare them away. Yell or stamp your feet.

- **Never feed them.** Natural foods should be abundant this year. These foods are still the best. Once a wild animal is fed human food, it may become addicted. Animals will often ingest wrappers and plastic bags along with the food, eventually leading to their death.

- **Protect yourself, family, and pets.** Squirrels and other rodents may get into your belongings or enter your vehicle, room, or tent. Keep doors closed. Serious bites from squirrels happen all too often. Fleas on squirrels may carry bubonic plague.

Enjoy wildlife from a distance.

Critter Note

Keep your eyes open for some interesting sights here at Grand Canyon. Creatures such as this horned lizard are among the surprises you may encounter during your visit.

This spiny critter, a member of the iguana family, is an insectivore that feeds mainly on ants, although it may occasionally eat baby snakes.

Remember to be respectful to all plants and animals.
On The Wings of a Condor

Is that a bird or an airplane? If you find yourself asking this question, it is very possible you are seeing the results of the hopeful, and so far promising, comeback story of the California condor. With their large wings, bald head and a face only a mother could love, seeing a condor riding a thermal over the canyon is a spectacular view from the past.

Fossil evidence shows that condors have nested in the Grand Canyon area for approximately 50,000 years. During the Pleistocene, when the canyon had a cooler and wetter climate, the California condor scavenged carcasses of sloth, mammoth, and horse. A once flourishing bird, the California condor was almost gone by the 1980s when there were fewer than two dozen left in the world. There are many reasons for their decline, most involving human impacts. With this in mind, scientists have been working to re-establish their presence in central California and northern Arizona. One confirmation of a successful reintroduction program is reproduction in the wild.

California condors, being curious, are attracted to human activity. If you see a condor, do not approach it or offer it food. Try to read the number on the wing band and report it to a ranger.

Grand Canyon Lodge: Many Decades of Service

Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim of Grand Canyon is often the first prominent feature that visitors see, even before viewing the canyon. The highway ends at the lodge. The lodge’s sloped roof, huge ponderosa beams and massive limestone facade fit its 8000-foot / 2400 m setting, but where is the Grand Canyon?

To experience the full impact of the design of the lodge, take the historic route. Go through the front entrance. Walk across the carpeted lobby and descend a stairwell. Shining through great windows across the “Sun Room” is the much-anticipated first view of the Grand Canyon.

The architect, Gilbert Stanley Underwood, following the wishes of then-Director of the National Park Service, Steven Mather, designed a rustic national park lodge. Grand Canyon Lodge served as a symbol of the importance of the preservation of this natural wonder, while allowing for luxury and enjoyment. Yet, Underwood had incorporated something extra—a surprise view!

Underwood’s 1928 Grand Canyon Lodge, designed for then-concessionaire the Union Pacific Railroad, is not today’s lodge. Underwood’s design included a massive Spanish-style exterior with a high front topped by an observation tower. The original burned down in 1932 and a “new” 1937 lodge sits on its footprint.

The fire that destroyed the original lodge engulfed the structure within minutes. On the top floor over the auditorium slept the only inhabitants—the lodge manager, his wife, and the maids. All exited safely to stand watching helplessly in the early morning hours of September 1, 1932.

The Utah Parks Company, Union Pacific’s subsidiary, hastily erected a cafeteria and recreation hall. The next summer buses brought more visitors, but Underwood’s secret surprise of having your first view of Grand Canyon from inside the lodge was lost until the summer of 1937 when Grand Canyon Lodge reopened. Utilizing the same floor plan, the builders erected a more sensible structure with sloped roofs, better able to shed the heavy snows. They also preserved Underwood’s surprise view.

For decades employees would greet visitors arriving by bus and sing them through the entrance. Later the employees would put on a talent show after serving dinner, and end the evening with a dance accompanied by a college student orchestra. These entertainments no longer exist.

The lodge still exhibits Underwood’s genius. Another genius, the geologist Clarence E. Dutton, came to the North Rim in 1880 and described his experience in his masterpiece, A Tertiary History of the Grand Canyon. “The earth suddenly sinks at our feet to illimitable depths. In an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, the awful scene is before us.” Underwood must have read his book, or perhaps inspiration does strike twice.

Critter Note

As you stand near the canyons edge listen for the whistling wings of the white-throated swift as it rapidly maneuvers around cliffs and trees. This small bird spends most of its life in the air. It is among the fastest birds in North America. The swift is said to reach speeds of 200 miles per hour (300 kph). Watch for other aerial acrobats including swallows, purple martins, hummingbirds, and ravens.

A Great Experience

For the past seven summers, I have volunteered as an interpreter on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. It has been a way for me to share my love of the great outdoors and help the National Park Service with its mission to preserve the area for the enjoyment of all.

As a volunteer, I conduct nature walks and the condor and archeology talks. I help visitors at the visitor center and out on the trails. As one of my hobbies is photography, I enjoy taking visitors on a photo walk, with cameras in hand, and teach them how to take “better” pictures at the canyon and wherever else they visit. With my photography, I have created a photo album of the flora of the North Rim that we use as a reference in the visitor center.

This all has been a wonderful way to meet and serve people from all walks of life and from all over the world. To be able to do this on the North Rim is memorable and most enjoyable, made more so by the many wonderful people I meet and work with.

I hope to see you out on the trail or at one of the various programs here on the North Rim.

Nancy Varga
Trail Guides

Day hiking in Grand Canyon is one way to experience some of the canyon’s rich natural beauty and immense size. No permits or fees are required for day hikes. When hiking into the canyon, plan 1/3 of your time to walk down and 2/3 to trudge back. Assuming that you are physically fit and have adequate food and water (at least 3 quarts/liters per person), the following day hikes are considered reasonable for most people during the summer months. The numbers following correlate with the maps above.

Always check the status of trails before traveling to the trailhead.

1. Bright Angel Point Trail

0.5 mi./0.8 km round-trip; 30 minutes approximate round-trip
A short walk on a paved trail leads to a spectacular view of the canyon. The trail begins at the log shelter in the parking area by the visitor center or at the corner of the back porch behind the lodge. Obtain self-guiding nature trail pamphlets from a box along the trail.

2. Transept Trail

3.0 mi./4.8 km round-trip; 1.5 hours approximate round-trip
Trail follows the canyon rim from Grand Canyon Lodge to the North Rim Campground.

3. Bridle Trail

This trail follows the road as it connects the Grand Canyon Lodge with the North Kaibab Trailhead, a distance of 1.2 miles/2 km one-way. Pets on leash and bicycles are permitted on this hard-packed trail.
4. North Kaibab Trail
Distance and hiking times vary.
This is the only maintained trail into the canyon from the North Rim. Distances and locations for North Kaibab trail, and information about canyon hiking are listed on pages 12-13. Under no circumstances should you attempt to hike from the rim to the river and back in one day! Round trip to the Colorado River is 28 miles / 45 km and the trail descends almost 6,000 ft. / 1,800 m.
The opening of the North Kaibab Trail may be delayed due to severe winter damage. More information on the North Kaibab Trail is displayed on page 13. This trail is also used by mules.

5. Ken Patrick Trail
10 mi. / 16 km one-way;
6 hours approximate one-way hiking time.
Trail winds through the forest and along the rim from Point Imperial to the North Kaibab Trail parking area.

6. Uncle Jim Trail
5.0 mi. / 8.0 km round-trip; 3 hours approximate round-trip hiking time.
Winds through the forest to a point overlooking the canyon and the North Kaibab Trail switchbacks. Begins at the North Kaibab Trail parking lot. This trail is also used by mules.

7. Widforss Trail
10 mi. / 16 km round-trip; 6 hours approximate round-trip hiking time.
Blends forest and canyon scenery. Even a short walk can be very satisfying. Take the dirt road 1/4 mile / 0.4 km south of Cape Royal Road for 1 mile / 1.6 km to the Widforss Trail parking area. Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead.

8. Arizona Trail
A section of this trail enters the park near the North Entrance and roughly parallels the highway until it connects with the North Kaibab Trail, a distance of approximately 10 miles / 16 km.

9. Cape Royal Trail
0.6 mi. / 1.0 km round-trip; 30 minutes approximate round-trip
An easy walk on a flat, paved trail providing views of the canyon, Angels Window, and the Colorado River. Trail begins at the Cape Royal parking lot. This trail is a short, secluded woodland walk offering views of the canyon.

10. Cliff Springs Trail
1.0 mi. / 1.6 km round-trip; 1 hour approximate round-trip hiking time.
Path meanders down a forested ravine and ends where a chest-high boulder rests under a large overhang. The spring is on the cliff side of the boulder. Please do not drink the water as it may be contaminated. Trail begins directly across the road from a small pullout on a curve 0.3 miles / 0.5 km from Cape Royal.

11. Cape Final Trail
4.0 mi. / 6.4 km round-trip;
2 hours approximate round-trip
A forested walk from the dirt parking area to Cape Final. This trail offers a view of the canyon.

12. Roosevelt Point Trail
0.2 mi. / 0.3 km round-trip;
20 minutes approximate round-trip
This trail is a short, secluded woodland walk offering views of the canyon.

13. Point Imperial Trail
4.0 mi. / 6.4 km round-trip;
2 hours approximate round-trip
This easy trail passes through areas burned by the 2000 Outlet Fire and ends at the north park boundary. Connections are possible from here to the Nankoweap Trail and U.S. Forest Service roads.
Fire Management and Forest Renewal

You could not help but notice the charred tree trunks and recovering forest as you drove from Jacob Lake to the North Rim. It can be hard to accept that fire is an integral part of the park’s forested ecosystems. Plants and animals here have evolved with fire for thousands of years and depend upon fire to create the conditions they need to flourish. Fire management demands a careful balance between suppressing unwanted fires, often caused by humans, and allowing for the positive attributes of fire under favorable conditions.

Many factors - weather, topography and vegetation types - influence fire behavior and the effects that fires have on park resources. In prolonged hot, dry and windy conditions, wildland fires pose a threat to park resources and can cause significant damage. Aggressive suppression actions are taken against such fires.

Fire is used as a tool for ecosystem restoration when conditions are right. Lightning ignited fires may be allowed to burn when conditions benefit the ecosystem. Suppression actions are taken if fire behavior contradicts resource goals. Prescribed fires are planned ignitions, implemented under scientifically determined conditions, with specific objectives in mind, such as to protect developed areas.

During the last few years, the National Park Service completed important fuel reduction projects designed to improve defensible space and reduce the potential impacts of wildland fire near structures, campgrounds, and other values at risk. Defensible space is the area between a structure and the surrounding forest where vegetation has been modified to reduce a fire’s threat. Properly modified and maintained vegetation can slow a fire, shorten flame lengths, reduce the amount of generated heat, and increase the odds of saving a structure.

The National Park Service has a mandate to preserve resources such as plants and animals, along with the natural processes that sustain them - including fire. Fire management policies have evolved with our understanding of fire’s vital role in nature. Fire is a powerful natural force. Its destructive potential is evident, but fire’s positive attributes must also be recognized. As a land manager, how would you find a balance between suppressing fires and allowing the natural process of fire to continue?

Avoid Shocking Experiences

Lightning strikes on the North Rim of Grand Canyon are a common occurrence and extremely dangerous. Stay away from exposed rim areas during thunderstorms. Hair standing on end is a warning. It is a signal that an electrical charge is building near you and that lightning may strike. Move away from the rim immediately!

The safest place to be during a storm is inside a vehicle with the windows closed or in a building. Avoid touching anything metal. For further information Lightning Awareness brochures are available at the visitor center.

Monsoon... in Arizona?

Vibrant thunderstorms and accompanying heavy rains often surprise visitors coming to Grand Canyon National Park in the summer. During these events, one often hears “Isn’t this rain unusual? This is Arizona. It’s supposed to be dry desert, isn’t it?”

Much to the surprise of our visitors, summer rains are not unusual. They are very much a vital contributor to the ecosystem. Flora and fauna rely on these rains to sustain life and have adapted to taking advantage of the moisture that becomes available.

The thunderstorms that sweep across Grand Canyon during the summer are part of the monsoon season, a term commonly used in Arizona. Monsoon comes from the Arabic word *mausim* which means “season.” It refers to the large-scale seasonal changes in wind that often bring rains to southern and southeast Asia.

The interaction of a high pressure system over southeastern Colorado and the Texas Panhandle interacting with a low pressure system over southern California causes the Arizona monsoon. This interplay of atmospheric conditions draws moist, tropical air from the Gulf of Mexico and New Mexico resulting in frequent, sometimes violent, thunderstorms with heavy rains.

The monsoon in the Southwest begins in July and can continue into early September. While you are visiting, if it starts to rain, do not be discouraged. Rain in the desert is something special, something to celebrate. If you are thinking, “The day we visit Grand Canyon is the one day it decides to rain,” do not feel dismayed, kick off your shoes and join in the celebration. When lightning is present, celebrate safely indoors. Usually the storms pass quickly leaving the forest renewed and the air refreshed.
Shimmer...

Shimmer is an action that comes to mind when viewing the quaking aspen, a member of the willow family. Flattened leaf stalks allow the leaves to tremble. The movement helps distribute sunshine evenly to the leaves. Shimmering keeps the upper leaves from getting too much sun and allows more light to reach the lower leaves.

After fire moves through a forest, sun loving aspens thrive in the open conditions. New sprouts spring from unburned roots and start the cycle of recovery from scorched earth to mature forest.

In some areas you may see a crooked forest of aspen. This bending and maneuvering allows the trees to withstand the heavy snow loads that come with winter. This is truly a hearty tree.

Critter Note

Watch for the “Silver Ghost of the North Rim,” also known as the Kaibab squirrel. The Kaibab squirrel lives only on the North Rim and nowhere else in the world, because the Kaibab Plateau offers an island of forest surrounded by desert. You can spot the Abert squirrel, a close relative, on the South Rim.

Illustration by Ranger Mark McCutcheon
Hiking the North Kaibab Trail

Spectacular vistas, challenges, and quiet corners

Don’t Suffer, Hike Smart

1 Be Prepared: Know the weather forecast. Weather changes quickly. Know your route. Carry a map, flashlight, and extra clothing including wind and rain protection. Over-the-shoe traction devices may be necessary on icy trails.

2 Stay comfortable: Dressing in layers is the key to comfortable hiking. Do not forget your hat. It is important to stay dry and protected from the wind.

3 Go Slowly: If you can carry on a conversation, you are hiking at the right pace. If you find yourself out of breath, your legs and digestive system are not getting enough oxygen which may lead to fatigue, heavy legs, and exhaustion.

4 Rest Often: Sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 10-minute break at least once every hour.

5 Eat and Drink Frequently: Balance your food and water intake. Salty snacks help replace electrolytes lost through perspiration. Snack every time you drink. Food and water supply the extra energy needed for hiking.

Overnight Hiking

A hike into the canyon will test your physical and mental endurance. Know and respect your abilities and limitations. Rangers will be glad to help you plan a hike within your capabilities. All overnight hikers, except those staying in the lodging at Phantom Ranch, must obtain a backcountry permit.

Hiking Permits
Backcountry use permits and fees are required for overnight hiking. Day hikes do not require a permit or fee.

Successful Hikers...
Avoid hiking in the middle of the day. Begin your trip, make daily changes of camp, and return to the rim before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.

All hikers should be aware that efforts to assist them may be limited during the busy summer months due to staffing levels, number of rescue calls, employee safety requirements, and limited helicopter flying capability during periods of extreme heat or inclement weather.

Backcountry Fees
$10.00 Backcountry Permit fee plus $5.00 per person per night User Impact fee.

Overnight permit requests should be set up to four months in advance to:
Backcountry Information Center
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Hikers arriving without permits should contact the North Rim Backcountry Office 11.5 miles south of the North Entrance in the Administrative Office building. Rangers are on duty 8:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. daily, summer and fall.

For more information:
www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm

Health Hazards

Moderation is the key to having an enjoyable hike. Hike within your ability, maintain proper body temperature, balance your food and water intake, and rest often. Emergency situations include:

Heat exhaustion is the result of dehydration due to intense sweating. Hikers can lose 1 - 2 quarts (liters) of water per hour. Rangers treat as many as twenty cases of heat exhaustion a day in summer.

Symptoms: pale face, nausea, cool and moist skin, headache, and cramps
Treatment: drink water, eat high energy foods, rest in the shade, cool the patient

Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency where the body’s heat-regulating mechanisms become overwhelmed by a combination of internal heat production and environmental demands.

Symptoms: flushed face, dry skin, weak and rapid pulse, high body temperature, poor judgment
Treatment: find shade, cool victim with water, send for help!

Hyponatremia is an illness that mimics the early symptoms of heat exhaustion. It is the result of low sodium in the blood caused by drinking too much water, not eating enough salty foods, and losing salt through sweating.

Symptoms: nausea, vomiting, altered mental states, and frequent urination
Treatment: have the victim rest and eat salty foods. If mental alertness decreases, seek immediate help!

Hypothermia is a life-threatening emergency where the body cannot keep warm due to exhaustion and exposure to cold, wet, windy weather.

Symptoms: uncoordinated shivering, poor muscle control, and a careless attitude
Treatment: put on dry clothing, drink warm liquids, and protect from wind, rain, and cold.

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. While enjoying your visit, please consider the following principles to minimize your impact and help protect Grand Canyon for future generations.

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts No campfires in Grand Canyon National Park backcountry.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

For more information: www.LNT.org
**North Kaibab Trail Profile**

### Elevations and Distances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Elevation (Feet)</th>
<th>Elevation (Meters)</th>
<th>Distance (one way)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Trailhead</td>
<td>8250</td>
<td>2515</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Coconino Overlook</td>
<td>7450</td>
<td>2270</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Supai Tunnel</td>
<td>6800</td>
<td>2070</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Redwall Bridge</td>
<td>6100</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Eye of the Needle</td>
<td>5850</td>
<td>1780</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Roaring Springs</td>
<td>5200</td>
<td>1585</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Cottonwood Camp</td>
<td>4080</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Ribbon Falls</td>
<td>3720</td>
<td>1130</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Phantom Ranch</td>
<td>2546</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Colorado River</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water is available at Phantom Ranch year-round. Water is also available at the trailhead, Supai Tunnel, Roaring Springs, and Cottonwood Campground from approximately mid-May to mid-October, depending on the weather. Check for availability before starting your hike.

National Park Service rangers are stationed at Phantom Ranch all year. During the summer, rangers staff the North Rim Backcountry Office and Cottonwood Campground.

Backcountry campsites are located at Cottonwood Campground and Phantom Ranch (Bright Angel Campground). All overnight backpackers must have a permit prior to starting their hike. Obtain permits in advance or through backcountry offices on either the North or South rims.
Visitor Services

Locations and hours in and around the park

Services

**ATM**
Available in the General Store and Roughrider Saloon.

**Service Station**
On the access road to the North Rim Campground. Open daily 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Diesel available. 24 hour pay at the pumps.

**Groceries and Camping Supplies**
The General Store is adjacent to the North Rim Campground. Open daily 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Laundry and Showers**
On the road to the North Rim Campground. Open daily 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Lost and Found**
Found items should be turned in at the North Rim Visitor Center. Inquires about lost items can be made at the visitor center or the Grand Canyon Lodge front desk.

**Medical - dial 911**
EMT-certified rangers can respond 24 hours a day. Dial 911 or 9-911 from your cabin/room.

**Post Office**
In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex. Window service open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

**Religious Services**
Check the bulletin board in Grand Canyon Lodge for a schedule of services.

**Weather**
A weather forecast is posted daily in the visitor center. For recorded weather information phone the park’s information line: (928) 638-7888. Information is updated at 7:00 a.m. daily.

Tours and Activities

**Canyon Trail Rides**
One-hour rides along the rim and half-day rim or inner canyon trips are usually available each day. Register at the Canyon Trail Rides desk in the lobby of the Grand Canyon Lodge. Open daily 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or call (435) 679-8665.

**Colorado River Trips**
Commerical whitewater raft trips through the canyon last from 3 - 21 days and require reservations well in advance. Ask at the visitor center for a Trip Planner with a list of river trip concessioners or visit: www.nps.gov/grca

**Smooth Water Raft Trips**
Colorado River Discovery provides half-day trips on the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry. (888) 522-6644 or www.raftthecanyon.com

Critter Note

Although not native to the area, mules are a common sight at Grand Canyon. With a donkey for a dad and a horse for a mom, mules are said to be more sure footed than a horse and smarter than a donkey. Mules are acutely aware of their surroundings and have become very familiar with some of the trails on the North Rim. If you encounter a mule on the trail, be aware that they have the right of way. Stop and find a place off the trail to take a short break. Make sure to put the trail between you and the canyon so the mule can pass easily. Don’t make any sudden movements or try to touch a mule. Listen for further instruction from the wrangler.

Food

**Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room**
Offering a view of the canyon:

- Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Dinner: 4:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

Reservations for dinner are recommended.

**Deli in the Pines**
In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex, the delicatessen is open daily: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Roughrider Saloon**
Also in the Grand Canyon Lodge complex, the saloon is open daily 11:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Coffee Shop**
Located in the Roughrider Saloon, the coffee bar offers fine coffee, bagels, and baked goods from 5:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Light fare, appetizers, and cocktails served after 11:30 a.m.

**Grand Canyon Cookout Experience**
A western dining event with live entertainment. Transportation provided from the lodge. Reservations recommended: inquire at the lodge front desk or (928) 638-2611.

**Outside the Park**
Restaurants are also available north of the park at Kaibab Lodge (18 miles/29 km) on AZ 67 and Jacob Lake Inn (45 miles/72 km) at the junction of highways 67 and 89A.
Camping

Camping is permitted only in designated campsites in Grand Canyon National Park. Those camping outside of the designated area will be cited.

In the Park

North Rim Campground
Operated by the National Park Service, campsites are $18 - $25. No hook-ups, but a dump station is available. Stays limited to 7 days per season. Check campground for last-minute availability. The campground may remain open after October 15 with limited services, weather permitting. For reservations call (877) 444-6777 or (518) 885-3639 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Outside the Park

DeMotte Campground
This U.S. Forest Service campground is 16 miles/28 km north of the North Rim. No hook-ups or reservations. Opens in late-May for the summer months only at $17/night.

Jacob Lake Campground
Operated during the summer only by the U.S. Forest Service; 45 miles/75 km north of the North Rim. No hook-ups. $17/night. Group site only may be reserved: (877) 444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Dispersed Camping
You may camp away from campgrounds in Kaibab National Forest. Stop in at North Kaibab Ranger District for more information.

Remember:
- **There is no garbage service.** Pack out what you take in.
- **Bring your own water.** Few reliable water sources exist on the Kaibab Plateau.
- **Camp at least 0.25 mile/0.4 km from water sources to allow access for wildlife and livestock.**
- **Be fire safe. Carry a shovel and bucket.** Check at U.S. Forest Service offices for seasonal fire restrictions.
- **Bury all human waste at least 4 - 6 inches/10 - 15 cm deep and a minimum of 100 feet/30 m from water sources and drainage bottoms.**
- **Practice backcountry ethics** and eliminate all signs of your camp.

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

Transportation

Hiker Shuttle
A shuttle to the North Kaibab Trailhead is available twice daily in the morning. Sign up at the Grand Canyon Lodge front desk. The shuttle picks up passengers in front of the lodge at 5:45 a.m. and 7:10 a.m. Reservations are recommended 24 hours in advance.

Rim-to-Rim Transportation
Daily transportation between the rims is provided by Transcanyon Shuttle. The shuttle departs the North Rim at 7:00 a.m. and arrives at the South Rim at 11:30 a.m. It departs the South Rim at 1:30 p.m. and arrives at the North Rim at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required: (928) 638-2380.

Arizona Highway Information

511 or (888) 411-ROAD
[www.az511.gov](http://www.az511.gov)

Books and gifts

The Grand Canyon Association bookstore, in the North Rim Visitor Center, is open daily 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Gift Shop, in the Grand Canyon Lodge complex, is open daily 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Some gift items are also available in the General Store.
Area Information

Protect the Remnants of Our History

Thousands of people have called Grand Canyon home during the past 10,000 years. During your visit, you may come across the remnants of cultures from long ago. You may see evidence left by miners, explorers, or cattlemen, or the remains of Native American dwellings, rock art, or artifacts such as pottery and projectile points. Unintentional damage by visitors to cultural sites is a major, but preventable, problem.

Remains and artifacts are a fragile, irreplaceable legacy. The National Park Service preserves and protects these priceless resources. Federal law prohibits the excavation, injury, or destruction of historic or archaeological sites and the removal of any artifacts.

Irreplaceable cultural sites tell the story of this country and remain places of ancestral importance to Native Americans. Treat these treasures with utmost care and respect.

If you would like to experience an archaeological site while on the North Rim, visit Walhalla Glades Ruin, Transept Trail Ruin, or Cliff Spring Granary.

South Rim

The average distance across the canyon “as the condor flies” is 10 miles / 16 km. However, traveling from the North Rim to the South Rim requires a five-hour drive of 215 miles / 345 km.

The South Rim is open year round. All visitor services—camping, lodging, and restaurants—are available. Reservations are strongly recommended during the busy summer season. Some facilities are closed during the winter.

A free shuttle bus system operates in the Grand Canyon Village area. Make your visit easier by parking your car and using the shuttle to get around. Be sure to stop at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Critter Note

If you venture down the Bright Angel Trail or the Kaibab Trail, you may encounter a collared lizard. These lizards appear to be friendly, but are actually aggressive and protect their area. The intense colors make a beautiful photograph.

Remember, respect all wildlife.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park
Post Office Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, (928) 638-7864

For the latest information updates, visit Grand Canyon National Park’s web site at: www.nps.gov/grca/

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