Grand Canyon National Park

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Have a Safe Stay in the Park

Watch Your Children. Your hand and your voice may be too far away once your child has climbed over barrier or wall. Keep Your Distance from Wild Animals. Do not feed or attempt to disturb or touch animals in the park. Rodents may bite and large animals have been known to kick when frightened. Know Your Limits. The South Rim of Grand Canyon is 7000 feet (2133 meters) above sea level. Unaccustomed exercise at this altitude can be dangerous. Find a Friend. The majority of hiker fatalities occur with solo hikers. Make sure someone knows your plans. Pets must be physically restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed below the rim. Pets are allowed on paved rim trails. Kennel facilities are available. Keep Track of Your Belongings. Remove all valuables from your car and trunk. Immediately report any suspicious activity to a ranger. A thief works quickly. REMEMBER: You are responsible for your own safety.

How to See Grand Canyon

There are many ways to enjoy Grand Canyon National Park. Here are some ways to get the most out of your visit. Here is what to do if you have:

Two Hours or Less
1. Visit Yavapai Museum where you can view exhibits on the geologic history of Grand Canyon. A magnificent view of the Canyon can be seen from the Museum.

Half Day
1. After doing the above activities, stop at the Visitor Center and explore the exhibits that trace the human and natural history of Grand Canyon. Be sure to view the 15-minute orientation slide program or an informative introduction to Grand Canyon.

South Rim Nature Trail

One of the best ways to experience the Grand Canyon is to take a hike. Most of the inner Canyon trails, however, are strenuous and time consuming. If you are only in fair condition we have small children with you, an excellent alternative is the Rim Trail.

One or More Days
1. Enjoy the above activities and then consider a drive along the East Rim Drive to Desert View (25 miles, 45 minutes one way) for a different view of the Canyon. At Desert View is the famous Watchtower, views of the Painted Desert, and the Colorado River. Tusayan Museum and Indian ruins are located three miles west of Desert View and afford a step back in time to about 1185 A.D.

2. Hike a short distance into the Canyon for a unique view. The Bright Angel Trail and South Kaibab Trail are recommended. Remember, that it may take twice as long to hike up as it does to hike down. Water should be carried at all times of the year!

3. Join a Ranger for an interpretive walk or talk to learn more about the human and natural history of Grand Canyon. Check the Things To Do page for program information.

4. See the sunrise or sunset on the Canyon rim. Pick a point you like, come early, and enjoy a spectacular view.

5. Attend a National Park Service Evening Program. See the Things To Do page for details.

Mule strings travel up and down the Bright Angel and Kaibab trails daily as they have since the early 1900s. When you hike, and especially if you run, on these trails there are guidelines which you should observe for your own safety as well as the safety of other hikers on the trail around you.

Mules are naturally afraid of humans and are easily startled or “spooked.” Wranglers will advise you of the proper procedures when you encounter a mule string on the trail, and periodically halt the mules so hikers may pass by. Please pass the mules at a walking pace — no sudden movements. Hiker carelessness — hanging a walking stick, moving rapidly by, dropping or throwing objects (coats, backpacks, canteens, etc.) — can endanger the hiker and unsuspecting bystanders.

Grand Canyon News Briefs

Emergency?
If you need to report an emergency request an ambulance, or need a police official, do any of the following:
— call 638-2477 (a 24 hour emergency line. If busy, call 638-7888.
— personally contact any National Park Service ranger.
— Come to the Visitor Center and use the emergency telephone, located to the left of the front door.

URGENCY?
Si vous avez a signaler une urgence, demander une ambulance ou si vous avez besoin d’un representant de la police, vous pouvez soit:
— Appeler 638-2477 (numéro d’urgence 24 heures sur 24).
— S la ligne est occupée, composez 638-7888.
— Contacter en personne n’importe quel garde du Service du Parc National (National Park Service).
— Vous rendre au Centre d’Accueil (Visitor Center) et utiliser le telephone d’urgence, situé a gauche de la porte d’entree.

NOTFALL?
Mussen Sie einen Notfall melden oder benötigen Sie Krankenwagen oder Polizei:
— 24-Stunden-Notruf: 638-2477
fall es besetzt: 638-7888 anrufen oder nicht.
— sich direkt an einen Forstbeamten (Ranger) des Nationalen Parkdienstes wenden oder
— das Notruftelefon im Besucherzentrum (links neben der Eingangstür) benutzen.

緊急?
緊急時は公園のポストをmaktadったり、緊急車を待機、または緊急車が必要する場合に下記に連絡すること。
— 電話638-2477（24時間緊急ライン）。
— 電話がつながれない時に638-7888。
— 緊急電話はビジター・センターの前で Pearlsen用に、隣接のFロント・ドアにあります。

Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 2.23 (f) states that hikers shall remain quiet when mule strings pass on the trail.

Courtesy on the trail will help assure your safe hike in and out of Grand Canyon.
**Hiking Reservations and Permits**

Permits are needed for overnight hiking only, day hikes do not require a permit. Reservations should be sent to: Backcountry Reservations Office
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

Hours: arriving without reservations should contact the Backcountry Reservations Office. It may be possible to obtain a Backcountry Use Permit by placing their name on a waiting list for cancellations.

The Backcountry Reservations Office is located in a building adjacent to Camper Services. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**Hiking Safely in the Canyon**

Along the three maintained backcountry trails in the Grand Canyon, the Bright Angel, North Kaibab and South Kaibab trails, there are three designated campgrounds in which hikers must camp. Indian Gardens, Bright Angel and Cottonwood campgrounds have staffed ranger stations, toilets, purified drinking water, picnic tables, metal poles on which to hang food to protect it from animals.

A hike into the Canyon will test your mental and physical endurance. The average descent takes four hours on the South Kaibab and five hours on the Bright Angel Trail, where water and shade are available. Indian Gardens has water year-round and in the summer water is available at the 3-mile and 1 1/2-mile resthouses on the upper Bright Angel Trail. There are no toilets in either resthouse.

A suggested day hike is to Plateau Point on the Bright Angel Trail. Plateau Point offers a spectacular view of the Colorado River. This is a 12-mile round trip, requiring about 8 hours of hiking. It should be attempted only by experienced hikers. A shorter day hike would be to Cedar Ridge (3-mile round trip) on the South Kaibab trail.

The following recommendations are offered to help you better prepare for a safe hike into the Canyon:

- **Water** is the most important item you should carry. Each hike should carry at least two quarts or liters of water per day. Water does no good in the canteen. Drink plenty of water as you hike.
- **Cold foods** are good for backpacking, but if you prefer to cook, take along a lightweight backpacking stove or canned heat. Fires are not allowed in the Canyon.
- **Eliminate all unnecessary items from your pack.**
- **Comfortable footwear is essential.** This is not time to break in new boots! Sandals, street shoes and bare feet are an invitation to painful blisters. Wear two pairs of socks to reduce friction between your feet and boots. At the first sign of any soreness apply moleskin to the "hot spot."
- **Take a first-aid kit.** It should contain bandaids, moleskin, sunscreen lotion and a signal mirror. Maps and a flashlight are recommended.
- **Heat cramps — painful muscle spasms, usually in the arms and legs — can be caused by strenuous exercise and depletion of body salts.** For relief, eat salty foods, drink water and gently massage the affected area.

- **Heat exhaustion can be caused by overexertion in hot weather. Symptoms:** pale face; nausea; cool, moist skin; headache; cramps. Treatment: find shade, drink water, cool the body, rest.
- **Heat stroke — Symptoms:** red face, dry skin, weak and rapid pulse, high body temperature, inability to cope, unconsciousness. VICTIM IS IN EXTREME DANGER! Treatment: find shade, cool victim with water, GO FOR HELP!
- **In cooler temperatures, when your body loses heat faster than it can produce it, there is the possibility of hypothermia.** The best defense against hypothermia is to prevent it. Stay dry and warm; put on wool clothes before you get cold. Symptoms include shivering, fumbling hands, lurching walk and drowsiness. The victim should be given dry clothes, protected from the wind, rain and cold, given warm drinks and warmed by skin contact with another person. Hypothermia can occur when the temperature is as warm as 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Do not attempt to swim in the Colorado River. It is swift and extremely cold.** Your hike is what you make it. Take time to plan. If you have further questions, contact the Backcountry Reservations Office.

**Camping on the South Rim**

You must camp within a designated campsite in a National Park. Camping in the forest or at one of the overlooks could result in a costly fine.

**Mather Campground:** Located in Grand Canyon Village. Campsites at Mather Campground are $6 per site per night on a first-come, first-serve basis. Campers arriving after noon should contact the ranger at the campground entrance station the following morning between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. to pay their fee.

**Trailer Village:** Trailer sites with hookups. Located next to Mather Campground. Registration is handled at the entrance to Trailer Village (10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.).

**Canyon Village:** Located 7 miles south of the Park in the town of Tusayan. Hookups are available.

**Religious Services**

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, Grand Canyon Community Church.


SUNDAY: 9 a.m. Youth Sunday School. Located in the Church Office of the Community Building. 11 a.m. Service of Worship. Shrine of the Ages. Nursery provided.

WEDNESDAY: 7:30 p.m. Midweek Bible Study at the El Cristo Rectory Chapel.

SATURDAY: 5:30 p.m. Mass

SUNDAY: 7 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Grand Canyon Baptist Church

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. Worship at Shrine of the Ages. Nursery for preschoolers.

THURSDAY: 7 p.m. Worship Service at Shrine of the Ages.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:**

THURSDAY: 7 p.m. Worship Service at Shrine of the Ages.

**Bighorn Sheep**

Have you seen a bighorn sheep during your stay at the Canyon? If you have, please report it to the front desk at the Visitor Center.

**Water**

There is no natural source of drinking water on the South Rim. The rock layers do not trap the water close enough to the surface for well drilling to be economically feasible. Water was first brought to Grand Canyon Village by train starting in 1901. Next it was brought by pipeline from Indian Gardens, 2250 feet below the South Rim, starting in 1932. In 1970, a 17-mile trans-canyon pipeline was completed bringing water from Roaring Springs on the north side of the Canyon. Once the water is pumped from Indian Gardens to the South Rim, it is stored in large tanks totaling over 15 million gallons. Though this seems like plenty of water, the park uses over 600,000 gallons daily. If the pipeline breaks, our water supply can reach dangerously low levels. Please help us to conserve water by using only what you absolutely must. Take shorter showers and do not let the water run unnecessarily. Use water wisely.

**Footage Can Be Dangerous**

The Grand Canyon Guide is published and sold by the Grand Canyon National Park Association to provide information about Grand Canyon National Park, Sandra Scott, Publication Director

The organizational pattern for the Grand Canyon National History Association and more than 60 similar National Park Service Cooperating Associations throughout the National Park System was finalized by Public Law 663, passed by the United States Congress in 1946. The primary function of these associations is to support the interpretive and related visitor-service activities of the National Park Service. Cooperating associations operate bookshops and sales counters in park visitor facilities, offering publications and other related materials that assist the visiting public to better understand national parks, national monuments and national recreation areas. Cooperating associations further aid the National Park Service through continuing financial support of interpretive, educational and research activities.

Over the years the Grand Canyon National History Association has donated almost one million dollars in aid to the National Park Service in programs of interpretation, education and research. These grants fund a wide variety of activities such as: wayside exhibits; library books and periodicals; audio visual productions and equipment; free publications; honoraria for training lecturers; environmental education materials; museum exhibits and equipment; volunteer-in-park programs; and memberships in educational, scientific or historical societies. Research monies are also provided to qualified individuals, research institutions and universities in the disciplines of history, biology, geology and anthropology. These grants and research projects coordinated by the National Park Service Division of Resource Management.

**Use Caution**

**Near the Edge**

**DANGER!**
South Rim

Grand Canyon Village
Visitor Center

* The Visitor Center is located 3 miles north of the South Entrance Station and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Saturday, April 27. Beginning Sunday, April 28, through Saturday, May 11, the building is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. And, starting Sunday, May 12, the Center is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. General information about the park, maps and brochures can be obtained at the Information Desk.

An exhibit hall features exhibits on the human and natural history of Grand Canyon. Special exhibits may be on display from time to time. Boats and rafts used on the Colorado River during this century are on display in the courthouse.

The Grand Canyon Natural History Association bookstore, open from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, is located in the lobby. Beginning April 27, the bookstore will remain open until 6 p.m. and will stay open until 8 p.m. starting May 12. Publications and maps about Grand Canyon are available for purchase.

Orientation Program

Two 15-minute narrated slide programs are offered daily from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. April 23-May 11, 7:30 p.m. starting May 12) in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Shown on the hour is “Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, in the Making,” and back.

* Rim Walk: 1:15 p.m. daily. MEET AT THE EL TOVAR HOTEL FLAGPOLE ALONG THE CANYON RIM. This 45-minute ranger-guided walk along the rim of the Canyon will introduce you to the Canyon’s history, geology, plants, and animals. The walk is about one mile on a level paved trail.

National Park Service Evening Program: 7:30 p.m. nightly. April 23-May 11, 7:30 p.m. nightly. May 12, HELD IN SHRINE OF AGES AUDITORIUM, NEXT TO THE VISITOR CENTER. A 45-minute narrated program about some aspect of the cultural or natural history of the Canyon. The program is preceded by a 15-minute question and answer session beginning at 7:15 p.m. Seating is limited to 260 on a first-come, first-served basis.

* National Park Service Evening Campfire Program: 8:30 p.m. nightly. Starting Sunday, May 12. HELD IN MATHER AMPHITHEATER LOCATED DIRECTLY BEHIND THE VISITOR CENTER. A 45-minute narrated program about some aspect of the cultural or natural history of the Canyon. The program is preceded by a 25-minute question and answer session beginning at 8 p.m. For the program topic, see the bulletin board in the Visitor Center lobby or call 638-9304. Nights are cool; dress warmly.

Yavapai Museum

* Yavapai Museum, located 3/4 miles east of the Visitor Center, features exhibits on the geologic history of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, including a geologic time clock, rock samples, and explanations of the formation of the Canyon. From the museum’s large glass windows you can see a panorama of the Canyon. The museum is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Programs

* Yavapai Canyon Walk: 8:30 and 11 a.m. MEET AT YAVAPAII MUSEUM. A 15-minute walk on some aspect of the geological, cultural, or natural history of the Canyon.

* Yavapai Geology Walk: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. MEET AT YAVAPAII MUSEUM. This 60-minute walk with a ranger examines Grand Canyon Geology in detail. You will see ancient mountains, fossils, rocks, and the reason the Canyon came to be in northern Arizona. This walk is one-half mile long to Grandeur Point and back.

* Yavapai Geology Talk: 1 and 4:30 p.m. daily. MEET AT YAVAPAII MUSEUM for a 20-minute program on Grand Canyon geology.

Sunrise & Sunset

The Colorado River as it flows through the Grand Canyon.