

Grand Canyon

National Park/Arizona
National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior

Somehow "Grand" does not tell how truly incomprehensible this canyon is. Most people use such words as "marvelous," "stupendous," or "fantastic," but no word is really adequate to describe this amazing creation of nature. The scene continually changes as light plays off the rocks and clouds, creating shadows and contrasts. The world seems larger here with sunrises, sunsets, and storms taking on an added dimension to match the landscape. The permutations are unceasing, and the moods are without end. This is a land to humble the soul.

Facilities, Services, and Programs

Grand Canyon National Park is made up of the South Rim, which attracts most visitors, the North Rim, which draws about 10 percent of the park's visitors, and the Canyon itself. Though the rims are only 10 miles apart as the crow flies, by road more than 215 miles separate them.

The South Rim is open all year; the North Rim is usually open mid-May to mid-November, depending on the weather. *The Guide* is a free park newspaper that gives information on all aspects of visiting Grand Canyon National Park; pick up a copy at the visitor center, Tusayan Museum, or Yavapai Museum. A separate edition is produced for the North Rim.

Grand Canyon National Park is a U.S. fee area with charges for entering and camping.

View from Mather Point,
South Rim
Photo by Gary Ladd

For an Enjoyable Visit We advise you to make reservations as far in advance as possible for any activity you plan to pursue while visiting the Grand Canyon. Mule rides, backcountry hikes, river trips, lodging, and camping facilities are booked months in advance. If you do not have reservations, you should secure a room or campsite as soon as you arrive.

Park Programs Nature walks, hikes along the rim, talks about geology, the prehistoric peoples, campfire programs, and nature talks for children are just some of the programs available for visitors on both rims. On the South Rim check *The Guide* (South Rim edition), or call 602-638-9304. On the North Rim check *The Guide* (North Rim edition), or check at the Grand Lodge.

Handicap Access Although the West Rim Drive on the South Rim is closed to private vehicles during the summer, it is open to the mobility impaired. Ask for a permit at the visitor center. Wheelchairs are available for temporary use at the visitor center and the Yavapai Museum on the South Rim and at Grand Lodge on the North Rim. Mather campground has handicap accessible restrooms. Many park programs are accessible for the handicapped; check at the visitor center for details. Few North Rim trails are accessible to wheelchairs.

Parking on the South Rim is difficult to find in the busy summer months. Park your vehicle in one of the large parking lots and take the free shuttle.

Shuttle Bus Two free shuttle bus routes operate on the South Rim during the summer months. One route runs through the village and the other operates on West Rim Drive. Check *The Guide* for route maps, schedules, and stops.

Food Most of the lodges have food services. Groceries are available at the General Store on the South Rim, at the Camper Store on the North Rim, and at Babbitt's Store at Desert View.

Lodging Lodging on both rims fills early every day. All lodging within the park on the South Rim and in the bottom of the Canyon at Phantom Ranch is provided by Grand Canyon National Park Lodges. For reservations call 602-638-2401, or write to Grand Canyon National Park Lodges, Box 699, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Phantom Ranch is accessible only by foot, raft, or mule. For North Rim lodging reservations, call 602-586-7686, or write to TW Recreational Services, Inc., Box 400, Cedar City, UT 84720. Lodging is available outside the park; consult *The Guide* or local chambers of commerce.

Camping All camping is limited to established campgrounds. Staying overnight at overlooks and parking lots is not allowed. Reservations for Mather campground on the South Rim are required all year. Contact a Ticketron outlet or write: Ticketron Reservation Office, Dept. R., 401 Hackensack Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601. The campground has no hookups; but showers, a laundry, and a dump station are nearby. Trailer Village on the South Rim is operated by Grand Canyon National Park Lodges; hookups are available. Call 602-638-2401 for reservations. Desert View campground, 25 miles east of Grand Canyon Village, is open only during the summer and sites are available first-come, first-served; no hookups. There is only one National Park Service campground on the North Rim. For reservations contact Ticketron at the address above. Other nearby campgrounds are listed in *The Guide*.

Backpacking If you hike into the Canyon and stay overnight you will need a free, backcountry permit. Reservations are needed for popular areas. A waiting list is maintained for permits that become available through cancellations. Write to the Backcountry Reservations Office, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, for permit reservation information or call 602-638-2474. Day hikes or a stay at Phantom Ranch Lodge do not require a permit. Make sure that you carry and drink at least two quarts of water per person per day. Wear a hat and remember that it usually takes twice as long to hike out as to hike in. Concession guide services and equipment rental are available; call 602-526-0924.

Mule Trips Mule trips from the South Rim are booked up to a year in advance. For information about one- and two-day mule trips into the Canyon check at the Bright Angel Transportation Desk or call 602-638-2401. It is often easier to get a mule trip from the North Rim on short notice. Check at the Grand Lodge or call 602-638-2292.

Other Services Many other services are available on the South Rim. Fewer services are offered at Desert View and on the North Rim, but all have gas stations and groceries during the summer.

Climate The elevation on the South Rim averages 7,000 feet above sea level. In the summer temperatures range from the 80's F to the 50's F and in the winter from the 30's F to below 0°F. The elevation of the North Rim averages 8,000 feet above sea level. Temperatures are about 10°F cooler than on the South Rim. Afternoon rain showers are common on both rims in summer. Heavy snowfall in the winter closes the North Rim and also usually blankets the South Rim. Inner canyon temperatures average 30°F warmer than the South Rim. For weather conditions at the Canyon, call 602-638-2245.

Regulations and Safety Grand Canyon is a National Park and as such is managed as a natural area. To prevent accidents, stay on the trails and stay away from cliff edges. Get away from the rims during lightning storms. Pets must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on any trails below the rims. All vehicles, including mountain bikes, are restricted to maintained roads only. Do not hike into the Canyon without sufficient water, food, sun protection, and adequate clothing and footwear. Consult the Grand Canyon Backcountry Office for hiking precautions. Visitors have been kicked, bitten, and chased while trying to feed wildlife. It is illegal to feed deer, squirrels, or any other wild animals in the park.

Grand Canyon National Park, one of more than 350 areas representing important examples of America's natural and cultural inheritance, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The superintendent's address is P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023.

GPO 1989-242-345/00038



Use caution near the edge; footing can be dangerous.

Bitte nicht zu dicht an den Rand treten wegen Abrutschgefahr!

Attention en vous approchant du bord. Danger de perdre pied.

がけの縁近くでは要注意
足場に危険あり

Grand Canyon

