

Perhaps no landscape on earth is as startling to the observer as the vast yet intricate face of the Grand Canyon. Over several million years the Colorado River has carved an immense chasm through an arid land—one of the greatest geological features of its kind. The layers of rock exposed in the canyon walls record much of the geologic history of North America. But it is the sheer visual impact of the landscape that impresses most people. The world seems larger here with sunrises, sunsets, and storms taking on an added dimension to match the landscape. It is a land to humble the soul.

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

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

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

Facilities, Services, and Programs

For an Enjoyable Visit Make reservations as far in advance as possible for each activity you plan to do at the Grand Canyon. Mule rides, backcountry hikes, river trips, lodging facilities, and camping areas are booked months ahead. If you do not have reservations, make sure to secure a room or campsite as soon as you arrive. Write to: Trip Planner, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Trip planning information for Grand Canyon is also available on the Internet at www.thecanyon.com/nps.

Park Programs Hikes along the rim, nature walks, talks about geology and prehistoric peoples, campfire programs, and children's nature talks are just some of the programs available for visitors on both rims. On the South Rim check *The Guide* (South Rim edition), or call 520-638-7888. On the North Rim check *The Guide* (North Rim edition), or check at the NPS visitor center.

Accessibility The West Rim Drive on the South Rim is closed to private vehicles during the summer. The drive is, however, open to physically disabled visitors; ask for a permit at the visitor center. Wheelchairs are available for temporary use at the NPS visitor centers on the North Rim, the South Rim and at Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim. Mather campground has accessible restrooms. Many park programs are accessible for disabled visitors; ask at the visitor center for a copy of the park's *Accessibility Guide*.

Parking On the South Rim parking spaces are difficult to find in the busy summer months. **Park your vehicle in one of the large parking lots and take the free shuttle bus.**

Shuttle Bus Three shuttle routes operate on the South Rim during some parts of the year. Check *The Guide*

for dates of operation, route maps, schedules and stops. The shuttle buses are free.

Food Food service is available at most of the lodges. 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 up 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 303-297-2757, or write to Amfac Parks and Resorts, 14001 E. Iliff, Aurora, CO 80014. Phantom Ranch is accessible only by foot, raft, or mule. For North Rim lodging reservations, call 303-297-2757, or write to Amfac Parks at the address above. Lodging is available outside the park; consult *The Guide* or contact local chambers of commerce.

Camping All camping is limited to established campgrounds. Staying overnight at overlooks and parking lots is not allowed. Mather campground on the South Rim has no hookups; but showers, a laundry, and a dump station are nearby. Trailer Village on the South Rim, operated by Amfac Parks and Resorts, has hookups available. Call 303-297-2757 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. Other nearby campgrounds are listed in *The Guide*.

Backpacking If you hike into the canyon and stay overnight you will need a backcountry permit; there is a fee. Permits should be obtained in advance. Write for a Backcountry Trip Planner from the Backcountry Office, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129,

Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Permits may be obtained by mail, in person, or by faxing a completed application to 520-638-2125. Day hikes or a stay at Phantom Ranch Lodge do not require a permit. You must have advance reservations to stay at Phantom Ranch. Make sure that you carry and drink at least two quarts of water per person per day. Wear a hat. Remember that it usually takes twice as long to hike out as to hike in.

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 303-297-2757. It is often easier to book a mule trip from the North Rim on short notice. Check at Grand Canyon Lodge or call 520-638-9875 in season or 801-679-8665 in winter.

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

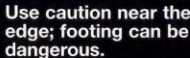
Climate The elevation on the South Rim averages 7,000 feet above sea level. In the summer temperatures range from the 50°F to the 80°F and in the winter from below 0°F to the 30°F. The elevation at the North Rim averages 8,000 feet and temperatures are about 10°F cooler than the South Rim. Afternoon 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 520-638-7888.

Regulations and Safety To prevent accidents, stay on trails and stay away from the cliff edges. • Stay away

from the rims during lightning storms. • Pets must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on any trails below the rim. • All vehicles, including mountain bikes, are restricted to maintained roads only. • Do not hike into the canyon unless you are carrying sufficient food and water, and wearing adequate sun protection, clothing, and footwear. Consult the Grand Canyon Backcountry Office for hiking precautions. • Visitors have been kicked, chased, and bitten while trying to feed wildlife. It is illegal to feed deer, squirrels, or any other wild animals in the park.

Grand Canyon National Park, a World Heritage Site, is part of the National Park System and is one of more than 375 areas that are important examples of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. For more information, write to: Superintendent, P. O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129.

View from Mather Point, South Rim
Photograph by Gary Ladd



**Bitte nicht zu dicht an
den Rand treten wegen
Abrutschgefahr!**

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

かけの縁近くでは要注意
足場に危険あり

Grand Canyon

