

The Grand Wash Cliffs, bathed in the glow of sunset, illustrate Parashant's serene beauty. The national monument protects natural and cultural features for scientific purposes and for public use and enjoyment.

NPS / TODD H. MILLER

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument's deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes anchor a night sky resplendent with stars. Although Parashant is visited by relatively few people, it features some of the darkest night skies in the continental United States.

Geologic, geographic, and biological transitions create remarkable biodiversity here. Two geologic provinces—Basin and Range and Colorado Plateau—and three ecoregions meet here—Mojave Desert, Great Basin, and Colorado Plateau.

Elevations vary from 1,400 feet near Grand Wash Bay to over 8,000 feet on Mount Trumbull. At higher, cooler elevations ponderosa pine forests are home to wild turkeys, northern goshawks, and Kaibab squirrels. Middle elevations with pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush support pinyon jays, Great Basin rattlesnakes, and mule deer. In the low-elevation Mojave Desert creosote bush and Joshua trees provide habitat for Gila monsters, Gambel's quail, and desert bighorn sheep. Where springs provide life-giving water, other plants and animals thrive.

Some visitors may not see how this landscape could support human life, but people have flourished here for over 12,000 years. Those who lived here about 3,000 years ago left rock images, home sites, tools, and quarries. In 1776 the Southern Paiute and Europeans met for the first time when Spanish priests passed through the area. People who settled here later called it the Arizona Strip. Remnants of their ranches dot the landscape, adding to the stories that await today's explorers of Parashant.

Parashant's varied ecosystems and its Native American and ranching history make it a land of discovery, wonder, and enchantment. Wildlife habitats are mostly undisturbed.

A TRANSITIONAL LANDSCAPE

DESERT WASH

The Mojave, driest of all North American deserts, gets fewer than 10 inches of rain a year. Snaking across this arid landscape, scoured desert washes carry the runoff after monsoon rains. Desert tortoises and Gila monsters actively forage after these refreshing storms. Deep-rooted plants grow along the washes, providing black-tailed jackrabbits with shady hiding places.

JOSHUA TREE FOREST

Joshua trees are characteristic Mojave Desert plants that grow up to 40 feet tall. Their prickly branches give many animals shelter, a food source, and nesting materials. As many as 25 bird species nest in Joshua trees. Scott's orioles hang nests from branches, other birds build nests in foliage, and northern flickers peck nest holes in the trunks. Toppled trunks house insects that are important for creating the foundation of a complex food web.

MOJAVE DESERT SCRUB

This community's spiny, succulent plants denote *desert* to most people. In rainy periods barrel cacti store water in their vaultlike spiny bodies. Surviving long periods of no rain, they live up to 130 years. Rock-dwelling chuckwalla lizards also use their body's store of water and fat during dry periods. They can wedge themselves into rocks by inhaling air, making it hard for predators to pull them out.

SAGEBRUSH STEPPE

The sagebrush steppe is found on semi-arid plains and flanked by pinyon-juniper woodland (*right*). You will drive for miles through this multi-hued landscape of sagebrush, shrubs, and short grasses. Big sagebrush is the most common plant, and rabbitbrush and other plants also thrive here. The adaptable coyote hunts rabbits and other small animals that hide in the shrubs.

PINYON-JUNIPER WOODLAND

Pinyon pines and Utah junipers grow on plateaus and mountainsides above the steppe. Junipers can live over 1,000 years, yet they only grow 20 to 30 feet tall. Slow-growing pinyon pines germinate in the protective shade of other vegetation. Mature pinyon pines produce nutritious seeds (pine nuts) eaten by birds, rodents, and people. Birds and rodents cache pine nuts for the winter. Some buried and forgotten seeds sprout into new trees.

PONDEROSA PINE FOREST

Cooler, higher, and wetter, the Colorado Plateau ecoregion supports ponderosa pine, Gambel oak, serviceberry, and New Mexican locust. This forest is home to turkeys, Kaibab squirrels, mule deer, and goshawks. Ponderosa pines can live over 900 years and can grow over 150 feet tall. Their thick, fire-resistant bark smells like vanilla. Periodic fires are essential to maintain the health and vigor of ponderosa pine forests.



Grand Wash between Pakoon Springs and Tassi Ranch
NPS / TOM PATTERSON

A Joshua tree near Pakoon Springs
NPS / TOM PATTERSON

Upper Whitmore Canyon
NPS / PAULA BRANTSNER

Steppe country east of Mount Trumbull
NPS / PAULA BRANTSNER

Pinyon and juniper growing on lava flow outcrops
NPS / TOM PATTERSON

Ponderosa pine forest on Mount Logan
BLM / AARON WILKESON

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© MICHAEL P. GADOMSKI
PHOTO RESEARCHERS, INC. | 2 CREOSOTE BUSH
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FIRST INHABITANTS



Parashant is part of the ancestral homeland of the Southern Paiute. Dancers in rabbit-skin robes celebrate their ties to the land and wildlife.

RECENT ARRIVALS



Miners, loggers, and ranchers built homes and struggled to raise families and survive in this remote country. Some of their descendants still ranch here.

LOGGING



Local stands of ponderosa pine provided building material for early settlers' homes and building projects. Economically significant logging began in 1876.

COPPER MINING



Copper mining replaced gold mining in 1873. The Grand Gulch was the most productive copper mine. Mules packed in tools and supplies until a wagon road opened to St. George, Utah, in the 1870s.

CATTLE RANCHING

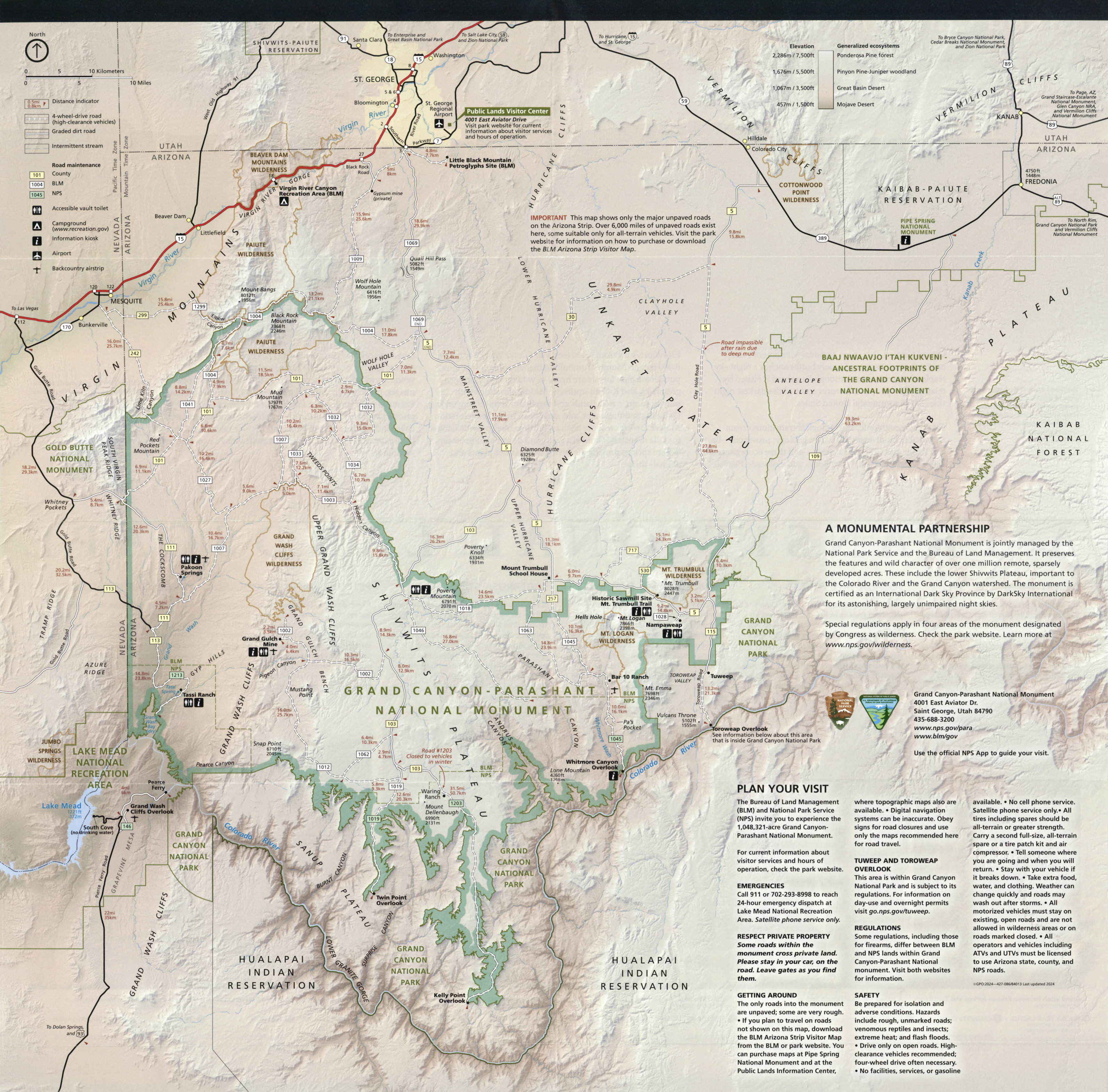


Livestock grazing has been part of Arizona Strip culture since the 1850s. It continues as a part of the monument's multiple-use management. A few full-time residents still live in this remote area.

PRESERVATION



President William J. Clinton signs the proclamation to make Parashant a national monument in 2000.



A MONUMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. It preserves the features and wild character of over one million remote, sparsely developed acres. These include the lower Shivwits Plateau, important to the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon watershed. The monument is certified as an International Dark Sky Province by DarkSky International for its astonishing, largely unimpaired night skies.

Special regulations apply in four areas of the monument designated by Congress as wilderness. Check the park website. Learn more at www.nps.gov/wilderness.



Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
4001 East Aviator Dr.
Saint George, Utah 84790
435-688-3200
www.nps.gov/para
www.blm.gov

Use the official NPS App to guide your visit.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) invite you to experience the 1,048,321-acre Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

For current information about visitor services and hours of operation, check the park website.

EMERGENCIES
Call 911 or 702-293-8998 to reach 24-hour emergency dispatch at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. *Satellite phone service only.*

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY
Some roads within the monument cross private land. Please stay in your car, on the road. Leave gates as you find them.

GETTING AROUND
The only roads into the monument are unpaved; some are very rough.
• If you plan to travel on roads not shown on this map, download the BLM Arizona Strip Visitor Map from the BLM or park website. You can purchase maps at Pipe Spring National Monument and at the Public Lands Information Center,

where topographic maps also are available. • Digital navigation systems can be inaccurate. Obey signs for road closures and use only the maps recommended here for road travel.

TUWEEP AND TOROWEAP OVERLOOK
This area is within Grand Canyon National Park and is subject to its regulations. For information on day-use and overnight permits visit go.nps.gov/tuweep.

REGULATIONS
Some regulations, including those for firearms, differ between BLM and NPS lands within Grand Canyon-Parashant National monument. Visit both websites for information.

SAFETY
Be prepared for isolation and adverse conditions. Hazards include rough, unmarked roads; venomous reptiles and insects; extreme heat; and flash floods.
• Drive only on open roads. High-clearance vehicles recommended; four-wheel drive often necessary.
• No facilities, services, or gasoline

available. • No cell phone service. Satellite phone service only. • All tires including spares should be all-terrain or greater strength. Carry a second full-size, all-terrain spare or a tire patch kit and air compressor. • Tell someone where you are going and when you will return. • Stay with your vehicle if it breaks down. • Take extra food, water, and clothing. Weather can change quickly and roads may wash out after storms. • All motorized vehicles must stay on existing, open roads and are not allowed in wilderness areas or on roads marked closed. • All operators and vehicles including ATVs and UTVs must be licensed to use Arizona state, county, and NPS roads.

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PAKOON SPRINGS



One of the monument's largest springs, Pakoon feeds an island of lush trees and cattails. Its water was impounded for years but now flows freely, allowing the landscape to return to a more natural state.

NPS / JEFF AXEL

TASSI RANCH



Tucked in rocky hills beside a flowing spring, a stone cabin and other structures paint a vivid picture of life on a cattle ranch in the 1930s and 1940s.

NPS / TOM PATTERSON

GRAND GULCH MINE



Copper and silver found here in 1871 drew miners and settlers. Historic ruins like an adobe smelter (above) and abandoned dump trucks pay silent tribute to the people who lived and worked here until the early 1900s.

NPS / MAX RAMIREZ

TWIN POINT



A rough road through pinyons and junipers reaches Twin Point. Its views into the Grand Canyon reveal a fascinating geological story, and its remote location offers a profound sense of solitude.

NPS / MAX RAMIREZ

WHITMORE CANYON OVERLOOK



A rough, steep dirt road winds down a lava flow and ends in an area with spectacular views of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River.

NPS / DARLA SIDLES

NAMPAWEAP



A short trail (less than one mile) takes you to a petroglyph site, one of the largest on the Arizona Strip. Hundreds of images provide clues about the lives of early Native Americans.

NPS / KYLE VOYLES