



Canyon Dimensions



The Black Canyon is a treasure to behold with sheer walls plunging to the roaring river below. The narrow width and harrowing depths combine to create a canyon astounding not only in numbers, but also in its impression of a wilderness of rock and wide open space - a vertical landscape of inspiration and splendor.

NPS

Depth



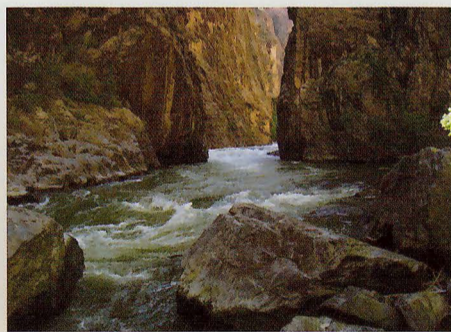
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The greatest depth of Black Canyon is from Warner Point to the river, a total of 2,722 feet (829 meters), photo above.

At Chasm View, on the South Rim or Chasm View Nature Trail, on the North Rim the depth is 1,820 feet (555 meters).

The Great Pillars at Gunnison Point, photo at top, are 1,840 feet tall (561 meters).

Width



NPS

The narrowest width between the cliff walls at the river is 40 feet (12 meters). This location, called The Narrows, is directly below Big Island View on the North Rim, or Cross Fissures on the South Rim.

Narrowest width at the rim of the canyon is between Chasm View on the South Rim and the Chasm View Nature Trail, on the North Rim, and is 1,100 feet across (335 meters).

Length



NPS

The length of Black Canyon in the national park is 14 miles (22.5 kilometers).

The total length of the canyon, between Blue Mesa Dam, in Curecanti National Recreation Area, and the river's junction with the North Fork, in Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area is 48 miles (77 kilometers).

The River

The Gunnison River is the heart of this living wilderness. It rages with spring snow melt, and recedes during the quiet of winter. The floods that come with the melting mountain snows give the river

unusual power to carve away at the depths of the canyon. The Gunnison eventually flows into the Colorado River at Grand Junction, Colorado as the waters

flow towards the Pacific Ocean. The average river gradient is 43 feet/mile (8 meters/kilometer). The greatest gradient, at Chasm View is 240 feet/mile (45 meters/kilometer).



Comparing the Canyon

Hells Canyon, Idaho and Oregon

This is the deepest canyon in North America. At He Devil Peak, on the Idaho side, the canyon is 8,043 feet (2,452 meters) deep.

The Grand Canyon, Arizona

The deepest part of the Grand Canyon is 6,000 feet (1,829 meters). The average depth is 1 mile or 5,280 feet (1,609 meters).

The Royal Gorge, Colorado

At the suspension bridge this canyon is 1,053 feet (321 meters) deep.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Wyoming

At Artist Point Overlook the canyon is 1,200 feet (366 meters) deep.

New River Gorge, West Virginia

The deepest canyon in the eastern United States is 1,400 feet (427 meters).

Canyons of the Nahanni, Northwest Territories, Canada

This canyon is in the Canadian northwest and is 3,300 feet (1,006 meters) deep.

Barranca Del Cobre, Chihuahua, Mexico

Copper Canyon, in north-central Mexico is 6,165 feet (1,879 meters) deep.

Vikos Gorge, Epirus, Greece

One of the deepest canyons in Europe, it reaches a depth of 3,280 feet (1,000 meters).

Buildings

Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Opened in January 2010, this is the tallest building in the world at 2,717 ft (828 meters).

Empire State Building, New York, New York

Built in the Great Depression of the 1930s, it stands 1,250 feet (381 meters) tall.

Willis Tower (Sears Tower), Chicago, Illinois

The highest building in the US stands 1,450 feet (442 meters).

Tokyo Sky Tree (New Tokyo Tower), Tokyo, Japan

The tallest observation tower in the world stands at 2,080 feet (634 meters). To be completed in December, 2011

The Great Pyramid, Giza, Egypt

Although the tallest structure for thousands of years, this 449 foot (137 meters) pyramid is dwarfed by today's skyscrapers.

Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Among the tallest of buildings, these towers measure 1,483 feet (452 meters).

Taipei 101 Tower, Taipei, Taiwan

From 2004 to 2010 this was the tallest building in the world at 1,670 feet (509 meters).

The Painted Wall

The Painted Wall is the highest cliff in Colorado. From river to rim, it stands 2,250 feet (685 meters). There is no agreed

upon way to measure cliffs, but other tall rock walls include El Capitan in Yosemite National Park at 3,000 feet (914 meters)

or The Great White Throne in Zion National Park at 2,160 feet (658 meters).

