

BACKCOUNTRY USE REGULATIONS
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

It is your responsibility to know and obey the following regulations while in the backcountry. Failure to obey backcountry regulations may result in a fine or appearance before a United States Magistrate.

1. A BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL OVERNIGHT BACKCOUNTRY USE. YOUR PERMIT MUST BE IN YOUR POSSESSION WHILE IN THE BACKCOUNTRY. 36 CFR 2.10(b)8
2. NO WOOD OR CHARCOAL FIRES ARE ALLOWED. Use Sterno, a backpack stove, or carry cold foods. Fires and fire rings leave an almost indelible scar on the landscape which cannot be easily healed by nature in this arid climate. Wood is scarce inside the canyon, and the weight of wood or charcoal makes it impractical to pack down. 36 CFR 2.13(a)1
3. CARRY OUT YOUR OWN TRASH. Do not bury or burn trash, or stuff it in or under anything other than a plastic bag in your backpack. There are no trash cans in the canyon; if you packed it in, you can be courteous enough to pack it out. This includes such things as cigarette butts, egg shells, and orange peels. 36 CFR 2.14(b)
4. NO FIREARMS ARE ALLOWED. This includes bows and arrows. Firearms are unnecessary since you are not allowed to use them anywhere in the park. Wildlife is unlikely to bother you as long as you respect their rights and remember you are a visitor in their home. 36 CFR 2.4(a)
5. NO DOGS OR OTHER PETS ARE ALLOWED BELOW THE RIM. They disturb wildlife, other hikers, and mule parties. 36 CFR 2.15(a)1
6. DO NOT CUT SWITCHBACKS OR TAKE SHORTCUTS. This activity causes trail erosion and can result in serious injury to you or others from falls and rolling rocks. 36 CFR 2.1(b)
7. DO NOT THROW OR ROLL ROCKS INTO THE CANYON. It is dangerous to hikers on the trails below you. Serious injuries and a fatality have resulted from such activity. 36 CFR 2.1(a)3
8. DO NOT FEED WILD ANIMALS. It is detrimental to their health, encourages them to beg, and results in damage to packs when small animals chew into them to obtain food. It can result in a painful bite to you. 36 CFR 2.2(a)2
9. DO NOT DIG UP, COLLECT, OR OTHERWISE REMOVE PLANTS, ROCKS, ANIMALS, OR OTHER NATURAL OR CULTURAL FEATURES. Such activities are allowed only with a special permit for research or educational purposes. 36 CFR 2.1(a)1
10. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES OR WHEELED VEHICLES ALLOWED ON TRAILS. The trails are not constructed for motorcycles, baby buggies, bicycles, and similar vehicles which could create a hazard to you and other hikers on the trail. 36 CFR 4.19 and 36 CFR 4.3(c)

11. FISHING by persons 14 years or older requires a valid Arizona fishing license or nonresident permit which may be obtained at Babbitt's General Store inside the park. 36 CFR 2.3(a)

12. NO WRITING, SCRATCHING, OR OTHERWISE DEFACING NATURAL FEATURES, SIGNS, BUILDINGS, OR OTHER OBJECTS. Visitors who come after you would rather not see your name or other writings on natural features, and your tax money has to pay for removing it. 36 CFR 2.31(a)3 and 36 CFR 2.1(a)1

13. PRIVATE LIVESTOCK USE requires a Backcountry Use Permit and must comply with the Grand Canyon National Park Private Livestock Use Policy. 36 CFR 2.16(g)

Backcountry Zoning and Use Areas

The backcountry is divided into use areas delineated by easily identified topographic features. (Please refer to map.) Each area has an overnight capacity based upon the size of the area, the number of suitable and available campsites within the area, the ecological sensitivity of the area, its management zoning, and its use history. Use areas range in size from several hundred acres to several thousand acres.

To provide for a wide variety of backcountry experiences, each use area is zoned as developed, threshold, primitive, or undeveloped. Zoning will determine 1) the potential for contact with others in the use area, 2) the amount and type of development within the area, 3) the ease of access to the area, 4) types of visitor use accepted within the area, and 5) the amount of visitor and administrative impact to be expected within the area.

As an example, the Tanner use area is zoned as primitive. The area has no facilities; camping is at large; and contact with other parties will be infrequent. On the other hand, Hermit Canyon is zoned as a threshold use area. Camping is limited to designated sites with toilet facilities, and there is potential for frequent contact with other parties. (Refer to Figure 1 for zone descriptions.)

Use Area Limits and Length of Stay

Each use area and designated campsite or campground is limited to a specific number of individual parties (1-8 people) and groups (9-16 people) per night. Groups are defined as hiking parties of 9 to 16 people traveling together. (Maximum group size is 16.) Groups with more than 16 people must divide their group between different campgrounds or use areas. Only one group or one party from the same organization may be in the same campground or non-Corridor use area on the same night. No more than 3 groups or 6 parties, not to exceed 48 persons, from the same organization may camp within the backcountry on the same night.

Camping in the Corridor, Hermit, Monument, Horseshoe Mesa, and Tapeats use areas is limited to designated campsites or campgrounds only. Camping in designated campsites or campgrounds is limited to 2 nights (consecutive or nonconsecutive) per campsite or campground per hike, except during the period of November 15 through February 28 when 4 consecutive nights will be allowed within Corridor campgrounds. Throughout the rest of the backcountry you may spend up to 7 nights in each use area. The overall trip length (in number of days or nights) is not limited. (Refer to Figure 2 for a listing of use areas and capacities.)

Corridor Use Area (Indian Gardens, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood Campgrounds)

The most popular backcountry use area is known as the Corridor (Use Area 48). The Corridor is the area including and immediately adjacent to the Bright Angel and Kaibab Trails. It is managed as a developed area with trails maintained to safe standards for stock use, permanent structures, and potential for continuous contact with other parties and livestock.

It is strongly recommended that hikers without previous experience at Grand Canyon hike the Corridor initially before attempting hikes in more remote areas of the backcountry.

Camping in the Corridor is permitted only in the designated campgrounds at Indian Gardens, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood. Use limits are based on the number of available sites within each campground.

Each campground has adequate sanitary facilities, purified drinking water, picnic tables, emergency telephones, and ranger stations manned 24 hours a day. In the winter months (usually November through May), Cottonwood Campground has no ranger on duty; sanitary facilities consist of a pit toilet; and no purified water is available. Hikers must obtain water from Bright Angel Creek and be prepared to purify it.

Group sites have been established at each campground - one at Indian Gardens, two at Bright Angel, and one at Cottonwood.

The Phantom Ranch Lodge near Bright Angel Campground is operated by Grand Canyon National Park Lodges and has cabins, dormitories, and meals available through advance reservations. Reservations for Phantom Ranch can be made by calling Grand Canyon National Park Lodges at (602) 638-2401 or 638-2631.

North Rim Winter Use

During the winter season (approximately October 20 through May 15), the access road into the North Rim from Jacob Lake is closed to vehicular traffic due to snow and ice. Water, facilities, and overnight accommodations are not available. During this time, and longer if trail conditions warrant, use of the North Rim from the park boundary to Roaring Springs, including use of the North Kaibab Trail, is by backcountry use permit only. Application must be made through the Backcountry Reservations Office. Persons wishing to ski into the North Rim from Jacob Lake (43 miles) are allowed to snow camp at large north of the North Kaibab Trailhead.

Figure 2
Area Use Limits and Zoning

Map Number	Use Area	Mgmt. Zone*	Party Limit	Group Limit	Maximum Campers/Night	Type Camping**
1	Badger	Prim.	1	1		A/L
2	Rider	Prim.	1	1		A/L
3	South Canyon	Prim.	1	1		A/L
4	Saddle Canyon	Prim.	1	1		A/L
5	Nankoweap	Prim.	2	1		A/L
6	Chaur	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
7	Unkar	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
8	Vishnu	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
9	Cheyava	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
10	Clear Creek	Thresh.	3	1		A/L
11	Manzanita	Thresh		Day Use Only		
12	Greenland Spring	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
13	Uncle Jim Point	Thresh.		Day Use Only		
14	Transept	Thresh.		Day Use Only		
15	Phantom Creek	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
16	Trinity	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
17	Scorpion Ridge	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
18	North Bass	Prim.	1	1		A/L
19	Powell Plateau	Prim.	2	1		A/L
20	Blacktail	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
21	Tapeats Amphitheatre	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
22	Tapeats -					
	Upper	Thresh.	2	1		D/S
	Lower	Thresh.	1	1		D/S
23	Surprise Valley	Prim.	1	1		A/L
24	Deer Creek	Prim	1	1		A/L
25	Esplanade	Prim.	2	1		A/L
26	Fishtail	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
27	Kanab Creek	Prim.	2	1		A/L
28	Boysag	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
29	The Dome	Prim.	2	or 1		A/L
30	Whitmore	Thresh.	1	1		A/L
31	Parashant	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
32	Trail Canyon	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
33	Diamond Creek	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
34	Separation	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
35	Surprise	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
36	Burnt Point	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
37	Snap Point	Prim.	2	or 1		A/L
38	Grand Wash Cliffs	Prim.	2	or 1		A/L
39	Palisades	Prim.	2	1		A/L
40	Tanner	Prim.	3	1		A/L
41	Cardenas	Prim.	2	1		A/L
42	Red Canyon	Prim.	2	1		A/L
43	Hance Creek	Prim.	2	1		A/L
44	Horseshoe Mesa	Thresh.	3	2		D/S
45	Cottonwood Creek	Prim.	2	1		A/L
46	Grapevine	Prim.	2	1		A/L

Map Number	Use Area	Mgmt. Zone*	Party Limit	Group Limit	Maximum Campers/Night	Type Camping**
47	Cremation	Prim.	2	1		A/L
48	Corridor -					
	Indian Gardens	Dev.	15	1	50	D/S
	Bright Angel	Dev.	31	1	90	D/S
	Cottonwood	Dev.	13	1	40	D/S
	(May through October)					
49	Monument -					
	Monument Creek	Thresh.	3	1		D/S
	Granite Rapids	Thresh.	2	1		D/S
	Cedar Spring	Thresh.	1	0		D/S
	Salt	Thresh.	1	0		D/S
	Horn	Thresh.	1	0		D/S
50	Hermit -					
	Hermit Creek	Thresh.	2	1		D/S
	Hermit Rapids	Thresh.	1	1		D/S
51	Boucher	Prim.	2	1		A/L
52	Slate	Prim.	2	1		A/L
53	Ruby	Prim.	2	1		A/L
54	South Bass	Prim.	1	1		A/L
55	Garnet	Prim.	2	1		A/L
56	Fossil	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
57	Olo	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
58	National	Undev.	2	or 1		A/L
59	Walhalla Plateau	Prim.	4	1		A/L
60	Thompson Canyon	Prim.	4	1		A/L
61	Robbers Roost	Prim.	3	1		A/L
62	The Basin	Thresh.		Day Use Only		
63	Widforss	Thresh.	2	1		A/L
64	Outlet	Prim.	2	1		A/L
65	Point Sublime	Thresh.	2	2		A/L
66	Swamp Ridge	Prim.	4	1		A/L
67	Kanab Point	Prim.	3	1		A/L
68	Tuckup Point	Prim.	3	1		A/L
69	Toroweap Valley	Thresh.	2	1		A/L
70	Lava	Thresh.	1	1		A/L
71	Pasture Wash	Thresh.	3	2		A/L
72	Long Jim	Thresh.		Day Use Only		
73	Tusayan	Thresh.		Day Use Only		
74	Cedar Mountain	Thresh.	2	2		A/L
75	Cape Solitude	Prim.	2	1		A/L
76	Eminence Break	Prim.	1	1		A/L
77	Shinumo Wash	Prim.	1	1		A/L
78	Saltwater Wash	Prim.	1	1		A/L
79	Jackass	Prim.	1	1		A/L

* Prim. = Primitive Zone
 Undev. = Undeveloped Zone
 Thresh. = Threshold Zone
 Dev. = Developed Zone

** A/L = At-large Camping
 D/S = Designated Site Camping

Figure 3

Area Closures by order of the Superintendent. The following areas are closed to all camping, but are open to day use:

- Redwall Cavern - High day use area. No feasible areas for human waste disposal.
- Saddle Canyon below Redwall Formation - High day use area. Riparian zone with no campsites available away from fragile vegetation.
- Little Colorado/Colorado River Confluence - No camping within 1 mile of the confluence. High day use area. Documented habitat of humpback chub, an endangered fish species.
- Phantom Creek and Haunted Canyon below the Tapeats Formation - Narrow canyons with fragile riparian vegetation. No campsites available more than 50 feet from water and no suitable waste disposal sites.
- Elves Chasm - High day use area. Limited and fragile riparian vegetation and travertine formations. No suitable waste disposal sites.
- Thunder River Drainage from Surprise Valley to confluence with Tapeats Creek - High day use area. Steep slope and absence of campsites more than 50 feet from water. Lack of suitable waste disposal sites.
- Havasu Creek within Grand Canyon National Park - High day use area.
- Matkatamiba Canyon below Redwall Formation - High day use area.
- Grandview Historic Mining District - Cultural resources area.
- Dripping Springs - Fragile local vegetation. Day use area with suitable camping nearby on the rim and near Hermit Creek.
- Clear Creek drainage from the Colorado River north to the first major side canyon entering from the east - Absence of campsites more than 50 feet from water. No suitable waste disposal sites.
- Miner's Spring - Fragile local vegetation with suitable camping on Horseshoe Mesa and near Hance Creek.
- Deer Creek, from Colorado River to upper end of narrows - Lack of suitable campsites, heavy day use.
- The Hopi Salt Mines along the Colorado River are closed to all visitation (except by permission from the Hopi Tribe). This closure extends 1/2 mile both up-river and down-river. This is a Hopi cultural site and fragile resource.
- Furnace Flats - fragile archeological site, located at Mile 72.0 on the north side of the river and neighboring beaches is closed to all visitation.

Transept, Manzanita, and Uncle Jim Point Use Areas

Camping is not allowed in these areas due to available camping in the corridor campgrounds, the special ecological nature of these areas, and their low physical carrying capacities.

FIGURE I - BACKCOUNTRY ZONING

All use areas are zoned as developed, threshold, primitive, or undeveloped and have specific use limits. Zone standards are described in matrix.

<u>USE ELEMENT: ZONING</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF PARTY/ PARTY CONTACT</u>	<u>AMOUNT AND TYPE OF NPS DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY</u>	<u>CAMPING RESTRICTIONS</u>
DEVELOPED	Potential for continuous contact. High density use. See Map No. 48.	Permanent structures for visitor safety, sanitation, and resource protection; signs: bridges and trails; emergency phones, purified water stations and toilets; ranger stations manned continuously.	Paved roads to trailheads maintained foot and stock trails. Recommended for hikers without previous experience at Grand Canyon.	Designated campgrounds.
<u>THRESHOLD</u>	Potential for frequent contact. Medium density use. See Maps No. 10, 22, 44, 49, & 50.	Nonpermanent structures for visitor safety, sanitation, and resource protection; signs; dirt roads and trails.	Paved and dirt roads to trailheads; nonmaintained foot trails. Water sources scarce. Recommended for experienced canyon hikers only.	Primarily designated campsites. for
<u>PRIMITIVE</u>	Infrequent contact. Low density use.	Dirt roads and trails; signs. No other development.	Dirt roads to some trailheads; nonmaintained trails and routs, often difficult to follow. Water sources scarce. Recommended for highly experienced canyon hikers only.	At-large camping.
<u>UNDEVELOPED</u>	Potential for no contact.	No development.	Indistinct to nonexistent routes requiring advanced route finding ability. Water sources scarce. Recommended for highly experienced canyon hikers only.	At-large camping.

NOTE: Use areas zoned as Primitive and Undeveloped are not recommended for use during the summer months due to the lack of reliable water and extreme heat.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
BACKCOUNTRY RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____
(Street, P.O. Box, etc.)

(City) (State) (Zip) Number of People: _____

FIRST CHOICE
Mo./Day/Yr. of Night Use Area/Campsite

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

THIRD CHOICE
Mo./Day/Yr. of Night Use Area/Campsite

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

SECOND CHOICE
Mo./Day/Yr. of Night Use Area/Campsite

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

FOURTH CHOICE
Mo./Day/Yr. of Night Use Area/Campsite

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

IMPORTANT: RESERVATION REQUESTS for overnight backcountry hiking and camping are accepted BY MAIL OR IN PERSON ONLY. Beginning on October 1, reservation requests will be accepted for the remainder of the current year and for the following calendar year. For example: beginning on October 1, 1985, reservation requests will be accepted for the period October 1, 1985, through December 31, 1986.

An early request is advised for hikes planned for the spring months (March-May) and for weekends, holidays, and other vacation periods. Demand for permits in these periods far exceeds the use limits which have been established to protect the backcountry and the quality of your backpacking experience.

Each party may submit ONLY ONE MAIL-IN REQUEST per trip. Use separate forms for different trips. Please fill out this Backcountry Reservation Request Form completely. Reservations CANNOT BE MADE without this information.

Each use area and designated campsite or campground is limited to a specific number of individual parties (1-8 people) and groups (9-16 people) per night. Camping in use areas 22 (Tapeats), 44 (Horseshoe Mesa), 48 (Corridor), 49 (Monument), and 50 (Hermit) is limited to designated campsites or campgrounds only. Camping in these use areas is limited to 2 nights per campsite (consecutive or nonconsecutive nights) per trip (refer to Trip Planner map) except during the period November 15 through February 28 when 4 consecutive nights will be allowed in Corridor campgrounds. These campsites must be specified on a night-by-night basis in your reservation request. Throughout the rest of the backcountry, you may spend up to 7 nights in each use area per trip. The number of days spent or miles traveled on your trip is not limited.

Most parties walk an average of 5-8 miles per day; however, your mileage will depend on factors such as physical fitness of individual hikers, rate at which people become acclimatized, and age of each person. To prevent unnecessary health risks, it is better to underestimate your hiking ability. Because summer temperatures along the Colorado River often exceed 110°F (43°C), hiking in the canyon can be potentially dangerous if a person is not well prepared. When planning your hike, we encourage you to use topographic maps and other information such as guidebooks or route descriptions.

The North Rim generally does not open until May 15 depending on snowfall received each year. Hikes starting on the North Rim are usually not possible until the entrance road is open. In the fall, snowstorms may occur in mid-October. The only available public transportation running between the North and South Rims is provided by Grand Canyon Airlines which usually begins service in June.

You will receive written notification of the outcome of your reservation request. IF A RESERVATION IS CONFIRMED, YOUR PERMIT MUST BE PICKED UP BY 9 A.M. ON THE FIRST DAY OF YOUR TRIP, OR YOUR ENTIRE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED. Please bring your confirmation form with you when you pick up your permit.

The Backcountry Reservation Office maintains a Backcountry Information Telephone Line to answer your questions concerning trip planning, trail and weather conditions, and water sources. Please telephone us for information, but be reminded that we DO NOT accept reservation requests on the information line. The Backcountry Information Line is answered by a ranger from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (602) 638-2474.

ARIZONA IS ON MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME ALL YEAR.

Mail this form to: Backcountry Reservations Office
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 1520
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023