



SOUTH RIM

DAY HIKES AND WALKS



DISTANCES

FROM BRIGHT ANGEL TRAILHEAD TO:

Indian Gardens	7.4 km	4.6 mi
Colorado River	12.5 km	7.8 mi
Bright Angel Camp	14.9 km	9.3 mi

FROM SOUTH KAIBAB TRAILHEAD TO:

Cedar Ridge	2.4 km	1.5 mi
Tonto Trail Junction	7.1 km	4.4 mi
Colorado River		
Bright Angel Camp	10.3 km	6.4 mi

FROM COLORADO RIVER AND BRIGHT ANGEL CAMP TO:

Ribbon Falls	9.3 km	5.8 mi
Cottonwood	11.7 km	7.3 mi
Roaring Springs	15.3 km	9.5 mi
North Kaibab Trailhead	22.8 km	14.2 mi

FROM INDIAN GARDENS CAMP TO:

Bright Angel Camp	7.5 km	4.7 mi
Plateau Point	2.4 km	1.5 mi
South Kaibab Trail Junction via Tonto Trail	6.6 km	4.1 mi
Colorado River	5 km	3.1 mi

ELEVATIONS:

Bright Angel Lodge, South Rim	2091 m	6860 ft
Yaki Point	2213 m	7260 ft
Indian Gardens	1160 m	3800 ft
Plateau Point	1152 m	3781 ft
Bright Angel Camp	730 m	2400 ft
Cottonwood	1220 m	4000 ft
Roaring Springs	1580 m	5200 ft
North Kaibab Trailhead	2512 m	8241 ft



Grand Canyon Natural History Association 10/83

Grand Canyon National Park

DAY HIKES AND WALKS ON THE SOUTH RIM OF GRAND CANYON

Day hiking in Grand Canyon can be an opportunity to experience the canyon's rich natural beauty and immense size.

There is only one Grand Canyon. Please respect it and the rights of others.

No collecting or damaging of rocks, fossils, plants or animals is allowed.

Throwing or rolling rocks is prohibited. There may be hiking trails below you.

Litter has become a problem along many trails. Please use trash receptacles and remember that cigarette butts are litter, too.

RIM WALKS VILLAGE AREA

The nearly level rim trail extends 14 km (9 mi) from Hermits Rest to Mather Point. The trail is paved from Maricopa Point to Yavapai Point. The remainder is an undeveloped dirt path. During spring and summer the Canyon Shuttle Bus stops at the major points from Hermits Rest to Mather Point.

Self-guiding nature trail pamphlets for sections of the rim walk are available at the Visitor Center, Yavapai Museum and in brochure box in front of Verkamp's Curio.

HIKING DOWN INTO THE CANYON

Permits are not required for day hikes. (Reservations and permits are required for over-night camping below the rim.)

Always carry plenty of water—at least 2 liters (2 quarts) per person per day. When you are hiking into the canyon, you are entering a desert.

Mules have the right-of-way on the trails. If you meet a mule string, stand quietly by the side of the trail and observe all instructions given by the wrangler.

Summer temperatures in the Inner Canyon often exceed 40° C (105° F). Wear a hat, know prevention and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Hike early in the morning or late afternoon to avoid the heat.

Temperatures in the winter often drop below freezing. Upper sections of the trails are often snow packed and icy. Know prevention and symptoms of hypothermia.

Be sure to wear hiking boots or adequate footwear.

Pets are not allowed on trails below the rim. Stay on trails. Cutting across switchbacks causes severe erosion.

Distances and times shown are round-trip.

The hiking times given here are average for a person in good physical condition. A better guide is to decide how many hours you wish to hike. When one-third of that time has passed, turn around and begin to hike out.

BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL – The trail starts just west of the Bright Angel Lodge.

Mile-and-a-Half Resthouse: 4.8 km (3 mi). 2½ hours round trip. Water at resthouse May through September.

Three-Mile Resthouse: 9.6 km (6 mi). 4 hours round trip. Water at resthouse May through September.

Indian Gardens: 14.4 km (9 mi). 6 hours round trip. This oasis lies 940 m (3100 ft) below the rim. It has shade, picnic tables, restrooms, water, ranger station.

Plateau Point: 19.6 km (12 mi). 8 hours round trip. 2.4 km (1½ mi) beyond Indian Gardens on level trail. From this point you can look down 395 m (1300 ft) to the river.

Colorado River: 25.6 km (16 mi). 12 hours round trip. This trip should be attempted only by persons in excellent physical condition. The climb out is 1400 m (4600 ft) vertical. Not recommended for anyone in the summer.

HERMIT TRAIL – This unmaintained trail begins at Hermits Rest at the west end of West Rim Drive. In spring and summer it can be reached only by Canyon Shuttle Bus.

Santa Maria Springs: 8 km (5 mi). 5 hours round trip.

Dripping Springs: 9.5 km (6 mi). 6 hours round trip. Extra caution should be used on some sections of this trail. Carry 2 liters (2 quarts) of water per person.

SOUTH KAIBAB TRAIL – The trail begins near Yaki Point on East Rim Drive east of the Village. Magnificent views, steep trail, no water, little shade.

Cedar Ridge: 4.8 km (3 mi). 2½ hours round trip. Restrooms available.

Tipoff: 16 km (10 mi). 7 hours round trip. At the tipoff the trail begins its descent into the Inner Gorge. Not recommended for anyone in summer due to extreme heat and lack of

water and shade. Take at least 4 liters (4 quarts) of water per person. Restrooms available.

SOUTH KAIBAB—BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL LOOPS These one-day trips should be attempted only by persons in excellent physical condition. Not recommended for any one in the summer due to extreme heat. Temperatures often exceed 41° C (105° F).

Distances listed below DO NOT include the 7.2 km (4.5 mi) by road between trailheads.

Loop via Tonto Trail: 21 km (13 mi). 8 hours round trip. The 7.2 km (4.5 mi) Tonto section is a nearly level trail. Hot in the summer.

Loop via Colorado River: 25.5 km (16 mi). 12 hours round trip. It is best to go down the steeper Kaibab Trail and up the Bright Angel.

DESERT VIEW AREA

Desert View Nature Trail: A 15-minute walk along the rim at Desert View. Meet the trail at the Watchtower or campground.

Rim Hikes: There are several excellent cross-country routes: Papago, Zuni and Comanche Points. Hiking conditions are fairly difficult. No water is available. Solitude is plentiful. Please contact ranger at Desert View for more information.

Tusayan Ruin Walk: Located 6.4 km (4 mi) west of Desert View. A 20-minute walk will take you back 800 years and through the homes of prehistoric canyon dwellers.

GRANDVIEW TRAIL – This unmaintained trail is located 19.2 km (12 mi) west of Desert View.

Horseshoe Mesa: 9.6 km (6 mi). 7 hours round trip over rough trail. Site of Last Chance Mine, which operated from 1883 to 1907. There are several historic buildings on the mesa top and several mine shafts on the east side. No water. Carry at least 4 liters (4 quarts) per person.

CAUTION: Mine shafts are hazardous. Use extreme care and good lights if entering. Due to the historical value of the buildings and mines, please do not remove or alter anything.

WATER IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE MESA. There is a spring located east of Horseshoe Mesa via a difficult hike. Take a topo map.



A hiker stops for a breather on the Bright Angel Trail.