



The Guide: Spring

South Rim Information and Maps



Hello, and welcome to Grand Canyon National Park!

Visiting places like Grand Canyon offers us experiences and exposure to environments completely different from those of our everyday lives. However, having a safe and fulfilling experience when we are out of our element can pose challenges.

At Grand Canyon National Park, this Guide is a great way to get started. In it, you will find information about the services and ranger programs available in the park, as well as a map and information about how to use the free shuttle buses.

The South Rim's visitor centers are a terrific next step. They offer opportunities to talk to park rangers and ask questions. Get an overview of what Grand Canyon is about and how best to see it at Grand Canyon Visitor Center and theater; learn about its geologic history at Yavapai Geology Museum; and explore its extensive human history at Verkamp's Visitor Center or Tusayan Museum and Ruin.

Equally important to a great Grand Canyon experience is understanding how to enjoy the park safely. Spring weather in the park can be extremely variable. Dress in layers and be prepared for cold, sun, rain, and snow. Also, keep in mind that deer and elk can be aggressive; please keep a respectful distance.

I have found living and working at Grand Canyon to be an adventure, a challenge, and an unforgettable experience. It is my sincere hope that these tools will help make your Grand Canyon adventure equally unforgettable.

Thank you,

David V. Uberuaga, Superintendent

Table of Contents

Special Events	2
Park Ranger Programs	3, 8
Maps and Shuttle Buses	4-5
Rim Hiking, Biking, Services.....	6
Canyon Day Hiking	7
Desert View, Safety	8



Spring weather provides a perfect opportunity to enjoy a hike into Grand Canyon.

Top 5 Grand Canyon Activities

1. Get Your First Canyon View

From Grand Canyon Visitor Center, walk a short distance north to Mather Point, the classic first view of Grand Canyon. Then walk the Rim Trail (0.7 mi/1.1 km), ride a shuttle, or drive to Yavapai Point. Visit Yavapai Geology Museum and use the binoculars to look at the Colorado River and Phantom Ranch. See map on page 5. Allow 30 minutes to three hours depending on how much you choose to do.

2. Visit Scenic Overlooks

Ride the shuttle bus to explore nine stunning overlooks along the seven-mile (11 km) Hermit Road. Take a stroll between viewpoints and ride the shuttle bus when you are tired. See map on page 4; allow a half day. Drive along the 25-mile (37 km) Desert View Drive and enjoy amazing views of the Colorado River as you head east. Visit Desert View Watchtower for 360-degree vistas. See map on page 8; allow all day.

3. Go For a Walk or Hike

Wander the Rim Trail, explore the Trail of Time, or discover the wonders of the inner canyon. Whatever you decide, taking a walk or hike will give you the opportunity to see some of the park's hidden gems. See map on pages 4-5 and information on page 6 for walks along the rim; see page 7 for advice about hiking into Grand Canyon.

4. Attend a Free Park Ranger Program

Learn about Grand Canyon from the park rangers and volunteers who know it inside and out. Hear the dynamic story of how the canyon formed or learn about the majestic California condor's reintroduction. Tour ancestral Puebloan ruins or learn about local history. Whatever your interests, you will find a program to suit you on page 3 or 8. Allow 30-60 minutes.

5. Enjoy the Sun and Stars

Grand Canyon's clean air and expansive vistas offer the opportunity for you to watch the sun rise or set and see crystal clear night skies. Mohave, Hopi, Yavapai, and Yaki points provide grand east and west views; perfect for sunrise, sunset and star gazing. Allow one hour.

DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
March 1	6:58 am	6:24 pm
March 15	6:39 am	6:36 pm
April 1	6:14 am	6:51 pm
April 15	5:55 am	7:02 pm
May 1	5:36 am	7:16 pm
May 15	5:22 am	7:28 pm
June 1	5:13 am	7:40 pm

FULL MOON DATE	RISE TIME
March 27	7:31 pm
April 25	7:22 pm
May 24	6:35 pm

Need Information?

Bring this Guide and your questions to a visitor center. Talk to park rangers, view exhibits, and learn about the park. Grand Canyon Association Park Stores and a National Park Service passport cancellation stamp are available at these facilities, except for the Backcountry Information Center. The stamp is also available at Indian Garden and Phantom Ranch.

South Rim Village

GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Plan your visit, see the park film, and learn about Grand Canyon with the park's newest exhibits. Park Store, bicycle rental, food service, and Mather Point nearby. 8 am-5 pm

BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION CENTER

Obtain backcountry information and permits for overnight hikes. 8 am-noon; 1-5 pm

KOLB STUDIO

View exhibits in the restored 1904 Kolb brothers' home and photography studio. 8 am-7 pm

VERKAMP'S VISITOR CENTER

Visit one of the oldest buildings in Grand Canyon Village and explore more than 100 years of community history. 8 am-7 pm

YAVAPAI GEOLOGY MUSEUM

Find answers to your geology questions with 3D maps and exhibits about the geologic story you see through the panoramic windows. 8 am-7 pm

Desert View

DESERT VIEW VISITOR CENTER

Explore how Grand Canyon inspired artists, writers, musicians, and conservationists. 9 am-5 pm

TUSAYAN MUSEUM AND RUIN

Look into the past and present-day lives of thriving American Indian communities. Museum: 9 am-5 pm

See page 8 to learn why you should keep a safe distance of 100 feet (30 m) from deer and elk in spring.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

Located entirely in northern Arizona, the park encompasses 277 miles of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers to visitors on the rim. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

Superintendent David V. Uberuaga
Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Park Headquarters
928-638-7888

Website
www.nps.gov/grca/



The Guide is published by Grand Canyon National Park, supported by your user fees; it is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. An Accessibility Guide is also available.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Special Events and Opportunities

Check at visitor centers and hotels for additional information and special programs.



Puppet Theater

March 11–16,

1–2 pm

Shrine of the Ages

Enjoy Canyon Condor, a fun puppet show about the mighty, magnificent condor. Baby Boo hatches from his egg and, as he grows, learns about the life and history of condors at Grand Canyon. Entertaining, musical, and informative!



Archaeology Day

March 23

10 am–4 pm

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Join park rangers for family-friendly activities and learn about the native people that lived at Grand Canyon over the past 10,000 years. Special evening programs highlight the park's unique cultural heritage on March 2, 9, 16, 22, and 23.



Junior Ranger Day

April 20

Location Varies

Attend a park ranger program and receive special recognition as part of this national event. Look for signs at visitor centers.



Earth Day

April 21

10 am–2 pm

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Join Grand Canyon National Park and its partners for unique activities and interactive exhibits to celebrate our beautiful planet.



Endangered Species Day

May 17

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

From canyon rim to Colorado River, Grand Canyon National Park protects one of the most diverse habitats in the world. Come learn about the animals and endangered species that live in this special place.



Celebrate Wildlife Day

May 18

Grand Canyon Visitor Center



GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION

INSPIRE. EDUCATE. PROTECT.

Be a Part of Something Grand
You can make a difference at Grand Canyon National Park!

With your help, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA) supports an impressive variety of projects and programs that help ensure all visitors are able to enjoy the awe-inspiring wonder of Grand Canyon.

As the park's official nonprofit partner, GCA cooperates with the National Park Service to operate Park Stores in seven locations in the park. Purchases in GCA Park Stores help fund new exhibits, scientific research, trail restoration, wildlife monitoring, Junior Ranger and education programs, ecological restoration, support for the arts, and historic building preservation.

Discover the Park With the Grand Canyon Field Institute
From hiking and backpacking to yoga and photography, you can participate in education classes throughout the park. Call 866-471-4435 or visit www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute

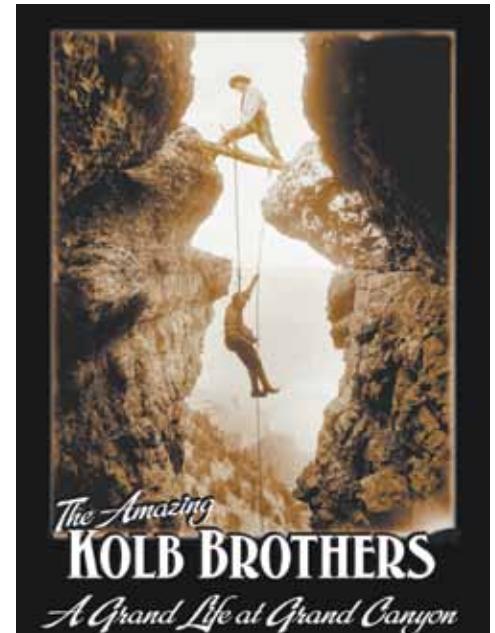
Take Grand Canyon Home With You
Join the Grand Canyon Association today. Members receive exclusive benefits and discounts. For information, visit a GCA bookstore, call toll-free 800-858-2808, or visit www.grandcanyon.org.



Soft Rocks-Hard Water by Chris Brown.
Photography, 2009.



Home by Ceres T, Grand Canyon School, 4th grader. Oil painting on paper, 2013.



The Amazing Kolb Brothers: A Grand Life at Grand Canyon

March 1 to September 3

8 am–7 pm, daily

Kolb Studio

Come see Grand Canyon through the eyes of the Kolb brothers. Be amazed and inspired by their stories, and view the movie that still remains a true box office hit. Free. Exhibit information: www.grandcanyon.org/amazing-kolb-brothers-grand-life-grand-canyon

Enjoy Art

Few places have provoked as much wonder and creativity as Grand Canyon. Grand Canyon National Park hosts two Artist-in-Residence programs—a seasonal program on the North Rim and a year-round program on the South Rim. Ask in visitor centers about times and locations for a limited number of free, family-friendly programs with the artists or call 928-638-7616 for recorded information. For additional program information and artist opportunities visit www.nps.gov/grca/supportyourpark/air.htm

March

Conceptual and visual artist Camelia Caton-Garcia from Portland, Oregon.

April

Painter Elizabeth Black and photographer Chris Brown from Boulder, Colorado.

May

Poet and conceptual visual artist Rebecca Lowry from Los Angeles, California.

Park Ranger Programs

Discover Grand Canyon with free programs given by park rangers and volunteers in or near Grand Canyon Village; see page 8 for Desert View programs. Consider riding the free shuttle buses to program locations. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. All program times are mountain standard; Arizona does not recognize daylight-savings time.

Spring at Grand Canyon is extremely variable and can still feature snow and ice. You may find walkways and the Rim Trail with icy conditions. Please dress for the weather and consider over-the-shoe traction devices for your comfort and safety. Programs may be cancelled during inclement weather.

Time	Programs	Meeting Location	Duration	Notes
8 am	Cedar Ridge Hike Discover the canyon's beauty while descending 1,120 feet (340 m) on an unpaved trail. This strenuous 3-mile (5 km), round-trip hike is not recommended for people with heart or respiratory problems or difficulty walking. Bring 1–2 quarts (liters) of water, sunscreen, hat, snacks, and sturdy hiking shoes.	South Kaibab Trailhead	3–4 hours; offered in May only	Trailhead closed to vehicles; ride the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus.
9:30 am	Fossil Walk Stroll through an ancient ocean of marine creatures on this moderate 0.5-mile (0.8 km), one-way walk along the rim. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Hermits Rest Route Transfer Shuttle Bus Stop	60 minutes; offered in March and April only	Parking is limited; ride the Village Route shuttle bus.
10 am	Rim Nature Walk Explore what lives and grows along the South Rim during a leisurely walk in one of the most biologically diverse parks in the United States.	Yavapai Geology Museum	60 minutes	
11 am	Mather Point Talk Discover some of the many treasures of Grand Canyon. Topics vary daily. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Mather Point Amphitheater	30 minutes	Accessible
2 pm	History Talk Discover stories of people's enduring relationship with the canyon and perhaps take a short walk around the village historic district. Perfect for train passengers.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	45 minutes	Parking is limited; ride the Village Route shuttle bus. Accessible.
3 pm	Condor Talk Learn about the majestic and endangered California condor and its reintroduction to northern Arizona.	Lookout Studio	45 minutes	Parking is limited; ride the Village Route shuttle bus.
3:30 pm	Geo-glimpse Learn how Grand Canyon formed while exploring Yavapai Geology Museum. Consider walking the Trail of Time following the program. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Yavapai Geology Museum	30 minutes	Accessible
7:30 pm	Evening Program Relax in a beautiful auditorium and enjoy a presentation about Grand Canyon's fascinating natural or cultural history. Check visitor centers for topics.	Shrine of the Ages	60 minutes	Accessible

Inside the Canyon

Going to Phantom Ranch or Indian Garden? Join a park ranger to discover the many wonders of the inner canyon. Programs vary and cover a wide range of natural and cultural history topics. *These programs are offered in Grand Canyon's backcountry and only accessible by a long strenuous hike or mule ride.*

Indian Garden, times vary, Friday to Monday
Check the bulletin board for program topics, locations, and times. Wilderness Explorer Junior Ranger booklet available. Accessible only by hiking 4.5 miles (7.2 km) down Bright Angel Trail.

Phantom Ranch, 4 pm and 7:30 pm, Daily
Check bulletin boards for program locations and topics. Phantom Ranch Junior Ranger activity booklet available. Accessible only by hiking or a mule ride to the bottom of Grand Canyon.

Hey Kids!

Children ages four and older can pick up a free Junior Ranger booklet from any visitor center. Have fun learning about Grand Canyon, complete activities, attend a park ranger program, and earn a badge and certificate. Special patches are also available to purchase at Grand Canyon Association Park Stores after completing the program.

Unique Junior Ranger programs are also available on the North Rim (May to October) and at more than 250 national parks, seashores, and monuments nationwide. The Junior Ranger program is generously supported by the Grand Canyon Association.

Discover the Canyon by Phone

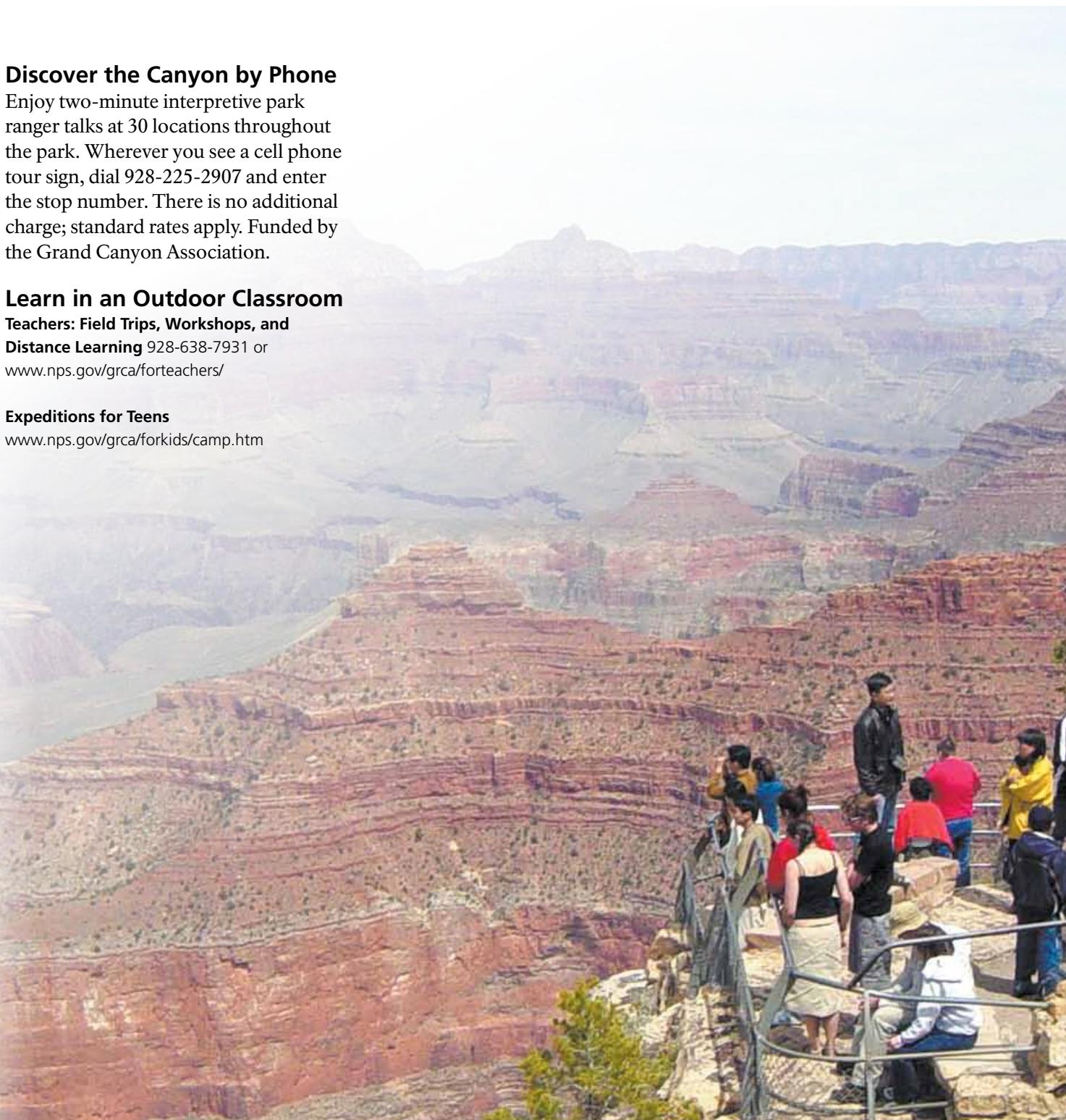
Enjoy two-minute interpretive park ranger talks at 30 locations throughout the park. Wherever you see a cell phone tour sign, dial 928-225-2907 and enter the stop number. There is no additional charge; standard rates apply. Funded by the Grand Canyon Association.

Learn in an Outdoor Classroom

Teachers: Field Trips, Workshops, and Distance Learning 928-638-7931 or www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers/

Expeditions for Teens

www.nps.gov/grca/forkids/camp.htm



Getting Around Grand Canyon



Shuttle Bus FAQ

Are the shuttle buses free?

Yes, park entrance fees include shuttle bus transportation.

How do the shuttle buses work?

Running like a city bus system, three shuttle bus routes stop at shops, visitor centers, and popular viewpoints around the South Rim. Just wait at any bus stop and enjoy the ride.

What are the shuttle bus rules?

1. No eating or open drink containers.
2. No pets, except service animals.
3. Collapse strollers prior to entering the bus. No oversized or jogging strollers. Remove baby-back carriers when seated.
4. Shuttle buses can accommodate two or three adult bicycles, but not tag alongs, baby trailers, or children's bicycles. Riders must load and unload their bicycles.
5. Shuttle buses only stop at designated bus stops.

How can I tell the difference between shuttle bus routes?

All National Park Service shuttle buses are white and green, but the front of the bus will say the route color and name.

Will my wheelchair fit on the bus?

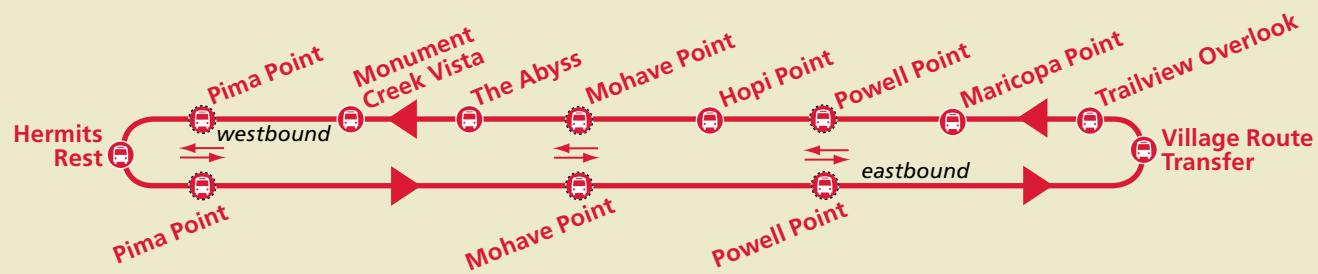
Buses are equipped with ramps to accommodate passengers in wheelchairs smaller than 30 inches wide by 48 inches long (76 by 122 cm). Most motorized scooters will not fit on buses.

The Scenic Drive Accessibility Permit allows visitors with mobility issues entry to some areas closed to public traffic. The permit is available at entrance gates, visitor centers, and hotel lobbies.

LEGEND

- Drivable park roads
- Village Route and bus stop
- Kaibab/Rim Route and bus stop
- Hermits Rest Route and bus stop
- Arrows indicate direction of travel
- Shuttle bus gate
- Paved Rim Trail
- Unpaved Rim Trail
- Paved Greenway Trail
- Drinking water
- First aid
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Telephone
- Theater
- Trailhead

See Grand Canyon Village map below, left.



Ride the Free Shuttle Buses

Reducing air pollution and taking nearly a half-million vehicles off park roads each year, shuttle buses offer a hassle-free transportation option.

HERMITS REST ROUTE—RED ON MAP ABOVE

- 80 minutes round-trip
- Nine overlooks
- Restrooms at Hopi Point
- Water, snack bar, restrooms, and gift shop at Hermits Rest
- Buses run every:
 - 30 minutes 4:30–7 am
 - 15 minutes 7 am to sunset
 - 30 minutes sunset to an hour after sunset

VILLAGE ROUTE—BLUE ON MAP ABOVE

- 50-minutes round-trip
- Scenic canyon views are a short walk from some stops
- Grand Canyon Visitor Center, hotels, restaurants, campgrounds
- Buses run every:
 - 30 minutes 4:30–6:30 am
 - 15 minutes 6:30 am–7:30 pm
 - 30 minutes 7:30–10 pm; visitors should be at a bus stop no later than 9:30 pm.

KAIBAB/RIM ROUTE—ORANGE ON MAP ABOVE

- 50-minutes round-trip
- Five viewpoints
- Grand Canyon Visitor Center and Yavapai Geology Museum.
- Access to South Kaibab Trailhead
- Buses run every:
 - 30 minutes 4:30–6:30 am
 - 15 minutes 6:30 am to one hour after sunset

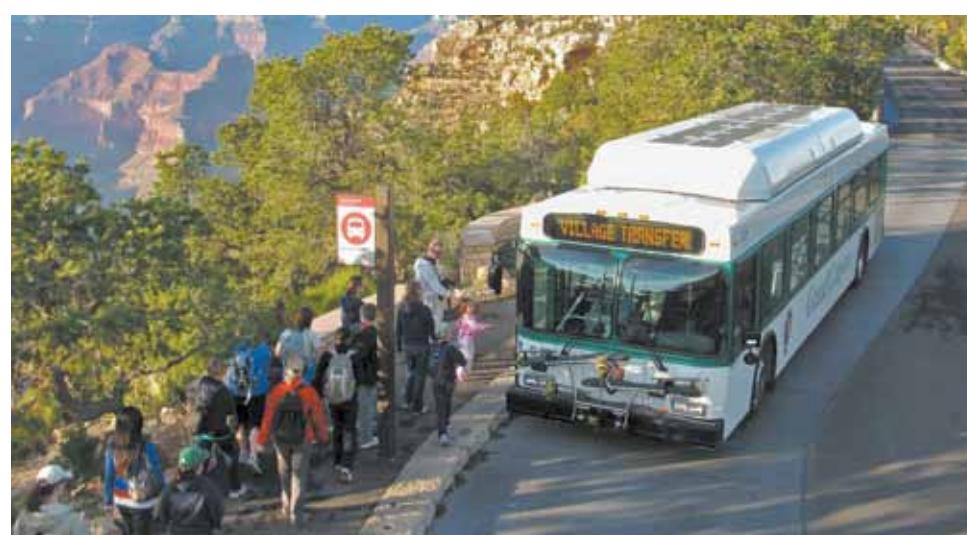
Explore in Your Car

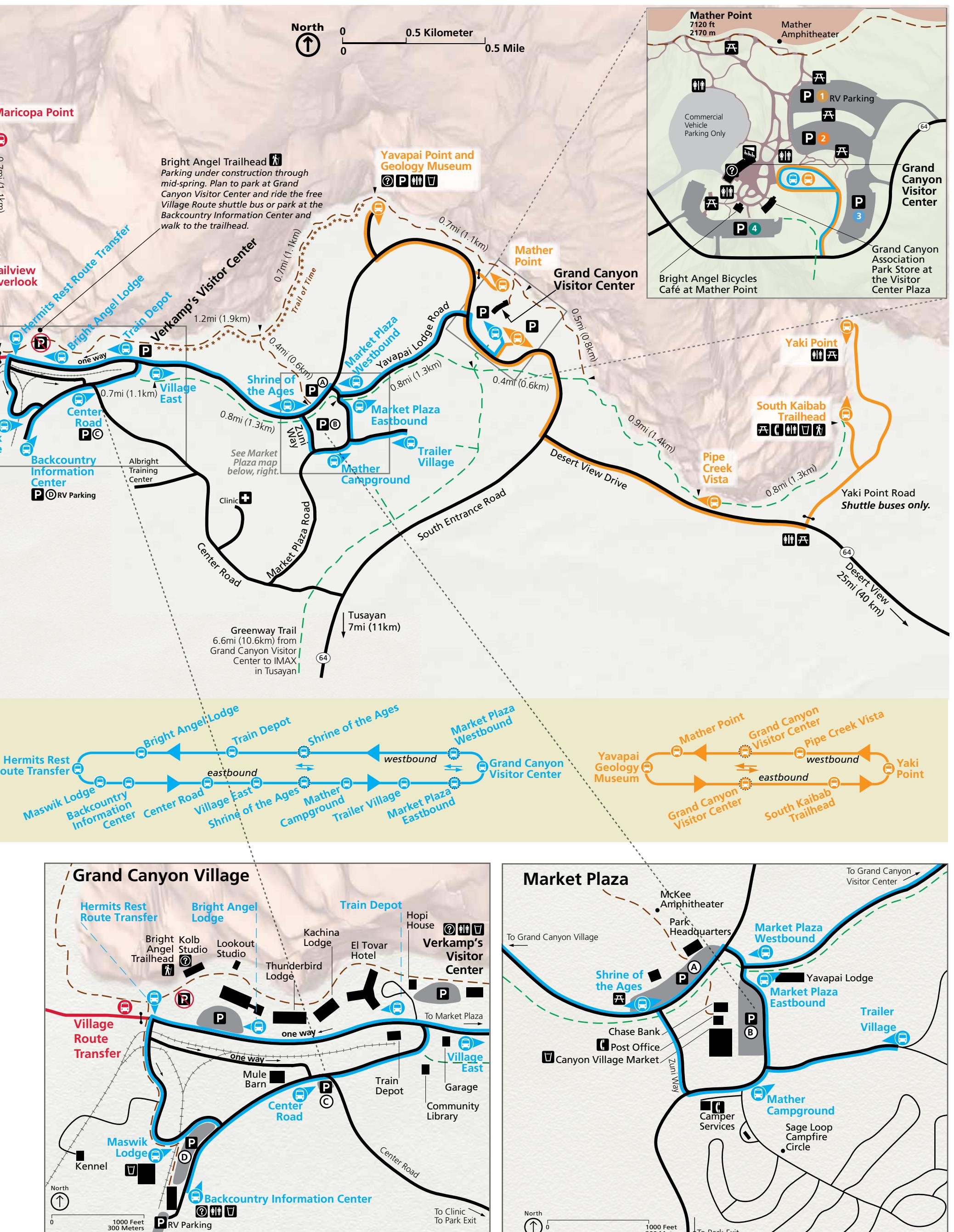
You can drive anywhere there is a solid black line on the maps in this Guide. You cannot drive the Hermit Road or Yaki Point Road; a free shuttle bus provides access. If you would like to explore by vehicle, consider driving to Desert View (see page 8). Use extra caution during inclement weather; park roads may temporarily close during spring snow storms.

Do not park along the roadside, except where signs or lines on the road indicate it is permissible. Use pull-outs and overlooks to take pictures and view wildlife.

Parking

All parking lots in Grand Canyon Village are located near free shuttle bus stops. Parking lots 1–4 are at Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Lot 1 includes auto, RV, and trailer parking. Parking lots A (Park Headquarters) and B (Market Plaza) are large. Parking lot C (near Center Road in Grand Canyon Village) is small; lot D (Backcountry Information Center) offers auto parking in the north end and RV and trailer parking in the south end.





Page 6 lists the specific locations and hours of operation for lodges, restaurants, shops, and services shown on the maps above.

Bright Angel Trailhead Note: Due to parking lot construction, water is not available in this location through mid-spring. Fill your water bottles at Verkamp's Visitor Center, Backcountry Information Center, Maswik Lodge or Bright Angel Lodge. The trailhead is open; look for detour signs to access the trail.

Rim Hiking and Biking Explorations

Wander the Rim Trail

The Rim Trail offers a diverse hiking experience along 13 miles (21 km) of the canyon, shown by brown or green dashed lines on the map on pages 4–5. From a short 30-minute sunrise walk to a full afternoon hike, choose your adventure. The Rim Trail is wheelchair accessible from Lookout Studio to South Kaibab Trailhead. Use caution and over-the-shoe traction devices when hiking icy or snowy trails. Distances are one way.

EASY, POPULAR HIKES

Wide, paved trail; accessible by strollers and wheelchairs with assistance

Mather Point to Yavapai Point

View the Colorado River and Phantom Ranch. 0.7 miles (1.1 km)

Yavapai Geology Museum to Verkamp's Visitor Center

See and touch canyon rocks along the award-winning Trail of Time. 1.3 miles (2.1 km)

Verkamp's Visitor Center to Kolb Studio

Explore local history in the Village Historic District. 0.6 miles (1 km)

EASY, LESS-TRAVELED HIKES

Little elevation gain

South Kaibab Trailhead to Mather Point

Great views of an inner-canyon trail; paved. 2.1 miles (3.4 km)

Monument Creek Vista to Hermits Rest

Quiet and uncrowded with forest and canyon views; paved. 2.8 miles (4.5 km)

Hopi Point to Powell Point

Dynamic views of the canyon; unpaved. 0.3 miles (0.5 km)

MODERATE HIKES

Some elevation gain and/or rough, narrow trail

Mohave Point to Monument Creek Vista

Unpaved trail with great views. 2.0 miles (3.2 km)

Hermits Rest Route Transfer to Trailview Overlook

Paved, steep grade, overlooks Grand Canyon Village and Bright Angel Trail. 0.7 miles (1.1 km)

Pedal the Greenway Trail

Bicycle along the canyon rim and through ponderosa pine forests by following the green dashed lines on the map on pages 4–5. Bicycles are only permitted on the Greenway Trail and on roads open to the public. Bicycles are prohibited on the Rim Trail and inner-canyon trails.

On Hermit and Yaki Point roads, bicyclists must pull to the right shoulder and dismount when buses pass. Obey all traffic regulations, ride single file with the flow of traffic, and wear bright colors and a helmet.

Bright Angel Bicycles

Bicycle rentals and guided tours; located at Grand Canyon Visitor Center. March 1 to April 30, 10 am–4 pm weather permitting; May 1–22, 8 am–6 pm. 928-638-3055 or www.bikegrandcanyon.com

South Rim Services and Facilities

Locations shown on the maps on pages 4–5.

Food and Beverage

BRIGHT ANGEL BICYCLES NEAR GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Café at Mather Point March 1 to April 30, 7 am–6 pm; May 1–22, 6 am–8 pm.

BRIGHT ANGEL LODGE

The Arizona Room Lunch March 8 to May 22, 11:30 am–3 pm. Dinner March 1–2 and March 8 to May 22, 4:30–10 pm; no reservations. Lounge 4:30–10 pm.

Bright Angel Coffee House 5:30–10 am

Bright Angel Fountain March 1–31, 11 am–5 pm; April 1 to May 22, 10 am–7 pm.

Bright Angel Restaurant Breakfast March 1–31, 6:30–10:45 am; April 1 to May 22, 6–10:45 am. Lunch 11:15 am–4 pm. Dinner 4:30–10 pm. Lounge 11 am–11 pm.

CANYON VILLAGE MARKET

Canyon Village Deli March 1–17, 8 am–6 pm; March 18 to May 22, 8 am–7 pm.

EL TOVAR HOTEL

El Tovar Dining Room Breakfast 6:30–10:45 am. Lunch 11:15 am–2 pm. Dinner March 1–31, 5–10 pm; April 1 to May 22, 4:30–10 pm; reservations required 928-638-2631, ext. 6432. Lounge 11 am–11 pm.

HERMITS REST

Hermits Rest Snack Bar 9 am–5 pm

MASWIK LODGE

Maswik Cafeteria 6 am–10 pm

Maswik Pizza Pub 11 am–11 pm

YAVAPAI LODGE

Yavapai Cafeteria Opens March 8, 6:30 am–8 pm.

Books and Gifts

Bright Angel Lodge 7 am–10 pm

El Tovar Hotel 7 am–10 pm

Grand Canyon Association Park Stores

at **The Visitor Center Plaza** 8 am–7 pm

at **Kolb Studio** 8 am–7 pm

at **Verkamp's Visitor Center** 8 am–7 pm

at **Yavapai Geology Museum** 8 am–7 pm

Hermits Rest Gift Shop 9 am–5 pm

Hopi House 9 am–5 pm

Lookout Studio 9 am–5 pm

Maswik Lodge 7 am–10 pm

Yavapai Lodge Curio 8 am–8 pm

Lodging

Bright Angel Lodge \$72–362

El Tovar Hotel \$183–440

Kachina Lodge \$180–191

Maswik Lodge \$92–176

Thunderbird Lodge \$180–191

Yavapai Lodge \$125–166

Same-day reservations: 928-638-2631

Advance reservations: 888-297-2757

www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Services

ATM Chase Bank and Maswik Lodge

Canyon Village Market March 1 to April 28, 8 am–8 pm; April 29 to May 22, 8 am–9 pm.

Chase Bank Monday to Thursday 9 am–5 pm; Friday 9 am–6 pm. 928-638-2437

Garage Emergency repairs and tow service. 8 am to noon and 1–5 pm. 928-638-2631

Kaibab Learning Center Day care for one to 12 year olds; immunization records required. Monday to Friday, 7:30 am–5:30 pm. 928-638-6333

Kennel Dogs and cats need proof of inoculations. 7:30 am–5 pm, 928-638-0534

For retrieval after 5 pm: 928-638-2631

Laundry and Showers at Camper Services

March 1–21, 8 am–6 pm; last laundry load 4:45 pm. March 22 to April 18, 7 am–9 pm, last laundry load 7:45 pm. April 19 to May 22, 6 am–11 pm, last laundry load 9:45 pm.

Lost and Found 928-638-7798, 928-638-2631

Post Office Monday to Friday 9 am–4:30 pm; Saturday 11 am–1 pm; closed Sunday and federal holidays. 928-638-2512

Religious Services See schedules at Mather Campground, Shrine of the Ages, post office, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, and Park Headquarters.

Taxi 928-638-2822

Wifi and Public Computer Access Public computers and wifi available at Park Headquarters 8 am–4:30 pm, Monday to Friday except federal holidays and at the Community Library 10:30 am–5 pm, Monday to Saturday. Wifi available in hotel lobbies 24 hours a day.

Camping

Mather Campground (NPS) \$18/night family

site; \$50/night group site; \$25/night horse site. No hook-ups. Maximum vehicle length 30 feet (9.1 m). Reservations: 877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov

Trailer Village (Xanterra Parks & Resorts)

\$35/night for two people; \$3.50 for each additional person over age 16. Pull-through sites with hook-ups. Same-day reservations: 928-638-2631. Advance reservations: 888-297-2757 or www.grandcanyonlodges.com

River Rafting

SMOOTH-WATER RAFT TRIPS OUTSIDE PARK

Colorado River Discovery

888-522-6644 or www.raftthecanyon.com

WHITEWATER RAFT TRIPS IN PARK

See www.nps.gov/grca/ for information about reserving multi-day whitewater raft trips.

Tours and Trips

Mule Trips Two-day trips to Phantom Ranch depart daily. A 3-hour forest ride to The Abyss departs twice daily.

Bus Tours Daily Desert View, Hermits Rest, sunrise, and sunset tours.

Phantom Ranch Dormitory and cabin space located at the bottom of the canyon. Reservations required: 888-297-2757.

Visit transportation desks to get help with tours and trips, call 928-638-2631, ext. 6015, or visit www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Bright Angel Lodge March 1–31, 6 am–8 pm; April 1 to May 22, 5 am–8 pm.

Maswik Lodge March 1–31, 6 am–6:30 pm; April 1 to May 22, 5 am–7 pm.

Yavapai Lodge 8 am–1 pm and 2–6 pm.

Tusayan, Arizona

Located seven miles (11 km) south of Grand Canyon Village on Highway 64.

Lodging

Best Western Premier Grand Canyon Squire Inn

928-638-2681

Canyon Plaza Resort 928-638-2673; pets ok

Grand Hotel 928-638-3333; pets ok

Holiday Inn Express 928-638-3000

Red Feather Lodge 928-638-2414; pets ok

7 Mile Lodge 928-638-2291

Camping

Camper Village (Private) Hook-ups, coin-operated showers, laundry, propane, dump station, and store. 928-638-2887 or www.grandcanyoncampervillage.com

Ten-X Campground (Kaibab National Forest)

Opens May 1; \$10 per vehicle per night; no hookups or showers. Most individual sites first-come, first-served. Reserve some individual and all group sites: 877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov

Additional Resources

Arizona Highway Information

Dial 511 or 888-411-ROAD; www.az511.gov

Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce

888-472-2696, www.grandcanyonchamber.com

Kaibab National Forest

Tusayan Ranger District ranger station, Monday to Friday,

8 am–4:30 pm. 928-638-2443

Paid Activities

Fixed-wing and helicopter tours.

Grand Canyon Airlines 800-528-2413

Grand Canyon Helicopters 800-541-4537

Maverick Airlines 800-218-9932

Maverick Helicopters 800-962-3869

Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters 800-528-2418

Vision Airlines 800-256-8767

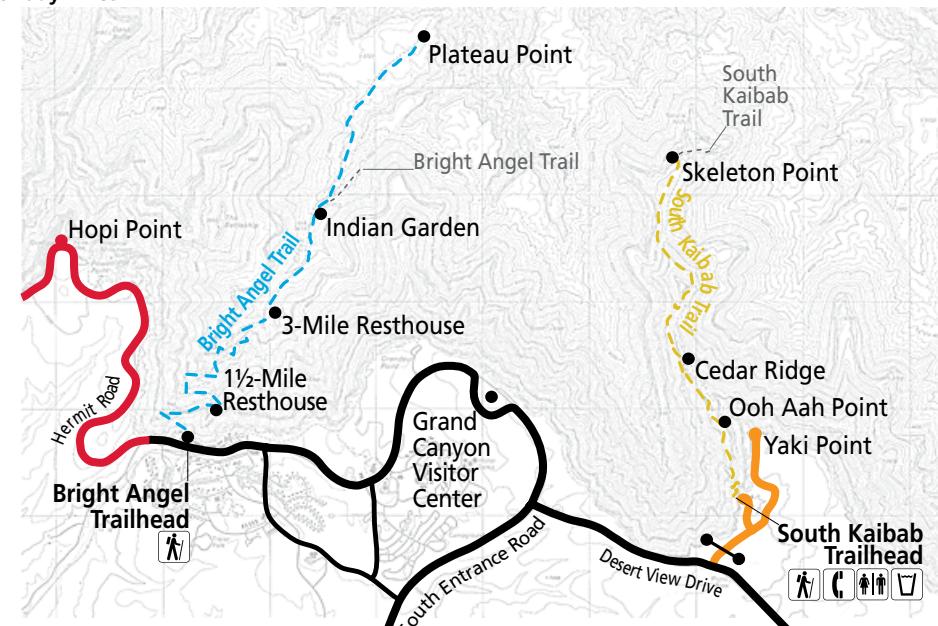
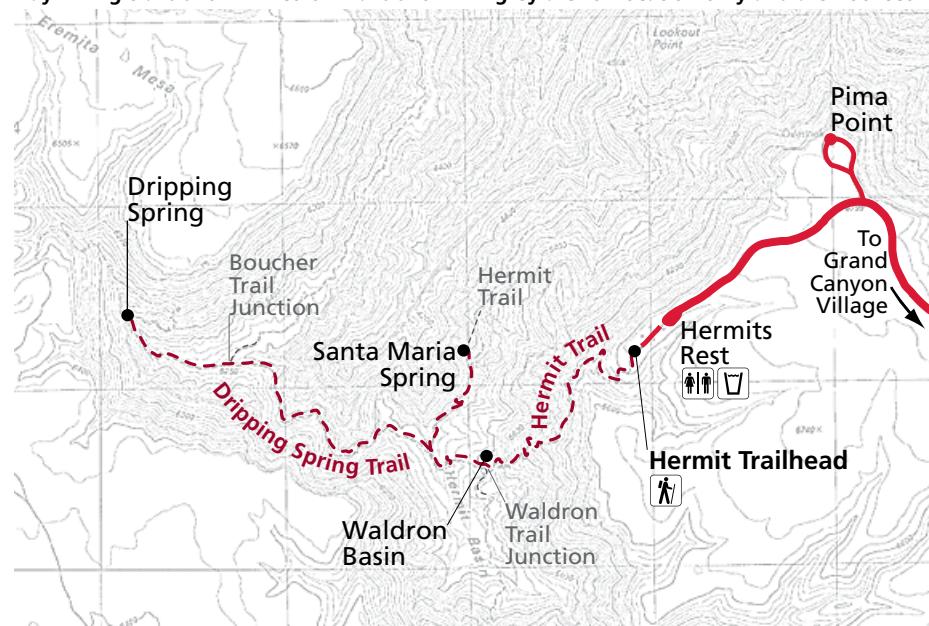
</div

Responsible Day Hiking Below the Rim

Day hiking into the canyon affords an unparalleled experience. For an enjoyable hike you must prepare for extreme conditions. Gauge your fitness level, be honest about your health, and don't compare yourself to five or 10 years ago. Know your limits and average walking distance and time. Grand Canyon is an extreme environment!

Trail	Destination	Distance Round-Trip	Elevation Change One Way	Time Round-Trip	Facilities
Bright Angel Trail: Follows the Bright Angel Fault down Garden Creek Canyon; maintained. Trail descends a north-facing wall that may accumulate snow and ice, becoming very treacherous. Trailhead under construction through mid-spring; no parking available. Plan to park at Grand Canyon Visitor Center and ride the Village Route shuttle bus to the Hermits Rest Route Transfer stop or park at the Backcountry Information Center and walk to the trailhead. The trail is open; look for detour signs.	1st Tunnel	0.4 miles (0.6 km)	60 feet (20 m)	20 minutes	no
	2nd Tunnel	1.7 miles (2.8 km)	590 feet (180 m)	1–2 hours	no
	1½-Mile Resthouse	3 miles (4.8 km)	1,120 feet (340 m)	2–4 hours	toilets, seasonal water, emergency phone
	3-Mile Resthouse	6 miles (9.6 km)	2,120 feet (645 m)	4–6 hours	toilets, seasonal water, emergency phone
Water is not available at the trailhead through mid-spring. Fill water bottles at Verkamp's Visitor Center, Backcountry Information Center, Maswik Lodge, or Bright Angel Lodge. Water occasionally not available at Indian Garden and seasonal locations due to pipeline breaks. Always bring a method to treat water.	Indian Garden	9 miles (14.4 km)	3,040 feet (925 m)	6–9 hours	water, toilets, campground, ranger station, emergency phone
	Plateau Point	12 miles (19.3 km)	3,080 feet (940 m)	9–12 hours	seasonal water
South Kaibab Trail: Follows an exposed ridge line and offers the best views for a relatively short hike; maintained. Trail descends a north-facing wall that may accumulate snow and ice, becoming very treacherous. Ride the Kaibab/Rim Route or Hiker's Express shuttle bus to the South Kaibab Trailhead stop. Water, toilets, and pay phone located at trailhead.	Ooh Aah Point	1.8 miles (2.8 km)	760 feet (230 m)	1–2 hours	no
	Cedar Ridge	3 miles (4.8 km)	1,120 feet (340 m)	2–4 hours	toilets
	Skeleton Point	6 miles (9.6 km)	2,040 feet (620 m)	4–6 hours	no
Hermit Trail and Dripping Spring Trail: Gives intimate views of a long side canyon; rough and unmaintained—for experienced hikers. Trail may have less ice and snow than the South Kaibab and Bright Angel trails. Begins west of Hermits Rest; water and toilets available at Hermits Rest.	Waldron Basin	2.8 mi (4.5 km)	1,240 feet (380 m)	2–4 hours	no
	Santa Maria Spring	5 miles (8 km)	1,680 feet (510 m)	4–6 hours	treat water
	Dripping Spring	7 miles (11.3 km)	1,040 feet (315 m)	5–7 hours	treat water

Maps do not show all trails; use for trip planning only. Consider purchasing a trail guide before venturing down the trail. Day hiking trails shown in color. Trails shown in grey are for location only and are not recommended for day hikes.



Prepare a Day Pack With:

Water One quart/liter for every two hours. Know your water sources—some water stations are seasonal.

Food Bring salty snacks and a full meal. Eat often, even if you are not hungry.

First Aid Kit and Survival Tools Also include medications, blister care, and duct tape.

Map Many trails are well marked, but some are not. *Know your route.*

Flashlight or Headlamp You may end up hiking in the dark unexpectedly; cell phones do not provide adequate light.

Sun Protection Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and sun umbrella.

Communication Whistle or signal mirror; cell phones are not reliable.

Simple Shelters Emergency tarp with reflective side.

Weather-appropriate Clothing and Footwear Layer for the weather and wear hiking boots with good soles, a hat, and sunglasses. Over-the-shoe traction devices recommended for ice and snow.

Health Risks

Common Challenges Grand Canyon's climate can intensify all health issues, including minor colds, making hiking more difficult. Spring can bring snow on the rim and very hot temperatures in the canyon. Be prepared for both; your body may not adjust quickly.

Over Exertion People often have overly ambitious plans and fail to pace themselves. If you feel unwell, you must rest. *Remember it takes twice as long to hike up as it does to hike down.*

Dehydration and Electrolyte Imbalances An imbalance of fluids and electrolytes in the body can lead to dangerous medical conditions. Make sure you are eating salty foods while you hike.

Hypothermia With this life-threatening condition, the body cannot keep itself warm due to exhaustion and exposure to cold, wet, and windy weather. Put on dry clothing, drink warm liquids, and protect yourself from the weather.

Heat-related Illness In spring, be aware of over-exposure to hot, dry weather. Rest in the shade, drink water and sports drinks, and eat high-energy foods.

Hike Smart

Plan Knowledge, being prepared, and a good plan are all keys to success. Grand Canyon is not the place for spontaneity. *Stay together, follow your plan, and know where and how to seek help.*

Eat and Drink Snack every time you drink water or sports drink.

Rest Sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 5- to 10-minute break at least once every hour. If you are not feeling well, rest for at least 30 minutes.

Danger!

No Day Hikes To the River *Hiking to the river and back in one day is never recommended* due to long distances, extreme temperature changes, and a near 5,000-foot (1,500 m) elevation change each way.

No Swimming The Colorado River is fast, wide, and cold 46°F (8°C) year-round. Do not swim in the river—you will perish!

Do Not Throw Rocks Rocks or other objects tossed over the edge or dislodged by taking shortcuts can injure hikers and wildlife below.

Reflection

Did you Leave a Trace? Day hikers can leave quite a mark in the canyon—literally. Write a postcard to your friends instead of writing on walls. Take your trash back out with you, including toilet paper. Do not feed the wildlife, and guard your food from food-habituated animals.

Were you Safe? Did you follow your plans and have enough food and water? Did you have fun? What would you do different next time?

Permits Needed for Backcountry Camping

You must obtain a permit from the Backcountry Information Center to camp in the backcountry. Open daily 8 am to noon and 1–5 pm mountain standard time. A limited number of last minute walk-up permits available.



Desert View



Park Ranger Programs

Glimpses of the Past

11 am and 1:30 pm

Daily at Tusayan Museum

Located 3 miles (4.8 km) west of Desert View

Learn how the lives of ancestral Puebloan people were entwined with the landscape. Program includes a walk along a 0.1-mile (0.2 km) flat, paved trail. Allow 30–45 minutes. Accessible. See page 3 for programs in Grand Canyon Village.

Books and Gifts

Desert View Trading Post 8 am–6 pm

Desert View Watchtower 8 am–6 pm

Desert View Watchtower Stairs 8 am–5:30 pm

Grand Canyon Association Park Stores

at Desert View Visitor Center 9 am–5 pm

at Tusayan Museum and Ruin 9 am–5 pm

Food and Beverage

Desert View Snack Bar 8 am–6 pm; located in Desert View Trading Post



Services

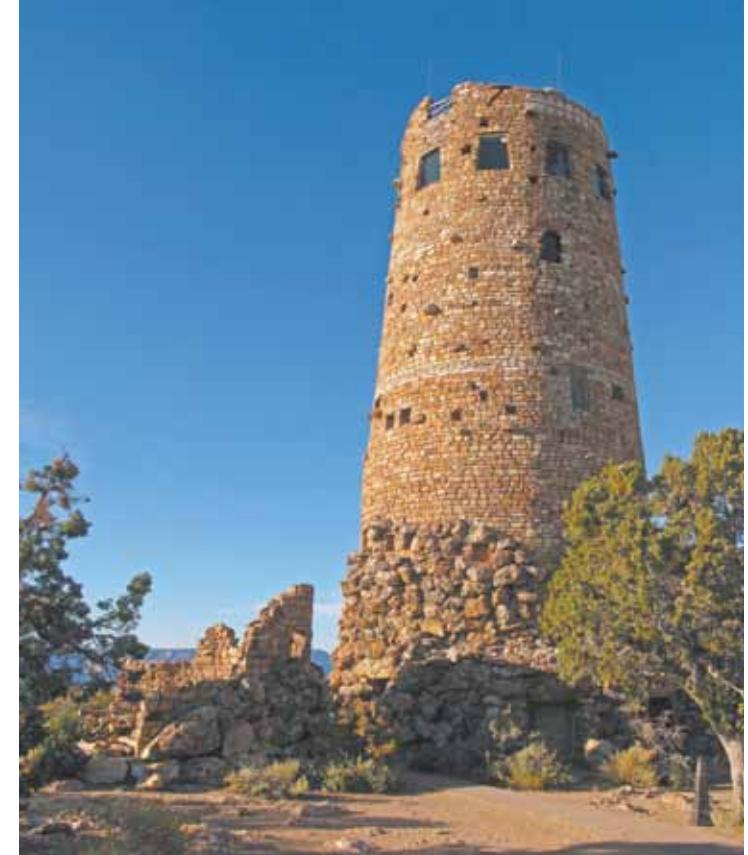
Desert View Market March 1 to April 28, 9 am–5 pm; April 29 to May 22, 9 am–6 pm

Gas Station Limited convenience store opens March 28, 9 am–5 pm; fuel available 24 hours a day with credit card, including diesel

Camping

Desert View Campground (NPS)

Opens mid-May; \$12/night; no hookups; maximum vehicle length 30 feet (9.1 m); first-come, first-served self-registration



Desert View Watchtower

Staying Safe at Grand Canyon



What Do I Need to Know About Weather and Elevation?

Spring weather varies greatly and can change suddenly. Be prepared with layered clothing for cold, rain, wind, sun, and snow.

Even during spring, snow and ice present potentially hazardous driving conditions and can temporarily close park roads; call 928-638-7496 for information. Please slow down and drive carefully while exploring the park.

At 7,000 feet (2,135 m) elevation, you may feel short of breath, nauseous, or tire easily. Direct sun can cause dehydration and sunburn. Use sunblock and drink plenty of water.

Emergencies Dial 911

From hotel rooms dial 9-911

North Country Grand Canyon Clinic

Urgent care available. March 1 to April 15, 8 am–5 pm, Monday to Friday; April 16 to May 22, 8 am–6 pm daily; 928-638-2551

Where Can I Find Free Drinking Water?

In an effort to reduce litter along hiking trails, plastics in the waste stream, and greenhouse gas emissions, Grand Canyon National Park eliminated the sale of water packaged in individual disposable containers—including plastic and glass bottles.

Water bottle filling stations are available: Bring or buy a reusable water bottle and fill it up for free at park visitor centers, lodges, markets, and major trailheads. Reusable souvenir water bottles are available at Park Stores and gift shops.

How Can I Keep Wildlife Wild?

Never approach or feed any animal; it is illegal to do so.

Deer and elk can be aggressive, especially during the fall rut (September and October) and spring calving season (May and June).

Stay at least 100 feet (30 m), or about six car lengths, away from larger animals.

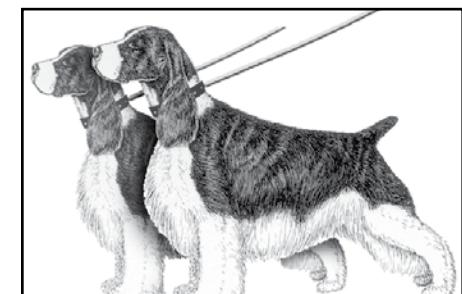
Do not feed the squirrels; they will bite and can carry fleas with the plague.

Keep the California condor flying free. Never approach a condor and stay at least 75 feet (23 m) away from these critically endangered birds.

It is tempting to want to get close to animals, but remember they are not pets. Wild animals need space and respect.

How Can I View Grand Canyon Safely?

Stay at least 6 feet (2 m) from the edge and hold on to children. Always be aware of your surroundings. Do not back up without first looking where you are going. Never throw anything over the edge.



Where Can I Take My Pet?

Leashed pets are allowed on rim trails in the South Rim developed area, but not below the rim, in buildings, or on shuttle buses. The only exception is service animals. Persons wishing to take a service animal below the rim must check in at the Backcountry Information Center. Kennel information on page 6.

v1 030113