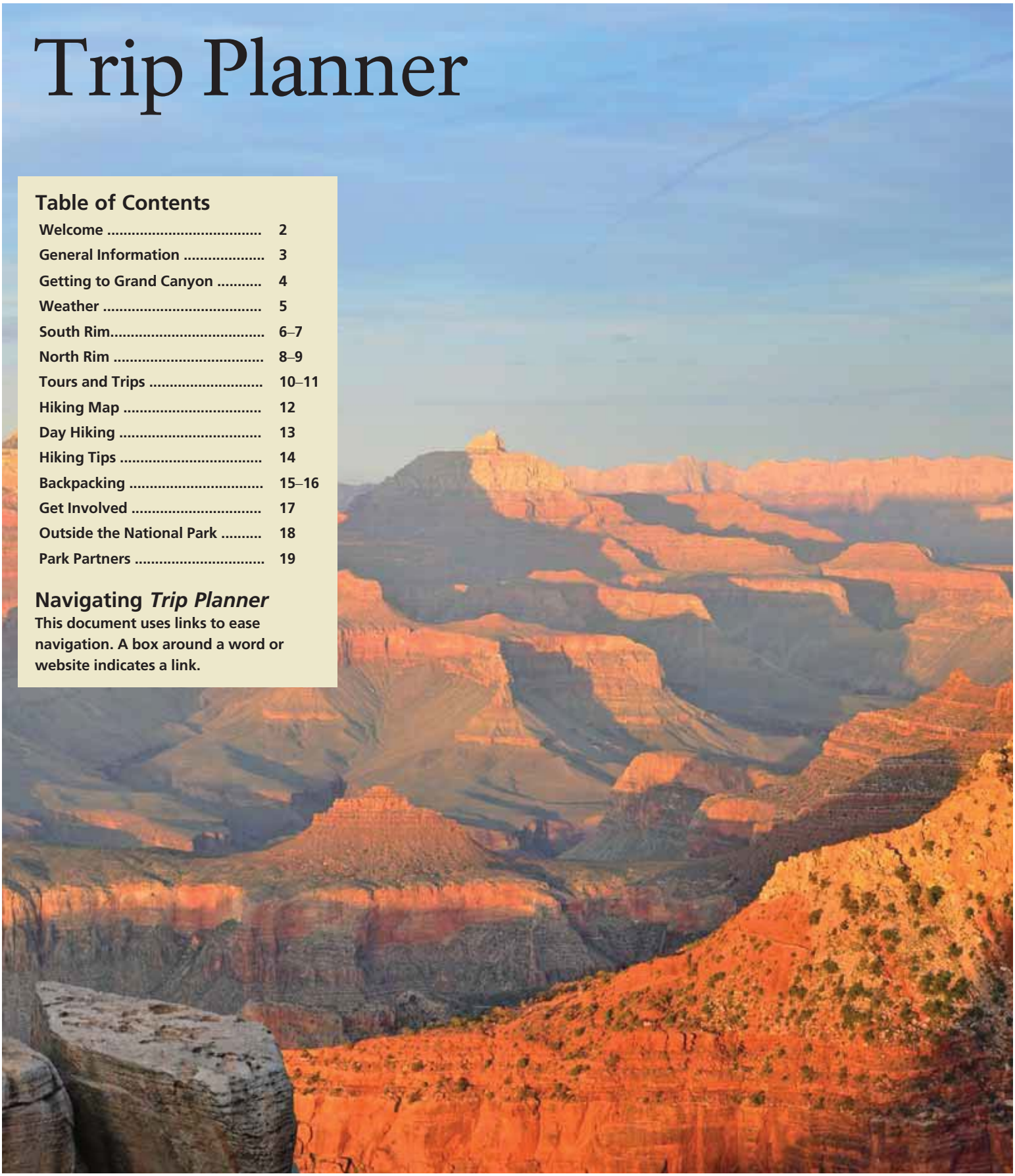
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon, Arizona

Trip Planner



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Navigating *Trip Planner*

This document uses links to ease navigation. A box around a word or website indicates a link.

http://go.nps.gov/15gd82

Welcome to Grand Canyon

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, *The Guide* seasonal newspaper 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 park's visitor centers are a terrific next step. They offer opportunities to talk to park rangers and ask questions. On the South Rim, get an overview of Grand Canyon 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. The North Rim Visitor Center offers easy access to your first canyon view.

Equally important to a great Grand Canyon experience is understanding how to enjoy the park safely. The weather varies greatly with the seasons. Dress in layers and be prepared for hot, cold, sun, rain, and even snow. In addition, keep in mind that the park's animals are wild. Do not feed wildlife and keep a safe distance from them. Be sure to use your zoom lens when trying to get a close up photo.

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

General Information

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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.

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

Park Headquarters
928-638-7888

Website
www.nps.gov/grca/

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Park is Open

Grand Canyon Village and Desert View on the South Rim remain open all year. North Rim facilities open in mid-May and close in mid-October. Park entrances remain open 24 hours a day. Although the park never closes, hours for visitor centers and businesses vary throughout the year. For current park projects and closures see http://go.nps.gov/k6rtna

Park Information

For park ranger programs, services, hours of operation, special events, and current information, see Grand Canyon National Park's seasonal newspaper *The Guide*. The park publishes an edition for both the North and South rims. It is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese. An *Accessibility Guide* is also available. Obtain newspapers at entrance stations, visitor centers, or online. http://go.nps.gov/136oj

Accessibility

For information about accessibility in Grand Canyon National Park, see http://go.nps.gov/1rtxl2

Park Entrance Fees

Fees collected support projects in the park. Admission to the park is $25 per private vehicle; $12 per pedestrian, motorcyclist, and bicyclist. The pass can be used for seven days and includes both rims. Pay fees at park entrance stations or at some businesses outside the park. Every year the National Park Service offers entrance fee free days. For complete fee information see http://go.nps.gov/4i30mc

For information on Annual, Active Military, Senior, and Access passes visit http://go.nps.gov/1unwl7

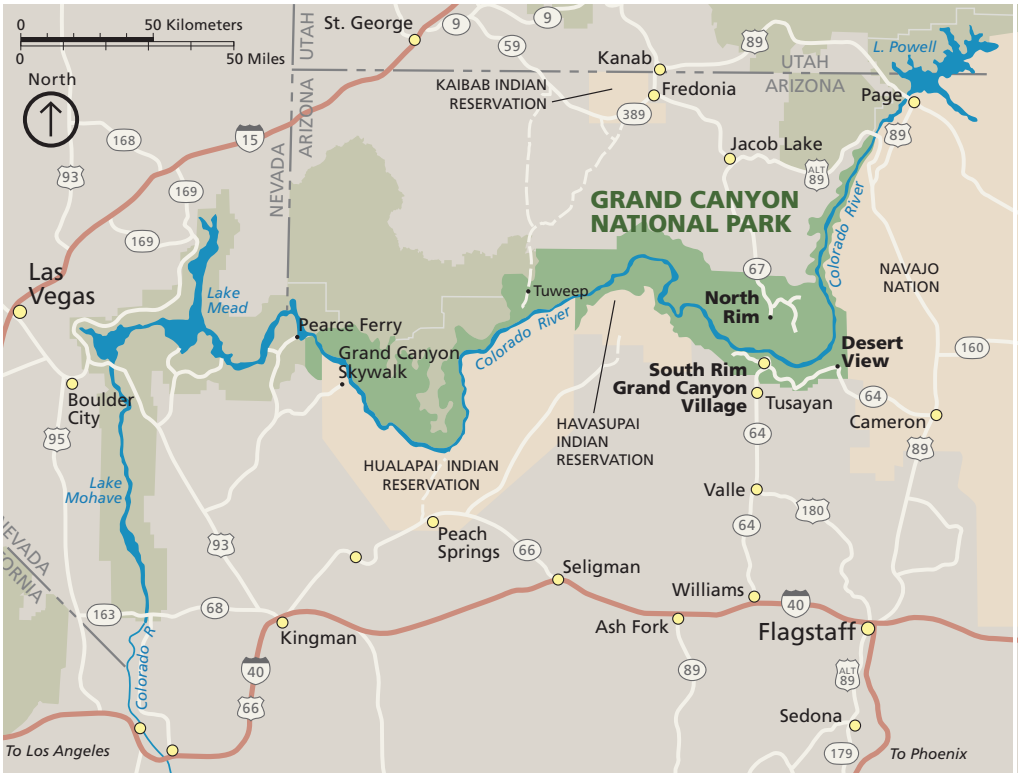
Pets

Pets must be leashed at all times and may not be taken below the rim, inside buildings, or on shuttle buses. Persons wishing to take service animals below the rim must check in at the Backcountry Information Center. A kennel on the South Rim provides animal boarding. http://go.nps.gov/loxbia

Sustainability

Grand Canyon National Park provides water bottle filling stations and recycling receptacles so park visitors can participate in its sustainability efforts.

Getting To Grand Canyon



Private Vehicle

SOUTH RIM

From the south—exit I-40 at Williams, Arizona, and proceed north on Arizona Highway 64 or exit on US 180 in Flagstaff, Arizona, and follow it to the intersection with Highway 64; turn north and follow to the South Entrance of the park.

From the north—take US Highway 89 or 160 to Highway 64 in Cameron, Arizona. Proceed west on 64 to the East Entrance of the park.

NORTH RIM

Take Highway 89A to Jacob Lake, Arizona, and turn south onto Arizona Highway 67 to the North Entrance of the park.

Coordinates

GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Latitude, Longitude: 36° 03′32″N 112° 06′33″W
UTM Zone 12, NAD 83: 400093 East, 3991074 North

DESERT VIEW WATCHTOWER

Latitude, Longitude: 36° 2′38″N 111° 49′33″W
UTM Zone 12, NAD 83: 425584 East, 3989159 North

NORTH RIM VISITOR CENTER

Latitude, Longitude: 36° 11′51″N 112° 03′09″W
UTM Zone 12, NAD 83: 405379 East, 4006465 North

Shuttle Service

ARIZONA SHUTTLE

Service between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon twice daily; also serves Phoenix, Tucson, and other locations in Arizona.
877-226-8060 or 928-226-8060
www.arizonashuttle.com

TRANSCANYON SHUTTLE

Provides one daily trip each way between the North and South rims from mid-May to mid-October.
928-638-2820
www.trans-canyonshuttle.com

FLAGSTAFF SHUTTLE AND CHARTER

Year-round custom service for individuals and groups from Flagstaff, Sedona, and Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada to the South and North rims.
928-814-8341
www.flagshuttle.com

Note: GPS may be unreliable in the area. Be prepared with a map or atlas.

Airport

Airlines serve Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Limited flights go to Flagstaff, Arizona. Rent a car at any of these airports to continue to Grand Canyon National Park or reserve a shuttle to the park from Phoenix or Flagstaff.

GRAND CANYON AIRLINES

Fly from Boulder City, Nevada, near Las Vegas, to the Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, Arizona. Ride a shuttle or taxi from the airport to the South Rim; rental cars not available at Grand Canyon Airport.
866-235-9422
www.grandcanyonairlines.com

Train

AMTRAK

Stops at Williams and Flagstaff, Arizona. Shuttle service runs from Flagstaff to the South Rim.
800-872-7245
www.amtrak.com

GRAND CANYON RAILWAY

The train leaves Williams Depot at 9:30 am and arrives to Grand Canyon Depot at 11:45 am. The train departs Grand Canyon at 3:30 pm, arriving in Williams at 5:45 pm.
800-THE-TRAIN
www.thetrain.com

Bus

GREYHOUND BUS LINES

Serves Flagstaff and Williams.
800-231-2222
www.greyhound.com

Tusayan, Arizona

Parking lots, located in the town of Tusayan, allow visitors to utilize the free shuttle bus system between the town and Grand Canyon Visitor Center. This shuttle bus route operates late-May to early-September. A 6.6 mile (10.6 km) Greenway Trail into the park allows entrance for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Weather

Current and Year-Round Weather and Road Conditions http://go.nps.gov/grca_wr

SUMMER
June through August on the rims
May to September in the canyon

Beautiful weather shines on the rims, while brutal heat tortures the inner canyon. The high elevation and low humidity causes dramatic changes in temperature from day to night; bring a jacket. The excessive heat in the canyon can be dangerous and even fatal to unprepared hikers. Average rim temperatures range from 40°F (2°C) to 84°F (29°C). Inner canyon temperatures range from 92°F (33°C) to 106°F (41°C).

LIGHTNING DANGER
Common during summer, monsoon storms bring dangerous lightning. When you hear thunder, move away from the canyon rim. Do not stand under trees. Seek shelter inside vehicles, shuttle buses, or buildings; note that shuttle buses only stop at designated bus stops and will not pick you up on the side of the road during a storm. Be aware of possible floods and falling rocks during and after storms.

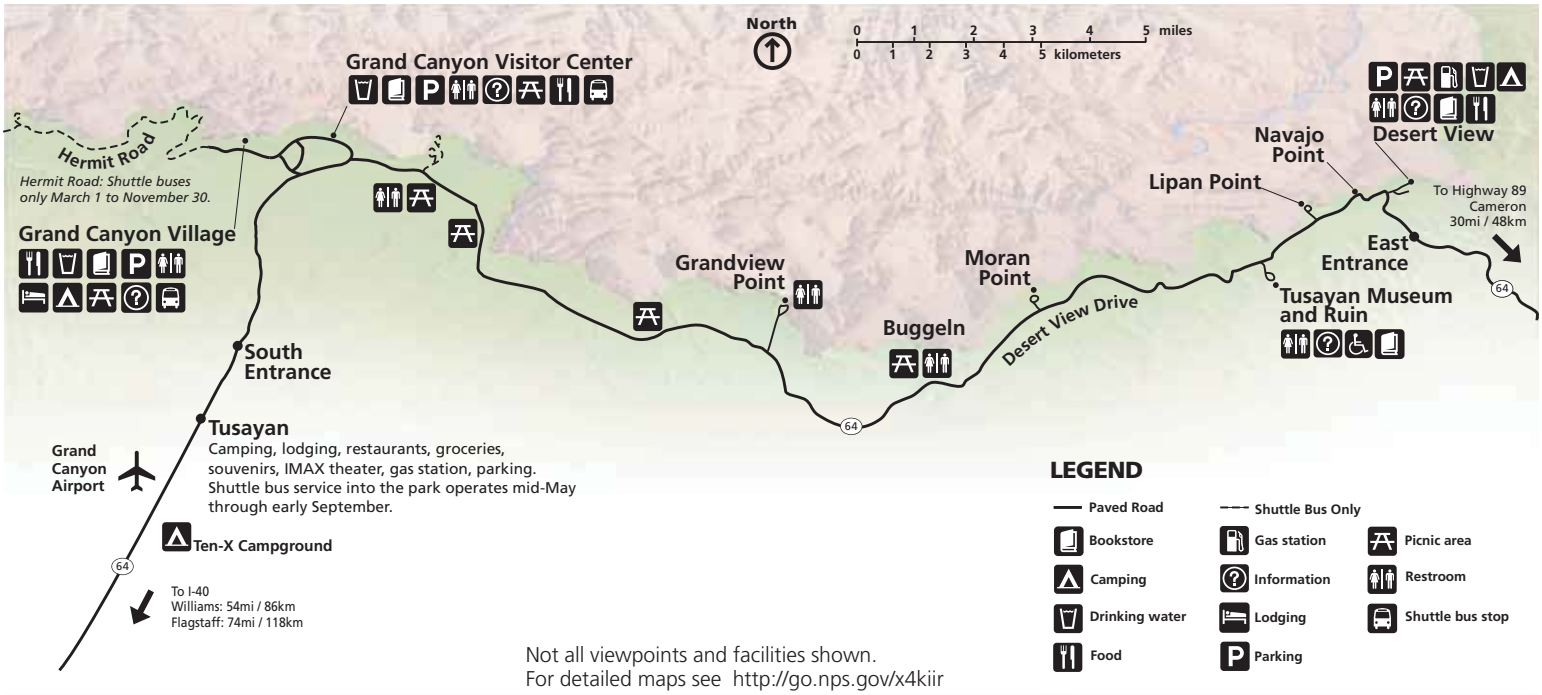
SPRING AND FALL
April, May, September, and October on the rims. March, April, October, and early November in the canyon

Come prepared for a variety of conditions during these changeable seasons. May and October are typically dry, but snow on the rims is not unusual. Late April and May feature strong wind on the rims. Seasonable weather in the canyon offers some of the best times for hiking, making permits harder to obtain for overnight camping. Average rim temperatures range from 29°F (-2°C) to 65°F (18°C). Inner canyon temperatures range from 56°F (13°C) to 84°F (29°C).

WINTER
November through March on the rims
December to February in the canyon

While the South Rim remains open year-round, the road to the North Rim closes with the first heavy snowfall. Canyon views may be obscured during passing storms, but canyon formations highlighted by snow are unforgettable. Grand Canyon National Park does not refund entrance fees a due to weather. The park plows South Rim roads, but temporary closures may occur. Average rim temperatures range from 18°F (-8°C) to 41°F (5°C). Inner canyon temperatures range from 36°F (2°C) to 56°F (13°C).

South Rim



Not all viewpoints and facilities shown.
For detailed maps see http://go.nps.gov/x4kiir

Parking and Shuttle Buses

Grand Canyon's South Rim attracts many people during peak seasons. Parking near Grand Canyon Visitor Center provides a convenient choice for visitors to utilize the shuttle bus system. Additional parking can be found in lots A–D, located in Market Plaza and Grand Canyon Village.

Consider using the free shuttle bus system. Running on clean-burning fuel, these buses offer an easy way to see many popular points along the South Rim. See *The Guide* for routes, stops, and information.

Shuttle buses offer bicycle racks, wheelchair ramps, and a "kneel" to reduce step. Please note wheelchairs larger than 30 inches (76 cm) wide by 48 inches (121 cm) deep can not be accommodated on shuttle buses; this includes most motorized scooters.

Viewpoints

Choose from dozens of beautiful and unique overlooks. Enjoy fantastic vistas no matter the viewpoint.

HERMIT ROAD

Travel the 7-mile (11 km) Hermit Road. Stop at nine scenic viewpoints and numerous un-named overlooks. Shuttle buses and bicycles only March 1 to November 30.

DESERT VIEW DRIVE

Drive along 25 miles (40 km) for views of the Colorado River. Climb to the top floor of Desert View Watchtower for a 360-degree view.

COLORADO RIVER VIEWS

Look down on portions of the Colorado River from viewpoints along Hermit Road, Desert View Drive, and from Yavapai and Mather points.

Things to do

SEE THE PARK FILM

Grand Canyon: A Journey of Wonder, a 22-minute introductory film, repeats on the hour and half-hour in Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

ATTEND A FREE PARK RANGER PROGRAM

Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. See the current list of programs in *The Guide*, South Rim edition.

GO ON A HIKE

See page 13 for rim and inner-canyon day hiking information. Use free shuttle buses to access trails.

RIDE A BICYCLE

Journey through the forest and along parts of the canyon rim on the Greenway Trail. See go.nps.gov/1v2hmb

South Rim Services and Facilities

Information

The National Park Service staffs several visitor centers on the South Rim. Open every day of the year; hours vary.

SOUTH RIM VILLAGE

Grand Canyon Visitor Center
Plan your visit, and learn about Grand Canyon through the free park film and exhibits. Offers close access to Mather Point.

Backcountry Information Center
Learn about inner-canyon hiking; obtain backcountry information and permits.

Kolb Studio
View exhibits in the restored 1904 Kolb brothers' home and photography studio.

Verkamp's Visitor Center
Visit one of the oldest buildings in Grand Canyon Village and explore more than 100 years of community history.

Yavapai Geology Museum
Find answers to your questions with 3D maps and exhibits about the geologic story you see through the windows.

DESERT VIEW

Tusayan Museum and Ruin
Look into the past and present day lives of thriving American Indian communities. Located 3 miles (4.8 km) west of Desert View.

Desert View Visitor Center
Explore how Grand Canyon inspired artists, writers, musicians, and conservationists.

Camping

IN THE PARK

Mather Campground (NPS)
$18 per night; no hookups; dump station available. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). Open year-round; reservations strongly recommended April through October. Operates on a first-come, first-served basis from the end of November to early March.
877-444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Desert View Campground (NPS)
$12 per night; no hookups. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet (9.1 m). Open mid-May to mid-October on a first-come, first-served basis; no reservations. Located 25 miles (40 km) east of Grand Canyon Village.

Trailer Village (Xanterra Parks & Resorts)
$35 per night for two people; $3.50 for each additional person over age 16. Pull-through sites with hookups. Reservations recommended. Open year-round. Prices subject to change.
888-297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

OUTSIDE THE PARK, TUSAYAN, ARIZONA

Camper Village (Private)
Hookups, coin-operated showers, laundry, propane, dump station, and store; open year-round.
928-638-2887
www.grandcanyoncampervillage.com

Ten-X Campground (Kaibab National Forest)
No hookups or showers. Most individual sites first-come, first-served. Some individual and all group sites available by reservation. Open May through September.
877-444-6777 or
www.recreation.gov
Information: 928-638-2443

Lodging

IN THE PARK

Xanterra Parks & Resorts
Offers accommodations at El Tovar Hotel and Bright Angel, Kachina, Maswik, Thunderbird, and Yavapai lodges. Reservations should be made well in advance as facilities tend to be full for much of the year. Off-season rates available.
888-297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

OUTSIDE THE PARK IN TUSAYAN, ARIZONA

Best Western Premier Grand Canyon Squire Inn
800-937-8376
www.grandcanyonsquire.com

Canyon Plaza Resort
800-995-2521; pets ok
www.grandcanyonplaza.com

Grand Hotel
888-634-7263; pets ok
www.grandcanyongrandhotel.com

Holiday Inn Express
888-473-2269
www.gcanyon.com

Red Feather Lodge
866-561-2425; pets ok
www.redfeatherlodge.com

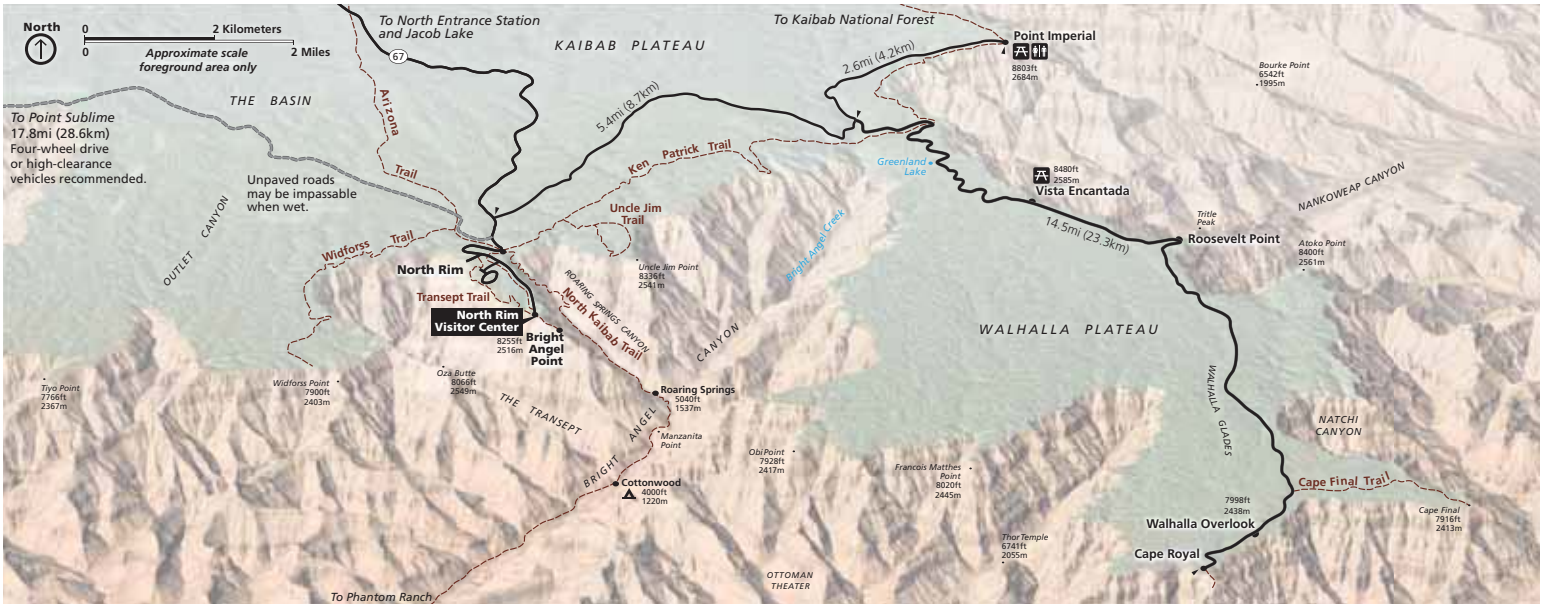
7 Mile Lodge
928-638-2291

Other Services

Grand Canyon Village features a variety of services, including restaurants, gift shops, post office, bank, general store, garage, kennel, laundry, showers, taxi, and more. http://go.nps.gov/o2ib4w

Tusayan, Arizona, offers additional restaurants, gift shops, groceries, and a gas station.

North Rim



Information

Less visited than the South Rim, the North Rim offers quiet canyon views. North Rim facilities open mid-May and close in mid-October.

NORTH RIM VISITOR CENTER

Explore exhibits, talk to a park ranger, and visit the bookstore operated by the Grand Canyon Association.

BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION CENTER

Located in the Administrative Building, learn about inner-canyon hiking and obtain backcountry information and permits for overnight hikes.

Things to Do

ATTEND A FREE PARK RANGER PROGRAM

Daily programs help you discover more about Grand Canyon. See the current list of programs in *The Guide*, North Rim edition.

ENJOY THE VISTAS

View the canyon from Grand Canyon Lodge, trails along the rim, or out on the Walhalla Plateau.

GO ON A HIKE

See page 13 for rim and inner-canyon day hiking information.

RIDE A BICYCLE

Permitted on all roads unless posted; prohibited on all trails, except the Bridle and Arizona trails.

Driving Viewpoints

POINT IMPERIAL

Travel 11 miles (18 km) from the visitor center to view Mount Hayden and Marble Canyon along this beautiful 20-minute drive each way.

CAPE ROYAL

Drive 23 miles (37 km) from the visitor center to explore Angels Window and ancestral Puebloan ruins at Walhalla Glades. Allow plenty of time to enjoy this 45-minute drive each way.

Note: Vehicles longer than 30 feet (9 m) not recommended on the roads to Point Imperial and Cape Royal.

North Rim Services and Facilities

Camping

IN THE PARK

North Rim Campground (NPS)
$18–$25 per night. No hookups; dump station available. Stays limited to seven days per season. Campground fills most nights; advanced reservations strongly recommended.
877-444-6777
www.recreation.gov

OUTSIDE THE PARK

DeMotte Campground (US Forest Service)
16 miles (28 km) north of North Rim. $17 per night; no hookups or reservations. Opens in late-May for the summer months.
Information: 928-643-7395
www.fs.usda.gov

Jacob Lake Campground (US Forest Service)
45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim. $17 per night; no hookups. Open during summer months. Reservations for group site: 877-444-6777 or
www.recreation.gov
Information: 928-569-2333 or
www.fs.usda.gov

Kaibab Camper Village (Private)
Located 0.25 mile (0.5 km) south of Jacob Lake on Arizona Highway 67. Open May 15 to October 15; hookups available.
928-643-7804
928-526-0924, during the off-season
800-525-0924, outside Arizona
www.kaibabcampervillage.com

Lodging

IN THE PARK

Grand Canyon Lodge
Make reservations with Forever Resorts; books well in advance. Check the lodge for same day availability.
877-386-4383
www.grandcanyonforever.com

OUTSIDE THE PARK

Kaibab Lodge
Located 18 miles (30 km) north of North Rim; open mid-May to early-November and includes a restaurant and store.
928-638-2389
www.kaibablodge.com

Jacob Lake Inn
Located 45 miles (75 km) north of North Rim in Jacob Lake, Arizona; open year-round. Includes a restaurant, store, and gas station with pay at pump available 24 hours daily. Propane available.
928-643-7232
www.jacoblake.com

Food and Beverage

IN THE PARK

Grand Canyon Lodge Dining Room
Offers a view of the canyon; reservations for dinner recommended; open daily.

Deli in the Pines
In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex; open daily.

Roughrider Saloon
In the Grand Canyon Lodge complex; open daily.

Coffee Shop
Located in the Roughrider Saloon; offers coffee, bagels, and baked goods in the morning and light fare, appetizers, and cocktails later in the day.

Grand Canyon Cookout Experience
A Western dining event with live entertainment. Reservations recommended; inquire at the lodge front desk or call: 928-638-2611
www.grandcanyonforever.com

Other Services

The North Rim offers a variety of other services including fuel, garage, laundry, showers, post office, and more. http://go.nps.gov/o2ib4w

Tours and Trips

Air Tours

All scenic air tours originate from Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan, Arizona, outside the South Rim of the park. Companies offer both fixed-wing and helicopter tours daily.

FIXED-WING

Grand Canyon Airlines
866-235-9422
www.grandcanyonairlines.com

Westwind Air Service
888-869-0866
www.westwindairservice.com

Vision Airlines
800-256-8767
www.visionholidays.com

HELICOPTER

Grand Canyon Helicopters
800-541-4537
www.grandcanyonhelicoptersaz.com

Maverick Helicopters
888-261-4414
www.maverickhelicopter.com

Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters
888-635-7272
www.papillon.com

Mule Trips

Mule trips make daily excursions and overnight trips into the canyon.
For information visit
http://go.nps.gov/14jx4c

SOUTH RIM

Xanterra Parks & Resorts
303-297-2757 or 888-297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

NORTH RIM

Grand Canyon Trail Rides
435-679-8665
www.canyonrides.com

Bicycle Rentals

From April 1 to October 31 rent a bicycle for a self-guided tour of the rim. Guided tours also available. Wheelchair rentals and "grab and go" food available year-round. Located near Grand Canyon Visitor Center and Mather Point.

Bright Angel Bicycles
928-814-8704
www.bikegrandcanyon.com

Bus Tours

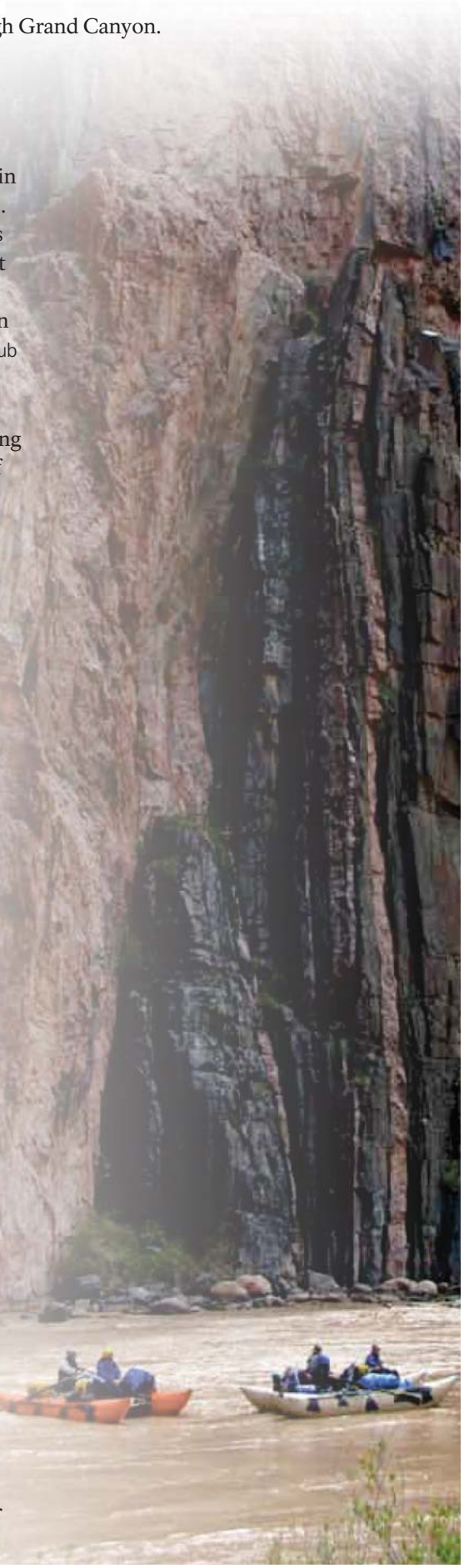
Daily South Rim tours to Hermits Rest and Desert View, as well as sunrise and sunset tours. Tour guides explain history and geology while you relax and enjoy canyon views. Wheelchair-accessible coaches available by prior arrangement.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts
303-297-2757 or 888-297-2757
www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Tours and Trips

River Adventures

For an ultimate adventure, and a life-changing experience, raft the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. Several options allow exploring the river on a diversity of time frames and budgets.



1-DAY COMMERCIAL TRIPS

Half-day and all-day smooth-water float trips travel 15 river miles (24 km) from Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry, March 1 to November 30.

Colorado River Discovery
888-522-6644
www.raftthecanyon.com

2–5 DAY LOWER GORGE RIVER TRIPS

Private river trips can float 52 river miles (84 km) from Diamond Creek to Lake Mead. Permits available starting one year in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. The National Park Service does not assess permit fees for this section of the river, but the Hualapai Tribe charges access fees for crossing their reservation. For information and applications visit: http://go.nps.gov/sxsoub

3–18 DAY COMMERCIAL TRIPS

The following companies offer three- to 19-day river trips through Grand Canyon, traveling 226 river miles (364 km) from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek. Companies offer a variety of trips in large motorized rafts, oared rafts, paddle rafts, and dories.

Aramark-Wilderness River Adventures
800-992-8022
www.riveradventures.com

Arizona Raft Adventures
800-786-7238
www.azraft.com

Arizona River Runners
800-477-7238
www.raftarizona.com

Canyon Explorations/ Canyon Expeditions
800-654-0723
www.canyonexplorations.com

Canyoneers, Inc.
800-525-0924
www.canyoneers.com

Colorado River & Trail Expeditions, Inc.
800-253-7328
www.crateinc.com

Grand Canyon Dories
800-346-6277
www.oars.com/grandcanyon/dories.html

Grand Canyon Discovery, Inc.
800-786-7238
www.grandcanyondiscovery.com

Grand Canyon Expeditions Co.
800-544-2691
www.gcex.com

Grand Canyon Whitewater
800-343-3121
www.grandcanyonwhitewater.com

Hatch River Expeditions
800-856-8966
www.hatchriverexpeditions.com

Moki Mac River Expeditions
800-284-7280
www.mokimac.com

O.A.R.S. Grand Canyon
800-346-6277
www.oars.com

Outdoors Unlimited
800-637-7238
www.outdoorsunlimited.com

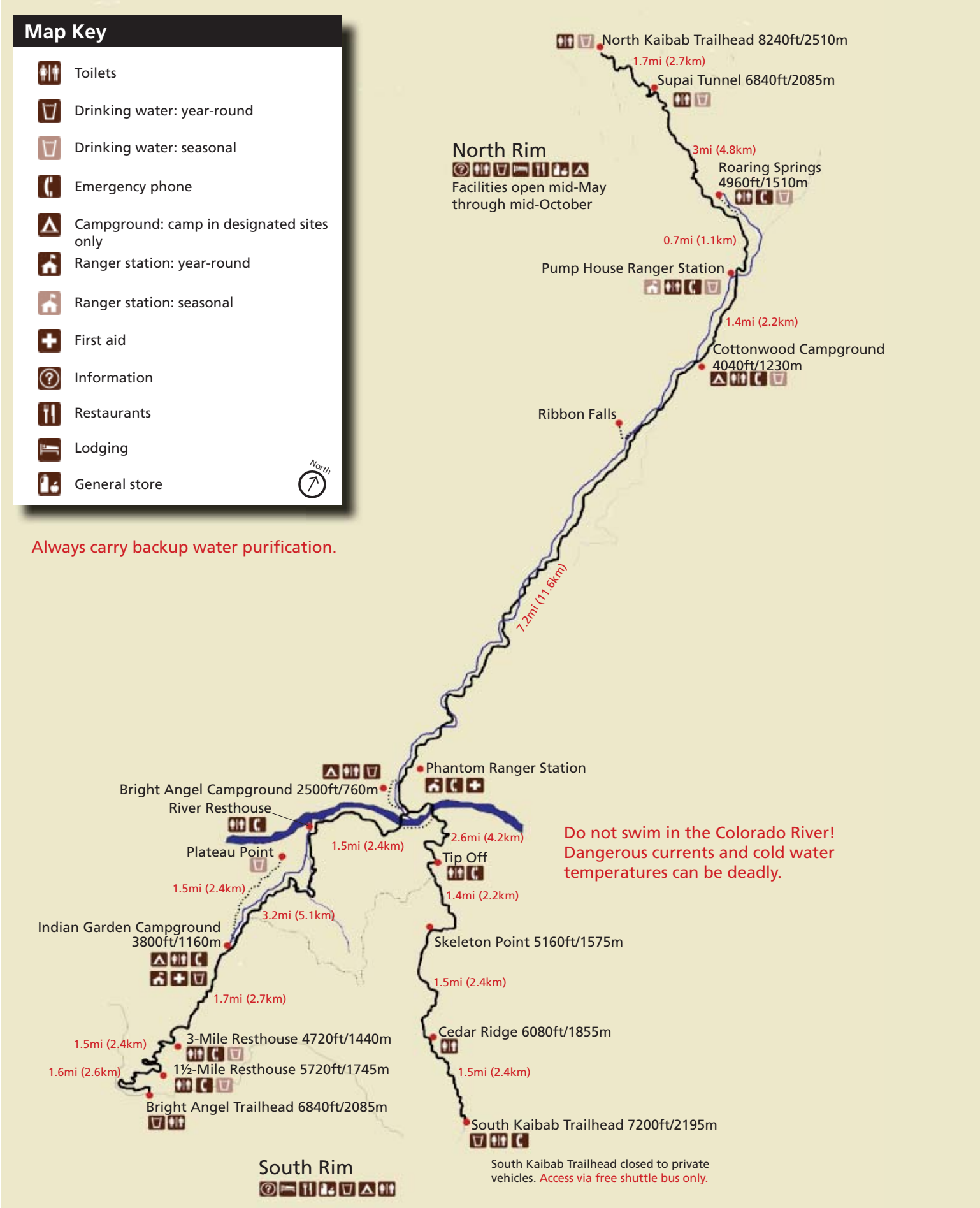
Tour West
800-435-9107
www.twriver.com

Western River Expeditions
866-904-1160
www.westernriver.com

12–25 DAY PRIVATE TRIPS

Since demand far exceeds supply, the park dispenses non-commercial permits to travel from Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek via a weighted lottery. Each February, a main lottery assigns the majority of launch dates for the next year. Additional follow-up lotteries occur throughout the remainder of the year to re-assign cancelled trips. http://go.nps.gov/ig4s55

Hiking Map


Map Key
Toilets
Drinking water: year-round
Drinking water: seasonal
Emergency phone
Campground: camp in designated sites only
Ranger station: year-round
Ranger station: seasonal
First aid
Information
Restaurants
Lodging
General store
North
Always carry backup water purification.
North Kaibab Trailhead 8240ft/2510m
1.7mi (2.7km)
Supai Tunnel 6840ft/2085m
North Rim
Facilities open mid-May through mid-October
3mi (4.8km)
Roaring Springs 4960ft/1510m
0.7mi (1.1km)
Pump House Ranger Station
1.4mi (2.2km)
Cottonwood Campground 4040ft/1230m
Ribbon Falls
7.2mi (11.6km)
Phantom Ranger Station
Bright Angel Campground 2500ft/760m
River Resthouse
1.5mi (2.4km)
2.6mi (4.2km)
Plateau Point
Tip Off
Do not swim in the Colorado River! Dangerous currents and cold water temperatures can be deadly.
1.5mi (2.4km)
1.4mi (2.2km)
3.2mi (5.1km)
Indian Garden Campground 3800ft/1160m
Skeleton Point 5160ft/1575m
1.5mi (2.4km)
1.7mi (2.7km)
Cedar Ridge 6080ft/1855m
1.5mi (2.4km)
3-Mile Resthouse 4720ft/1440m
1.6mi (2.6km)
1½-Mile Resthouse 5720ft/1745m
1.5mi (2.4km)
Bright Angel Trailhead 6840ft/2085m
South Kaibab Trailhead 7200ft/2195m
South Rim
South Kaibab Trailhead closed to private vehicles. Access via free shuttle bus only.

Day Hiking

Hiking in Grand Canyon creates life changing experiences and lasting memories. Proper planning ensures good hiking memories. See page 14 for hiking tips.

Hiking to the Colorado River and back in one day is dangerous and not recommended. Summer heat occasionally causes fatalities. In winter, cold temperatures and slippery trails can cause accidents and hypothermia.

If you desire an overnight hike see pages 15–16 and contact the Backcountry Information Center for permits.

South Rim	Destination	Distance Round Trip	Time Round Trip	Elevation Change	Notes
Rim Trail					
Mostly flat; many sections suitable for wheelchairs. Easy walks and quiet views. Follows the rim from Hermits Rest east to South Kaibab Trailhead. Begin from any viewpoint and use the free shuttle buses to customize your trip; see *The Guide* for route information.	Follows the rim for 13 miles (21 km)	Your choice	15 minutes to all day	200 feet 60 m	Mostly paved, except dirt from Monument Creek Vista east to Powell Point
Bright Angel Trail					
This popular, steep trail into the canyon begins west of Bright Angel Lodge. Upper portion provides some afternoon shade. Water available year-round at Indian Garden, subject to breaks in the pipeline.	1 ½-Mile Resthouse	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	1,120 feet 340 m	Restrooms Water May–October
	3-Mile Resthouse	6 miles 9.6 km	4–6 hours	2,120 feet 645 m	Restrooms Water May–October
	Indian Garden	9.2 miles 14.8 km	6–9 hours	3,040 feet 925 m	Water year-round Restrooms
South Kaibab Trail					
Trail begins south of Yaki Point at the South Kaibab Trailhead; you must ride the free shuttle bus to the trailhead. Best views for a relatively short and steep hike, but no water. Upper portion of trail subject to strong afternoon sun with little or no shade. Signs identifying turn-around spots may not be in place.	Ooh Ahh Point	1.8 miles 2.9 km	1–2 hours	760 feet 230 m	No water First view east
	Cedar Ridge	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	1,120 feet 340 m	No water Restrooms
	Skeleton Point	6 miles 9.7 km	4–6 hours	2,040 feet 620 m	No water Hitching rail
North Rim					
Bright Angel Point					
A short walk on a paved rim trail leads to a spectacular view of the canyon. Trail begins at the log shelter in the parking area by the visitor center or at the porch behind Grand Canyon Lodge. Trail not wheelchair accessible.	Bright Angel Point	0.5 miles 0.8 km	30 minutes	200 feet 60 m	No water Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead
Widforss Trail					
Even a short walk along this rim trail blending forest and canyon scenery can be very satisfying. Take the dirt road 0.25 miles (0.4 km) south of the road to Cape Royal for one mile (1.6 km) to the trailhead.	Widforss Point	10 miles 16 km	6 hours	200 feet 60 m	No water Self-guiding trail brochure available at trailhead
North Kaibab Trail					
The trailhead is two miles (3 km) north of Grand Canyon Lodge. This steep trail begins in the forest, but descends quickly into the canyon. Mules may be encountered. In the spring, trail opening may be delayed for repairs.	Coconino Overlook	1.4 miles 2.3 km	1–2 hours	800 feet 245 m	No water Expansive view
	Supai Tunnel	4 miles 6.4 km	3–4 hours	1,400 feet 425 m	Water May–October

Hiking Tips

Prepare a Day Pack With:

WATER
One quart/liter for every two hours. Know your water sources.

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

FIRST AID KIT AND SURVIVAL TOOLS
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 a sun umbrella.

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

SIMPLE SHELTERS
Emergency tarp with reflective side.

WEATHER-APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
Wear layered clothing appropriate for the weather and hiking boots with good soles.

Danger!

DAY HIKES TO THE RIVER
Hiking to the river and back in one day is never recommended due to extreme weather, long distances, and a near 5,000-foot (1,525 m) elevation change each way.

HEALTH RISKS
Familiarize yourself with the symptoms and treatment for heat-related illnesses, hypothermia, dehydration, and electrolyte imbalances.

OVER EXERTION
People often have overly ambitious plans and fail to pace and take care of themselves. If you feel unwell, you must rest. Remember it takes twice as long to hike up as it does to hike down.

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.

Hike Smart

PLAN
Keys to a successful hike include knowledge, preparation, and a good plan. Grand Canyon is not the place for spontaneity. Always check weather and trail conditions before you hike.

EAT AND DRINK
Snack every time you drink water or sports drink.

REST
Sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 10-minute break at least once every hour. If you do not feel well, rest until you feel better.

LEAVE NO 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.

Stay together, follow your plan, and know where and how to seek help.

Hiking Safety Information

SUMMER
http://go.nps.gov/iopezu

WINTER
http://go.nps.gov/1fx2nh

Backpacking

Backcountry Information Centers

Contact

Mail: Grand Canyon Permits Office
National Park Service
1824 S. Thompson St., Suite 201
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

E-mail: grca_bic@nps.gov

Fax: 928-638-2125

Tel: 928-638-7875; answered 1–5 pm Mountain Standard Time, Monday to Friday

Backcountry information:
http://go.nps.gov/1lvc55

SOUTH RIM
Open daily
8 am–noon and 1–5 pm
Year-round

NORTH RIM
Open daily
8 am–noon and 1–5 pm
Mid-May to mid-October
Located in the Administrative Building

Do I Need a Permit?

Grand Canyon National Park requires permits for all overnight backcountry camping including:

- hiking
- horseback riding
- cross-country ski trips
- off-river hikes by rivertrip members
- camping at rim sites other than developed campgrounds

Day hiking, day horseback riding, river trips, mule trips, and overnight stays in dormitories or cabins at Phantom Ranch do not need a backcountry permit.

How to Apply

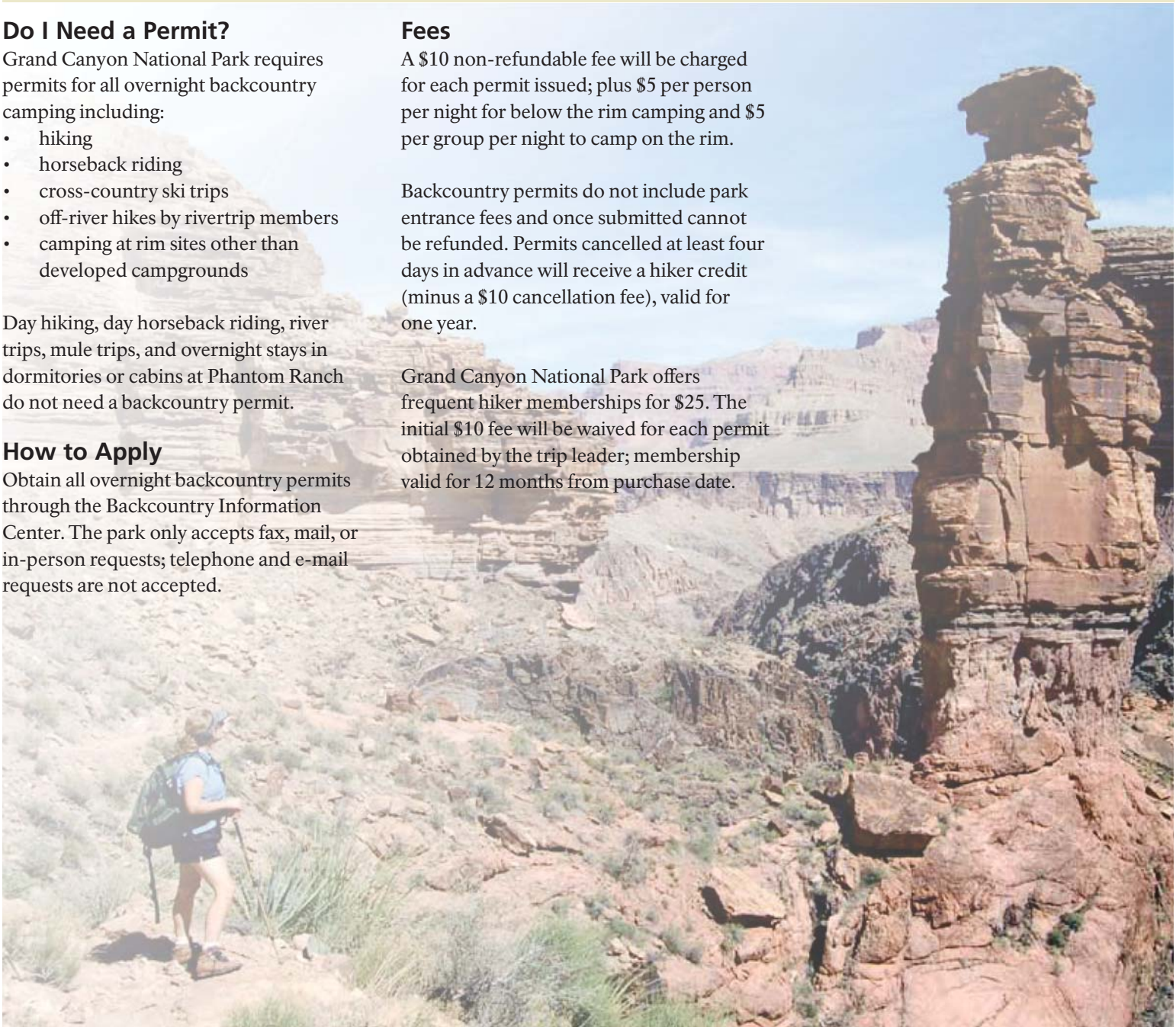
Obtain all overnight backcountry permits through the Backcountry Information Center. The park only accepts fax, mail, or in-person requests; telephone and e-mail requests are not accepted.

Fees

A $10 non-refundable fee will be charged for each permit issued; plus $5 per person per night for below the rim camping and $5 per group per night to camp on the rim.

Backcountry permits do not include park entrance fees and once submitted cannot be refunded. Permits cancelled at least four days in advance will receive a hiker credit (minus a $10 cancellation fee), valid for one year.

Grand Canyon National Park offers frequent hiker memberships for $25. The initial $10 fee will be waived for each permit obtained by the trip leader; membership valid for 12 months from purchase date.



Backpacking

When to Apply

Popular use areas and campsites fill up quickly. Grand Canyon National Park recommends submitting requests on the earliest allowed date. The Backcountry Information Center accepts permit applications no earlier than the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start of the trip—see chart below.

For hikes starting in:	Submit written request on or after:	In-person requests receive response after:
January	September 1	October 1
February	October 1	November 1
March	November 1	December 1
April	December 1	January 1
May	January 1	February 1
June	February 1	March 1
July	March 1	April 1
August	April 1	May 1
September	May 1	June 1
October	June 1	July 1
November	July 1	August 1
December	August 1	September 1

Since the Backcountry Information Center needs time to process and mail responses, written requests will not be accepted 21 days before the proposed start date. Only in-person requests will be considered within this time frame.

Permit Responses

Grand Canyon National Park responds to all written requests via US mail only. Please allow at least three weeks for processing. The park issues a permit and mails it to the trip leader when space is available and all fee requirements are met. If you have been denied a permit through the mail, you may want to consider day hikes or attempt to obtain a last minute, walk-up permit in person at the Backcountry Information Center.

Last Minute Permits

A limited number of last minute walk-up permits are available at the Backcountry Information Center for Indian Garden, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood campgrounds. The park issues permits in person only, for one or two consecutive nights. Permits cannot be purchased more than one day prior to the start of a hike.

Use Areas

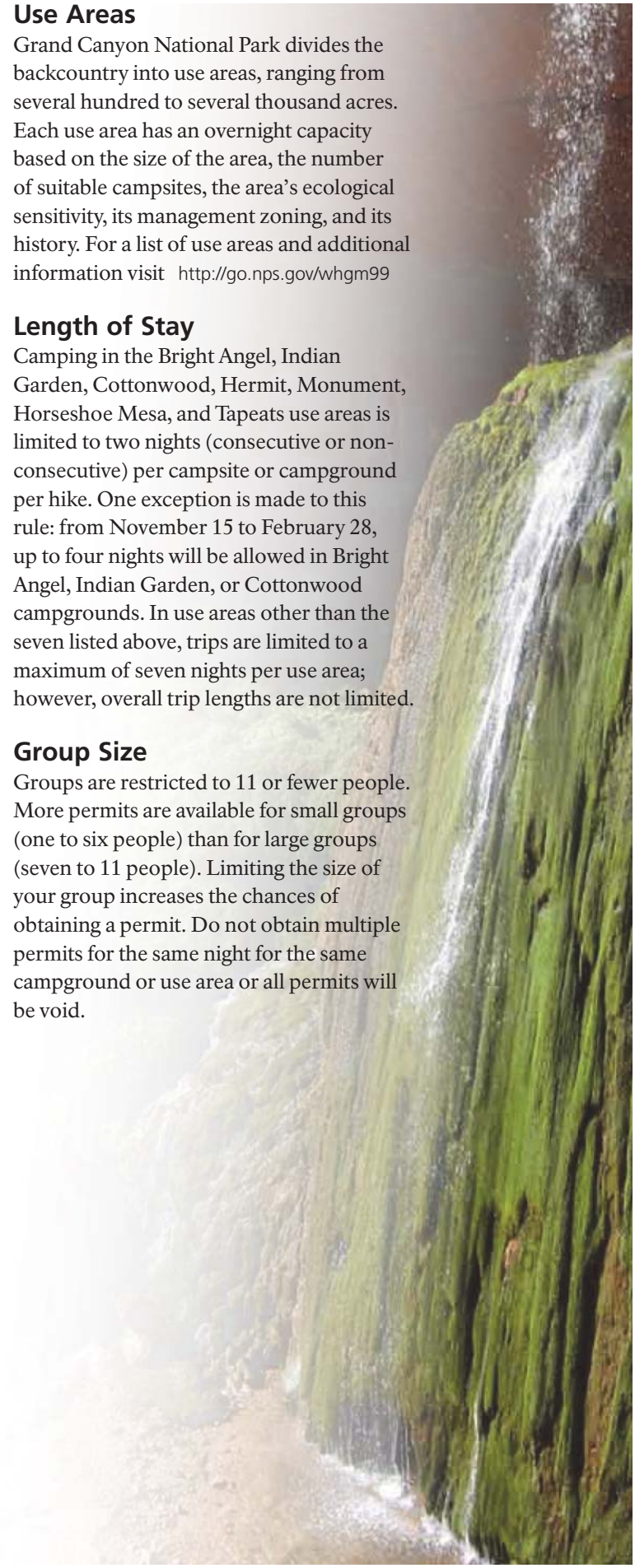
Grand Canyon National Park divides the backcountry into use areas, ranging from several hundred to several thousand acres. Each use area has an overnight capacity based on the size of the area, the number of suitable campsites, the area's ecological sensitivity, its management zoning, and its history. For a list of use areas and additional information visit http://go.nps.gov/whgm99

Length of Stay

Camping in the Bright Angel, Indian Garden, Cottonwood, Hermit, Monument, Horseshoe Mesa, and Tapeats use areas is limited to two nights (consecutive or non-consecutive) per campsite or campground per hike. One exception is made to this rule: from November 15 to February 28, up to four nights will be allowed in Bright Angel, Indian Garden, or Cottonwood campgrounds. In use areas other than the seven listed above, trips are limited to a maximum of seven nights per use area; however, overall trip lengths are not limited.

Group Size

Groups are restricted to 11 or fewer people. More permits are available for small groups (one to six people) than for large groups (seven to 11 people). Limiting the size of your group increases the chances of obtaining a permit. Do not obtain multiple permits for the same night for the same campground or use area or all permits will be void.



Get Involved

Environmental Education

TEACHERS: CLASS TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

Park rangers conduct curriculum-based programs that support and enhance information learned in the classroom. These programs encourage students to explore, experience, engage, and learn in an inspirational setting—the edge of Grand Canyon.

928-638-7931

www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers

Expeditions

TEENS

High school youth from all over the country explore Grand Canyon during hiking, rafting, and camping adventures.

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

GRAND CANYON YOUTH

Experience the beauty, adventure, and learning that only a river trip can provide. This program creates a positive impact on youth—an impact that reaches far beyond the time they spend on the river.

www.gcyouth.org

Volunteer

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING YOUR STAY? VOLUNTEER AT GRAND CANYON!

You can help Grand Canyon in a variety of ways, from enhancing visitor services to sharing your specialized expertise to help protect and preserve park resources.

Visit www.volunteer.gov to learn about current volunteer opportunities in Grand Canyon National Park.

VEGETATION

Work with the National Park Service's vegetation program to restore native plant communities and protect the ecological integrity of Grand Canyon National Park. Contact the vegetation program volunteer coordinator at 928-638-7753 for information about potential opportunities and accommodations.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

The Artist-in-Residence program offers professional artists the opportunity to spend three weeks on either rim in provided housing. www.nps.gov/grca

Junior Ranger

Grand Canyon National Park and over 250 national parks offer a free Junior Ranger Program. At Grand Canyon, ages four and older can pick up a Junior Ranger booklet at any National Park Service visitor center. Parents, consider making a great memory and become a Junior Ranger with your child; there is no age limit! Available year-round at Phantom Ranch, Indian Garden, and the South Rim; available on the North Rim in the summer only.

TO PARTICIPATE

Attend a free park ranger program. Complete four activities for your age group. Bring your completed booklet back to any Grand Canyon visitor center to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.

Outside the National Park

Kaibab National Forest

Surrounding both South and North rims, discover unique experiences in national forests.
www.fs.usda.gov/main/kaibab/home

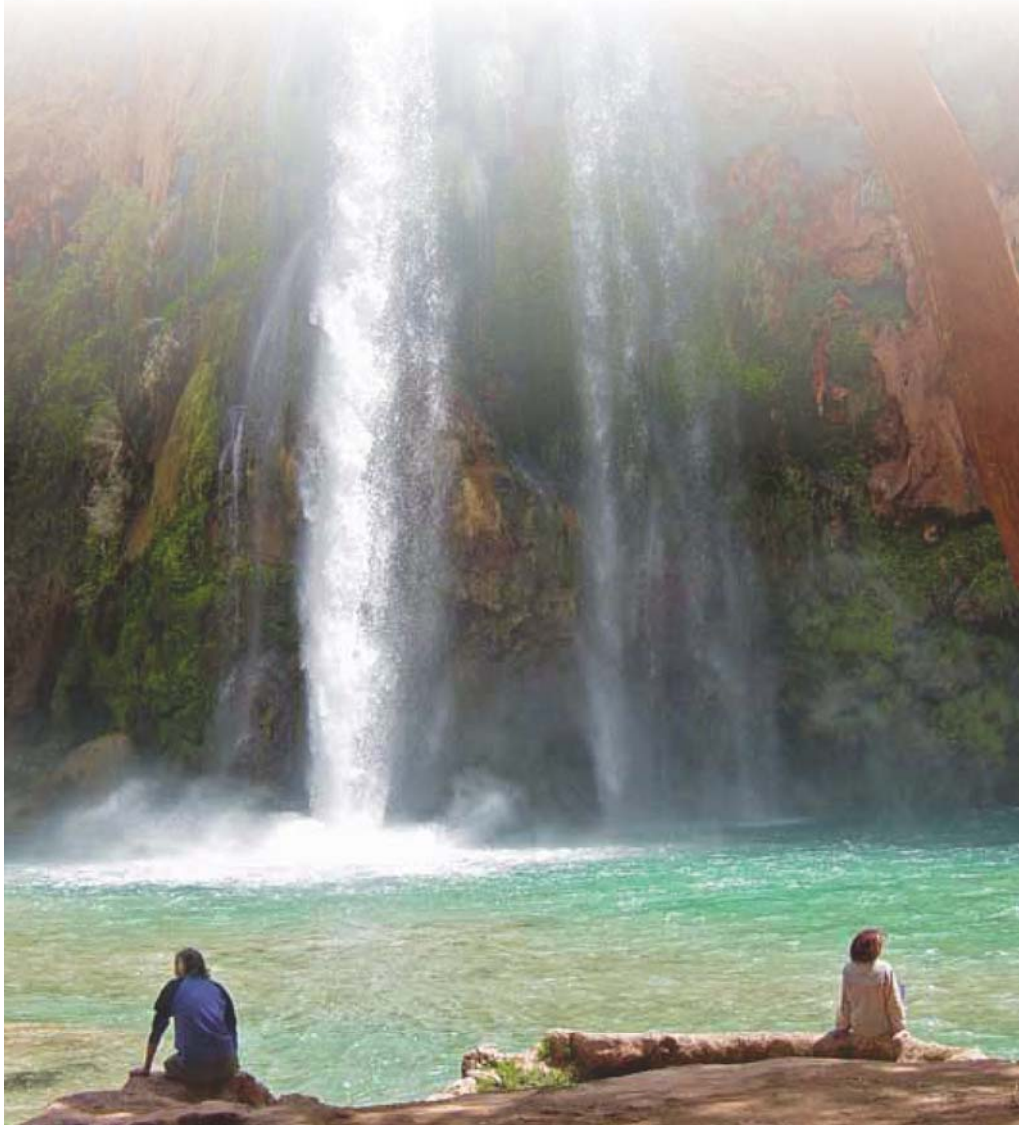
SOUTH RIM
Tusayan Ranger District
176 Lincoln Log Loop
PO Box 3088
Grand Canyon,
Arizona 86023
928-638-2443

NORTH RIM
North Kaibab Ranger District
430 South Main Street
PO Box 248
Fredonia, Arizona
86022
928-643-7395

Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest

Havasupai Indian Reservation

Havasupai tribal lands include a large tributary canyon on the south side of the Colorado River, approximately 190 miles (310 km) west of Grand Canyon Village. The reservation lies outside the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park and is administered by the Tribe. Access the Village of Supai by an 8-mile (13 km) hike or horse ride. To obtain a hiking permit or make reservations at the lodge at Supai:
928-448-2121 Tourist Office
928-441-2111 Lodging
www.havasupai-nsn.gov



The Skywalk at Grand Canyon West

Located west of Grand Canyon National Park, this glass walkway protrudes over the rim on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. The Skywalk is a Hualapai Tribal business located 250 miles (400 km) from the South Rim, or 90 miles (145 km) from Las Vegas, Nevada. For information or to make reservations, contact the tribe directly.
888-868-9378 or 928-769-2636
www.grandcanyonwest.com

Photo courtesy of Hualapai Tourism

Park Partners

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 enjoy the awe-inspiring wonder of Grand Canyon.

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

BRIGHT ANGEL BICYCLES & CAFE AT MATHER POINT

Bright Angel Bicycles rents bicycles and serves food near Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

CANYON TRAIL RIDES

ZION BRYCE CANYON GRAND CANYON

Canyon Trail Rides provides North Rim visitors with mule trips into the canyon.

Delaware North Companies PARKS & RESORTS

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts operates markets at Grand Canyon Village and Desert View.

FOREVER RESORTS

Forever Resorts operates the Grand Canyon Lodge, shops, and restaurants on the North Rim.

GRAND CANYON Railway®

Grand Canyon Railway serves the city of Williams, Arizona, and Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim.

Xanterra PARKS & RESORTS®

Xanterra Parks & Resorts provides lodging, dining, transportation services, and shops at Grand Canyon's South Rim.