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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

truello

Nightlife on the South Rim

Grand Canyon National Park, 1 Day

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Grand Canyon National Park Snapshot 6

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Though the South Rim isn't very big, it does offer visitors lively nightlife. Whether your pleasure is live music, performances, and dancing, or if you prefer to watch the game and chill with your buddies, the South Rim is sure to please. Most places on this list are also restaurants, so guests can come early and eat, and stay late and enjoy themselves in a variety of ways.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Grand Canyon National Park

Coronado Room at the Squire Inn
Fine dining and piano bar

Café Tusayan
Local diner that serves Microbrews

The Sports Bar and Fireside Lounge
Relaxing atmosphere

Canyon Star
Western food and Native American dance

Rough Rider Saloon
Comfortable cocktails

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Day 1 - Grand Canyon National Park

QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 928 638 2681
fax: 928 638 2781
http://www.grandcanyonsquire.com/restaurantvt.cfm

location:
100 Hwy 64
Grand Canyon AZ 86023

1 Coronado Room at the Squire Inn

http://www.grandcanyonsquire.com/img/h_lobby.jpg

DESCRIPTION: The hotel's fine dining venue features Southwestern-inspired dishes as well as classic European cuisine. Menu highlights include escargot and oysters on the half shell; a steak and lobster combination; slow-cooked, aged prime rib and broiled, double-cut lamb chops. Foreign language and children's menus are offered. Native American touches give this dining room a Western appeal. A full-service piano bar with a crackling fireplace is a great place to snuggle on a chilly evening. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 928 638 2151

location:
110 Hwy 64
Tusayan AZ 86023

hours:
Daily 7a-9p

2 Café Tusayan

DESCRIPTION: Tusayan is a restaurant, but also a local hang-out. It serves microbrews brewed all over Arizona, and has that comfortable, small town, big taste feel.

contact:
tel: 928-638-2681

location:
Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn
Grand Canyon AZ 86023

3 The Sports Bar and Fireside Lounge

DESCRIPTION: The two venues at this hotel make for great options. Catch the big game at the Sports Bar or socialize and sip on a cold beverage at the lounge. Whatever your choice, you are sure to enjoy the atmosphere.

contact:
tel: 928 638 3333
fax: 928 638 3131
http://www.grandcanyongrandhotel.com/dining.html

location:
149 State Highway 64
Grand Canyon AZ 86023

hours:
Mo to Su from 05:00 PM to 10:00 PM

4 Canyon Star

wcities

DESCRIPTION: Hop up onto one of the barstools and you will be sitting on a saddle actually used to ride into the canyon. Enjoy a cocktail, or settle in for a hearty breakfast, Western-style lunch or sizzling steak dinner. Native American dancers perform most evenings during dinner, year round, at no extra charge. Steaks and barbecue are the specialties of the house. The dark wood decor and soaring ceilings give this restaurant the hunting lodge ambiance typical of Grand Canyon restaurants and hotels. © wcities.com

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contact:
tel: 928-638-2611
http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/wheretoeat.htm

location:
Grand Canyon Lodge
Grand Canyon AZ 84720

5 Rough Rider Saloon

DESCRIPTION: Rustic and inviting, this historic saloon is the perfect place to sip on cocktails or beer with chatting about your adventures in and around the canyon.

Rough Rider Saloon

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Grand Canyon National Park Snapshot

Local Info

Famed geologist and explorer John Wesley Powell called it"the most sublime spectacle on the earth." Most of the five million visitors who visit Grand Canyon National Park every year would probably be hard-pressed to beat that description, which captures the emotional impact of seeing this geological wonder for the first time. The Grand Canyon is one of the jewels of the National Park System, a World Heritage Site, and one of the Seven Wonders of the World--and a major tourist attraction that can get very crowded, especially in the summer. But don't let the threat of swarms of camera-armed tourists stop you from paying a visit to one of the most stunning and iconic landscapes of the American West.

The Grand Canyon is mainly accessible from theNorth Rim orSouth Rim. There is also anEast Rim entrance to the park, a short drive from the South Rim, that begins just belowGlen Canyon Dam. The South Rim is by far the most popular access point, with several overlooks, tourist facilities, and amenities situated on this side of the canyon.Mather Point, perhaps the most popular lookout in the park, offers panoramic views of the Canyon from the South Rim. The North Rim, which rises a thousand feet higher than the South Rim, is far more remote, perfect for those seeking to avoid the large crowds and enjoy the park in a more wild and secluded setting.

The Canyon itself is one mile deep, and the inner canyon offers numerous hiking trails, including the popularBright Angel Trail, andmule rides down to the bottom. Down on the Canyon floor, visitors can stay at the historic and rusticPhantom Ranch(which is so popular, guests have been known to remain on the wait-list for years before securing a reservation), or take a river rafting trip down the mighty Colorado River.

THE SOUTH RIM

The South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park is approximately 90 miles northwest ofFlagstaff and 60 miles north ofWilliams. This popular area of the park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is subject to traffic congestion and parking problems, especially in the summer. The least crowded time to visit is November through February, but winter weather can cause roads to become snow-packed and icy, so drivers should take the appropriate precautions. Upon approaching Grand Canyon National Park, visitors will pass throughTusayan, a small commercial village of restaurants, motels, gas stations, tourist shops, and museums. If you purchase your park pass in advance, you can take an expedited shuttle bus from Tusayan into the park, and then connect to the park's interior shuttle bus system. Once inside the park, you'll find yourself inGrand Canyon Village, home to park headquarters, theSouth Rim Visitor's Center, shops, museums, restaurants, and several lodges. Large parking lots are located throughout the Grand Canyon Village area, as well as a free shuttle bus that takes visitors to some of the South Rim's most popular look-out points.

Many of the most popular campgrounds are on the South Rim, includingMather Campground, which is operated by the National Park Service and offers tent and RV camping. The campground is almost always at capacity during the high season, so be sure to make reservations in advance through the National Recreation Reservation Service if you plan to visit the park in spring or summer. Other popular South Rim camping spots includeTrailer Village, which offers hook-ups for RVs, and the relatively newDesert View Campground, which operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

THE NORTH RIM

Far more secluded and less visited than the South Rim, the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park affords spectacular views that are well worth the effort it takes to reach this somewhat remote area of the park. Most of the visitor services on the north side of the Canyon are gathered around theGrand Canyon Lodge, a fortress-like hotel famous for its specular terrace views. The lodge doubles as the North Rim visitor center, where you can book a mule ride or guided hike down the Canyon.

North Rim camping is restricted to established campgrounds. The largest campground on this side of the Canyon is the North Rim Campground, which is open from early summer to mid-autumn. The campground is operated by the National Park Service and reservations can be made in advance(recommended, especially if you're planning to visit in the summer) through the National Recreation Reservation Service. There are also several campgrounds operated by the U.S. Forest Service in the area, includingDeMotte Campground andJacob Lake Campground. One of the most challenging--and rewarding--spots to camp is an area known as Tuweep or Toroweap. Although the site is managed by the National Park Service, the grounds are more primitive in comparison to the park's other developed campgrounds, offering only a few picnic tables and composting toilets. But the spot is perfect to those who want to fall asleep right next to the rim.

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History

Like a giant slash in the earth cut by nature's knife, the Grand Canyon exposes millions of years of the planet's history, normally buried under gigantic layers of rock. This grandest of all gorges has inspired admiration, awe and terror in those who came to stand on its edges and gaze into the mile-deep chasm down to the two-billion-year old Pre-Cambrian rock at the bottom.

All geologists today agree that the canyon was created by the Colorado River's incessant cutting action, with the gradual uplifting of the Kaibab Plateau allowing it to cut even deeper. The Kaibab is part of the Colorado Plateau, a permanently shifting chunk of earth that has formed the magnificent natural features of Northern Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. The plateau itself is not flat, but sloping to the southwest, putting the northern rim of the canyon at a markedly higher altitude(8,200 feet) than its southern edge(7,000 feet). The river is twice as far from the north than it is from the south rim, with the south side much steeper than the north, as any hiker struggling up the steep South Rim switchbacks will confirm.

No one knows for sure where the first humans descending into the canyon came from, but certain archeological finds in the park suggest that people visited the gorge as far back as 10,000 BCE It seems that a nomadic hunter-gatherer people known as the'Desert Culture' inhabited the area between 6,000 and 2,000 BCE.

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Centuries later, the Anasazi people, most likely descendants of the Desert Culture, began settling on the rims and in the depths of the canyon. They developed a system of agriculture that allowed them to live deep within the ravine, growing grains on river's banks and mesas. Granaries and ruins of their houses have been found along the cliffs. Archeological research now suggests that the Anasazi abandoned the area around the 12th Century CE, either because of droughts or attacks by hostile neighbor tribes.

The first Europeans to see the Grand Canyon were the Spanish conquistadors. In 1540, explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, prompted by rumors about golden cities to the north of present-day Mexico, started on his famous trek into Arizona and dispatched Garcia Lopez de Cardenas to find an Indian village supposedly close to a great river canyon. With the aid of Hopi Indians from the village of Tusayan, now the name of the tourist town at the gateway to the park, Cardenas finally got to the South Rim, only to turn back after deciding that it was impossible to cross the gorge. Two centuries passed until the Spanish returned to the area. In 1776, Francisco Atanasia Dominguez and Sylvestre Velez de Escalante left from Santa Fe in search for an overland route to California; they did not see the Grand Canyon but crossed the Colorado a couple of hundred miles north at Glen Canyon.

The first man from the United States to come across the canyon was probably James Ohio Pattie, whose exploring party happened onto the North Rim in 1826. Just like the conquistadors before him, he spent many frustrating days trying to cross it, without success. Accordingly, he did not feel much appreciation for its natural grandeur, but rather described it as an infuriating obstacle in his explorations. It was a fearless, one-armed Civil War veteran named John Wesley Powell who finally put the Grand Canyon on the map. In the year 1869, he and his nine companions became the first white men to travel 1,000 miles down the river through the canyon. They braved brutal heat, dangerous rapids and sinking morale, and lost three men before completing this remarkable adventure. Powell came back for a second trip in 1871-1872, providing invaluable information to the U.S. government about one of the least explored areas in the country. The government now advertised the region as a land of limitless resources, thus encouraging miners to come and stake their claims to copper, zinc, and lead. However, facing the immense difficulties of extracting and transporting ore from the canyon, some of them soon turned to the more profitable and less dangerous business of tourism.

As the 20th Century dawned, the switch to this more lucrative way of extracting value from this natural wonder coincided with a change in public attitudes to wilderness areas. Increasingly, environmentalists, writers and artists joined forces with railroad magnates in fighting for the creation of protected areas called national parks. In the early 1900s, a fellow named Fred Harvey started some fine park services with that goal in mind, creating buildings designed to blend in with the natural environment, most notably the El Tovar Hotel, still in business, and now a National Historic Landmark. Tourism soon was in full swing, as it remains to this day, drawing almost five million visitors a year. Yet, despite its popularity, the canyon did not become a national park until 1919. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt, a great lover of the outdoors, visited the gorge and was quite impressed. He created the Grand Canyon Game Preserve, which was upgraded to national monument status in 1908. Finally, on February 26, 1919, the U.S. Congress authorized expanding and upgrading it to its present national park status.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed an act doubling the park's size to 1,904 square miles. In appreciation of its universal value to people from all over the world, the Grand Canyon was declared a World Heritage Site in 1979.

Today, the canyon provides a multitude of fully developed facilities for tourists. Some say the park is over-developed, claiming that increasing commercialization ignores Teddy Roosevelt's admonition to'do nothing to mar its grandeur'. Plans for new developments on the South Rim are hotly contested, and the park, like so many other nature areas in the American West, has become another battleground in the continuing war between environmental and economic forces.
©

Hotel Insights

Inside Grand Canyon National Park, lodging is available at several places along the South Rim and, on a very limited scale, the North Rim. As rooms with views of the gorge are naturally the most popular ones in the area, be prepared to stay at some distance away from the rim unless you've made reservations well in advance. Contact AmFac Xanterra Parks& Resorts, tel. toll-free U.S.+1-888-297-2757 or+1 303 297 2757, or fax+1 303 297 3175, for rates and reservations, or online at www.grandcanyonlodges.com. A variety of hotels and motels are also available outside the park at Tusayan, Williams and Jacob Lake.

THE SOUTH RIM

Phantom Ranch, nestled beside Bright Angel Creek near the Colorado River, is the only lodging facility below the canyon rim. It is well known as the popular overnight spot for hikers and mule riders descending into the depths of the canyon. Accommodations here are provided in dormitories and rustic cabins, designed by the prolific Ms. Colter in the 1920s. The Phantom Ranch Canteen provides hearty meals for adventurous travelers tired and hungry from climbing up and down rocky trails.

Tusayan

Built in a style reminiscent of the American West, the Grand Hotel in Tusayan, just outside the park boundaries, offers 120 guest rooms with a Southwestern ambience and decor, an upscale restaurant and events relating the Native American experience in the region.

Grand Canyon Village

The El Tovar Hotel, built directly on the rim of the canyon in 1905, has been described as the'architectural crown jewel of the Grand Canyon'. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and well worth visiting even if you don't stay there overnight. Its lounge and dining room offer stunning views of the canyon through big glass windows. If you do nothing else at the Grand Canyon, be sure to visit this location.

Also located along the rim, just west of the El Tovar Hotel, are the Kachina Lodge and Thunderbird Lodge. The Fred Harvey Company built both lodges in 1968 and 1971, reflecting the architectural tastes

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of the period, and offering modern-day accommodations within convenient walking distance from the Historical District/Grand Canyon Village.

The rustic Bright Angel Lodge, located right on the South Rim, is a prime example of the environmentally sensitive, beautiful'log-and-stone' design favored by the early developers of tourism in the park. Designed by Mary Jane Elizabeth Colter and opened in 1935, the lodge provides several rooming options, the Arizona Steakhouse, live entertainment, and a transportation desk.

In wooded areas not too far from the rim are the Maswik Lodge and Yavapai Lodge. These are the largest lodges, and have the most rooms that will accommodate families, as most of the rooms have 2 queen beds. They each also have cafeterias, transportation desks, and curio shops.

Mather Campground, located in Historical District/Grand Canyon Village near Canyon Village Marketplace, is served on a first-come, first-serve basis from December 1 to March 31, with reservations accepted during the rest of the year. Make those reservations as early as possible by calling Biospherics at+1 800 365 2267

THE NORTH RIM

For travelers wanting to get away from the summer crowds, the Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim affords a sense of serenity and peace that is hard to find on the busy South Rim. Situated directly on the rim, the lodge offers both hotel rooms and cabins for accommodations. Built in the 1920s, it reflects the rustic style prevalent in many other lodges dating from that era. This is in fact the only lodging facility inside the park on the North Rim, with the other major hotel in the area, the Kaibab Lodge, located five miles north of the park boundary on Highway 67. Both lodges are open from mid-May to mid-October.

For camping, the North Rim Campground is the most popular area, and thus the most crowded camping spot on the northern side of the great chasm. It offers shaded spots, picnic tables, fire pans and showers nearby, as well as close proximity to the Grand Canyon Lodge for those who like the idea of being able to sip a hot latte after a cold night in the tent. Reservations should be made well in advance in the summer, though you can also arrive early in the day and hope for a spot to be vacated.

About 20 miles north of the rim, DeMotte Campground offers pit toilets and picnic tables from May to October.

Jacob Lake

The little settlement of Jacob Lake at the junction of highways 67 and 89A in Kaibab National Forest, about 45 miles from the North Rim, frequently serves as an overflow for travelers that were turned away at the rim due to overcrowding. Tourist activities here focus around the Jacob Lake Inn. The Inn offers motel style units and weathered cabins, a well-stocked country store carrying groceries and provisions, and a big playground. For more rustic accommodations, Jacob Lake Campground is a good place to commune with nature. Note that winter snow may sometimes close the highway to Jacob Lake.
©

Restaurants Insights

Restaurants at and near the Grand Canyon are smart enough not to try and outshine their surroundings. After all, nomille-feuille, no matter how magnificent, can cast a shadow on the spectacle known as the Eighth Wonder of the World, so rather than compete, chefs and restaurateurs here have learned to complement by developing a symbiosis between their food and service and the scenery.

Grand Canyon Village

The El Tovar Dining Room, just 50 feet from the South Rim is the grand dame of dining at the Grand Canyon and has offered the area's most sophisticated dining for nearly a century. Built by hospitality industry baron Fred Harvey in 1905, the restaurant quickly gained a reputation for meals as magnificent as the view outside the windows. At one point, the Harvey Company even maintained its own herd of cattle for the express purpose of providing diners with fresh dairy products. Today, the El Tovar Dining Room maintains a worldwide reputation for fine dining and treats its guests to an incredible selection of Arizona-inspired and European-styled fare. From their renowned cornmeal and blueberry waffles for breakfast, to Western game, Angus beef and Arizona trout at dinner, each meal is painstakingly prepared by a talented culinary team.

Likewise, the Arizona Steakhouse at Bright Angel Lodge promises diners the finest beef, poultry and seafood, mesquite-grilled to perfection. Savoring prime Western beef here in cowboy country is an experience you won't soon forget.

Speaking of experiences that will forever be emblazoned in your memory, a meal at the Phantom Ranch Canteen will, undoubtedly, be the highlight of your Grand Canyon visit. It is not that the menu is so unusual, or that the service, while efficient and friendly, is extraordinary. The real treat is that only a select few ever get to eat here. Why? Because you need to find your way to the Grand Canyon floor in order to have a meal at this intriguing eatery. The restaurant is only accessible by hiking, rafting or by using a mule train. This is truly a meal you will be telling your grandkids about. Keep in mind that, due to logistics, your meals must be ordered and your lodging reservations confirmed long in advance of your arrival at the adjoining Phantom Ranch.

The focus at the Grand Canyon is on sightseeing, so many area restaurants concentrate on fueling up hikers for their forays into the Canyon and the Kaibab Forest, or refreshing them on their return. The Maswik Cafeteria/Lounge/Sports Bar is the perfect place to'carbohydrate-load' before you head out on a day's adventure, or to pick up trail treats to take along. The Bright Angel Restaurant offers a relaxing respite whether you want to dip into an ice cream sundae, have a leisurely lunch or sip a late afternoon cocktail.

With these natural wonders surrounding you, why not pack a picnic and hit the trails? The General Store& Deli will supply you with everything from snacks, sandwiches, salads and beverages to camping and fishing gear, just as they've been doing since they first opened their Grand Canyon general store in a tent, in 1905.

Williams

Just 60 miles south of the Canyon, in historic Williams, even more adventures-in-eating await you. Rod's Steakhouse is truly an Arizona institution, serving top-notch steaks for more than a half century. Pancho McGillicuddy's is another favorite local hang out both for its Sonora-style Mexican cuisine and its spectrum of specialty drinks that nearly rival the Grand Canyon itself

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in their colorful hues. It is located in the building that lays claim to being the city's longest-running commercial operation. When it is time to ease those aching muscles after all that hiking, there's no better places to sit back and sip a specialty coffee or cold beverage than the Grand Canyon Coffee& Cafe.

For a family favorite, there is the Pizza Factory where you can chow down on thin or thick crust pizza, wings, and a salad bar. For a taste of the old west and a thick steak, Miss Kitty's Steakhouse& Saloon serves up barbeque and a full bar in a saloon straight out of'Gunsmoke'. If you're in the mood for the drinking without the dining, stop by World Famous Sultana, with the state's oldest liquor license.

From a quick croissant at dawn before you hit the hiking trails, to lunchtime picnics at one of the Canyon's scenic points, or a romantic repast with faultlessly formal service, the Grand Canyon area offers the ideal victuals for every visitor. So rest assured that, as you nurture your soul with the area's stunning natural beauty, the restaurants, cafes and cocktail lounges stand ready to nourish your body and satisfy your spirit.

©

Nightlife Insights

Ever since Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and his party first set eyes on the Canyon in 1540, it is a safe bet that no visitor to the area has come here to sit in his or her hotel room and watch television. There is just too much to do and see. And, of course, the Canyon itself is the first and foremost point of interest.

Outdoor Activities

Avid outdoor enthusiasts enjoy a myriad of options when it comes to exploring the area, which encompasses nearly three thousand square miles. The Visitor Center, located near the General Store and not far from the Historical District/Grand Canyon Village is a valuable source for planning your adventure. There, you will find exhibits and information to help you map out your strategy, whether it includes backpacking down into the Canyon via Bright Angel Trail, scaling the steep and strenuous South Kaibab Trail to the Grand Canyon Skywalk, or a casual, carefree stroll along the paved Rim Trail. To learn more about the long history of the area the Kaibab Petroglyphs in the Kaibab National Forest or the Tusayan Ruins and Museum are a great place to learn about the history of local Native cultures. To continue canyoneering Sycamore Canyon is the areas second largest canyon.

Museums

Even though most visitors come to the Grand Canyon to experience the great outdoors, there are still some interesting things to do indoors too. The Planes of Fame Museum provides guests with a history of planes and aviation, even featuring one of General McArthur's planes from the Korean War. Inside the canyon gates, at Grand Canyon village you can visit Kolb Studio, former home of the Kolb brothers, famous Grand Canyon photographers. Today the building is an art gallery and bookstore. Another museum in Grand Canyon Village is the Bright Angel History Room which exhibits memorabilia from the early days of the canyon as a tourist destination. If you're more interested in local culture, the Navajo Interactive Museum teaches visitors all about the Navajo lifestyle and culture.

Festivals

Throughout the year, special events in the Grand Canyon and Williams area provide residents and visitors with even more entertainment. On the first weekend of May, the Route 66 Fun Run Car Rally cruises through Williams, featuring more than a thousand classic and vintage automobiles in shiny, mint condition. Independence Day in Williams is pure Americana. The Small Town Fourth of July features a Main Street Parade and a variety of events including, of course, a fireworks extravaganza. More than a thousand Harleys roar into town in late June for the annual H.O.G. Rally and street dance and, later on in the summer, classic vehicles vie for spectators' attention during the Williams Cool Country Cruise-in and Williams Route 66 Festival. In September, the Grand Canyon Music Festival presents concerts by the nation's finest chamber musicians at the Shrine of the Ages Auditorium at the South Rim.

Rodeos

This is truly cowboy country, and throughout the summer, local, regional and national cowboys compete in a slough of rodeos. In August, the working hands get their chance to shine at the Cowpuncher's Reunion Rodeo. The Williams Labor Day PRCA Rodeo attracts many of the sports' top cowboys from around the world.

There is no more spectacular sight than the Grand Canyon itself. But to focus on this wonder alone would be doing yourself and your family a grave injustice. Northern Arizona's High Country affords visitors an array of activities, sightseeing and entertainment opportunities nearly as broad and deep as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Explore, discover and create your own uniquely Arizonan memories.
©

Things to Do Insights

The Grand Canyon has many options for the adventurous traveler. There are trails and historic places to explore and photograph, and there is of course the Canyon itself, undeniably one of the country's most popular features.

Grand Canyon Village Take the scenic drive along the South Rim. Both the East Rim Drive and the West Rim Drive take you along the edge of the great gorge. The West Rim Drive follows the rim for eight miles to Hermit's Rest. The East Rim Drive runs along 26 miles east of Historical District/Grand Canyon Village to the east entrance to Grand Canyon National Park. Hike the Rim Trail, when you've finished taking photos. You'll find the Phantom Ranch Canteen on the East Rim, so be sure to stop in for a meal.

Mather Point Regardless if you are driving or hiking, try to catch the Grand Canyon IMAX Theater show in Tusayan, the tourist town close to the south gate. It is a great introduction to the Grand Canyon, and one of the best films in the nature/adventure genre. Then, after taking a first glimpse of the real thing at Mather Point, explore Historical District/Grand Canyon Village and its various attractions. Start at the Visitor Center for an overview of the region's geology and history, and attend one of the ranger talks. Walk at least a small stretch of the West Rim Trail, which runs parallel to the drive by the same name, only closer to the cliff.

Bright Angel Trail If you want the total canyon experience and have plenty of time and energy, you will have to hike from

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one rim to the other. The most popular route is the Bright Angel Trail, descending to the Colorado River to meet the North Kaibab Trail, which will take you out of the canyon on its northern edge. The Bright Angel Restaurant is a good dining option nearby. This is a two- or three-day trip and requires some advance planning, such as making reservations months in advance for overnight accommodations at any of the inner canyon campgrounds, such as the Bright Angel Lodge, or at Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the canyon.

Grand Canyon Lodge The focal point for all North Rim activities is definitely the Grand Canyon Lodge at the end of Highway 67. Here you can have a nice meal, relax and explore the rustic interior. Then walk down to Bright Angel Point, which is another great place to witness sunrises and sunsets. From there, drive down the paved road to Point Imperial, the highest point in the park, which offers a grand sweep of the eastern canyon all the way to the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and the Painted Desert. Beyond that is Cape Royal, another spot where you can take in stunning panoramas.

North Kaibab Trail Near the Grand Canyon Lodge, the North Kaibab Trail takes you into a steep descent 15 miles to the river. Do not try to hike to the river and back, unless you have made reservations at Phantom Ranch or one of the inner canyon campgrounds. The 9.4 mile round trip to Roaring Springs provides sufficient exercise for the average visitor, and only hikers in great shape should try to do the 14-mile round trip to Cottonwood Campground in one day.

There are as many ways to see the Grand Canyon as there are means of transportation. How you experience this natural wonder all depends on how much time, money and energy you have to spare. You can view it driving in a car or riding a shuttle bus, biking, hiking along an easy rim trail or on a strenuous cross-canyon hike. Others choose to view it from a plane or helicopter, by floating down the Colorado River on a raft, or by approaching it on a historic steam train.

Walking Tours Tusayan Ruin Walk(+1 928 638 7888/http://www.nps.gov/grca/siteindex.htm/) Country Walkers(+1 800 464 9255/http://www.countrywalkers.com/portal/site/CountryWalkers/) Grand Canyon Tours, LLC(+1 702 933 2027/http://www.grandcanyontravel.com/)

Boat Tours Grand Canyon Airlines- Canyon Smooth Water Float Trip(+1 866 235 9422/http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com/) Grand Canyon Tours, LLC(+1 702 933 2027/http://www.grandcanyontravel.com/)

Train Tours Grand Canyon Railway(+1 800 THE TRAIN/http://www.thetrain.com/) Grand Canyon Tours, LLC(+1 702 933 2027/http://www.grandcanyontravel.com/)

Air Tours AirStar Helicopter Tours(+1 928 638 2622/http://www.airstar.com/) Air Grand Canyon(+1 928 776 6000/http://www.airgrandcanyon.com/index.html/) Grand Canyon Airlines(+1 928 638 2359/http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com/) Kenai Helicopters(+1 928 638 2764/ +1 800 541 4537/http://www.flykenai.com/) Imperial Air Tour(+1 928 638 2419/http://www.papillon.com/popris/show_package.aspx?package_id=5□=en-US/) Papillon- North Canyon helicopter Tour(+1 888 635 7272/http://www.papillon.com/) Grand Canyon Airlines- Canyon Smooth Water Float Trip(+1 866 235 9422/http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com/) Grand Canyon Airlines- Grand Discovery Air Tour(+1 866 235 9422/http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com/) Papillon- Papillon- Grand Canyon Helicopter Expedition(+1 888 635 7272/http://www.papillon.com/) Grand Canyon Tours, LLC(+1 702 933 2027/http://www.grandcanyontravel.com/)

Hiking Tours Angel's Gate Tours(+1 800 957 4557/http://www.angelsgatetours.com/) Sierra Club Outings(+1 415 977 5500/http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/) Pygmy Guides(+1 877 279 4697/http://www.pygmyguides.com/) Grand Canyon Tours, LLC(+1 702 933 2027/http://www.grandcanyontravel.com/) Four Seasons Guides(+1 877 272 5032/http://www.fsguides.com/)

Fishing Tours Lees Ferry Anglers(+1 928 355 2261/http://www.leesferry.com/)
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Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Grand Canyon Airport(GCN)+1 928 638 2446http://www.grandcanyonairport.net/

The Grand Canyon Airport in Tusayan is located just seven miles south of the rim and Grand Canyon Village, a popular destination. A handful of carriers offer service to and from Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City in Nevada, Deer Valley in Arizona, and Long Beach, California:

Scenic(+1 800 446 4584/http://www.scenic.com/) Vision Airlines(+1 800 256 8767/http://www.visionairlines.com/) Westwind(+1 480 991 5557/http://www.westwindaviation.com/) Skylink Charter(+1 888 682 6227/http://www.skylinkus.com/)

From the Airport

Taxi: Xanterra South Rim+1 928 638 2822 Provides taxi service from Grand Canyon Airport to Tusayan and Grand Canyon Village

Grand Canyon Coaches+1 928 638 0821 Provides taxi service from the airport to the Canyon Rim Visitors Center or Bright Angel Lodge. The ride is approximately 15 minutes and costs about$5 per person. Taxis also offer service to other local destinations—call for season appropriate information.

Shuttles: CASSI Tours+1 928 638 0821 Departs the airport hourly(on the half-hour) for the South Rim.

Train

The Grand Canyon Railway+1 800 THE TRAIN(843 87246)http://www.thetrain.com/

Runs train service from Williams, AZ to Grand Canyon Village. The Southwest Chief makes a stop here, which links with other national routes such as Amtrak,(+1 800 872 7245/http://www.amtrak.com) which stops in Flagstaff(90 miles southeast) and Williams(60 miles south).

Highway

Interstate 89 and 64 offers a few choice glimpses of the Grand Canyon along the East Rim, while highway 64 and US highway 180 takes you along the South Rim. The North Rim can only be accessed using US highway 67.

Getting Around

Train

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Grand Canyon Railway(+1 800 843 8724/ http://www.thetrain.com/) offers destination trips to and from the south end of the Grand Canyon National Park in an old-fashioned steam/diesel locomotive. Call for reservations; prices range from USD58-147 for adults and USD25-114 for children.

Shuttle

Free shuttle buses run on 5 routes every 15-20 minutes within the park around the South Rim, as well as to Tusayan and Desert View. There is also a Trans-Canyon Shuttle running from the South to North Rim once a day for USD80 one way or USD150 round trip. The trip takes approximately 4 ½ hours.
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Fun Facts

Grand Canyon State: Arizona **Country:** United States of America

Grand Canyon by the Numbers:

Population: 1,460 Average January temperature: 41 ° F at the Rim, 56 ° F in the Gorge/ 5°C at the Rim, 13.3°C in the Gorge Average July temperature: 85 ° F at the Rim, 107 ° F in the Gorge/ 29.4°C at the Rim, 41.6°C in the Gorge Average annual rainfall: 16 inches at the Rim, 8.44 in the Gorge/ 40.6 cm at the Rim, 21.4 cm in the Gorge Average annual snowfall: 62 inches at the Rim, 0.2 in the Gorge/ 157 cm at the Rim, 0.5 cm in the Gorge Grand Canyon National Park is the size of Delaware The Grand Canyon contains five of the seven life zones and three of the four desert types in North America.

Quick Facts:

Time Zone: GMT-7; Mountain Standard Time(MST) Electricity: 120 volts AC, 60 HZ; round two-pin plugs are standard Country Dialing Code: 1

Did You Know?

The Colorado River began cutting into the layers of rock 6 million years ago, forming what we now know as the Grand Canyon. The resulting exposed walls of rock date back 250 million years. Scattered rocks located at the bottom of the canyon date back as far as 2 billion years.
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