

Grand Canyon National Park

1-Day Deluxe Itinerary

Editor's Note

Grand Canyon is one of the Seven Wonders of The Natural World. It's 277 miles long, 18 miles wide and over 6,000 feet deep. Nothing can quite prepare you for its size and grandeur.

It's also extremely popular. Almost 6 million people visit the national park each year - most of them to the South Rim. It can be difficult to know the best way to beat the crowds, where and when to see the best views, and what else there is not to miss in the national park.

This is what this itinerary planner is here for.

Follow this detailed plan, while making choices along the way, and you will have the perfect 1-day itinerary for the South Rim tailored to your needs but without the stress and hassle of planning from scratch.

Enjoy your trip to the Grand Canyon's South Rim!

James

James Ian
Founder



Parks Collecting

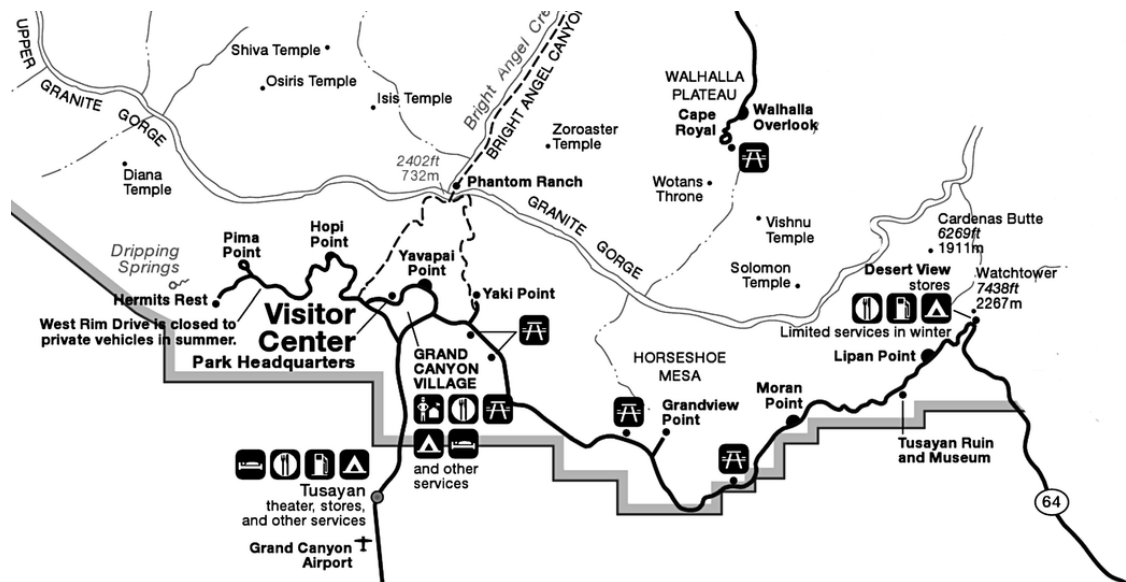


WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- P 4. How to Use This Itinerary Planner
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- Accommodations Guide
- Dining Guide
- Shuttle Bus Guide



PARK OVERVIEW

Getting Your Bearings

The center of South Rim is **Grand Canyon Village**. The nearest gateway town is **Tusayan**, where there are accommodations, restaurants and a small airport (mostly for scenic flights). It's five minutes from Tusayan to the national park's South Entrance and another ten minutes to the Visitor Center, where there is a large parking lot. This itinerary assumes you are staying in Tusayan or Grand Canyon Village. If you stay elsewhere, check the *Adjusting Your Schedule* section.

West of Grand Canyon Village along the South Rim is **Hermit Road**, to Hermit's Rest. Heading east from Grand Canyon Village along the South Rim is **Desert View Drive**, to Desert View, where there is a campground, and the park's East Entrance.



TIPS FOR VISITING

Entrance Fee

Visit the [NPS website](#) for the latest fees. If you plan to visit more than a couple of parks in a year, I recommend buying an [America The Beautiful Pass](#).

Getting There

If you plan to fly in directly, the nearest main airport is **Flagstaff**, 1 hour and 15 minutes south of Tusayan. There's an Amtrak station in Flagstaff as well (and it's on Route 66).

The nearest large international airports are **Phoenix**, approximately 3.5 hours away, and **Las Vegas**, about 4 hours from Tusayan.

[>>> Click here to book your flights](#)

[>>> Click here to book your rental car](#)

Getting Around

There is an extensive **shuttle bus service** that goes from Tusayan into the park, through Grand Canyon Village, west to Hermit's Rest, and as far east as Yaki Point. There are (different) buses from Flagstaff, so you can definitely visit the national park without a vehicle. However, if you want to go further east along Desert View Drive, you'll need your own vehicle or to take a tour. Read more information about the shuttle in the bonus [Shuttle Bus Guide](#).

Wildlife

Grand Canyon is not that famous for its wildlife; however, you have good chances of seeing mule deer and elk wandering around the Village; you may see bighorn sheep; and there are plenty of rattle snakes (though with any luck, you won't see any). The most dangerous animal in the national park is actually the rock squirrel! They may look cute, but they bite dozens of visitors every year. Stay away from them!

Always stay at least 100 feet (30m) from elk, deer, and other large animals and 50 feet (15m) from small animals, birds and reptiles.

Hiking

Hiking in the heat is very hard on your body. Even walking along the Rim Trail can be very hot in summer. Drink about a quart of water or sports drink every hour. Take your time, rest in the shade, and drink plenty of water.



HOW TO USE THIS ITINERARY

This itinerary planner is designed to balance taking away the overwhelm with still giving you the freedom to **create an itinerary that suits your interests** and comfort level.

Please read all this information carefully so you can take full advantage of the itinerary planner.



Hikes

Where appropriate, several hike options are given, based on varying levels of difficulty and interest. In this case, you can **choose the hike** that best suits you.



Description

Includes **don't-miss sights, sites and insights**.



Meals

Meal suggestions or times are given. Detailed options are provided in the **Dining Guide**.



Driving Directions

Detailed **driving directions** are provided for each day.



Shuttle Bus

There is an extensive shuttle bus system through most of the South Rim. Read the bonus **Shuttle Bus Guide** for full details.



Things To Note

Includes any warnings, **important information**, considerations or closures.



Highlights

There are great views throughout the park, but these are especially **great viewpoints and/ or sights**.



Cycling

This indicates an option to ride a bicycle or e-bike to see the sights.



Less-Active Options

To really get the most out of the national parks, you need to leave the roads, but that doesn't mean you can't have an awesome time if you can't or prefer not to hike.

Non-hiking or easy walking options are great for those with **limited mobility or fitness**.

Some of these suggestions involve no walking at all, while others may involve short distances on flat or mostly flat paths.



Accommodations

This itinerary is based around you staying in **Grand Canyon Village** or nearby **Tusayan**. Accommodation options in both areas are provided in the **Accommodations Guide**. I recommend staying inside the park, if possible, but Tusayan is very close and on the shuttle route.

If you do stay somewhere other than Grand Canyon Village or Tusayan, read the **Adjusting Your Schedule** section so you can easily adapt your schedule based on where you stay.



Recommended

This symbol indicates that this is my **recommended choice**. However, you can still choose whichever option best suits your comfort level and interests.



The itinerary is **timed** for the best views of the canyon, the best chance of getting a parking spot, the best times to avoid long lines for the shuttle, the coolest times for hikes, and the least crowded times to visit the most popular areas and attractions.

Consequently, the itinerary has you **getting up early** in the morning. Grand Canyon is extremely popular and by getting started early, you will avoid having to wait in line to get through the park entrance if you're staying in Tusayan and avoid long lines for the shuttle buses and to see the canyon's most popular spots. This is also typically the best light for photos of the canyon. The national parks are more popular than ever, so the earlier you get there, the better, so if you started even earlier, that would be even better.

The itinerary has a detailed breakdown of suggested **activities**, with **alternatives** or **flexible options** in the morning. Each of the alternate options take about the same length of time, so you can choose one, then move on to the next activity no matter which option you chose.

I strongly suggest **sticking to the order of events** in the schedule. They are arranged and timed intentionally so that you get the most out of your trip.

Note that the **maps** here are designed to give you an overview of the park and where to go, but are no replacement for a detailed map, especially of the hiking trails. You can pick up maps at a Visitor Center or buy a very detailed printed topographic map there or before you go.

I've listed the nearest **parking** lots to the place you'll start your itinerary. However, most of these parking areas are quite small and if you don't get there early, they may be full. If they are, head to the main Visitor Center, where there is a much larger parking lot. From there, you can take the Village shuttle or walk. If you're running late and enter the park after 9:00AM in the busy summer months, I'd recommend taking the shuttle from Tusayan instead. That way, you can skip the long lines to get into the park and not worry about the parking lots all being full.

The itinerary does not include timings for the **sunrise** and **sunset**, since they vary so much throughout the year, but these are wonderful times to see the canyon.

[Check sunrise & sunset times.](#)



ITINERARY UPDATES

This itinerary is reviewed annually, but is not updated in real time, throughout each year. However, things can change. So, I strongly recommend checking for NPS updates on changing conditions such as road works, facilities closures, trail closures, etc. that may affect part of this itinerary, especially as your trip gets closer.

[CHECK FOR CURRENT CONDITIONS HERE](#)

THE DAY BEFORE



You will arrive in Tusayan or Grand Canyon Village, either by driving or flying into Flagstaff, Phoenix or Las Vegas and getting a bus or rental car from there.

Check the **[Accommodation Guide](#)** to find a place to stay in Tusayan or Grand Canyon Village.



Use the **[Dining Guide](#)** to find somewhere for dinner in Tusayan or Grand Canyon Village.



DAY AT A GLANCE

Today you'll travel along **Hermit Road** and see some of the most stunning views of the canyon, then spend the afternoon exploring the attractions in **Grand Canyon Village**.

OPTION A [page 8]

This option involves taking the shuttle plus walking between some viewpoints.

7:30AM: Leave Tusayan
8:00AM: Walk to Trailview Overlook
8:30AM: Take Hermit Road Shuttle from Trailview Overlook to Maricopa Point
9:00AM: Take shuttle from Maricopa Point to Powell Point
9:15AM: Walk from Powell Point to Hopi Point
9:35AM: Walk from Hopi Point to Mohave Point
10:00AM: Take shuttle from Mohave Point to The Abyss
10:15AM: Take shuttle from The Abyss to Monument Creek Vista
10:30AM: Walk from Monument Creek Vista to Pima Point
11:15AM: Take shuttle from Pima Point to Hermit's Rest
11:20AM: Explore Hermit's Rest

OPTION B [page 13]

This option involves taking the shuttle between viewpoints (no walking).

7:30AM: Leave Tusayan
8:15AM: Take Hermit Road Shuttle to Trailview Overlook
8:30AM: Take shuttle from Trailview Overlook to Maricopa Point
9:00AM: Take shuttle from Maricopa Point to Powell Point
9:15AM: Take shuttle from Powell Point to Hopi Point
9:30AM: Take shuttle from Hopi Point to Mohave Point
10:00AM: Take shuttle from Mohave Point to The Abyss
10:15AM: Take shuttle from The Abyss to Monument Creek Vista
10:30AM: Take shuttle from Monument Creek Vista to Pima Point
11:15AM: Take shuttle from Pima Point to Hermit's Rest
11:20AM: Explore Hermit's Rest

OPTION C [page 18]

This option has you hire a bicycle or e-bike and ride to Hermit's Rest, then take the shuttle back.

* An alternate version of this that avoids the steepest hills is to take the shuttle as per Option B to Hopi Point then ride from there to Hermit's Rest.

7:30AM: Leave Tusayan.
Park at Visitor Center

8:00AM: Rent Bicycle or E-Bike

Follow Option A Schedule, but ride

11:20AM: Explore Hermit's Rest

OPTION A [page 22]

11:45AM: Lunch at Hermit's Rest
1:00PM: Take shuttle to Village (you can put your bike on the shuttle)

OPTION B [page 22]

11:45AM: Take shuttle to Village (you can put your bike on the shuttle)
12:30PM: Lunch in Grand Canyon Village



1:45PM: Explore Grand Canyon Village at your own pace [page 23]

Options include:

- Verkamp's Visitor Center
- Hopi House
- Kolb Studio
- Lookout Studio
- Grand Canyon Railway Depot
- The Pioneer Cemetery & Shrine of Ages
- El Tovar Hotel
- Bright Angel Lodge History Room
- Trail of Time
- Yavapi Geology Museum
- Mather Point

6:00PM: Dinner

* If you want to see the **sunrise**, start Option A or B earlier and go to Maricopa Point for the sunrise. If you choose Option C, see the sunrise at Mather Point, which is near the Visitor Center, then rent your bike afterwards.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Hermit Road and western Rim Trail



Breakfast

Have breakfast at your hotel or campground before leaving.



OPTION A: Shuttle and walking

If you're able to walk a little, this is a nice combination of the shuttle and some walking. (It's also wheelchair accessible.)

Start by driving from Tusayan, or taking the Village shuttle or walking through Grand Canyon Village. If you're driving, park in Lot D near the Back Country Information Center. This has the shortest walk. If the lot is full, park at the larger parking lot at the Visitor Center and either take the Village shuttle or walk to the western end of Grand Canyon Village. Both of these parking lots are OK for RVs.

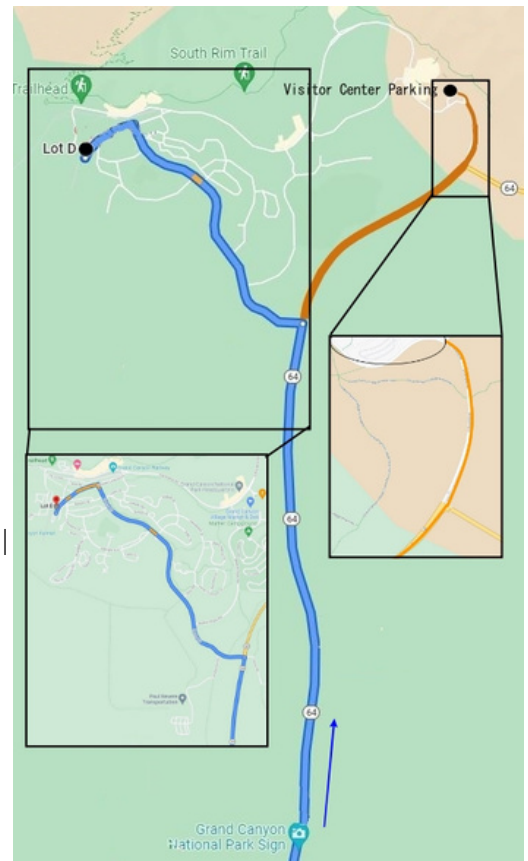


DIRECTIONS: Tusayan - Lot D | Visitor Center

Head north from Tusayan on AZ-64. You'll pass straight through a traffic circle on the edge of Tusayan, pass the National Park sign and enter the South Gate.

To Lot D, turn left on to Center Street 4.4 miles after the Tusayan traffic circle. After another 1.6 miles, turn left on to Village Loop Drive (at Lot C, where you can also park if Lot D is full). This becomes Backcountry Road (Village Loop Drive make a right turn). Keep straight. 0.3 miles after turning on to Village Loop Drive, you'll see Lot D on your right.

To the Visitor Center, from Tusayan keep straight on South Entrance Road past Center Street on your left and past Desert View Drive on your right. Turn right at the sign for Visitor Center parking lots.





1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Walk + Shuttle Hermit Road/ Rim Trail 8:00AM



You'll spend the morning exploring the section of South Rim west of Grand Canyon Village. The road is Hermit Road, and the trail along the rim is part of the Rim Trail. There is a shuttle bus along Hermit Road March 1 - November 30. The shuttle gets very busy and lines can get long, which is why the itinerary has you starting your day here, to avoid the worst of the crowds.

Option A uses a combination of the shuttle and walking some of the Rim Trail. Walking gives you a break from hopping on and off the shuttle, and lets you experience more of the South Rim at a slower pace.

It's a seven-minute walk from Lot D to the start of the red Hermit Road shuttle route and access to the Rim Trail. If you parked at the Visitor Center, you can walk or take the blue Village Route to the Hermit's Rest Route Transfer stop.



Start by walking along the Rim Trail west. It's about a 10-minute walk to the first viewpoint, **Trailview**

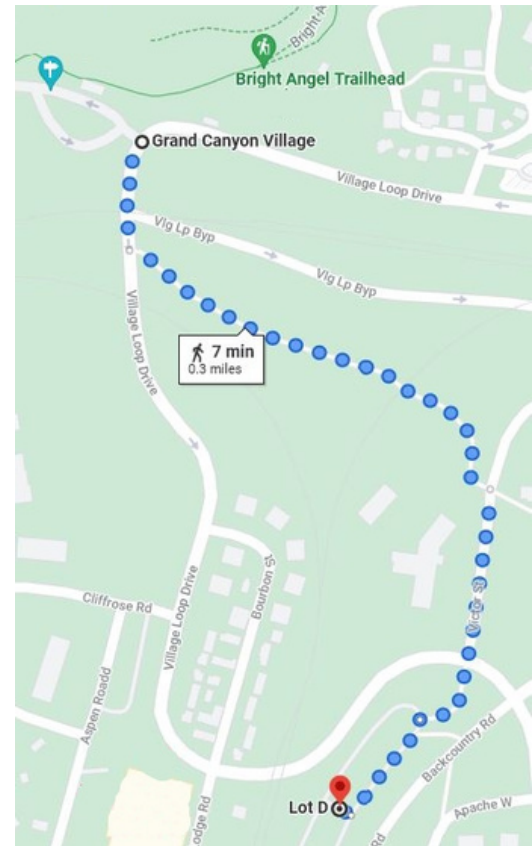


Overlook. This is the best spot to see the Bright Angel Trail zigzagging down the sides of the canyon. Y



Hop on the next shuttle bus and get off at the next stop, **Maricopa Point.** Maricopa Point is a small, narrow

point jutting out into the canyon. It has stunning 180-degree views of the canyon. There is even a tiny glimpse of the Colorado River (the first as you head west on Hermit Road).





1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Walk + Shuttle Hermit Road/ Rim Trail 8:00AM

Looking west, you can see a large gate and small clearing on the rim. This is the Lost Orphan Mine, where first copper and then uranium were mined between 1891 and 1967.



Hop back on the next shuttle and get off at the next viewpoint, **Powell Point**. Grand Canyon National Park's dedication ceremony was held here in 1920 and there is a large granite memorial for John Wesley Powell that you can walk up on to.

Powell was the first (western) person to successfully run the Colorado River through the canyon. Incredibly, he only had one arm while navigating the rapids of the river!



There is a tiny glimpse here of the river Powell traversed, but it's hard to spot and most people can't see it. Nonetheless, the view is great in both directions. You can climb the memorial and you can also go down to a slightly lower, but arguably even better, viewpoint.



The next two viewpoints are close by, so this is a great place to walk. It's just 1.1 miles from Powell Point to Mohave Point (with Hopi Point in between).



Head west along the Rim Trail to **Hopi Point** (typically less than a 10-minute walk). Hopi Point juts out further into the canyon than any of the other viewpoints on Hermit Road, giving you a great perspective and uninterrupted panoramic views to the east and west. Some of the rock formations you can see include *Isis Temple*, *Horus Temple* and *Osiris Temple*.

It's also the first good view of the Colorado River as you head west along Hermit Road. There are, in fact, five sections of the river that you can see from here, though one is especially clear and long.

Fun Fact: Hopi Point, named after the Hopi Native Americans, was originally called Rowes Point after Sanford Rowe, the first person to offer guided trips into the canyon on Bright Angel Trail.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Walk + Shuttle Hermit Road/ Rim Trail 8:00AM



Keep walking along the Rim Trail to **Mohave Point** (about a 15-minute walk).



Mohave Point has incredible views of the western canyon and the Colorado River. On a clear day, you can see Salt Creek, Granite, and Hermit Rapids.

Looking north, down and across the canyon, the large promontory jutting out from Mohave Point is called *The Alligator*. Nearby are the *Horus* and *Osiris Temples*, with the *Tower of Ra* to their left, and the *Isis Temple* to their right. There are also great views of the 3,000-foot cliffs around The Abyss.

There are several places to enjoy the views here, all with slightly different perspectives, so it's worth spending a little time exploring the area.



If you have young kids and they are getting antsy, you can end your trip along Hermit Road here and take a return shuttle back to the Village. There is plenty to choose from in and around Grand Canyon Village.



Next up, hop back on the shuttle to the next viewpoint, **The Abyss**. The Abyss has the longest vertical drop on the South Rim. From the overlook, the canyon drops 3,000 feet straight down to the Tonto Platform.



Most overlooks are on sections of the rim that jut out further into the canyon. However, The Abyss is at the end of a side canyon, formed mostly by rocks falling off the cliff face. In addition to the sheer drop below, you can see several sandstone columns. The largest, *The Monument*, is the biggest sandstone column in the canyon.



Take the next shuttle to the next stop, **Monument Creek Vista**.



There's a great view of Monument Creek and Granite Rapid on the Colorado River far below.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Walk + Shuttle Hermit Road/ Rim Trail 8:00AM



Monument Creek Vista is the start of the Greenway Trail, which is a walking and biking path that goes all the way to Hermit's Rest. It's a lovely walk (about 35 minutes) to **Pima Point**.



The views at Pima Point are some of the best views at the Grand Canyon. There is a panoramic vista in both directions. Nearby is the deep red Hermit Creek Canyon. Opposite is a clear view down Ninety-four Mile Creek Canyon. Listen carefully and you hear the roar of Granite Rapids on the Colorado River at the bottom of the canyon.



Take the shuttle to the final stop on Hermit Road, **Hermit's Rest**.



The building here was designed by Mary Colter in 1914 to look like an old miner's cabin. It's built of local stone and has a front porch and an enormous alcove fireplace.

There's a giftshop and snack bar (open 9:00AM – 5:00PM), restrooms and drinkable water to fill your water bottles.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Hermit Road and western Rim Trail

OPTION B: Shuttle only

If you prefer not to walk, you can take the shuttle the entire length of Hermit Road, hopping on and off the shuttle at each viewpoint.

Start by driving from Tusayan or taking the Village shuttle or walking through Grand Canyon Village. If you're driving, park in Lot D near the Back Country Information Center. This has the shortest walk. If the lot is full, park at the larger parking lot at the Visitor Center and either take the Village shuttle or walk to the western end of Grand Canyon Village.

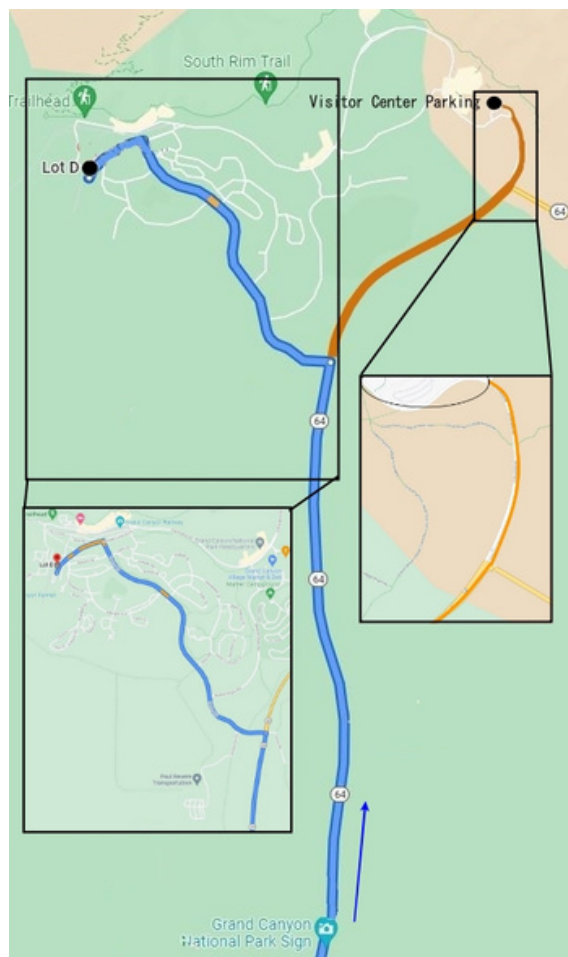


DIRECTIONS: Tusayan - Lot D | Visitor Center

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To the Visitor Center, from Tusayan keep straight on South Entrance Road past Center Street on your left and past Desert View Drive on your right. Turn right at the sign for Visitor Center parking lots.





1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

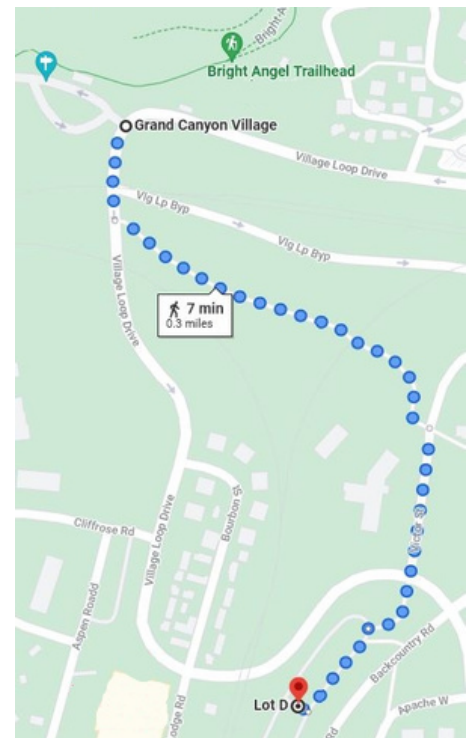
Shuttle Hermit Road 8:15AM



You'll spend the morning exploring the section of South Rim west of Grand Canyon Village. The road is Hermit Road, and the trail along the rim is part of the Rim Trail. There is a **shuttle bus** along Hermit Road March 1 - November 30, when the road is closed to regular vehicular traffic. The shuttle gets very busy, and lines can get long, which is why the itinerary has you starting your day here, to avoid the worst of the crowds.

Option B uses the shuttle the entire way for those who prefer not to walk. Also choose this option (but drive) if you're visiting December - February.

It's a seven-minute walk from Lot D to the start of the red Hermit Road shuttle route. If you parked at the Visitor Center, you can walk or take the blue Village Route to the Hermit's Rest Route Transfer stop.



Take the red Hermit Road shuttle and get off at the first viewpoint, **Trailview Overlook**.



This is the best spot to see the Bright Angel Trail zigzagging down the sides of the canyon.



Hop on the next shuttle bus and get off at the next stop, **Maricopa Point**.



Maricopa Point is a small, narrow point jutting out into the canyon. It has stunning 180-degree views of the canyon. There is even a tiny glimpse of the Colorado River (the first as you head west on Hermit Road).

Looking west, you can see a large gate and small clearing on the rim. This is the Lost Orphan Mine, where first copper and then uranium were mined between 1891 and 1967.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Shuttle Hermit Road 8:15AM



Hop back on the next shuttle and get off at the next viewpoint, **Powell Point**. Grand Canyon National Park's dedication ceremony was held here in 1920 and there is a large granite memorial for John Wesley Powell that you can walk up on to.

Powell was the first (western) person to successfully run the Colorado River through the canyon. Incredibly, he only had one arm while navigating the rapids of the river!



There is a tiny glimpse here of the river Powell traversed, but it's hard to spot and most people can't see it. Nonetheless, the view is great in both directions. You can climb the memorial and you can also go down to a slightly lower, but arguably even better, viewpoint.



Take the next shuttle to **Hopi Point**. Hopi Point juts out further into the canyon than any of the other viewpoints on Hermit Road, giving you a great perspective and uninterrupted panoramic views to the east and west. Some of the rock formations you can see include Isis Temple, Horus Temple and Osiris Temple.



It's also the first good view of the Colorado River as you head west along Hermit Road. There are, in fact, views of five sections of the river from here, though one is especially clear and long.

Fun Fact: Hopi Point, named after the Hopi Native Americans, was originally called Rowes Point after Sanford Rowe, the first person to offer guided trips into the canyon on Bright Angel Trail.



Take the next shuttle to **Mohave Point**.



Mohave Point has incredible views of the western canyon and the Colorado River. On a clear day, you can see Salt Creek, Granite, and Hermit Rapids.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Shuttle Hermit Road 8:15AM



Looking north, down and across the canyon, the large promontory jutting out from Mohave Point is called The Alligator. Nearby are the Horus and Osiris Temples, with the Tower of Ra to their left, and the Isis Temple to their right. There are also great views of the 3,000-foot cliffs around The Abyss.

There are several places to enjoy the views here, all with slightly different perspectives, so it's worth spending a little time exploring the area. The itinerary has you spending a little more time here, as it's a lovely place to relax, explore and enjoy the views.



If you have young kids and they are getting antsy, you can end your trip along Hermit Road here and take a return shuttle back to the Village.



Next up, hop back on the shuttle to the next viewpoint, **The Abyss**. The Abyss has the longest vertical drop on the South Rim. From the overlook, the canyon drops 3,000 feet straight down to the Tonto Platform.



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Take the next shuttle to the next stop, **Monument Creek Vista**.



There's a great view of Monument Creek and Granite Rapid on the Colorado River far below.



Take the shuttle again to **Pima Point**.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Shuttle Hermit Road 8:15AM



The views at Pima Point are some of the best views at the Grand Canyon. There is a panoramic vista in both directions. Nearby is the deep red Hermit Creek Canyon. Opposite is a clear view down Ninety-four Mile Creek Canyon. Listen carefully and you hear the roar of Granite Rapids on the Colorado River at the bottom of the canyon.



Take the shuttle to the final stop on Hermit Road, **Hermit's Rest**.



The building here was designed by Mary Colter in 1914 to look like an old miner's cabin. It's built of local stone and has a front porch and an enormous alcove fireplace.

There's a giftshop and snack bar (open 9:00AM – 5:00PM), restrooms and drinkable water to fill your water bottles.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Hermit Road and western Rim Trail

OPTION C: Bicycle/ e-bike

An alternative to taking the shuttle along Hermit Road is to **rent a bicycle or e-bike** and ride. This gives you the most flexibility and means you won't be dependent on the shuttle (and the long lines that can form by mid-morning).

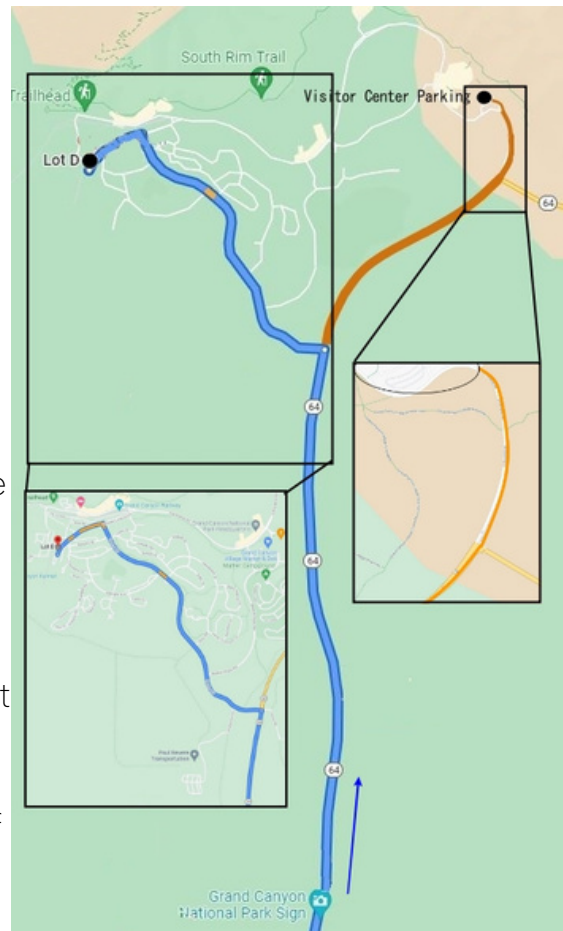
Start by driving from Tusayan or taking the Village shuttle or walking through Grand Canyon Village to the bicycle rental agency, **Bright Angel Bicycles**, which is at the main Visitor Center. If you're driving, park at the Visitor Center.



DIRECTIONS: Tusayan - Visitor Center

Head north from Tusayan on AZ-64. You'll pass straight through a traffic circle on the edge of Tusayan, pass the National Park sign and enter the South Gate.

Keep straight on South Entrance Road past Center Street on your left and past Desert View Drive on your right. Turn right at the sign for Visitor Center parking lots. Park in section *P4 Lizard* if possible, as this is the closest to the bike rental agency.





1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Cycling Hermit Road 8:00AM



You'll spend the morning exploring the section of South Rim west of Grand Canyon Village. The road is Hermit Road, and the trail along the rim is part of the Rim Trail. There is also a Greenway for part of the route.

Option C involves renting a bicycle or e-bike and riding the route.



Rent bicycles from [Bright Angel Bicycles](#) well in advance. They are very popular, and supplies are limited.

You can rent **bicycles** or **e-bikes** for a **whole day** (8:00AM - 5:00PM) or a **half day** (8:00AM - 1:00PM or 9:00AM - 2:00PM).

The shuttle buses that run from Grand Canyon Village to Hermit's Rest and back take bicycles and e-bikes (they have racks on their front). I recommend biking to Hermit's Rest and then taking the shuttle back, although you can bike back too. It's 10.5 miles to Hermit's Rest.

The part of the route with the most uphill part is the first section, from Grand Canyon Village to Hopi Point. If you want to skip this, take the shuttle from Hermit's Rest Transfer Station at the western edge of Grand Canyon Village and get off at Hopi Point and cycle to Hermit's Rest from there.



The viewpoints along the way are:



Trailview Overlook is the best spot to see the Bright Angel Trail zigzagging down the sides of the canyon.

Maricopa Point is a small, narrow point jutting out into the canyon. It has stunning 180-degree views of the canyon. There is even a tiny glimpse of the Colorado River (the first as you head west on Hermit Road).

Looking west, you can see a large gate and small clearing on the rim. This is the Lost Orphan Mine, where first copper and then uranium were mined between 1891 and 1967.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

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There is a tiny glimpse here of the river Powell traversed, but it's hard to spot and most people can't see it. Nonetheless, the view is great in both directions. You can climb the memorial and you can also go down to a slightly lower, but arguably even better, viewpoint.

Hopi Point juts out further into the canyon than any of the other viewpoints on Hermit Road, giving you a great perspective and uninterrupted panoramic views to the east and west. Some of the rock formations you can see include Isis Temple, Horus Temple and Osiris Temple.

It's also the first good view of the Colorado River as you head west along Hermit Road. There are, in fact, five sections of the river that you can see from here, though one is especially clear and long.

Fun Fact: Hopi Point, named after the Hopi Native Americans, was originally called Rowes Point after Sanford Rowe, the first person to offer guided trips into the canyon on Bright Angel Trail.

Mohave Point has incredible views of the western canyon and the Colorado River. On a clear day, you can see Salt Creek, Granite, and Hermit Rapids.

Looking north, down and across the canyon, the large promontory jutting out from Mohave Point is called The Alligator. Nearby are the Horus and Osiris Temples, with the Tower of Ra to their left, and the Isis Temple to their right. There are also great views of the 3,000-foot cliffs around The Abyss.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MORNING: 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Cycling Hermit Road 8:00AM



There are several places to enjoy the views here, all with slightly different perspectives, so it's worth spending a little time exploring the area. The itinerary has you spending a little more time here, as it's a lovely place to relax, explore and enjoy the views.



If you have young kids and they are getting antsy, you can end your trip along Hermit Road here and take a return shuttle back to the Village.



The Abyss has the longest vertical drop on the South Rim. From the overlook, the canyon drops 3,000 feet straight down to the Tonto Platform.

Most overlooks are on sections of the rim that jut out further into the canyon. However, The Abyss is at the end of a side canyon, formed mostly by rocks falling off the cliff face. In addition to the sheer drop below, you can see several sandstone columns. The largest, The Monument, is the biggest sandstone column in the canyon.

Monument Creek Vista has a great view of Monument Creek and Granite Rapid on the Colorado River far below.



Monument Creek Vista is the start of the Greenway Trail, which is a walking and biking path that goes all the way to Hermit's Rest.



The views at **Pima Point** are some of the best views at the Grand Canyon. There is a panoramic vista in both directions. Nearby is the deep red Hermit Creek Canyon. Opposite is a clear view down Ninety-four Mile Creek Canyon. Listen carefully and you hear the roar of Granite Rapids on the Colorado River at the bottom of the canyon.



Hermit's Rest. The building here was designed by Mary Colter in 1914 to look like an old miner's cabin. It's built of local stone and has a front porch and an enormous alcove fireplace.

There's a giftshop and snack bar (open 9:00AM – 5:00PM), restrooms and drinkable water to fill your water bottles. You can take the shuttle back (before or after lunch) or ride back the way you came.



1-DAY ITINERARY

MIDDAY: 11:45AM - 1:45PM

OPTION A

Hermit's Rest 11:45AM



Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Hermit's Rest. Or, pack your own lunch and have a picnic at one of the picnic tables at Hermit's Rest.

Options are more limited here than in the Village, but it's a lovely spot, and makes a change from the Village.

Shuttle to Grand Canyon Village 1:00PM



After lunch, take the shuttle directly back to Grand Canyon Village. If you chose Option C in the morning and have a bike, you can put it on front of the shuttle (you can also ride back, if you prefer).



OPTION B

Shuttle to Grand Canyon Village 11:45AM



Take the shuttle directly back to Grand Canyon Village. If you chose Option C in the morning and have a bike, you can put it on front of the shuttle (you can also ride back, if you prefer).

Grand Canyon Village 12:30PM



Use the [Dining Guide](#) to choose a place for lunch at Grand Canyon Village. There are more options here than at Hermit's Rest, so if nothing there appeals to you, then head back to the Village for lunch.

Also, if you chose Option C and rented your bike for half a day, you can get it back in time and then have lunch without stressing about being late.



1-DAY ITINERARY

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM



Grand Canyon Village

You'll spend the afternoon exploring Grand Canyon Village. This is the center of the South Rim action. There are several lodges, a couple of campgrounds, several historical sites and plenty of fun things to do. You can choose which attractions to explore or try to see them all.



Highlights of Grand Canyon Village include:



Verkamp's Visitor Center

Verkamp's Visitor Center was a curio shop and home of the Vercamp family for more than a century. John Verkamp built the building and opened a curio shop in 1906. The Verkamp family operated the Verkamp's store as a NPS concession until the National Park Service bought the building and opened it in 2008 as a visitor center and Grand Canyon Association bookstore.

It's staffed by park rangers and Grand Canyon Conservancy staff who will answer any questions you have. There are also daily ranger-led history walks from here.

The center also has exhibits focused on the Grand Canyon Community: what it was like to live and work here over the years. There's a walking history timeline on the floor that leads you through the exhibits about the important moments in local, national and international history.



Hopi House

Hopi House was designed by Mary Colter in 1905 to reflect the design of a Hopi Pueblo. The rectangular shape and multiple roofs are stepped at various levels to give the impression of Puebloan architecture from the outside. Inside, small wall niches, corner fireplaces, and a mud-plaster wall finish are all typical of Hopi interiors.

It was designed to house the sales rooms for Fred Harvey Indian Arts and it is still one of the best places to buy Native American art. It's open 9:00AM – 5:00PM.



1-DAY ITINERARY

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM

Grand Canyon Village



Kolb Studio

Perched on the edge of the canyon at the start of the Bright Angel Trail, Kolb Studio is a national historic landmark. It was built in 1904 by the Kolb brothers as a home, photography studio, and theater for their slideshows and films. It was the first permanent commercial photographers' studio at the canyon, and one of the earliest commercial tourist businesses there.

Today, there's an art gallery, bookstore and information booth operated by the Grand Canyon Conservancy inside the historic building. There are also great views of Grand Canyon from the studio.



Lookout Studio

Designed by Mary Colter, the 1914 studio is built from local limestone to blend in with the canyon. Even back then, one of the most popular things to do on the South Rim was to gaze at, and photograph, the views. Which is why Colter designed the building as a place from which to view and photograph the canyon.



The views here are amazing. There are several small terraces on different levels, so you can take a photo of your friends or family from above, with the canyon behind and below. You can also clearly see Bright Angel's Trail's switchbacks zigzagging down into the canyon.

Grand Canyon Railway Depot



Built in 1920, the Grand Canyon Depot is another National Historic Landmark. The two-story log and wood-frame building was designed by Californian architect Francis W. Wilson to serve as the main station for the Grand Canyon and it still serves that function today. There were only ever 14 log railway depots built in the United States, and this is one of only three still standing.



1-DAY ITINERARY

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM

Grand Canyon Village

The Pioneer Cemetery and the Shrine of Ages



This historic cemetery is the final resting place of many early Grand Canyon families and pioneers. There are more than 390 individual graves, some dating back to before the establishment of the park and the dedication of the cemetery. People interred at the cemetery include Grand Canyon pioneers, war veterans, tribal members, and employees of the concessionaires, US Forest Service, and National Park Service. The American Legion Post dedicated the cemetery on May 30, 1928.

Try to find the grave of *John Hance*, who became one of the cemetery's first residents in January 1919, a month before the birth of the national park on February 26. Read more about this fascinating guy [here](#).

The nearby **Shrine of the Ages** was created as an interfaith chapel at Grand Canyon in 1970. Today it's a multi-purpose building that hosts a variety of ranger programs and special activities. Check to see if there are any programs during the day or evening while you're there. Topics include geology, human history, wildlife, night sky, water resources, rock art, canyon hiking, and more.

El Tovar Hotel



El Tovar is the grandest of the Grand Canyon National Park lodges and is often considered the finest of all the historic national park lodges. The hotel was built in 1905 for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway and was owned and operated by the famous Fred Harvey Company.

Inside are rustic Oregon pine log beams, native stonework and plush furniture, and it's a cozy spot to hang out. The back porch, with views of Grand Canyon, is especially hard to beat.



1-DAY ITINERARY

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM

Grand Canyon Village

Bright Angel Lodge History Room



Bright Angel Lodge was designed by architect Mary Colter and built in 1935. The History Room at Bright Angel Lodge is well worth visiting. There are photos, historic postcards, a 100-year-old El Tovar menu, an original surrey carriage, and other displays showcasing the history of the lodge and the canyon.

The highlight, however, is the **Geologic Fireplace**, also designed by Mary Colter. The fireplace is built of rocks and stones from all of the major layers of the canyon. Starting with rocks from the Colorado River at its base and culminating at the top with the youngest rocks from the canyon's rim.

Yaki Point



Yaki Point is the only viewpoint on Desert View Drive that you can't drive to for most of the year. Take the orange Kaibab Rim shuttle from the Visitor Center.

To the east, you can see the Desert View watchtower in the distance if you look hard. Look west and there are great views of the South Kaibab Trail wiggling its way down the canyon, so you can see where you just were.

Mather Point



Mather Point is one of the most popular viewpoints on the South Rim, partly because it's so close to the Visitor Center and parking lots.

There's an expansive view of the canyon – you can see more than 30 miles to the east and 60 miles to the west on a clear day. You can even spot Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the canyon on a clear day. Some of the buttes and pinnacles you can see include Vishnu Temple, Isis Temple, Temple of Zoroaster, and Cheops Pyramid.



1-DAY ITINERARY

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM

Grand Canyon Village

Yavapai Point & Yavapai Geology Museum



Yavapai Point is the most northern viewpoint on the South Rim. On a clear day, you can see as far as Havasupai Point to the west and Desert View to the east.



The other main reason to go there is to visit the **Yavapai Geology Museum** (formerly called the Yavapai Observation Station). There are exhibits, including 3-D models, photos, and artwork, explaining Grand Canyon's geology, so you can understand all the different layers of rock that you see and learn how the canyon was created. The museum also has a large topographic relief map of the canyon, so you see exactly where everything is.

The museum is perched right on the edge of the canyon, and another highlight is a huge picture window for seeing the canyon, with interpretive displays explaining what you see. There's also a bookstore and gift shop.



Trail of Time

The Trail of Time is an interpretive walking trail along the rim that's designed to be a **geologic timeline**. In addition to providing frequent views of the canyon itself, each meter walked on the timeline trail signifies one million years of Grand Canyon's geologic history. Along the timeline trail are a series of rocks and exhibits that explain how Grand Canyon and its rock formed.

The Trail starts at Yavapai Geology Museum and goes back in time as you head towards Grand Canyon Village. First up is the "Million Year Trail", which transitions from human time scales to geologic ones. This is immediately followed by the main Trail of Time where each meter equals one million years of Grand Canyon's geologic history.

The trail is paved, mostly flat, and wheelchair accessible. It's 1.3 miles to the Verkamp's Visitor Center in Grand Canyon Village.



1-DAY ITINERARY

AFTERNOON: 1:45PM - 6:00PM

Grand Canyon Village



Dinner 6:00PM

Use the [Dining Guide](#) to find a place for dinner at Grand Canyon Village or Tusayan.



That's the end of your Grand Canyon itinerary!

From here, it's 1 hour to Williams, 1.5 hours to Flagstaff, 2 hours to Sedona, 3.5 hours to Phoenix, 4 hours to Las Vegas, 4.5 hours to the North Rim, and 4.5 hours to Zion National Park.



ADJUSTING YOUR SCHEDULE

ADDING IN NON-SOUTH RIM ACTIVITIES

You can easily spend longer than 1 day in Grand Canyon National Park. You can spend a day on the South Rim but add other options:

Stay overnight inside the canyon



If you spend overnight inside the canyon, I recommend hiking down South Kaibab and up Bright Angel.

- Do this itinerary the same
- The following day, hike down the South Kaibab Trail. Overnight in the canyon.
- Hike up Bright Angel the following day.



If you want to stay at **Phantom Ranch**, you'll need to enter a lottery 15 months in advance. Read my [Guide to Phantom Ranch Reservations](#) for more information.

There are two **campgrounds** you can use - Bright Angel and Indian Garden. You'll need a back country permit. You can apply in a window 5 months in advance. [Read about getting backcountry permits here.](#)

Take a river trip



There are several options for **multi-day river trips** through the canyon. If you are OK to hike up Bright Angel trail, I recommend taking a trip through the upper canyon, which ends at Phantom Ranch. Read my [Guide to Grand Canyon Rafting Trips](#) for more information.

If you do this, start with the river trip (which goes from Flagstaff usually).

- On arrival at the South Rim, have lunch, then do the itinerary's afternoon activities.
- The next day, follow the itinerary's morning schedule. Leave Grand Canyon national park after lunch.



ADJUSTING YOUR SCHEDULE

ADDING IN NON-SOUTH RIM ACTIVITIES

Take a river trip



If you only have time for a **one-day river trip**, they only go to the West Canyon. You could follow the itinerary as is then drive to Peach Springs at the end of the day, where you'll pick up a one-day trip the following day (book well in advance).

STAYING IN DIFFERENT PLACES

The schedule is based on a stay in **Tusayan**. If you stay elsewhere, adjust the timings as follows:

Grand Canyon Village

The timings are basically the same. Keep your vehicle parked at your accommodations. Depending on which lodge or campground you stay in, you might need to tweak it by 15 - 30 minutes (you may already be at the start of the shuttle route or trailhead, or you may need to take a Village shuttle to get there).

EAST ENTRANCE

Desert View Campground

Start about 45 minutes earlier

Cameron

Start 1 hour and 15 minutes earlier

EAST ENTRANCE

Flagstaff

Start 1 hour and a half earlier

Williams

Start 1 hour earlier



USEFUL LINKS

These links are all available in the actual itinerary, but here they are all together as a useful planning and preparation resource.

Bonus extras (Accommodation Guide, Dining Guide, Shuttle Guide)

<https://parkscollecting.com/grand-canyon-bonus-extras-2v6x8dOg8/>

Itinerary Updates

<https://parkscollecting.com/itinerary-updates-f6x9m2/>

Grand Canyon National Park Entrance Fee

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/fees.htm>

Annual Pass: [America The Beautiful Pass](#)

Guide to Reservations at Phantom Ranch

<https://parkscollecting.com/making-reservations-for-phantom-ranch-grand-canyon/>

Bright Angel Bicycles

<https://bikegrandcanyon.com>

NPS Guide to Bicycling in Grand Canyon National Park

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/bicycling.htm>

Ranger Programs

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/ranger-program.htm>

Backcountry Permits (includes campgrounds below the rim)

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry-permit.htm>

Guide to River Trips Through The Grand Canyon

<https://parkscollecting.com/white-water-rafting-grand-canyon/>

Organized and Activities in Grand National Park

<https://grandcanyoncvb.org/activities/>

Current Park Conditions

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/weather-condition.htm>

Sunrise and Sunset Times

<https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/@5296401>

Book Flights: [Skyscanner](#)

Camper Van Rentals: [Escape Campervans](#)

Accommodations

[Hotels and motels](#)

[Vacation rentals](#)

[Campspot](#)

[Campnab](#)

Travel Insurance: [Travelex](#)

Packing Lists: <https://parkscollecting.com/packing-lists/>



PARKS COLLECTING

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