Getting There
Discover spectacular stops on your way to and from Grand Canyon.

Park Entrances
Get an overview of the park with a map and information about the towns closest to the park.

48 Hours in the Park
Get ready for a vacation of a lifetime with our favorite things to do in Grand Canyon.

Wildlife Guide
Learn about Grand Canyon’s fantastic wildlife and the best places to spot these mammals.

What to Expect
Check out our packing list and learn more about entrance fees and weather.

Where to Stay
Stay in a contemporary lodge, historic hotel or vintage motel along the rim of the Grand Canyon.
66 THINGS TO SEE & DO

Heart of Historic Rt 66

- Passport Arizona 66
- Route 66 Museum
- Hackberry Store
- Rock Hounding
- Meet Angel
- Breath Taking Views
- Cool Springs
- Oatman Burros
- Wine Tasting
- Giganticus Headicus
- Electric Vehicle Museum
- Distillery Tours
- Wild Life viewing
- Burma Shave Signs
- Miniature Golf
- Hiking Trails
- Shields in the Road
- Murals
- Keepers of the Wild
- Deadly Switchbacks
- Cerbat Cliffs Golf
- Locomotive 3759
- Grand Canyon Caverns
- Oatman Gun Fights
- Geocaching

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KINGMAN
Heart of Historic Rt 66

ARIZONA
GRAND CANYON STATE

ExploreMoreAZ.com
Getting There
Hit the road to the Grand Canyon and the stunning attractions along the way. Here are six of our all-time favorite road trips to the park.

UTAH PARKS EXTRAVAGANZA
Miles 1,302
Southern Utah offers some of the finest desert scenery in the world—and this loop hits all of the highlights, including all five of Utah’s national parks. Start in Salt Lake City before cruising south to Moab to tour Arches and Canyonlands national parks. Next stop: the expansive views and fantastic hiking trails of the Grand Canyon’s South Rim. From there, swing back to Utah to explore Zion, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef national parks before ending in Salt Lake City.

SOUTHWEST HOT SPOTS
Miles 1,870
You’ll see more than the Grand Canyon in this best of Arizona tour. Begin in San Diego, and head east to Yuma and Tucson where you can visit Saguaro National Park. Consider a side trip to the Wild West towns of Tombstone, Tubac and Bisbee. Then head north to the Phoenix area to get your city fix before leaving for Sedona, a hub for art, hiking and mystical attractions. Continue north to Williams and board the Grand Canyon Railway to the Grand Canyon’s South Rim. Head southwest through the Verde Valley’s wine region and the quaint towns of Jerome and Prescott en route to San Diego.

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT
Miles 1,739
Incredible art, scenery and culture combine to make this New Mexico route a must-do. Begin in Las Cruces before heading to Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park and White Sands National Monument. From there, head north to Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos. Hop on I-40W, stopping at Acoma Pueblo built 1,000 years ago. Then cruise into Arizona and drive to the Grand Canyon’s South Rim. Take a different return route through Silver City, N.M., and Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

VIVA LAS VEGAS
Miles 984
Vegas, baby! Kick off this tour of water recreation hot spots and unique canyon attractions in Las Vegas before heading to Lake Mead Recreation Area and the Valley of Fire State Park. Next, head east to Grand Canyon West, the Hualapai tribe’s tourism center, to venture out on the glass-bottom Skywalk. Afterwards, drive to Kingman for a taste of Route 66 lore before pressing on to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

HISTORIC ROUTE 66
Miles 2,448
Explore the Americana that made Route 66 so legendary on this road trip of a lifetime. Start in Chicago and head west, stopping to see such wonders as the world’s largest concentration of totem poles, a hotel composed of wigwams and the world’s largest themed mural. Take a side trip in Arizona to the Grand Canyon’s South Rim before continuing to the end point: the pier in Santa Monica, Calif.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MAGIC
Miles 1,831
Combine alpine scenery, high-altitude hot springs and red-rock desert on this loop. Start in Denver to sample the Mile High City’s thriving food and art scene. Then cruise to Glenwood Springs and soak in the hot springs there before hitting Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Mesa Verde national parks. Visit Grand Canyon’s North Rim and/or South Rim. Head back to Denver via Durango, Colo., and take its famous train to Silverton and back. Then visit Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

DISCOVER MORE BY JOINING US ONLINE
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NATIONALPARKTRIPS.MEDIA.COM/WORKSHOPS
INSTAGRAM:@MYGRANDCANYONPARK
PINTEREST.COM/NATLPARKTRIPS
NORTH RIM:
Perched between 8,000 and 9,000 feet, the Grand Canyon’s North Rim is located in northern Arizona 45 miles south of Jacob Lake via AZ 67. It’s composed of a mixed conifer forest and stands of aspen trees. Because it sits about 1,500 feet higher than the South Rim, it gets blanketed by snow and closes for winter. Open mid-May through mid-October, it’s less developed and less visited than its twin to the south, with only one lodge, the Grand Canyon Lodge.

SOUTH RIM:
Open year round, the South Rim is the most popular area of Grand Canyon National Park. It is 212 miles from the North Rim, and you can access it from two entrances. The closest town to the South Entrance is Tusayan, and the closest to the East/Desert View Entrance is Cameron. Filled with diverse lodging, camping and restaurant options, the South Rim is home to a variety of historic buildings that you can explore.

GRAND CANYON WEST:
Located 250 miles west of the South Rim, Grand Canyon West is managed by the Hualapai tribe, not by the National Park Service. This means you cannot use your national park pass here. It’s home to the Skywalk, a glass-bottom, horseshoe-shaped bridge hanging over the Grand Canyon. The Hualapai offer Colorado River rafting trips and helicopter tours, as well as cultural experiences.

HAVASU FALLS:
These breathtaking falls featured to the right on page 5 are not technically within Grand Canyon National Park’s boundaries. The falls are located on the Havasupai [meaning people of the blue-green waters] Indian Reservation and are not accessible by road. It’s a long 10-mile hike or saddle ride down and permits, entrance fees and environmental uses fees are required by the reservation. Learn more at the officialhavasupaitribe.com.

Park Entrance Primer
Stretching across 1.2 million acres, Grand Canyon National Park is located in northern Arizona. While people often refer to Grand Canyon National Park as one place, there are actually four distinct areas you can visit. Learn more about each area to help you plan your trip.
48 Hours in the South Rim

Here are some of our favorite things to do from biking to exploring some of the South Rim’s most historic treasures.

START YOUR MORNING WITH THE SUN
Take a shuttle and watch the sunrise from Hopi Point, which extends farther out than any other point.

HIKE THE CANYON’S ICONIC TRAIL
Hike down Bright Angel Trail before it gets hot. This spectacular trail stretches 9.9 miles down the canyon, eventually reaching Phantom Ranch and the Colorado River. For a three-mile roundtrip hike, walk down to 1.5-Mile Resthouse and then retrace your steps.

DINE IN STYLE
Head to El Tovar Hotel, built in 1905, to eat an incredible breakfast in a rustic but elegant setting. Breakfast is served from 6:30-10:45 a.m. No reservations are necessary.

ROCK ON
Head to the Yavapai Geology Museum, a small building with large windows facing the North Rim. This gem presents a fascinating geological history of the canyon.
FIND SOLITUDE ON A BIKE
Rent a bike at Bright Angel Bicycles and ride Hermit Road, which is closed to all traffic, except shuttles and official park vehicles.

CLIMB A TOWER
Take the shuttle east and climb Desert View Watchtower. As you climb four flights of stairs to the top of the 70-foot tower, check out the Hopi murals decorating the walls.

TOUR THE VILLAGE
Take a self-guided architectural tour of the South Rim’s incredible historic buildings. Start with Kolb Studio and end at the Hopi House.

DINE IN A HISTORIC WONDER
Enjoy dinner at the Arizona Room in the Bright Angel Lodge designed by architect Mary Colter in 1935.

SEE A SPECTACULAR SUNSET
Watch the walls of the Grand Canyon change colors as the sun begins to set.
The Wild Grand Canyon

You’ll see more than incredible views when you visit the Grand Canyon. Keep an eye out for these animals on the trails and soaring in the park skies.

Compiled by Jade Lang, Illustrations by Elizabeth Traynor

**Rocky Mountain Elk**

Introduced to Arizona in the early 1900s, elk made their way to Grand Canyon National Park and approximately 100 of them live there. Adult bull elk weigh up to 700 pounds, while adult females may weigh up to 500 pounds. They graze near Mather Campground and Grand Canyon Village but should never be approached. Their mating season is from late August through October. Listen for males bugling during this season.

**California Condor**

The California condor, black with white spots under its wings and a bald head, is the largest bird in North America with a wingspan of 9.5 feet. Populations declined during the 20th century due to hunting, egg collection and lead poisoning, landing them on the endangered species list in 1967. Reintroduction efforts began in 1992 and today Grand Canyon is home to one of three wild condor populations.

**Abert’s Squirrel**

The Grand Canyon has acted as a genetic barrier between Abert’s squirrels on the South Rim and Kaibab squirrels, a subspecies, on the North Rim. Both are recognizable by their gray fur, tufted ears and fluffy tail. They spend most of their lives in or around ponderosa pines, living high in the trees, eating cones, buds and sap and using twigs to make their nests.

**Ringtail**

Although it is the state mammal of Arizona and a common animal at the Grand Canyon, the ringtail is rarely seen by humans because it sleeps during the day and is active only at night. Ringtails have great hearing and eyesight for nighttime hunting. Their black and white-striped tails are used for balancing as well as distracting predators. They are solitary animals, except during mating season, and are timid toward humans.

**Bighorn Sheep**

Adapted for the desert climate, bighorn sheep can be seen bounding up steep terrain and cliffs, thanks to their flexible, spongy hooves. They are the largest native animal in the park, and rams can weigh up to 250 pounds. Both males and females have horns, but ram horns are larger and more curved. Rams battle each other for dominance, butting their horns until one of them surrenders.

**Little Brown Bat**

These little creatures are one of the 22 bat species at the Grand Canyon. They are nocturnal and most active right after dusk and before dawn. Little brown bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquito-sized insects an hour, and at the Grand Canyon they can be found in ponderosa pines, cracks in cliffsides, human structures and old mine caves. Unfortunately, their numbers are declining due to white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that can kill hibernating bats.
What to Expect

From what to pack to entrance fees and weather, here’s the scoop.

WHAT TO PACK

What to put in your suitcase for vacations spring through fall.

- **Refillable water bottles or a hydration system**
  Bring your own to refill at the park’s bottle-filling water stations.

- **Binoculars**
  Catch sight of the park’s condors or faraway rock formations with binoculars.

- **Clothing layers**
  Temperatures can fluctuate 30-40 degrees in one day, so pack layers for day and night.

- **A sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen**
  These are a must as the Arizona sun is strong, and the desert offers little shade.

- **Rain jacket**
  Even the desert gets bursts of rainfall.

- **Blacklight flashlight**
  Spot scorpions easily with your black light, which makes these strange creatures glow in its light.

- **Sturdy hiking boots**
  Pack supportive, waterproof and breathable hiking boots.

- **Ice-traction devices**
  In winter and early spring, ice-traction devices like Yaktrax prevent you from slipping on the park’s icy trails.

- **Daypack**
  Be prepared on your hikes by packing snacks, layers and extra water.

Read our complete packing list at mygrandcanyonpark.com/plan-your-trip/what-to-pack.

WEATHER: EXPECT VARIABLE CONDITIONS

Source: NPS.gov

GRAND CANYON ENTRANCE FEES*

|$30 |
FEE FOR A SEVEN-DAY VEHICLE PASS.

|$15 |
FEE FOR MOTORCYCLISTS, WALKERS AND CYCLISTS FOR A SEVEN-DAY PASS.

|$60 |
COST OF A GRAND CANYON ANNUAL PASS

|$80 |
PRICE OF THE ANNUAL PASS FOR ALL NATIONAL PARK SITES.

|$80 |
ONE-TIME FEE FOR THE SENIOR PASS (CITIZENS 62 AND UP)

|$0 |
COST OF A MILITARY PASS (ACTIVE MILITARY) AND ACCESS PASS (PERMANENTLY DISABLED U.S. CITIZENS).

*Fees subject to change
Where to Stay

Inside the park are eight different lodging options. They range from rustic bunkhouses only accessible by foot to a grand historic lodge.

SOUTH RIM

BRIGHT ANGEL LODGE & CABINS
Located just feet from the rim of the Grand Canyon and the South Rim’s famed Bright Angel trailhead, the Bright Angel Lodge is full of character. Architect Mary Jane Colter was hired in 1935 to refresh the structure to provide travelers with a more affordable alternative to El Tovar Hotel. Originally from the Midwest, Colter was a visionary in what was then very much a male-dominated field of architecture. Choose from 90 lodging units from standard rooms to historic cabins. Bright Angel Lodge (with the exception of Red Horse Cabin) will close Sept. 30, 2018, for renovations that are expected to be completed by Dec. 21, 2018; grandcanyonlodges.com.

EL TOVAR HOTEL
Opened in 1905, El Tovar Hotel is the oldest, most elegant hotel in the South Rim. Designed by architect Charles Whittlesey, it has hosted visitors from all over the world, including President Theodore Roosevelt. It sits just feet from the Grand Canyon’s rim and has 78 rooms with satellite TV, Keurig coffee machines, air conditioning and full baths. Because renovations will be under way to guest rooms, public spaces and the dining room, El Tovar is not available from March 28, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2018. The construction schedule is subject to change; grandcanyonlodges.com.

KACHINA LODGE
Conveniently located between the historic El Tovar Hotel and Bright Angel Lodge, Kachina Lodge, which was built in 1971, does not have deep-rooted histories like its neighbors down the path. But what it lacks in inspiring architecture, it makes up for in location. The Kachina Lodge sits right on the canyon rim, making it easy to explore some of the South Rim’s best attractions by foot. It has no lobby, so if you are looking for ambience and a place to watch the world walk by, head to El Tovar Hotel’s lobby nearby. The Bright Angel trailhead is just minutes away, as are the Hopi House and Kolb Studio. Half of the rooms at the Kachina Lodge have partial canyon views. The other half faces the street; grandcanyonlodges.com.

MASWIK LODGE
Located a quarter of a mile from the canyon’s edge, Maswik Lodge has 250 rooms divided between two areas. Maswik North is composed of 12, two-story buildings, and Maswik South is made up of six, two-story buildings. Because of the pending schedule to remove Maswik South buildings and replace them with a new complex, Maswik South will close June 28, 2018. New construction may take up to two years. Maswik North’s rooms offer air conditioning and Keurig coffee makers; grandcanyonlodges.com.

YAVAPAI LODGE
If you are looking for convenience and a reasonably priced room, consider Yavapai Lodge located about a mile from the South Rim. At Yavapai Lodge West, visitors can stay in a section of the lodge built during the 1960s. Composed of 160 rooms equipped with fans, the style is reminiscent of old Route 66 motels. Or stay in Yavapai East in one of six two-story buildings equipped with air conditioning and in-room coffee makers. One building has 16 pet-friendly rooms; visitgrandcanyon.com.

PHANTOM RANCH
Located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, it is the only lodging facility below the canyon rim. The ranch can only be reached by mule, by foot or by rafting the Colorado River. Reservations open for dates 13 months prior, and you have to call the central reservation office in Denver to reserve your spot. The central reservations office is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily; 888-297-2757.

THUNDERBIRD LODGE
Conveniently located between El Tovar and Bright Angel Lodge, Thunderbird Lodge was built in 1968 and its concrete facade reflects the era. Half of the rooms at the Thunderbird Lodges have partial canyon views, and the others are street side. Rooms have two queen beds or one king bed, Keurig coffee machines, a refrigerator, safe, television, telephone and full bath; grandcanyonlodges.com.

NORTH RIM

GRAND CANYON LODGE
At the North Rim, there is only one lodge for travelers to stay. It has a variety of cabins and motel-style rooms. Reservations open a year in advance. Book as far in advance as possible. Make reservations at grandcanyonforever.com.
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