

# What to do at the GRAND CANYON SOUTH RIM



Timeless vistas wrought in rock and water, the Grand Canyon is nature at its most spectacular. Ancient peoples, John Wesley Powell, miners, artists, photographers, and visitors—all come and go. The canyon remains. When you visit, practice “Leave No Trace” principles:

dispose of trash responsibly, keep pets leashed, and be considerate of others. President Theodore Roosevelt, who established the Grand Canyon National Monument in 1908, said, “Do nothing to mar its grandeur, for the ages have been at work upon it.”

**Map Key**

Road	Trail	Parking
Full access	Paved	Point of interest
Shuttle access only/ Shuttle stop	Unpaved	Ranger station
Blue	Trailhead	Restrooms
Red	Campground	Wheelchair access
Green	Resthouse	

0 1/2 1 Mile  
0 1/2 1 Kilometer



## Where to go

Activities are arranged for time and ease; if you have more time, you can do any of the ideas listed here in any order.

IF YOU HAVE A

### Half day or less

Choose from any of the activities or sites listed at right to help plan your half day at the Grand Canyon. You might begin by seeing the IMAX film, “Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets” at the National Geographic Visitor Center. This 34-minute giant-screen film introduces viewers to the canyon, telling the story of the Native Americans, John Wesley Powell, and the unique wildlife.

The free shuttle service will take you around. Places to park are marked **P** on this map. The best way to get close to the Grand Canyon is on foot.

At Canyon View Information Plaza (CVIP), reached via Village Shuttle or on foot from the Rim Trail, you can get information and view exhibits. Or go directly to Mather Point, most people’s first view.

The four-mile section of Rim Trail from Mather Point to Maricopa Point is mostly paved for easy walking. The path from Mather Point to Kolb Studio is wheelchair accessible. Bring water, and drink often to avoid the effects of altitude and heat.

IF YOU HAVE A

### Full day

With more time, you can do any of the half-day suggestions and add in a ranger program, flight tour, land tour, or, if physically active, a hike. You might, for example, view the “Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets” IMAX film, do a fly-over, and then take a vigorous hike or a leisurely rim walk.

IF YOU HAVE

### Two days or more

With the luxury of time, you can mix any of the above activities with the suggestions at right. Make inquiries early in the day for last-minute openings. You might consider day hiking into the canyon along Bright Angel or South Kaibab trails. Kids 4 to 14 can sign up for Junior Ranger Programs. The Grand Canyon Field Institute offers one- to eight-day classes and field trips.

## Life in the Canyon

The canyon shelters wildlife and plants that vary with elevation. Mule deer roam forests at 7,000 feet. Beavertail cacti add color to desert scrub between 7,000 and 3,500 feet. Watch the skies for big birds—the California Condor, with a 10-foot wingspan, and the raven, largest of crows.



## Where to start



National Geographic Visitor Center is here to help you enhance your visit to one of the world’s most extraordinary natural wonders. National Geographic Visitor Center can give you both the canyon-wide overview and the up-close view from below the rim.

- Visitor Center**  
National Park Pass Tickets, Reservations, Tours. Make early arrangements for canyon flights, horse rides, guided tours, and activities.
- IMAX Theater**  
“Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets” runs every hour on the half hour. This large-screen film provides an excellent overall impression of the canyon.
- Arizona Office of Tourism**  
Information on the Grand Canyon, northern Arizona, and Arizona as a whole.
- National Geographic Store**  
Maps, books, games, “Grand Canyon: The Hidden Secrets” on VHS and DVD, Native American crafts.
- National Geographic Photo Gallery**  
Historic pictures of Major Powell’s expedition, Native American life, and expeditions to map the canyon.
- Food Court**  
Pizza Hut Express, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.
- Three-dimensional model of the canyon**  
Satellite image of the canyon brought to life.
- For more information call (928) 638-2468 or check the web at [www.explorethecanyon.com](http://www.explorethecanyon.com)**



**Grand Photographs**  
No one sees the same canyon twice. As the sun moves and clouds pass, the rock changes color and reflects light and shadow. Best points for sunrise: Yaki, Mather, or Yavapai. For sunset: Hopi and Pima, as well as Mather and Yavapai. To photograph the river, take a panoramic or zoom lens to Pima or Hopi points.

## How to get around

### Shuttles and Tours

**Ride the Shuttle**  
Free shuttle routes, color-coded on this map, run along the rim. Check *The Guide*, free at the National Geographic Visitor Center and park entrance, for schedules. The shuttles stop and pick up all day long during summer, from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.



### Ranger Programs

Check out *The Guide* for the current talks and tours offered by U.S. Park Rangers. Enjoy the stories rangers tell of the canyon’s human history, natural history, and geology. Evening programs are often held at Shrine of the Ages. Children can earn badges at Junior Ranger Programs.



**Flight Tours**  
Grand Canyon National Park  
0.5 miles south

Map compliments of the National Geographic Visitor Center.

For information regarding available maps call 1-800-962-1643 or write to National Geographic Maps, PO Box 4357, Evergreen, CO 80437-4357. You can find us on the Internet at [nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://nationalgeographic.com/maps).

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