

# Grand Canyon General Information

( as of April 2017 )

## **Q: Where do I park my vehicle(s)?**

- A: South Rim: Hikers can park at the Backcountry Information Center (parking lot D). It is a short walk over to the Bright Angel Trailhead. A free hikers' shuttle goes to the South Kaibab trailhead from the Backcountry Information Center, Bright Angel Lodge, and Yavapai Lodge. Private automobiles are not allowed to access the South Kaibab trailhead. Taxi service is available 24-hours a day, 928-638-2631. Backpackers with permits in the Boucher and Hermit areas are given the gate combination for Hermit Road. Drivers must yield to shuttle buses and observe posted speed limits. With regards to backpacking the South Kaibab/Bright Angel Loop, park at the Backcountry Information Center and take the free Hikers' Express shuttle to the South Kaibab Trailhead or walk to the Bright Angel Trailhead.
- North Rim: There is a parking lot at the North Kaibab trailhead.
- If you have only one vehicle, it is best to park it near the trailhead where you exit the canyon. Be sure not to drive off-road, block another vehicle, or otherwise obstruct traffic when you park. Valuables should be secured out of sight (in a trunk if possible), glove compartments left open for inspection and the vehicle locked. On the South Rim, the Bright Angel Lodge offers a storage service for valuables for a fee on a space available basis.

## **Q: How can I get my stuff carried out on a mule?**

A: The Bright Angel Lodge (South Rim) works directly with mule outfitters to provide pack animal services for a fee. The service is arranged from above the rim only. Visit the Bright Angel Lodge transportation desk after you arrive at the park.

## **Q: How much water do I need?**

A: In warm months each hiker should carry and drink about a gallon (4 liters) of water per day. Watch your "ins and outs". Drink enough so that urine frequency, clarity, and volume are normal. You are not drinking enough water if your urine is dark, small in quantity, or non-existent in the course of a day's hiking. In addition, eating adequate amounts of food will help you replace the electrolytes (salts) that you are sweating.

During the summer months, your fluid/electrolyte loss can exceed two quarts per hour if you hike uphill in direct sunlight during the hottest part of the day. Because the inner canyon air is so dry and hot, sweat evaporates instantly making its loss almost imperceptible. Do not wait until you start feeling thirsty to start replacing lost fluid. By the time you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated! Your body can absorb only about one quart of fluid per hour. Drink one-half to one full quart of water or sports drink each and every hour you are hiking in the heat. Carry your water bottle in your hand and drink small amounts often.

### **Q: Where can I find water?**

A: Purified drinking water is only available at a few locations in the canyon along the Corridor trails. NOTE: all pipelines in the canyon are subject to breaks at any time of year, cutting off water supplies. Always carry water with you.

Water availability along the Corridor trails:

- Mile-and-a-half and Three-Mile resthouses (on the Bright Angel Trail) => May to Sep
- Indian Garden => year-round
- Bright Angel Campground => year-round
- Phantom Ranch => year-round
- Cottonwood Campground => May to mid-Oct
- Roaring Springs Trail Junction => May to mid-Oct

Visit the [Backcountry Updates and Closures page](https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/trail-closures.htm) for current information on the availability of drinking water along the Corridor trails.

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/trail-closures.htm>

For other locations, water may be obtained directly from the Colorado River, creeks, and potholes, but must be treated before drinking. Be aware that many water sources in the canyon are intermittent and unreliable.

### **Q: Which is easier the South Kaibab Trail or the Bright Angel Trail?**

A: Although both trails are maintained, they are very strenuous and involve hiking numerous switchbacks. The Bright Angel Trail is roughly 2 miles longer but has water, some shade, and half-way down is Indian Garden, a wonderful place for a rest stop. There you will find water, toilet facilities, a ranger station, and a place to sit in the shade. The South Kaibab Trail has no water and very little shade.

If you are hiking from the South Rim to Bright Angel Campground and back, a popular option is to take the South Kaibab Trail down, and the Bright Angel Trail up, thereby completing a "loop hike". Leave your car at the Backcountry Information Center lot and take the free Hikers' Express shuttle bus to the South Kaibab trailhead.

### **Q: How long will it take to get to the bottom from the South Rim?**

A: The South Kaibab Trail is 6.8 miles to Bright Angel Campground and the Bright Angel Trail is 9.3 miles. It will take most hikers between 4 and 5 hours to get to the campground on either trail. Oddly enough, very few people ask how long the return hike will take. The return hike may take twice as long, though 7 to 8 hours seems to be average. Underestimating the elevation change and not eating or drinking enough can easily add a few hours to those averages.

The **Trans Canyon Shuttle** (928-638-2820) runs between the north and south rims of the park once each day, in each direction, between May 15th and October 15, with a limited schedule between October 16 and October 31. The travel time is about 4 1/2 hours each way. Reservations required.

**Driving from South Rim to North Rim** takes about a five-hour drive of 215 miles (345 km)

**Driving From Phoenix, AZ** - 231 miles / 372 kilometers

- Take I-17 north to Flagstaff, AZ.
- From Flagstaff, take I-40 west to Williams, AZ.
- From Williams, AZ, take Highway 64 north to the South Rim.

### **Phantom Ranch Room and Service Rates**

<b>Room Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Cabin, two people	\$142.00
Additional person in cabin	\$13.00
Dorm, per person	\$49.00
Group Cabin, Flat Rate	\$246.00
Breakfast, per person	\$19.11
Sack Lunch, per person	\$14.00
Steak dinner, per person	\$43.65
Stew dinner, per person	\$26.45
Veggie dinner, per person	\$26.45
Duffel service	\$68.00 each way