

Grand Canyon National Park

- **Elevation:** Between 784 m (2,572 ft) at Phantom Ranch on the canyon bottom, 2,100 m (6,889 ft) at the South Rim, and 2,560 m (8,399 ft) at the North Rim

- **Annual Visitors:** Approximately 5 million per year, of which only 10% visit the North Rim

- **Peak Visitation:** Highest between March and April, from late May to early September, and during major holiday weeks. August has the highest number of visitors.

"The dim trail led us to its edge, where we could look down into the twelve-hundred-foot V-shaped gash which the river had cut into the dark, crude-looking Archaean rock. How distinctly it looked like a new day in creation where the horizontal, yellowish-gray beds of the Cambrian were laid down upon the dark, amorphous, and twisted older granite! How carefully the level strata had been fitted to the shapeless mass beneath it!" John Burroughs

How, Where, What

The first view over the canyon is simply breathtaking. In the morning and evening, the canyon presents itself as a landscape in its own right, a sea of shapes, colors, light, and shadow, larger and more spectacular than one had dared to hope. The midday light, on the other hand, levels the dimensions in a peculiar way and robs one of the sense of distance and size. Once you have grasped this understanding, the only question remains: How can you immortalize infinity?

Many forces have created this canyon landscape's unique panorama, but the photographer is drawn to more than its vastness. Throughout the seemingly chaotic expanse of plateaus, cliffs, and temples, one can uncover details that individually create a unique, nuanced portrayal of this magnificent landscape.

The magnificent Colorado River gorge runs from Glen Canyon Dam in the north into Lake Mead 443 km (275 mi) to the southwest. The portion of the canyon visible from established vantage points on the north and south rims enters from the north through Tanner Wash, makes a wide arc

"Kaibab" was the name given by the Paiute to the canyon: "mountain lying down" or "upside-down mountain." The canyon represents nearly half of the Earth's geological time scale.



Evening atmosphere at Hopi Point

Kaibab National Forest covers both plateaus. In general, there is a 10 °C (18 °F) temperature difference between the south and north rims. On the way down to the bottom of the canyon, it gets warmer by an average of 5.5 °C per 1,000 ft (3 °C per 1,000 m).

The highlight of the year is autumn, with the spectacular foliage coloration of the extensive forests that begins in October. The mostly bright blue sky then merges with the multicolored rocks, golden-crowned aspens, and evergreen firs to form a wonderful whole.

Geographical orientation and the most photogenic times of day

The canyon's east-west orientation facilitates photography, as most vantage points looking into the canyon are equally suitable for capturing panoramas and formations in the low sun.

The first morning light illuminates the reddish-yellow limestone just below the fault line. Gradually, the multicolored layers in the depths become visible. The second half of the day reverses this spectacle, with shadows creeping back to the surface, engulfing colors and details until night fills this vast scar black.



Shadows give images of vast landscapes, such as the Grand Canyon, their true depth.



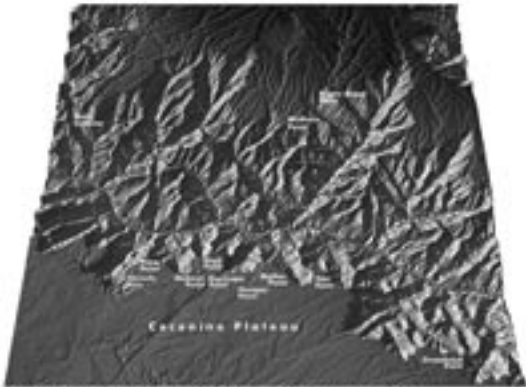
"No matter how far you have wandered hitherto, or how many famous gorges and valleys you have seen, this one, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, will seem as novel to you, as unearthly in the color and grandeur and quantity of its architecture, as if you had found it after death, on some other star." John Muir



Blick nach Norden über den Grand Canyon Südrand
am 01.07. um 06:00 Uhr, Sonnenaufgang um 05:19 Uhr



Blick nach Norden über den Grand Canyon Südrand
am 01.07. um 12:30 Uhr



Blick nach Norden über den Grand Canyon Südrand
am 01.07. um 19:00 Uhr, Sonnenuntergang um 19:44 Uhr

Photographic features

The biggest problem at the Grand Canyon is translating its proverbial size into photographs. Panoramic views, quickly photographed from the next best vantage point at noon, are completely unsuitable for this purpose. The higher the sun, the shorter the shadows, and the flatter, contrastless, and one-dimensional the image becomes. Therefore, limit the work to the two hours after sunrise or before sunset. The most effective use of light is when your subject is facing the opposite direction of the sun. You should shoot large-scale overviews when the light is distributed by many small clouds and the sky is thus varied in structure. In addition to flat light, a foreground with active near and far points is another way to add depth and spaciousness to your shots. You can incorporate charmingly shaped juniper bushes and pines, which grow at almost all vantage points, into the image. Alternatively, consider positioning your travel companion(s) in the foreground, possibly using some flash lighting.

The canyon itself

The canyon interior is the third major area of the National Park, along with the North and South Rims, and unless you're taking an inflatable boat from Lees Ferry, the only way to reach it is on foot. Several trails lead down from the North and South Rim. All of these trails share the common feature of bridging a significant altitude difference of more than 1000 m (3,280 ft) over the stretch of more than 10 km (6.2 mi), which in turn places significant demands on your personal fitness. The basic equipment includes food and at least 2 liters of water, both of which you should consume. In the Visitor Center, you can get detailed information about possible dangers and precautions. On the way, provided you have a Backcountry Permit, you can camp in specially designated areas of the park, called use areas. But just like overnight accommodations at Phantom Ranch at the canyon bottom, the number of permits is limited; usually the number of applications doubles the permits issued. Reservations for Phantom Ranch also run up to a year in advance. However, there are a not inconsiderable number of cancellations, and thus at least a chance for a short-term bed.



Playing with the depth of field gives images of wide landscapes, such as the Grand Canyon, an additional sense of depth.

"The majority of Grand Canyon hikers are here for the first time, and although many are avid hikers, they find that hiking the Grand Canyon is very different from most other backpacking experiences. They tend to react to the experience in one of two ways: either they can't wait to get back or they swear they'll never do it again."

www.thecanyon.com/nps/backpacking

One more thing about safety: if you encounter the mulicaravan carrying the not-so-well-constituted down and up along the way, step to the inside edge, stay calm, and follow the wranglers' instructions. - A spooked animal can easily cost someone their life if it runs away!

The walking times provided are minimum durations, excluding photo stops. Assuming an early start, it is generally possible to walk from the South Rim down to Phantom Ranch and back up again in one day (8–10 hours at a brisk pace). Always keep in mind that the steeper way back takes more energy and time than the downhill part.