



Welcome to the Grand Canyon

Breathtaking. Staggering. Once-in-a-lifetime. Enormous. These are all words that come to mind when we imagine the Grand Canyon.

It's a place where the angles, colors, shadows, the sky and the clouds seem to defy logic, and even science. Like a vivid yet surreal dreamscape. It's hard to describe and even more difficult to capture the feeling you get standing in a place where the world—or at least the earth beneath your feet—seems to fall away. Giant plateaus, deep gorges, sheer cliff faces. The river rippling like a turquoise jewel against this sandstone landscape. Rocks that reach more than a mile down to the bottom and billions of years back in time.

A beloved national park, UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the most visited tourist attractions in the world. We all know about the unforgettable physical beauty of the Grand Canyon. But how about some special insider insights to make your journey truly unforgettable? Xanterra Travel Collection has been operating in legendary destinations like this for 145 years, so we not only

provide up close access but also uncommon expertise for truly exclusive, unforgettable experiences.

So dust off your wide angle lens, lace up your hiking boots, and sharpen your curiosity to learn more about the history that shaped this area and its people

Welcome to Xanterra's world of unforgettable.

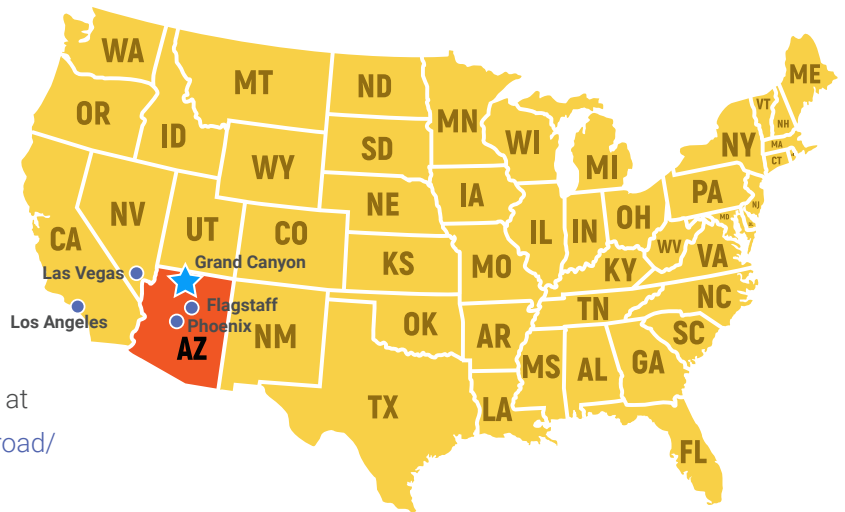


"In the Grand Canyon, Arizona has a natural wonder which is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world."

— Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States

Where To Find It

The most distinguishable landmark in Arizona, the Grand Canyon is one good old fashioned iconic American road trip away from Phoenix, AZ (3.5 hour drive), Los Angeles, CA (8.5 hour drive) or Las Vegas, NV (4 hour, 20-minute drive). For a more direct trip, Flagstaff, AZ, is only 1.5 hours from the South Rim. Find detailed road trip itineraries from LA and Phoenix at www.xanterra.com/for-travelers/roam-the-open-road/



Plan your historic adventure with our village map. View a high-res version online here: <https://www.grandcanyonlodges.com/content/uploads/2018/01/SR-Village-Map.jpg>



"We're in tune with nature. They say we're a poor tribe, but we're rich in our heritage,"

– Letha Talasyousiea, Hopi Indian

Everyone knows about the cliffs and canyons, the deep gorges and ancient layers of rock, the staggering views and the meandering valleys. The Colorado River began carving its way downward 5–6 million years ago, but did you know that the Grand Canyon region has been home to humans for more than 13,000 years? What makes the park so special isn't just its stunning geography. It's actually the cultural history of its people.

The Puebloans lived in and around the canyon for several thousand years, leaving behind dwellings, garden sites, and artifacts, and several modern tribes still consider the Grand Canyon their homeland, including the Navajos, whose sprawling reservation borders the eastern side of the park. In all, 11 contemporary tribes have cultural links to the area, and the stories they pass down are rich with references to the creation of the massive canyon and great river that carved it.

Look for the place names and structures throughout the park that remind us of these early inhabitants.

Indian Garden, a plateau along the Bright Angel Trail, dates to ancient times and while not an original structure, Hopi House was inspired by a traditional terraced Hopi dwelling. Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, architect of the southwest, used the architecture of the Puebloans of the Colorado Plateau as her model for the Desert View Watchtower.

Today, the canyon's workforce includes a good number of Hopi, Navajos, and other tribal members, and in summer months, a Navajo troupe performs traditional dances outside of Hopi House.



Insider tip:

Want to learn even more? The National Park Service rangers pride themselves on how much they know about the park, and they love sharing their insights with visitors. Check out a ranger talk to learn about everything from archaeoastronomy and the Ancestral Puebloans to petroglyphs, geology, and hiking the canyon.

Learn More at www.grandcanyonlodges.com

"The wonders of the Grand Canyon cannot be adequately represented in symbols of speech, nor by speech itself." — John Wesley Powell, Geologist and Explorer

What To See & Do

Do more than just saunter over to the edge of the rim, snap a few photos, and gaze out into the great beyond. Here are some of the best things to do for a deeper, richer, more authentic Grand Canyon experience.

The Historic Village

Truly experience the Grand Canyon and its fascinating history by spending some time in this picturesque must-see attraction which includes historical buildings, national landmarks, and local businesses, including the El Tovar Hotel, Hopi House, and Bright Angel Lodge. Take a step back in time on a self-guided walking tour and wander through this historically preserved village that dates back to the early 1900s. It doesn't hurt that this is also where you'll find some of the most spectacular views of the canyon.



Bright Angel Lodge.



Explore Hopi House, a National Historic Landmark.

Visit iconic historical buildings including the El Tovar Hotel, Hopi House, and Bright Angel Lodge. Check out the spectacular views from Lookout Studio, perched on the very edge of the rim. The historic Kolb Brothers Studio features changing art exhibits and Verkamp's Visitor Center is a Mission-style museum. If you didn't arrive here on the Grand Canyon Railway, be sure to check out the depot, a National Historic Landmark, and stop by to say hello to our hard-working mules at The El Tovar Stables. The self-guided walking tour is like taking a step back in time as you wander through this historically preserved village dating back to the early 1900s.



Unforgettable sunrises and sunsets.

Mule Rides

If we're talking about unforgettable, what could be more memorable than a mule ride along the rim, or even better, deep down into the Grand Canyon staying overnight at Phantom Ranch? If you think the view from the rim takes your breath away, wait until you experience the immense beauty of the Canyon from deep within its gorges. The sure-footed mule has been carrying canyon visitors on the adventure of a lifetime since the late 1800s.

Sunrise & Sunset

If you've ever seen even just a photo of sunrise over the rim of the Grand Canyon, you'd be shocked to know that the majority of visitors actually skip this most awe-inspiring view. One of the most breathtaking landscapes, made even more extraordinary by the multi-hued spectacle of the morning sky. The end of the day is no less dazzling, as the sun dips into the horizon and magical colors layer the sky and the walls of the canyon. After sundown, at 7,000 feet, the Grand Canyon is an amazing place to see the night skies. With some of the darkest skies in the country—receiving the honor of International Dark Sky Park certification—it's a true sanctuary for the night. The beauty and joy you get from looking up at the star-filled sky, the Milky Way in particular, is something

that stays with you forever. There's hardly a bad seat in the house here, but for sunrises and sunsets, Hopi Point is the best. The soft, warm light during sunrise and sunset is called 'magic hour' for a reason. When you capture the moment, make sure your snapshots look like picture-perfect postcards with a few helpful tips.

Hiking

There are several trails at the South Rim that are perfect for day hikes, but hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon down the 10.3-mile Bright Angel Trail (near Historic Village) to the Colorado River is on many a



Unforgettable ways to explore.

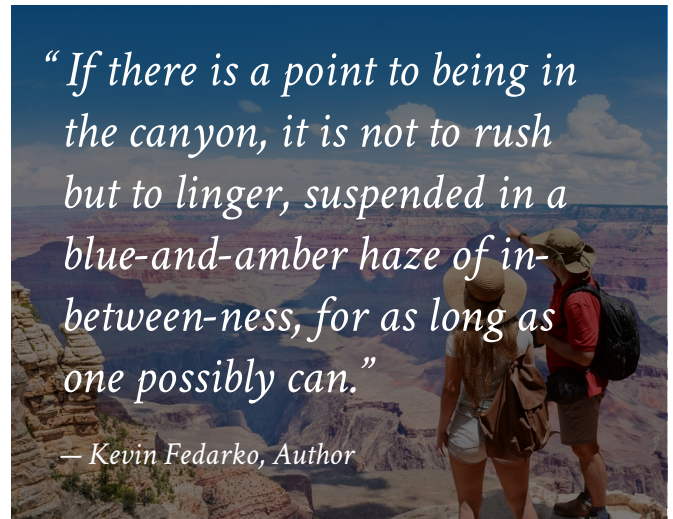


Hike below the rim to really discover more.

bucket list, and for good reason. Descending down alongside the layers of the canyon walls is like taking a dramatic geological trip back in time (millions of years back, to be precise). The 7.3-mile South Kaibab Trail just east of the Grand Canyon Visitor Center at Mather Point will also take you below the rim. For an easier trek, The Rim Trail offers excellent walking for quiet views of the inner canyon. Whatever path you choose, be sure to plan ahead and be prepared.

Go Beyond

If you're up for a little road trip adventure, hop in your car and head east to discover even more. Explore highlights such as the Yavapai Geology Museum at Yavapai Point, the historic Tusayan Museum and ruins (which include the remnants of homes and kivas created by Pueblos



800 years ago), and Mary Colter's 1932 master-piece, the Watchtower at Desert View. You'll really get a sense for how grand this place is from the top of this 70-foot observation tower.

The Train

Western musicians, cowboy characters, vintage rail cars. Turn the journey into an experience in and of itself aboard the Grand Canyon Railway, a fabled historic journey to the heart of one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The terrain changes from high desert to prairie, prairie to pine, until your destination: the life-changing awe-inspiring views of the Grand Canyon. Departing daily from Williams, Arizona, combine this memorable experience with a stay at the Grand Canyon Railway Hotel.



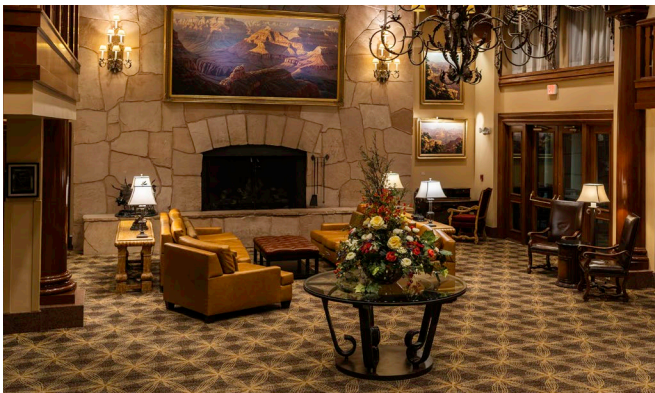
Take an unforgettable journey aboard the Grand Canyon Railway.

Where To Stay

Grand Canyon Lodges

When you're visiting one of our incredible national parks, the easiest and best place to stay is inside it. At the South Rim, choose from six distinct experiences. Stay at the coveted Phantom Ranch, the only lodging below the canyon rim, which can only be reached by mule, on foot, or by rafting the Colorado River. Or opt for one of our favorites right in the must-see Historic Village: the iconic El Tovar Hotel, long considered the crown jewel of National Park hotels or the culturally rich Bright Angel Lodge, a Mary E. J. Colter masterpiece and focal point of the South Rim. Other options include the contemporary Kachina and Thunderbird Lodges, right in the center of the Historic Village, or Maswik Lodge, nestled in a Ponderosa pine forest just a short walk from the canyon's edge.

Find out more at www.grandcanyonlodges.com



Stay at rustic Phantom Lodge or the contemporary Grand Canyon Railway Hotel

Grand Canyon Railway Hotel

Right next to the train depot and only a block away from downtown Williams and historic Route 66, the Grand Canyon Railway Hotel is perfectly placed for adventure. Experience the luxury of a bygone era at the newly refurbished hotel, as well as an indoor pool and hot tub, and delicious dining options.

Plan your journey at www.thetrain.com

To book one of our iconic properties, keep these helpful tips in mind:

- 1 Stay inside the park! National parks are big, really big, so why not get as close to the magic as possible so you can spend less time getting where you want to go and more time exploring.
- 2 Book in advance, way in advance. The best national park lodges fill up quickly and often require booking up to 13 months in advance. Improve your chances by being flexible with your dates and/or lodge choice. But don't forget to check back frequently - cancellations do happen.
- 3 Book guided tours in advance to get more choices, more departure times, and the most popular activities, like the South Rim mule rides.
- 4 Don't overlook descriptions. Amenities vary from lodge to lodge, so if you need to have a TV in your room, don't want a shared bathroom, or can't sleep without air conditioning, be sure to read the features carefully.
- 5 Don't pay extra fees when you don't have to! Book directly with Xanterra to avoid third-party fees and get insider knowledge when you're booking.

Hungry For More?

Grand adventures conjure big appetites, and there are no shortage of places to fuel up when hunger strikes.

Dine In

You'll find the park's most celebrated restaurant at El Tovar. Try one of the long-standing favorites, like the beef and pork chili or the French onion soup, which have been on the menu for nearly a century (with the same recipes!) From morning prime rib hash to a Sonoran-style eggs tortilla bowl to Navajo tacos for lunch, and coffee cumin-rubbed New York strip steak with a New Belgian Brewery 1554 Black Lager Demi-Glace for dinner, there's no shortage of dishes to savor. Did we mention the award-winning wine list and local beers and spirits?

Quick Bites

Grab a snack from the popular Maswik Food Court before heading down the trail or enjoy freshly baked pizza from the Pizza Pub while planning your next canyon adventure. Stop at the Fountain at Bright Angel Lodge for ice cream, coffee, fresh fruit, and pre-made sandwiches. Find ice cream, cookies, pastries and other great snacks—and maybe even a seat by the enormous alcove stone fireplace—at Hermit's Rest.

Worked up an appetite? Fred Harvey Burger, a casual diner-style restaurant at Bright Angel Lodge, serves up

any kind of burger you can imagine: Angus beef, elk, bison, lamb, and Beyond. For a true taste of Arizona, look no further than Arizona Steakhouse, where you'll find the classic delicious flavors of the American Southwest.

Look for two mobile food spots including the Sustain Your Hike Food Cart that serves novelty ice cream bars, trail mix, jerky, and refreshments, and the Fred Harvey Food Truck where guests can order burritos, hot dogs, snacks, beverages, and more. Soak up your surroundings, or take your food to go. Since there's no such thing as a bad view of the Grand Canyon, any spot along the rim makes a perfect place for a picnic.

Unforgettable

But the ultimate unforgettable Grand Canyon dining experience? Reserve a suite at El Tovar, order room service, and enjoy a meal in the privacy of your private balcony with your own view of the canyon, perfect to take in a stunning sunset or spectacular sunrise.

Dig into dining at www.grandcanyonlodges.com/dine



Xanterra: A World of Unforgettable

What makes a place unforgettable? Is it just one thing, a moment of delight like seeing the sunset into the South Rim. Or maybe it's the experience itself, like finally checking the Grand Canyon off your bucket list. Better still, it might be who we're sharing the moment with: on an overdue vacation with all the family, taking the kids on that summer trip they can't wait to tell their friends about, Unforgettable can be many things. These are places that stay with you forever. These are experiences you never forget. They leave an impression on your mind and earn a permanent place in your heart. This is Xanterra's world of unforgettable.


TRAVEL COLLECTION

www.xanterra.com

