

Ranger-Led Programs



Discover Grand Canyon with the rangers who know it inside and out


Village and Mather Point Area	LOCATION	TIME	DURATION	FREQUENCY
Cedar Ridge Hike ⚡ What treasures lie below the rim? Join a ranger to discover the beauty of the inner canyon on this arduous hike. Hike descends 1140 feet (374m) below the rim on the unpaved South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge. This strenuous 3-mile (5 km), round-trip hike is not recommended for people with heart or respiratory problems or difficulty walking. Sturdy footwear and 2 quarts (2 liters) of water per person are required. Hat, sunscreen, and snacks strongly recommended. Trailhead closed to private vehicles. Ride the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle from Grand Canyon Visitor Center to trailhead.	South Kaibab Trailhead accessible by shuttle bus only	7:00 a.m.	3–4 hours	Daily
Condor Talk ♿ ⚡ Learn about the majestic and endangered California condor and its reintroduction to northern Arizona in a talk along the canyon's rim. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Bright Angel Lodge stop. Parking may be limited.	In front of Lookout Studio near Bright Angel Lodge	8:00a.m. & 3:30p.m.	30–45 minutes	Daily
Guided Hike ⚡ Explore the Grand Canyon on a ranger-guided hike. This program will hike along the Rim Trail from Hermits Rest Route Transfer and travel west to explore a less traveled route for approximately one hour. You may choose the return hike with the ranger or return by shuttle bus from one of the shuttle bus stops. Sturdy footwear and 1–2 quarts (1–2 liters) of water per person are required. Hat, sunscreen, and snacks strongly recommended. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Hermits Rest Route Transfer stop.	Hermits Rest Route Transfer	8:30 a.m.	2 hours	only on Thursday and Sunday
Fossil Walk ♿ ⚡ Walk through an ancient ocean of marine creatures. Discover the amazing world of fossils and what they tell us about the canyon's history on this moderate hike with a ranger. This half-mile (0.8 km), one-way walk explores an exposed fossil bed along the rim. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Bright Angel Lodge stop. Parking is limited.	Patio on rim side of Bright Angel Lodge	9:00 a.m.	1 hour	Daily
Guided Bicycle Tour ⚡ Experience the wonderful greenway trails on a guided bicycle tour. Explore the geology and natural history of Grand Canyon as you pedal through cool forests along the rim. Bring your own bicycle, or bicycles are available for rent through Bright Angel Bicycle Rentals located along parking lot 4 at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center. One quart (1 liter) of water per person are required. Hat, sunscreen, and snacks strongly recommended. Parking is available in lots 1 through 4. If you plan to rent a bicycle please arrive early to make your arrangements.	Grand Canyon Visitor Center parking lot 4 near Bright Angel Bicycle Rentals	9:00 a.m.	2 hours	only on Saturday
Geology Talk ♿ ⚡ Why is the Grand Canyon so deep, wide, and grand? Why does it exist only here in the world? Grand Canyon is one of the greatest geologic features on earth. Join a park ranger to discover its amazing geologic story. Arrive by riding the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus to the Yavapai Geology Museum stop or park in the nearby parking area.	Yavapai Geology Museum	9:30 a.m.	30–45 minutes	Daily
History Program ♿ For thousands of years, humans have been part of the Grand Canyon. Join a park ranger to discover stories of humankind's enduring relationship with the canyon. Programs may include a walk around the village historic district. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop. Parking in the nearby lot may be limited.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	10:00 a.m.	30–45 minutes	Daily
Ranger Stories ♿ ⚡ Ever wonder how rangers become rangers or what types of jobs rangers do in national parks? Come share in some fun and interesting stories of Grand Canyon's park rangers. Many have held other interesting and exciting positions in national parks all over the country. Learn about some of our rangers and what brought them to the Grand Canyon. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop; parking is limited.	El Tovar Porch on rim side	10:30 a.m.	30–45 minutes	only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday


Village and Mather Point Area, continued


	LOCATION	TIME	DURATION	FREQUENCY
Geo-Glimpse   Wondering how the Grand Canyon came to be? Enjoy this short introductory talk and learn about the geology of the Grand Canyon while you explore the Yavapai Geology Museum. Parking may be available at Yavapai Point or plan to arrive by the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus. Consider walking along the Trail of Time following the program.	Yavapai Geology Museum	1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.	15–20 minutes	Daily
Rim Talk  Join a park ranger for a talk along the rim of the Grand Canyon to explore its natural and cultural history. This program may take a short stroll along the Rim Trail or find a cool shaded location depending on weather. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Bright Angel Lodge stop. Parking may be limited.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	1:30 p.m.	30–45 minutes	Daily
Mather Point Talk   A great introduction to Grand Canyon! Join a park ranger for this short program to discover some of the many treasures of Grand Canyon. Topics vary daily. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to Grand Canyon Visitor Center stop. Parking is available in lots 1 through 4.	Mather Point Amphitheater	1:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.	20–30 minutes	Daily
Porch Talk   Relax on the porch with a ranger for this short program to discover the treasures of the canyon. Topics vary daily. Perfect for Junior Rangers and train passengers! Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop. Parking in the nearby lot is limited.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.	15–20 minutes	Daily
Campfire Program   Come experience a traditional family Campfire Program. Join a park ranger at the campfire and learn what Grand Canyon has to offer. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Take the path from Mather Campground kiosk to the Sage Loop Campfire Circle. Parking is available at Camper Services near the campground.	Sage Loop Campfire Mather Campground	6:30 p.m.	45–60 minutes	Daily
Evening Program   A perfect way to end your day at the Grand Canyon! Relax beneath the stars and enjoy a ranger presentation about Grand Canyon's fascinating natural or cultural history. Check the schedules posted at visitor centers throughout the park for nightly topic. Arrive by walking, driving, or riding the free Village Route shuttle bus to Shrine of the Ages. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Accessibility note: although the trails to the amphitheater are paved, short sections exceed a 5% grade.	McKee Amphitheater	May–July: 8:30 p.m. Aug–Sep: 8:00 p.m.	1 hour	Daily
Special Programs				
Full Moon Walks and Star Talks				
Discover the mysteries of the night! During nights around the full moon and new moon, rangers may offer moon walks and star talks at the Yavapai Geology Museum. Programs are offered as staffing allows. Check at a park service visitor center for times and locations.	Yavapai Geology Museum	Varies	1 hour	Around new and full moons
Graveyard Walks				
During nights around the full moon, rangers may offer a moonlight tour of Grand Canyon's historic Pioneer Cemetery. Program is offered as staffing allows. Check at park visitor centers to see if this casual stroll is scheduled.	Pioneer Cemetery west of Shrine of Ages	9:00 p.m.	1 hour	Around full moons
Family Programs				
Junior Ranger Adventure Hike  				
Hike with a ranger on Hermit Trail. This strenuous, 1.5-mile (2.4 km) round trip hike is designed for families with kids ages nine to 14. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. This program also meets the requirements of the First Lady's Let's Move Outside initiative (www.letsmove.gov). To arrive on time for this program, board the free Hermits Rest Route shuttle bus by 8:00 a.m.	The bell at Hermits Rest	9:00 a.m.	2 hours	Daily
Junior Ranger Discovery Pack  				
Explore the ecology of Grand Canyon with your family and discover the diversity of plants and animals that live here. Learn to use binoculars, field guides, and other tools of a naturalist. This program is designed for families with children ages nine to 14. Parents sign out the Discovery Packs and must return them to Park Headquarters no later than 4:00 p.m. the same day. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Shrine of Ages stop or park in lot A.	Park Headquarters	9:00 a.m.	2 hours	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday through August 13

Family Programs, continued

	LOCATION	TIME	DURATION	FREQUENCY
Kids Rock!   Join a ranger for activities and games exploring the natural world of Grand Canyon. Children ages seven to 11 participate in programs about fire ecology, water, insects, bats, and more. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Shrine of the Ages stop or park in lot A.	Shrine of the Ages, west end of Lot A	10:00 a.m.	1 hour	Daily, through August 13
Story Time Adventures   Hear a ranger read children's books about Grand Canyon. Props and interactive games bring the stories to life. This program is for families with children ages two to six. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop; parking is limited.	El Tovar Porch, on rim side	1:30 p.m.	30 minutes	Daily
Way Cool Stuff for Kids   Join a ranger for activities designed to introduce children ages seven to 11 to the environment of Grand Canyon. Topics include animal adaptations, predator-prey relationships, invasive species, and more. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Shrine of the Ages stop or park in lot A.	Shrine of the Ages, west end of Lot A	4:00 p.m.	1 hour	Daily
Twilight Zone   As the sun sets and twilight nears, join a ranger to experience Grand Canyon at night. A ranger will lead the family through games and activities designed to connect children ages seven to 14 to nocturnal animals, the night sky, and more. Please bring a flashlight, warm clothes, and sturdy walking shoes.	Shrine of the Ages, west end of Lot A	Varies	1–1 1/2 hours	Check visitor centers for dates
Desert View and Tusayan Museum				
A Walk on the Quiet Side  Join a ranger for a relaxing stroll around Desert View Point. Stretch your legs and expand your mind by discovering more about what makes Grand Canyon unique.	In front of the Desert View Visitor Center	9:00 a.m.	30–45 minutes	Daily
A Journey Through Time   Have you ever wondered what life was like at Grand Canyon 800 years ago? How did people find food, water, and shelter? Join a ranger to explore the remains of an ancestral Puebloan village. Envision a thriving community in this harsh and demanding environment. Program includes a walk along a 0.1-mile (0.2 km) flat, paved trail.	Tusayan Museum , 3 miles (5 km) west of Desert View	11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.	30 minutes	Daily
Cultural Connections    People have called the canyon home for thousands of years. Bring your imagination and learn about one aspect of their rich legacy.	Tusayan Museum , 3 miles (5 km) west of Desert View	2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.	20 minutes	Daily
The Spirit of Sunset  Tranquility, inspiration, spectacular colors, and the natural sounds of the canyon. Leave the crowds behind and end your day at Desert View. Each ranger's passion for one of the canyon's extraordinary facets is presented during this program. Wear weather-appropriate clothing. See page 2 for sunset times.	Desert View Point , near the Watchtower	1 hour before sunset	45 minutes	Daily

 All outdoor programs may be cancelled in inclement weather or when lightning danger is present.

 These programs are wheelchair accessible with assistance. Wheelchairs are available for loan during the day at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

 These family-oriented programs are ideal for meeting the ranger program requirement for Grand Canyon's Junior Ranger badge. Any ranger program, however, meets the requirement on page 2 of the Junior Ranger Activity Booklet.

Please Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult at all programs.

Become a Junior Ranger!

Grand Canyon National Park offers a Junior Ranger program for children ages four and older.

To take part in the FREE program, pick up a Junior Ranger booklet at any park visitor center. Complete four activities listed for the appropriate age level and attend a ranger-led program (listed on pages 4–6 of this guide).

Bring your completed booklet back to any visitor center to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.

Junior Ranger programs are available at Phantom Ranch, the North Rim, and over 250 national parks, seashores, and monuments nationwide.

