

# Day Hike – Hermit Trail

## Grand Canyon National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Trail Condition:** Unmaintained steep trail requires caution. Rocky and strenuous. Give uphill hikers the right of way.

**Directions to Trailhead:** Located on the South Rim. During summer months, access is by shuttle bus, no private vehicles allowed. Trail begins 500 feet west of Hermits Rest.

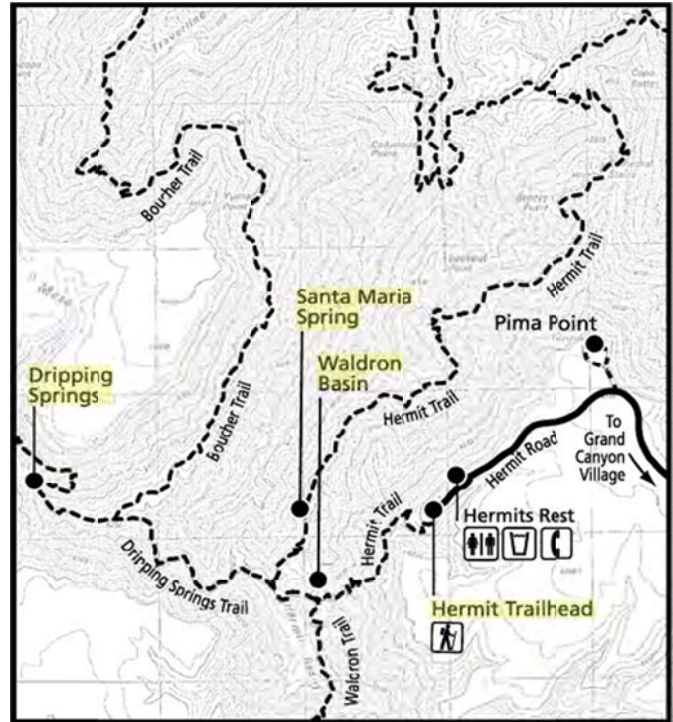
**Trailhead Elevation:** 6,640 feet.

**Services:** NO assistance on trail.

**Note:** NO treated water along trail. Water from springs must be treated before drinking. There are three common methods for treating water: boiling, iodine tablets, and filters.

Hermit Trail day hikes are to Santa Maria Spring or Dripping Springs. Trail conditions are tougher than the Bright Angel and South Kaibab Trails. Allow extra hiking time because of trail conditions. Plan on taking twice as long to hike up as it took to hike down. Hiking boots recommended. **For experienced desert hikers.**

**Everyone needs to carry water!** A common mistake is not carrying water or not carrying enough water. When hiking in a group, each person should be carrying water. **Remember to eat as well as drink while hiking,** you use a lot of energy hiking the canyon.



Destination	Distance (in Miles)		Elevation Feet (at Destination)	Services: W = Water; T = Toilet; E = Emergency Phone			Notes
	One Way	Round Trip		Services			
				W	T	E	
Waldron Trail Junction	1.5	3	5400				Junction Sign (right at Jct.) No water.
Hermit Trail Junction	1.75	3.5	5200				Junction Sign (Hermit / Dripping Springs)
SANTA MARIA SPRING ROUTE (right at Hermit Trail junction sign)							
Santa Maria Spring	2.5	5	5000	X			<b>MUST treat water!</b> Rest Shelter.
DRIPPING SPRINGS ROUTE (left at Hermit Trail junction sign)							
Boucher Trail Junction	2.75	5.5	5270				Junction Sign (left at Jct.)
Dripping Springs	3.5	7	5680	X			<b>MUST treat water!</b> Use extra caution along narrow sections.



### Avoid trouble by Hiking Smart

- Plan your hike before you start.
- Balance your food and water intake. Eat salty snacks and drink water or sports drinks.
- Go slowly, rest often, stay cool. Allow the weakest hiker to set the pace.
- During the summer, hike during the cooler, shadier times of the day.

Depending on how prepared you are, your trip can be a vacation or a challenge, a revelation or an ordeal. Over 250 people are rescued from the canyon each year. The difference between a great adventure in Grand Canyon and a trip to the hospital (or worse) is up to YOU.

**DO NOT attempt to hike from the rim to the river and back in one day, especially May to September.**

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## Shuttle Bus Information

Hermits Rest Route - This route operates from March 1 to November 30. Buses provide transportation between the Village Route Transfer and Hermits Rest with stops at nine canyon overlooks. During the return trip, buses stop only at Hermits Rest, Pima, Mohave, and Powell Points.

Weather dependent, Hermit Road is open to private vehicles December 1 to February 28. Be aware that in wintertime inclement weather can cause Hermit Road to close temporarily with little notice as storms move through the area.

For shuttle bus schedules and stops visit [www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm)

Additional information on trails, distances, seasonal hiking tips, Frequently Asked Questions, and safety tips, can be found on the Backcountry Hiking section of the Grand Canyon web site at [www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm)