Authorization

1882: First unsuccessful attempt to establish a Grand Canyon National Park
1893: Designated a "forest reserve" by President Benjamin Harrison (Presidential Proclamation #45)
1908: Establishment of Grand Canyon National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt (Presidential Proclamation #794)
1919: Designated as Grand Canyon National Park by an act of Congress on February 26 (40 Stat 1175)
1965: Designated as Kaibab Squirrel Natural Landmark by Interior Secretary Stewart Udall (North Rim and Kaibab Plateau)
1975: Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act enacted by Congress on January 3 (88 Stat 2089) (Public Law 93-620)
1979: Designated a World Heritage Site on October 26
2013: Designated as a Globally Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by BirdLife International
2019: Designated an International Dark Sky Park (IDSP) by the International Dark-Sky Association

Park Statistics

Grand Canyon National Park

Park Size:
- 1,218,375 acres (493,059 ha)
- 1,904 square miles (4,931 km²)
Length: 278 river miles (447 km)
Width:
- Minimum at Marble Canyon, 600 feet (180 m)
- Average Rim to Rim: 10 miles (16 km)
- Maximum Rim to Rim: 18 miles (28.8 km)
Depth: Average 1 mile (1.6 km)
Elevations:
- South Rim 7,000 feet (2,100 m)
- North Rim 8,000 feet (2,400 m)
Volume: 5.45 trillion cubic yards (4.17 trillion m³)

Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park

Length: 278 miles (447 km)
Average Width: 300 feet (90 m)
Minimum Width: 76 feet (23 m)
Average Depth: 40 feet (12 m)
Greatest Depth: 85 feet (25.5 m)
Average Gradient: 7 feet per mile (1.3 m/km)
Elevation at Phantom Ranch: 2,400 feet (720 m)
The Colorado River is 1,450 miles (2,333 km) long from its source in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to the Gulf of California.
Geology

Grand Canyon National Park preserves an iconic geologic landscape and resources ranging from 1.8 billion (Pre-Cambrian) year-old igneous and metamorphic rocks to 230 million (Triassic)-year-old sedimentary rocks, 5 million (Pliocene)-year old to recent volcanic deposits, a complex tectonic and erosional history, and unconsolidated surface deposits.

The Colorado River established its course through the canyon approximately 6 million years ago and likely evolved from pre-existing drainages to its current course. Geologic processes, including erosion of tributaries and slopes, and active tectonics continue to shape the canyon today. The geologic record in Grand Canyon is an important scientific chronicle and is largely responsible for its inspirational scenery.

Palentology resources include nearly 300 diverse and globally significant fossil localities ranging from 1.2-billion-year-old stromatolites to Paleozoic trilobites, plants, reptile tracks, and marine invertebrates, and Pleistocene megafauna in caves.

Plant and Animal Life

Animals

Birds: 450 species
Mammals: 91 species
Fish: 18 species, 5 native
Reptiles and Amphibians: 58 species
Invertebrates: 1,443 species, including 292 butterflies and moths
Exotic (non-native) animals: 30 species
Park Endemic animals, not extirpated: 9 species; 5 butterflies, 1 pseudoscorpion, 1 tarantula, 1 snake, 1 mollusk
Regionally Endemic animals, not extirpated: 5 species; humpback chub, razorback sucker, flannelmouth sucker, Kaibab squirrel, and the Navajo Mexican vole

One reptile, three mammal, and one mollusk species are known only from the Grand Canyon region. At least nine species of insects are endemic to Grand Canyon, and six fish species are endemic to the Colorado River basin.

Vegetation Formations

6 types: riparian, desert scrub, pinyon/juniper woodland, ponderosa pine forest, spruce/fir forest, and montane meadows/sub-alpine.

Endangered/Threatened

Animals: California condor, humpback chub, razorback sucker, southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican spotted owl, Ridgway’s rail, yellow-billed cuckoo, and desert tortoise. There are over 35 species of special concern.

Plants: The sentry milk-vetch (Astragalus cremnophylax var. cremnophylax) is the only endangered plant in the park. There are no listed threatened plant species. Nine species of special concern (formerly category 2 species) are known, and 25 additional vascular plants are of management concern due to their limited distribution.

Extirpated Species

Grizzly bear, black-footed ferret, gray wolf, jaguar, Bear Valley sandwort, Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, roundtail chub, and southwestern river otter.
Human History

The oldest human artifacts found date to the Paleoindian period and are nearly 12,000 years old. Since that time, various cultures have continually used and occupied lands that became the park. Archaeological evidence from the following prehistoric culture groups is found in Grand Canyon National Park: Paleoindian, Archaic, Basketmaker, Ancestral Puebloan (Kayenta and Virgin branches), Cohonina, Cerbat, Pai, and Southern Paiute. Historical-period cultural groups include the Hopi, Navajo, Pai, Southern Paiute, Zuni, and Euro-American.

There are currently 3,391 ancestral sites documented within the park dating to the prehistoric period, representing approximately 7% of park lands inventoried. In addition, park records document evidence of historic period use from 1540-1950, including 453 locations with evidence of historic Native American use.

Tribal Partners

Grand Canyon is home to 11 federally recognized tribes with deep history and connection to the Grand Canyon since time immemorial. Tribal governments and communities work closely with park administration and management on a host of programs. Through collaborative projects such as the Desert View Watchtower Intertribal Cultural Heritage Site, the park is working with tribes to provide accurate and culturally appropriate information to visitors. This “First Voice” programming acknowledges the rich and diverse cultural history of the Grand Canyon and celebrates the connections native people have to the Canyon. Tribal lands surrounding the park offer many unique tourism opportunities to visitors planning a trip to the Grand Canyon.

Historic Resources

National Historic Landmarks
- Individual Buildings: 4
- Districts: 3
- Sites: 1

National Register of Historic Places
- Buildings: 8
- Districts: 10
- Sites: 2
- Structure: 1

National Register properties include archaeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes, and ethnographic resources. The park is working with the University of Arizona and tribes to prepare a nomination for the Grand Canyon as a Traditional Cultural Place. The work will be completed in 2022.

List of Classified Structures (LCS): 874
LCS includes National Historic Landmark and National Register listed or eligible properties.

Cultural Landscapes: 16

Climate

Climate in Grand Canyon National Park is relatively mild. However, low humidity generally allows large temperature differences between day and night.

South Rim
- Mean High Temperature-30 yrs: 64°F (17.8°C)
- Mean Low Temperature-30 yrs: 29.5°F (-1.4°C)
- Avg. Annual Precipitation-30 yrs: 13.4 inches (34.0 cm)
- Total Precipitation in 2021: 11.5 inches (29.2 cm)

North Rim
- Mean High Temperature-30 yrs: 55°F (12.8°C)
- Mean Low Temperature-30 yrs: 31.7°F (-0.2°C)
- Average Annual Precipitation-30 yrs: 24 inches (62 cm)
- Total Precipitation in 2021: Too much missing data

Phantom Ranch
- Mean High Temperature-30 yrs: 81°F (27.2°C)
- Mean Low Temperature-30 yrs: 54.2°F (12.3°C)
- Average Annual Precipitation-30 yrs: 9.6 inches (24 cm)
- Total Precipitation in 2020: 8.49 inches (21.6 cm)
Development

Buildings
- Total: 1,182
  - National Park Service: 647
  - Concessioners: 535

Trails
- Paved: 35 miles (56.3 km)
- Unpaved: 560 miles (901.2 km)
- Total: 595 miles (957.6 km)

Roads
- Paved: 124 miles (199.6 km)
- Unpaved: 148 miles (238.2 km)
- Total: 272 miles (437.7 km)

Sewage Treatment Facilities
- Total: 4

Trans-canyon Waterline (TCWL)
- Water from Roaring Springs to the North and South rims
- Total: 23 miles (37 km)

Lodging Units
- South Rim: 908
- North Rim: 219
- Phantom Ranch: 15

Rim Campsites
- Mather: 317 family, 7 group, 2 hiker/biker, 2 livestock
- Desert View: 50 family
- North Rim: 90 family, 3 group
- Tuweep: 9 family, 1 group

Recreational Vehicle Sites
- Total: 123

Visitor Facilities
- Visitor centers, museums, theaters, backcountry offices, historic structures, scenic overlooks, accessible rim trails, lodging, campgrounds, dump stations, service stations, restaurants, cocktail lounges, coffee shops, general stores, gift shops, bookstores, clinic, bank, post offices, churches, and a kennel. Some facilities are seasonal.

Visitor Services
- Services include educational exhibits, curriculum-based education programs, junior ranger programs, ranger programs and hikes, picnicking, bicycling, bike rentals, self-guided hikes, mule riding, backpacking, fishing, river trips, overnight lodging, camping, camper services, guided bus tours, air tours (outside of park), shuttle bus service, taxi, auto repair, publication sales, gift and grocery sales, law enforcement, and medical and emergency services.

Concessioners
- In Fiscal Year 2021, 22 concessioners grossed approximately $176 million and paid franchise and other fees of approximately $16.5 million.

2021 Visitor and Resource Protection

Law Enforcement Activities
- Total Number of Criminal Case Reports: 689
- Arrests: 43
- Part I Offenses Investigated: 10
- Part II Offenses Reported: 1,018
- Law Enforcement Jurisdiction: Concurrent

Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Medical Service Incidents: 1,157
- Fatalities: 23

Search and Rescue Incidents (SAR)
- Total: 411

Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR)
- Total Contacts: 135,831
- Preventative Actions: 21,844
- Hiker Assists: 434

Structural Fire Incidents and Responses
- Total: 82

Wildland Fire Incidents and Treatments
- Fire Start Incidents: 14
- Acres treated with wild & prescribed fire: 1,091
- Acres of defensible space treated: 21
2021 Visitation

Total Visitation

- 2021 Total: 4,550,921
- 2020 Total: 2,897,098*
- 2019 Total: 5,974,411
- 2018 Total: 6,380,495
- 2017 Total: 6,254,238

Shuttle System Passengers

2,856,150 boardings (not passengers)

The shuttle system was implemented in 1974. Year-round shuttle service began March 10, 2000.

Backcountry User Nights

- Total: 85,656
- Corridor: 40,924
- Other Backcountry Trails: 44,732
- Backcountry permits issued: 12,904
- Backcountry permits used: 11,038

Colorado River User Days

- Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek
  - Commercial: 132,991
  - Noncommercial: 113,674
- Diamond Creek to Pearce Ferry
  - Noncommercial: 14,723

Mule Trip Riders

- Xanterra, South Rim
  - Phantom Ranch 1 night: 1,823
  - Phantom Ranch 2 nights: 325
  - Canyon Vistas: 10,146
- Canyon Trail Rides, North Rim
  - One Hour Rim Ride: 3,664
  - Half Day Inner Canyon Ride: 4,588
  - Half Day Rim Ride: 1,027

Train Passengers

- North-bound boardings
  - Total: 164,588

*Park closure April-May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

2021 Interpretive Services and Activities

Visitor Centers and Contact Stations

- Grand Canyon Visitor Center
- Verkamp’s Visitor Center
- Yavapai Observation Station
- Tusayan Ruin and Museum-Closed in 2021
- Desert View Visitor Center
- North Rim Visitor Center
- Kolb Studio
- Indian Garden
- Phantom Ranch
- Headquarters-Closed to the public in 2021

Interpretive Walks, Talks, and Programs

- 201 programs to 7,764 visitors

Environmental Education Programs

- 67 programs to 1,732 participants (distance learning)

Print Publications

- Park Unigrids/maps distributed on the South Rim: 757,350
- Pocket Map and Services Guide distributed on the South Rim: 1,050,000
- All other brochures: 249,000
- Pocket Map and Services Guide available in eight languages.

Digital and Social Media

- Facebook followers: 674,026
- Instagram followers: 833,846
- Twitter followers: 195,191
- Total nps.gov/grca page views: 17,786,965
- Survey of customer satisfaction with GRCA website: 82.6% (NPS average customer satisfaction: 81.5%)
**Administration**

**FY 2021 Funding**

Operation of the National Park System (ONPS)
- ONPS Base Operating Appropriation: $22,568,474
- ONPS Non-base Funding: $101,500

Special Emphasis Program Allocation (SEPAS)
- FirePro Base: $1,601,032
- Construction and Major Maintenance: $580,523
- Repair and Rehabilitation: $3,825,368

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act—80% portion
- (FY-12) $13,972,969
- (FY-13) $14,775,466
- (FY-14) $8,407,057 (collections reduced by LSI buy down)
- (FY-15) $18,361,846
- (FY-16) $15,215,281 (collections reduced by Pipeline reserve)
- (FY-17) $11,739,334 (collections reduced by Pipeline reserve)
- (FY-18) $16,263,449
- (FY-19) $15,788,360
- (FY-20) $16,411,907
- (FY-21) $15,021,494

Federal Lands Highway Program: $1,807,086

**Income 2021**

- Utilities Reimbursable: $3,519,610
- Quarters: $1,888,559
- Concession Franchise Fees—20% Portion: $2,411,984
- Filming and Location Fees: $1,980
- Donations (monetary): $1,567,897
- Transportation (Shuttle Buses): $5,194,821
- Other (reimbursable, refundable, etc.): $1,281,396

**National Park Service Staffing—FY 2021**

Information and distribution of all staff (Permanent, Term, and Seasonal).
- Superintendent’s Office: 16
- Administration: 28
- Science and Resource Management: 55
- Commercial Services: 15
- Planning, Environment, and Projects: 14
- Facility Management: 133
- Interpretation: 71
- Visitor and Resource Protection: 210
- Fire and Aviation Management: 42

**Total National Park Service Staffing**

- (FY-17) 382
- (FY-18) 452
- (FY-19) 372
- (FY-20) 503
- (FY-21) 584

**Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Program**

Volunteer hours by category
- Administration: 743.75
- Campground Host: 6,354.5
- Cultural Resource Management: 178.25
- Interpretation/Education: 726.5
- Natural Resource Management: 6,061
- Protection/Law Enforcement: 19,559

In-Kind Service Amount
- Total volunteers in park: 219
- Total hours: 33,623
- National value of each volunteer hour: $28.54
- Total in-kind services: $959,600.42
Partnerships and External Affairs

Gateway Communities & Counties
- Flagstaff, AZ
- Fredonia, AZ
- Jacob Lake, AZ
- Kanab, UT
- Tusayan, AZ
- Williams, AZ
- Coconino County, AZ
- Garfield County, UT
- Kane County, UT
- Mohave County, AZ
- Washington County, UT

Traditionally Associated American Indian Tribes
- Havasupai Tribe, AZ
- Hopi Tribe, AZ
- Hualapai Tribe, AZ
- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, AZ
- Las Vegas Band of Paiute Indians, NV
- Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, NV
- Navajo Nation, AZ
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, UT
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, AZ
- The Pueblo of Zuni, NM
- Yavapai-Apache Nation, AZ

State and Federal Partners
- Arizona Game and Fish Department, AZ
- Bryce Canyon National Park, UT
- Bureau of Land Management, AZ/UT
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Flagstaff Area National Monuments, AZ
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, UT/AZ
- Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument, AZ
- Kaibab National Forest, AZ
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area, AZ
- Pipe Spring National Monument, AZ
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, AZ
- Zion National Park, UT

Philanthropic & Community Partners
- Grand Canyon Conservancy
- National Park Foundation
- Arizona Trail Association
- Grand Canyon River Guides
- Grand Canyon Music Festival

Arizona Congressional Representatives
- Senator Kyrsten Sinema
- Senator Mark Kelly
- First District Representative-Tom O'Halleran
- Fourth District Representative-Paul Gosar

Superintendent
Ed Keable

Media Contact
Public Affairs Office
928-638-7779

Park Information
928-638-7888

Website
www.nps.gov/grca

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