



## Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

### Webisode #10– Interview with North Rim Ranger Catherine Bland Transcript

**Patrick:** Welcome to another webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. I'm ranger Patrick and I'm here on the North Rim. Just sitting towards the Bright Angel point, on the trail. Folks are going by. I can look over to my right and I can see the North Rim Lodge. Very beautiful and lot of folks looking out at things here and it is the fall. I am joined here by Interpretive Ranger Catherine Bland. Welcome to the show Catherine.

**Catherine:** Thank you Pat, and welcome to the North Rim.

**Patrick:** I'm loving it up here! Here it is just the beginning of October. A lot of changes going on. That is why I was hoping to get to talk to you. Catherine, what's going on for the next few weeks?

**Catherine:** For the next few weeks ranger programs are still going on a daily basis. We still have the slide program at 8:30pm in the auditorium of the lodge. We have a nature walk at 8:00 am; we still do our geology at 10:30am. There are some special programs that go on occasionally.

**Patrick:** Well, I know, in the fall, things shut down here in stages. And I know the one thing that throws all the dates out the window is if a really big snowfall comes in then we're done. Let's say the snowfall waits for a little while. What's going to be happening, what are the changes, what are those dates for folks?

**Catherine:** October 16<sup>th</sup> is the big date. So the lodge will serve the last breakfast to the visitors here. The campground will go to dry camping, so you will have to get your water from the Backcountry Office. The Visitor Center hours will change also and will go to 9am to 4pm. There will be no ranger programs offered at that.

**Patrick:** But they can still come and see you folks for a few more weeks until the end of November. That's great; well could you share with our listeners what some of the great things about being up here on the North Rim in October?

**Catherine:** October is a very special month here with fall colors. The Rocky Mountain maples are blazing red on the sides below the rim and the aspens are blazing along the highway into the park. You will find lots of aspen groves inside the park with beautiful colors.

**Patrick:** Well if folks are going to come up here after October 15<sup>th</sup>, their coming up here on the 16<sup>th</sup>, what kind of experience is that going to be would you say?

**Catherine:** October 16<sup>th</sup> I would say, it's adventure time, so when you come up here to the North Rim you need to bring your food and water with you as no services will be available in that line. And also because the weather will be changing, it will be cooler, we can expect a snowstorm any time between the middle of October and the end of November. You need to keep in mind is if you do venture up here be prepared to leave within a couple hours notice. The park service will plow one road for exiting the park and that will be your opportunity to leave at that time.

**Patrick:** That's excellent! Again, like I said, if the snows are later, and you know it is 45 miles to Jacob Lake a concession place where people can stay and eat, a gas station. Now in the summer we have a gas station here. From what I understand the lodge closes, all the services close, the gift store closes. What's going to be the story with the gas station right here at the North Rim?

**Catherine:** The gas station here will be operated credit card only. So, you got to bring your credit card to get gas, otherwise you'll be at Jacob Lake to fill up at the gas station there.

**Patrick:** So, from what I hear you saying Catherine is that; if you are adventurous and you want to go to the North Rim, when we got the beautiful fall colors, you could do this adventure, but you got to be prepared.

**Catherine:** You've got to be prepared. That's right, for possible adventure and also expect this to be a quitter time. So you could have Bright Angel point to yourself.

**Patrick:** That would be really nice. I noticed once things, you know after October 15<sup>th</sup>, a lot more of the deer take over here. The Kaibab squirrel, that big bushy tail the tasseled ears, I see a lot more of them after that point, so a lot more wildlife viewing. Ranger Catherine thanks so much for joining us on Insider's Look at Grand Canyon.

**Catherine:** Thank you so much Pat. it was an honor and a privilege to be on your show.