



Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

Webisode #48 – RED Shuttle Bus Transcript

Ranger Patrick Gamman: Welcome to this weeks' webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. Hi, I'm Ranger Patrick. You know a few webisodes ago I was talking about getting around Grand Canyon. And to help me were the drivers of the BLUE shuttle route. Well, I am back again to talk about those great shuttles that help people get out and see the park. Now the BLUE shuttle route was the one that got you to the post office, campground, and all sorts of places in the village. But if you've got your camera, got your backpack, got your water bottles, and got a snack or two you can get on the **RED shuttle route**, also known as the **Hermit** route. Seven mile scenic drive, but shuttle buses only. So no worry about cars and it is a great place to get on that shuttle and get out there and see it! So, I've got the drivers again, but this time the drivers from the **RED shuttle route**. Let's listen to them as they tell us how to enjoy the RED shuttle route the best way.

Mike: My name is Mike Wright and I am on the Hermit's route and the RED route.

Patrick: So, how many stops do you make on the way out?

Mike: We do eight stops before we get out to Hermit's and then on the way back we stop three times.

Patrick: What are those three places on the way back?

Mike: They are Pima, Powell, and Mohave. They are two way stops, so you can get off grab some pictures and get back on another bus. It will be there within fifteen minutes.

Patrick: Excellent, and what's the one thing you would like folks to know about riding the RED route?

Mike: The views are beautiful! I think a lot of people don't take advantage of Monument Creek Vista. That is a paved walkway all the way around the rim from Monument Creek all the way to Hermit's. It is absolutely gorgeous, no big hills, and you get some really nice views of the river and the rapids.

Barbara: Hi, I am Barbara O'Neil and I am on the RED route the Hermit's Rest route.

Patrick: So, what is the best time to be on this bus? When is it the least crowded?

Barbara: The least crowded is around morning, early morning; a lot of folks come up for sunrise and from sunrise to about 10 O'clock.

Patrick: The BLUE route it is just taking you to the store, to the hotels you don't see anything from the bus, but how about the RED route?

Barbara: Oh, the RED route is great, because you go into a stop, especially for seniors they can just get off and it is a short walk right to the rim.

Patrick: And you actually get to see some stuff from the bus, right?

Barbara: Oh yes, you drive right along the rim here and you can just stay on the bus and view the canyon.

MaryAnn: MaryAnn and I am on the RED route / the Hermit's Rest route. The RED route is called the most scenic route in the canyon. That is because it has several beautiful stops. And this route should not be hurried. You need really to have some time to enjoy this route to get off at several of those stops and really spend some time looking at the canyon.

Pat: Hi, my name is Pat Caleb I work at Hermit's Rest and I am a cashier.

Patrick: So, the folks on the RED route... seven miles on and off the bus; they are doing some of the walking. They hot, they are dry, they are dusty...what kind of services are provided right here at Hermit's Rest?

Pat: Water! It is the main thing, they either fill their bottles or they buy fresh water, sandwiches, Cokes.

Patrick: Oh, so they can get some snacks here as well and they can get drinks. And then you have this gift shop as well. Are there restrooms here?

Pat: There are, you have to go outside and up the hill.

Newt: Oh ya hi, ... you can call me Newt I come from Thailand.

Patrick: Sa-wat dee Kup (Hello)

Newt: Sa-wat dee Kha (Hello)

Patrick: Well welcome here. So, I am Ranger Pat and you also work here at Hermit's Rest. What could you say for the folks who come here, what is great about Hermit's Rest?

Newt: At first I saw here I did not believe that such a great place like this here. Because here is far away from village and they still have a very beautiful fireplace, a very big one, like the one you see here.

Patrick: Even though it is seven miles away, we got a lot of great stuff here to see.

Newt: Ya, ya...

Bill: My name is Bill Calhoun; I am on the RED route.

Patrick: And there is this place on this route called Hopi Point, what is so special about that?

Bill: Well, it is a favorite spot on the RED route for viewing Sunset and additionally they have bathrooms there, and it is your first good view of the Colorado (*River*).

Patrick: And then, how earlier than sunset should you get there for the best light?

Bill: I think you should be there at least thirty minutes early. A lot of times the afterglow is prettier than sunset itself, so plan on being there for at least an hour.

Patrick: And then, how much earlier from sunset should you catch your bus to be out there on time?

Bill: I would leave the transfer station at about an hour early.

Patrick: So, this is close to the time when the bus route is ending, how does it work to get everyone back from there?

Bill: We have shuttles starting at sunset and one right behind the other, and we run until an hour after sunset.

Patrick: So nobody is left behind. Hey, thanks for the interview!

Bill: You bet you! We don't leave anybody behind unless they want to be...

Patrick: Ha, ha... that's great! A big thank you to all the drivers, visitors, and the staff out at Hermit's Rest for helping me explain how the RED/ HERMIT shuttle route works. Folks, in a few webisodes from now we'll get back on the buses and we will explore the GREEN and PURPLE routes, so you know how the rest of the story goes to get around Grand Canyon National Park by shuttle route. We will catch you folks then.

