Grand Canyon National Park





Warning

Do not use this trail to access the Colorado River for a day hike.

Know how to rescue yourself. YOU are responsible for your safety and the safety of your family and friends. Rescue is not guaranteed, and assistance may take hours or days due to weather or other emergencies.

Check the Backcountry
Information Center for
the latest trail conditions
prior to starting your
hike. Detailed trail
information can be found
at go.nps.gov/grcatrails.

Built in 1893 as a mining route, this rocky, exposed, and strenuous trail requires caution. Large steps and extreme dropoffs intensify the steepness of the trail. Upper portions can be extremely icy in winter and early spring—use over-the-shoe traction devices.

Hike Smart

Before You Go

- Choose the appropriate trail for your abilities or consider walking the Bright Angel Trail for an easier hike.
- Check the weather and adjust plans; avoid summer heat. Remember, the weather can change suddenly.
- Leave your itinerary with someone who will notice if you are overdue and report it to 911.
- Hydrate, but don't force fluids. Eat a good meal, and get a good night's sleep. If you do not feel well, do not hike.
- Prepare yourself for a faster hike down with high impact on your joints and a slow, strenuous hike out that may take twice as long or longer.

10 Essentials for Your Day Pack

- 1. Water: bring a sufficient amount and extra in case of emergency; always bring a water treatment method
- 2. Salty snacks and high-calorie meal(s)
- 3. First aid kit, prescriptions, blister care, duct tape, and pocket knife
- 4. Map or trail guide
- 5. Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- 6. Sunscreen, wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses
- 7. Whistle, signal mirror, and cell phone
- 8. Lightweight tarp or emergency shelter
- 9. Broken-in hiking boots with good soles and hiking poles
- 10. Layers of clothing



For more information about Leave No Trace strategies, hiking tips, closures, roads, trails, and permits, visit go.nps.gov/grca-backcountry.

Accessing the Trailhead

Desert View Drive may close, with little notice, due to inclement weather.

Private Vehicles

Take Desert View Drive 12 miles (19 km) east of the Village or 13 miles (20 km) west of Desert View and park at Grandview Point.

Trail begins on the east side of the stone retaining wall at Grandview Point.

Additional Information

No drinking water on trail to Horseshoe Mesa; springs below mesa not reliable. For experienced desert hikers. Allow extra hiking time; conditions are more difficult than the Bright Angel, South Kaibab, and Hermit trails. Please leave rocks, plants, wood, and artifacts where you find them.

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