

# Day Hike - Bright Angel Trail

## Grand Canyon National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

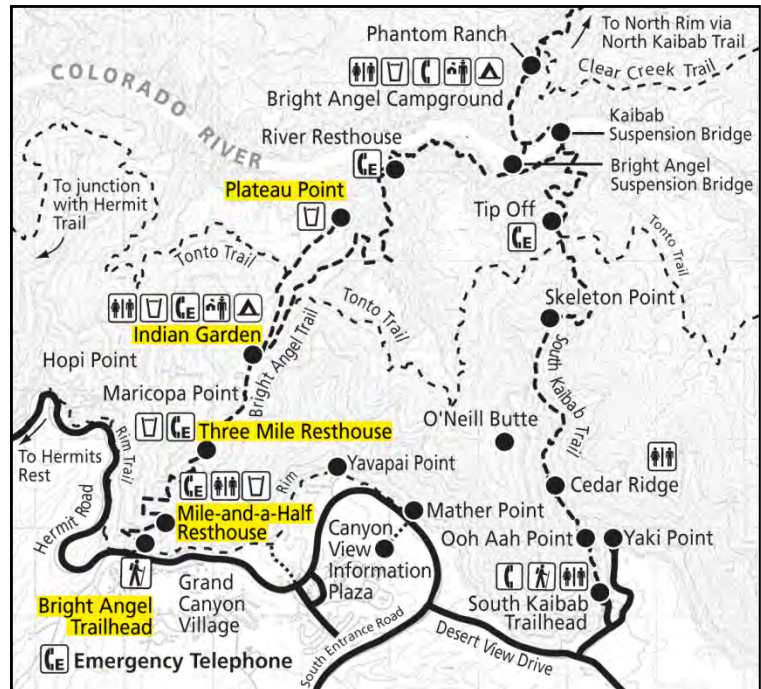


**Trail Condition:** Maintained dirt trail. Steep. Well defined. Some shade on trail, mostly from canyon walls and dependent on time of day. Give uphill hikers the right of way. Upper portion of trail may be extremely icy in winter or early spring.

**Directions to Trailhead:** Located on the South Rim, trail begins just west of Bright Angel Lodge. Follow path along rim, trail starts by mule corral.

**Trailhead Elevation:** 6,850 feet.

**Services:** Randomly patrolled by park rangers. Water available year-round at trailhead and at Indian Garden. Ranger Station at Indian Garden. Water available seasonally along trail.



**Note:** Seasonal trail water (May - September), subject to pipeline breaks. Check at Visitor Center or Backcountry Information Center for water status. There will be mules on this trail.

The Bright Angel Trail offers wonderful views all along the trail making it very easy to lose track of how far down you have hiked. Additionally, the steepness of the trail is very misleading on the way down. Plan on taking twice as long to hike up as it took to hike down.

Even though the Bright Angel has water along the trail, **you need 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.

**MULES AND HIKERS** - Several recent encounters between hikers and mules resulted in injuries to packers and the death of some mules. To ensure safety for yourself, other trail users, and mule riders, when encountering mules on the trails:

- Step off the trail on the uphill side away from the edge.
- Follow the direction of the wrangler. Remain completely quiet and stand perfectly still.
- Do not return to the trail until the last mule is 50 feet (15 meters) past your position.

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

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	
1st Tunnel	0.18	0.36	6708				Not too steep, good to experience a view from within the canyon.
1st Switchback	0.45	0.9	6560				Good turn-a-round point for small children. Trail will start getting steeper.
2nd Tunnel	0.75	1.5	6240				Steep switchbacks after tunnel.
1.5 Mile Resthouse	1.5	3	5729	X	X	X	<b>Water available seasonally only.</b> Good turn-a-round for first time canyon hikers, casual hikers, and late starters.
2 Mile Switchback /Corner	2	4	5490				Trail sign marks location, trail will get steeper from here.
3 Mile Resthouse	3	6	4748	X		X	<b>Water available seasonally only.</b> Great turn-a-round point.
Indian Garden	4.5	9	3800	X	X	X	<b>Water available year-round.</b> Need to get an early morning start and be in good condition. Water. Picnic tables. <b>Do not go past this point as a SUMMER day hike.</b>
Plateau Point	6	12	3740	X			<b>Water available seasonally only.</b> View of the river. NO shade. This hike is extremely strenuous due to the distance.
<b>WARNING: Do Not attempt to hike from the rim to the river and back in one day!</b>							

### 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.

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)