



# Around South Rim

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sophie's Mexican Kitchen (p93)
- ➔ Tourist Home Urban Market (p104)
- ➔ Proper Meats + Provisions (p105)
- ➔ Brix Restaurant & Wine Bar (p106)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Lodge on Route 66 (p97)
- ➔ Little America Hotel (p104)
- ➔ L'Auberge de Sedona (p116)
- ➔ Hotel Monte Vista (p104)

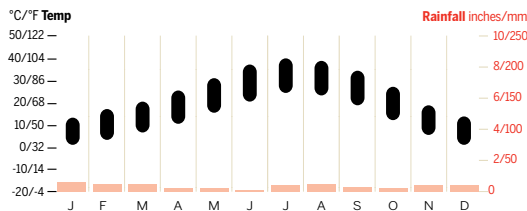
## Why Go?

Carved into the stunning landscape of the Southwest, Grand Canyon has more than its own unique splendor to offer visitors. Stretching both north and south of the canyon is the Kaibab National Forest, and to the west of the park's South Rim are the Hualapai and Havasupai Reservations that encompass thousands of acres of desert and rim-to-river Canyon lands. Further west, where the Colorado River has been reined in by the massive engineering feat that is Hoover Dam, Lake Mead is a popular recreation area for desert dwellers thirsting for fishing, houseboating and water sports. Bordering the national park to the east, and spanning mile-upon-mile of the rim-to-rim drive, is the Navajo Reservation.

The gateway towns leading to the South Rim are destinations in their own right: Las Vegas for its slick excess and cardinal sins, Flagstaff for its cool, outdoorsy feel, Sedona for day-hiking and red-rock landscape, and Williams for its small-town, Route 66 atmosphere.

## When to Go

### Las Vegas



**Jan** Ski near Taos and Flagstaff. In Park City, hit the slopes and the Sundance Film Festival.

**Jun–Aug** High season for exploring national parks in New Mexico, Utah and northern Arizona.

**Sep–Nov** Hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon or gaze at bright leaves in northern New Mexico.

## Kaibab National Forest (South Rim)

The park's South Rim is bordered by the piñon-juniper and ponderosa-pine woodland of Kaibab National Forest, offering several great mountain-biking trails, unlimited camping, hiking and cross-country skiing. Its Tusayan Ranger Station (p72), just outside the park's South Entrance, has maps and details. One of the best and most popular rides is the 16-mile Arizona Trail ([www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org)), which stretches from Grandview Lookout Tower to Tusayan.

The main road through the forest is Hwy 64/180, which connects Williams and Flagstaff with the canyon.



### Sights & Activities

#### Grandview Lookout Tower

LOOKOUT

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 as a fire tower, the 80ft Grandview Lookout Tower offers great views of the region for those willing and able to climb all those stairs. From the park's Desert View Dr, turn at the sign for 'Arizona Trail' between mileposts 252 and 253, about 2 miles east of Grandview Point. You can hike or cycle 1.3 miles on a dirt road to the lookout.

### REGIONAL SHUTTLE SERVICES

The **Trans Canyon Shuttle** (p236) runs twice-daily between the North and South Rims from mid-May through November 30.

**Arizona Shuttle** (☎ 928-226-8060, 800-888-2749; [www.arizonashuttle.com](http://www.arizonashuttle.com); ☼ year-round) Vans run regular routes between Flagstaff, Grand Canyon's South Rim, Williams, Sedona and Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, departing multiple times throughout the day. To Grand Canyon from Flagstaff, it's \$30 per person one-way; to Phoenix, it's \$45.

#### Flagstaff Shuttle & Charter

(☎ 888-215-3105; [www.flagshuttle.com](http://www.flagshuttle.com); ☼ year-round) Door-to-door customized shuttle transport and tours. Services Las Vegas and Phoenix airports, as well as Sedona, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon South Rim, Grand Canyon North Rim, Marble Canyon and Bryce and Zion National Parks.

### Apache Stables

HORSEBACK RIDING

(☎ 928-638-2891; [www.apachestables.com](http://www.apachestables.com); Mo-qui Dr/Forest Service Rd 328; 1/2hr ride \$49/89, wagon/trail ride \$26/59; ☼ vary seasonally) Trail and wagon rides through the forest (no canyon views). The stables are about 1 mile north of Tusayan.

## Tusayan

☎ 928 / POP 573 / ELEV 6612FT

The little town of Tusayan, situated just outside of the park's South Entrance along Hwy 64, is basically a half-mile strip of hotels and restaurants that caters to Grand Canyon visitors and serves as over-flow accommodations a few minutes drive from the canyon rim. Beyond that, and the IMAX Grand Canyon film, there's no reason to come here.

In summer, to avoid traffic jams and parking hassles inside the park, you can catch the Tusayan shuttle from here into the park.



### Sights

#### National Geographic

#### Visitor Center & IMAX Theater

MUSEUM

(☎ 928-638-2203; [www.explorethecanyon.com](http://www.explorethecanyon.com); 450 Hwy 64; adult/child \$14/11; ☼ visitor center 8am-10pm Mar-Oct, 10am-8pm Nov-Feb, theater 8:30am-8:30pm Mar-Oct, 9:30am-6:30pm Nov-Feb; ☒ Tusayan) Hourly, on the half-hour, the IMAX theater here screens a terrific 34-minute film called *Grand Canyon – The Hidden Secrets*. The recommended film plunges you into the history and geology of the canyon through the eyes of ancient Native Americans, John Wesley Powell and a soaring eagle, and is a safer, cheaper alternative to a canyon flyover.



### Sleeping

#### Camping

#### Ten-X Campground

CAMPGROUND \$

(☎ 877-444-6777, 928-638-2443; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); Hwy 64; RV & tent sites \$10; ☼ May-Sep) Woodsy and peaceful, this USFS campground, 2 miles south of Tusayan, has 70 sites and can fill up early in the summer. You'll find large sites, picnic tables, fire rings and barbecue grills (the campground host sells firewood), cold water and toilets, but no showers. Fifteen sites are reservable up to six months in advance; the rest are first-come, first-served. No hookups.