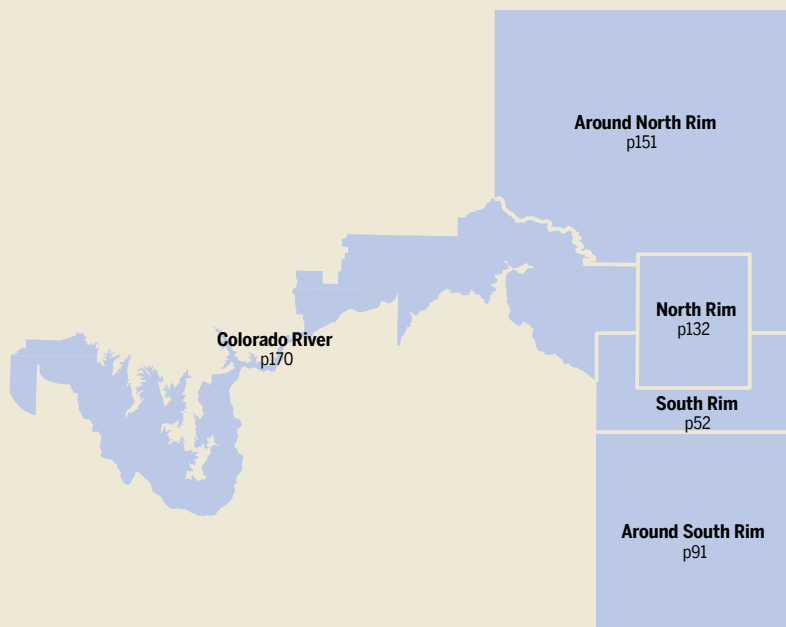




Grand Canyon NATIONAL PARK



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Jennifer Rasin Denniston, Bridget Gleeson

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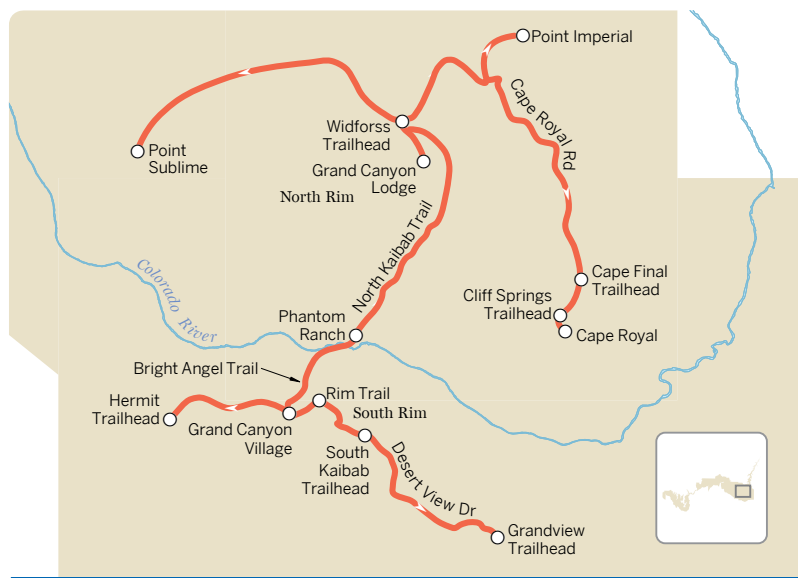
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Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Rim to Rim

Grand Canyon National Park, in essence, includes three distinct tourist regions, each with its own personality and perspective. This rim-to-rim expedition covers all three of them, offering travelers the breadth of the park's sights and activities. Begin with a few nights in a Western Cabin at **Grand Canyon Lodge**, on the bucolic and intimate **North Rim**. Drive to **Point Sublime**, **Point Imperial** and **Cape Royal**, hike the **Widforss Trail**, **Cape Final Trail** and **Cliff Springs Trail**, attend a ranger talk and stargaze on evening strolls. Relax with a glass of wine on the lodge's rim-side veranda, and eat dinner in its spectacular rim-side restaurant. Hike 14 miles down the **North Kaibab Trail**, spend a couple of nights by the river at **Phantom Ranch**, and start at dawn for the 10-mile haul up the **Bright Angel Trail** to the **South Rim**. Reward yourself with a hearty dinner at El Tovar, and spend four or five nights in **Grand Canyon Village**. Walk the **Rim Trail**, stopping at historic buildings, overlooks and museums along the way. Take an above-the-rim mule ride, and hike the **Hermit Trail**, **South Kaibab Trail** and **Grandview Trail** before catching a shuttle back to the North Rim.



1/2 DAY South Rim in an Afternoon

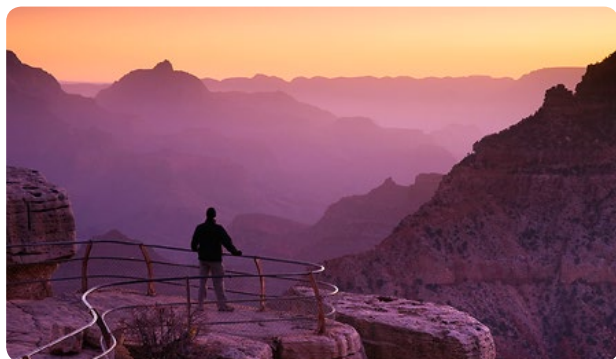
Start with views and historic buildings in **Grand Canyon Village**. Admire the classic park architecture of El Tovar over lunch in the dining room, check out Native American art at Hopi House and stroll west along the Rim Trail. Stop at the History Room in Bright Angel Lodge, Lookout Studio and Kolb Studio before descending far enough down the Bright Angel Trail to look at the rock art in the first tunnel and to marvel at the canyon's scale from below the rim. Catch a shuttle to **Powell Point**, walk the rim to **Hopi Point** and **Mohave Point**, hop a shuttle to **Hermit's Rest** and sit quietly in the picnic area with a snack before heading back to the village. Stroll east along the rim, pausing at the installations along the Trail of Time and the **Yavapai Geology Museum** on your way to Visitor Center Plaza. Grab a sandwich to go at Bright Angel Bicycle, hop on a shuttle to **Yaki Point**, wander away from the parking lot and find a spot from which to enjoy the evening light or sunset.

1 DAY South Rim in a Day

In one full day, you can take in the highlights of the South Rim, including hikes, museums, overlooks and a ranger talk. Arrive at park before breakfast – park at **Visitor Center Plaza**, grab a breakfast burrito at Bright Angel Bicycles and catch a shuttle to the **South Kaibab trailhead** for the 7am ranger-led hike into the canyon down the South Kaibab Trail. Remember to bring plenty of water. Shuttle to **Yavapai Geology Museum**, and walk west along the Rim Trail through the Trail of Time, stopping at sights and museums in Grand Canyon Village's **National Historic Landmark District**. Relax over lunch at El Tovar, fill up your water bottles, and take an afternoon stroll to overlooks along Hermit Rd, hopping on the shuttle whenever you get tired. At **Hermit's Rest**, pause for a moment to sit in the silence at the Hermit Trail before taking a shuttle back to the village to connect with an express shuttle to your car. Drive **Desert View Dr** east to exit the park at the **East End Entrance**, stopping to stretch your legs at **Shoshone Point**, scenic overlooks and **Desert View Watchtower**.



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ALAN COOPERSON / GETTY IMAGES ©

Top: Mohave Point
(p80)
Bottom: Mather Point
(p81)

3
DAYS

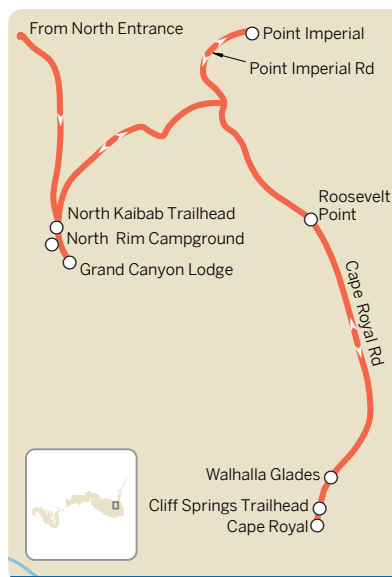
South Rim in Three Days

Catch the Wild West shoot-out and board the Grand Canyon Railway train in Williams. Upon arrival at **Grand Canyon Village**, stretch your legs and check into a cozy Bright Angel cabin or a room at El Tovar, both just steps from the canyon edge. Meander along the rim through the village, stopping at historic buildings, museums and Trail of Time exhibits along the way. Hike overlook-to-overlook along the **Rim Trail**, picnic at **Hermits Rest**, descend into the canyon just a bit on the Hermit Trail and return to the village on a shuttle. Wake up early to head down **Bright Angel Trail** to One-and-a-Half or Three-Mile Resthouses. Sip a cocktail as you wait for a table at the Arizona Room, or bring a flashlight and attend an evening ranger talk at Shrine of the Ages. Take the ranger-led hike to Cedar Ridge on the **South Kaibab Trail**. Peruse the bookstore at **Visitor Center Plaza**, rent a bike and ride the Greenway Trail to **Yaki Point**. Make a point of enjoying dinner at El Tovar before catching your train back to Williams.

1
WEEK

South Rim in One Week

Take it slow on **Desert View Dr.**, and bring a picnic for the amble to peaceful **Shoshone Point**. Learn about the canyon's human history at **Tusayan Ruins & Museum**, and climb the spiral staircase for spectacular views at **Desert View Watchtower**. Check out Mary Colter architecture, historic spots and museums in **Grand Canyon Village**. Attend a few ranger walks and evening talks, have a pizza dinner and see the Grand Canyon film at the **IMAX Theater** in Tusayan. Reserve a mule trip to the canyon bottom for a night at **Phantom Ranch**, or hike it down the South Kaibab to Phantom Ranch and up Bright Angel, with the second night camping at **Indian Garden**. Take a day hike on the Grandview Trail, walk the Rim Trail to **Hermits Rest** and get away from it all on the Hermit Trail. Rent a bike and cycle the Greenway Trail to **Yaki Point**, and enjoy a glass of wine on the patio at El Tovar and dinner at the El Tovar Dining Room.



1 DAY

North Rim in a Day

For a day at the North Rim, you'll want to spend two nights at **Grand Canyon Lodge** or the **North Rim Campground**. Wake up with the sun and hike (or ride a mule) into the canyon on the **North Kaibab Trail**. Pause at Coconino Overlook and relax at Redwall Bridge, 2.6 miles below the rim, before tackling the haul back out of the canyon in time for lunch. Take your tray from Deli in the Pines to the lodge's sun porch and kick back in the Adirondack chairs, soaking in the view. Once you've refueled from the inner-canyon trek, head out to Cape Royal Rd. Pull over for a rim-side stroll at **Roosevelt Point** and a scramble to **Cliff Springs Trail**, check out ancient Puebloan ruins at **Walhalla Glades** and, at the road's end, walk out to Angel's Window and **Cape Royal**. On the drive back, detour a few miles to **Point Imperial** before returning to the lodge. Grab a beer from the Rough Rider Saloon, amble out to Bright Angel Point and watch the sun set over the canyon. After dinner at the lodge, take in an evening ranger talk and collapse into bed.



4 DAYS

North Rim in Four Days

Grand Canyon's North Rim transports even the most wearied spirits from harried lives of emails and deadlines into a slower time. Here, it's easy to find a quiet place to be alone with the canyon, and with four days you can settle into a groove that returns folks to the real world feeling just a little bit less weary and a little more inspired. Plan ahead for a Western Cabin at **Grand Canyon Lodge**. Enjoy one day taking in sights along Cape Royal Rd to **Cape Royal** and driving to **Point Imperial**; another hiking through meadow and woods along **Widforss Trail** to **Widforss Point**; a third day hiking or riding a mule down the **North Kaibab Trail**; and a fourth hiking **Cliff Springs** and **Cape Final** trails. Spend an evening walking the Transept Trail, perhaps catching the sunset over the side canyon, have a dinner or two in the lodge and take in a barbecue and cowboy singing at the Grand Canyon Cookout. Pepper in ranger talks on stargazing and condors, cocktails at the Rough Rider Saloon, long stretches reading on the lodge's rim-side sun porch and picnic lunches among the aspen, and you'll have experienced some of the best the Grand Canyon has to offer.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Jennifer Rasin Denniston

South Rim, Around South Rim Jennifer and her husband spend months every year road-tripping with their daughters and their golden retriever. The Grand Canyon is a favorite spot and a regular destination – they've ridden mules down the North Kaibab, cycled along the South Rim, relaxed at rim-side cabins and hiked to countless overlooks and off-the-beaten-track delights. Outside the park, they've camped in the Kaibab, volunteered at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, rafted through Glen Canyon, and hunkered down in Flagstaff and Sedona. When not traveling, they live in Iowa City, where Jennifer earned her Masters in American Studies and taught writing at University of Iowa. She writes regularly on USA and family travel for Lonely Planet. Jennifer also wrote the Plan Your Trip section, Clothing & Equipment and Directory A–Z chapters.



Bridget Gleeson

North Rim, Around North Rim, Colorado River Bridget has written about a number of national parks in South America for Lonely Planet; she was happy to return to her home country for this edition of *Grand Canyon National Park*. Though she's stayed in memorable hotels all over the world, Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim is her current favorite. Bridget also wrote the Understand the Grand Canyon section, and Transportation and Health & Safety chapters.

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