

Grand Canyon Hike Descriptions for SBHC May 2018 Trip

Changes noted in [blue](#). Updated 03-28-2018

Rim Trail from Bright Angel Trailhead Sign to The Abyss. Rating: D. Great views the entire distance as the trail follows the rim of the canyon. The trail is paved in most sections. Our hike will start near the Bright Angel Trailhead sign and hike west. Upon completion of the hike we will take the Hermit Rest shuttle to Hermit Rest. There we will check out the views and visit the historical building designed by Mary Colter. Return is via the Hermit Rest shuttle. This is a good 1st day hike for hikers that need to adjust to the altitude of the Grand Canyon. **Meeting Point:** Bright Angel Trailhead Sign. Hike 4.1 miles; Trailhead elevation 6,840 feet, net elev. gain/loss is 300 – 400 feet. **Scheduled: Tues May 1 (Dave Sorenson).**

Rim Trail from The Abyss to Hermit Rest. Rating D. For those wanting to do the entire Rim Trail, as “D” hikes, this last section is between The Abyss and Hermit Rest, stopping at vista points The Abyss, Monument Creek and Pima Point. To reach our starting point we will ride the Hermit's Rest Shuttlebus together and get off at The Abyss viewpoint. **Meeting Point:** Village Route/Hermit's Rest Transfer Station. Hike 3.8 miles; Trailhead elevation 7,200; net elevation loss/gain is minimal. **Scheduled: Wed May 2 (Dave Sorenson).**

Rim Trail from South Kaibab TH to Verkamp's. Rating D. This section of the Rim Trail starts at South Kaibab Trailhead. We will park at the main Visitor Center and take the South Kaibab Trail/Yaki Point Shuttle Bus. Hiking west, we pass Pipe Creek Vista, Mather Point, Yavapai Point and hike the “Trail of Time” section of the Rim Trail. We will take a shuttlebus from there back to the Visitor Center. Many sections of this trail are paved. **Meeting Point:** Large information boards outside the main Visitor Center. Hike 4.4 miles. Trailhead elevation 7,200; net elevation loss/gain is minimal. **Scheduled: Thur May 3 (Dave Sorenson).**

Historical Buildings Walk on South Rim. Rating D. The group will walk the Rim Trail from Bright Angel Trailhead, heading east, thru the developed area on the South Rim, stopping off to visit some of the historical building along the way. Some of the stops included are Kolb Studio, Lookout Studio, Bright Angel Lodge, El Tovar Hotel, Hopi House and Verkamp's. Note - hikers going on Dave Sorenson's or Howie&Elaine's morning hike on Wednesday will have enough time to meet-up for this afternoon hike. **Meeting Point:** Bright Angel Trailhead sign. Hike 1 mile. Trailhead elevation 6,840; net elevation loss/gain 0 ft. **Scheduled: Wed afternoon May 2 (Dave Sorenson).**

South Kaibab Trail to Ooh Aah Point. Rating C for D hikers. The South Kaibab trail offers wonderful views all along the trail. We will park at the main Visitor Center and take the Kaibab/Rim Route (orange) shuttle bus to access the TH. Hike to where the trail opens to a wide view. Ooh Aah point offers a spectacular view. Upon completion of the hike, we will return to the Visitor Center via the Shuttle bus. **Meeting Point:** Large information boards outside the main Visitor Center. Hike 1.8 miles round trip. Trailhead elevation 7,200; net elevation gain/loss 790ft. (Note this hike has a greater elevation gain than a normal “D” hikes, but is on a good trail and pace will be slower.) **Scheduled: Tues May 1 (Roy Carter), Thur May 3 (Randy Park).**

Bright Angel Trail to Lower Tunnel. Rating C for D hikers. Hikers pass through the first tunnel carved into Kaibab limestone (look for pictograph panel just above the trail beyond the tunnel). The second tunnel separates the Toroweap rock formation from the Coconino sandstone, this is our turn around point. **Meeting Point:** the Bright Angel Trailhead sign. Hike 1.5 miles; trailhead elevation 6,840; net elevation loss/gain 590ft (Note - this hike has an elevation gain/loss greater than a normal “D” hike, but is on a good trail and pace will be slower.) **Scheduled: Wed May 2 (Howie and Elaine Fagan).**

Rim Trail from Bright Angel Trailhead Sign to Hermits Rest. Rating: C. Great views the entire distance as the trail follows the rim of the canyon. The trail is paved in some sections. We will hike west, passing many famous view points. At the end of your hike we will have time to stop at historic Hermits Rest, designed by Mary Colter. Return is via the Hermit Rests shuttlebus. **Meeting Point:** Bright Angel Trailhead Sign. Hike 7.9 miles; Trailhead elevation 6,840 feet, net elev. gain/loss is 300-400. **Scheduled:** Tues May 1 (Larry Allen and Elisabeth Wheeler), Thurs May 3 (Susan Hollis).

Bright Angel Trail to 1.5 Mile Rest House. Rating C. Hikers pass through the first tunnel carved into Kaibab limestone (look for pictograph panel just above the trail beyond the tunnel). The second tunnel separates the Toroweap rock formation from the Coconino sandstone. By the time the hike reaches the 1½ mile Rest House, the trail is passing through the Hermit Shale layer of rock. **Meeting Point:** the Bright Angel Trailhead sign. Hike 3 miles; trailhead elevation 6,840; net elevation loss/gain 1,120ft. **Scheduled:** Tues May 1 (Howie and Elaine Fagan).

Bright Angel Trail to 3 Mile Rest House. Rating B for C hikers. Hikers will be hiking down to the 3 mile Rest House, where there is a shelter and water station. **Meeting Point:** the Bright Angel Trailhead sign. Hike 6 miles; trailhead elevation 6,840; net elevation loss/gain 2,120 ft. (Note - this hike has an elevation loss/gain 620 ft greater than a normal "C" hike, but is on a good trail and will be at a slow pace on the up-hill hike.) **Scheduled:** Wed May 2 (Larry Allen).

South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge. Rating: C. The South Kaibab trail offers wonderful views all along the trail. We will park at the main Visitor Center and take the Kaibab/Rim Route (orange) shuttle bus to access the TH. **Meeting Point:** Large information boards outside the main Visitor Center. Hike 3 miles; TH elevation 7,200; net elevation gain/loss 1,120. **Scheduled:** Tues May 1 (Dave Corrigan), Wed 2 (Susan Hollis).

Shoshone Point and Arizona Trail. Rating C. A combination of two hikes gives hikers a different perspective of the environment on the South Rim. First we will be stopping at a little known spot on Desert View Drive and hiking a short level dirt road (not open to car travel) that leads to one of the finest vistas available from the South Rim, Shoshone Point. After visiting Shoshone Point we will continue our drive on Desert View Drive to FR310 ("Coconino Rim Road"). Turning right on FR310, a good dirt road, driving a short distance to Grandview Lookout Tower. We will visit the fire lookout tower and from this location do a hike on the Arizona Trail, Passage 36. This passage is called Coconino Rim and is through a pretty ponderosa pine and gambel oak forest in the Kaibab National Forest. Along this section of the Arizona Trail, there is a national forest interpretive loop trail, with displays about mistletoe and its effect on ponderosa pines. **Meeting Point:** Large information boards outside the main Visitor Center. (From there we will be car pooling to our hike trailheads. Drive from Visitor Center to Shoshone Point trailhead is 3.5 miles. Drive from Shoshone Point Trailhead to Grandview Lookout Tower is 9.6 miles.) Hike 6 miles. Trailhead elevation 7,260; accumulated elevation loss/gain 636. **Scheduled:** Thur May 3 (Roy Carter).

Bright Angel Trail to Indian Garden. Rating B. Hikers pass through many layers of sandstone and limestone. The trail passes 1 ½ Mile Rest House and 3 Mile Rest House on its way to Indian Garden. At Indian Garden there is a campground, water, rest rooms, and shade. **Meeting Point:** the Bright Angel Trailhead sign. Hike 9 miles; trailhead elevation 6,840; net elevation loss/gain 3,000 feet. **Scheduled:** Thur May 3 (Dave Corrigan).

South Kaibab Trail to Skeleton Point. Rating B. The South Kaibab trail offers wonderful views all along the trail. Skeleton Point offers the first view of the Colorado River from the South Kaibab Trail. We will park at the main Visitor Center and take the Kaibab/Rim Route (orange) shuttle bus to access the TH. **Meeting Point:** Large information boards outside the main Visitor Center. Hike 6 miles; TH elevation 7,200; net elevation gain/loss 2,040. **Scheduled:** Wed May 2 (Don Taylor).

Hermits Trail to Dripping Springs. Rating: B! The hike to Dripping Springs via the Hermit Trail and Dripping Springs Trail is an uncrowded hike on wilderness trails (trails not regularly maintained by the park). The trail offers dramatic vistas and ends at an unusual spring, where water drips from the roof of an alcove at the base of the Coconino Sandstone. The first 1.75 miles of the hike are a steep downhill, 1,400 feet descent, which we will have to ascend upon our return. After passing the junction of the Hermit Trail and Dripping Spring trail, we take the Dripping Springs trail for a 470 ft ascent to reach the dripping spring. A short section of the trail has some exposure. For this hike we will be riding the Hermits Rest shuttlebus to get to the trailhead, the outbound ride is approximately 45 minutes long. **Meeting Point:** Village Route/Hermits Rest Transfer Station. Hike 7.0 miles; trailhead elevation 6,640 feet; net elevation loss/gain 1,500 feet; accumulated gain/loss is 1,934 feet. **Scheduled: Wed May 2 (Dave Corrigan).**

Grandview Trail from Grandview Point to Horseshoe Mesa. Rating B! Wooded mesas are common in the mid to upper reaches of the Inner Canyon, and when viewed from the canyon rims, many of them appear to be inviting destinations, yet few of these cliff-bound 'islands' are accessible to hikers. Horseshoe Mesa, perched atop the Redwall limestone halfway between the South Rim and the Colorado River, is one notable exception. Views from the mesa are excellent. Trail conditions are tougher than the Bright Angel and South Kaibab Trails. Unmaintained steep trail requires caution. *There is significant exposure in some areas.* No shuttlebus is available to access this trailhead. **Meeting Point:** Large information board outside the main Visitor Center. We will car pool to the trailhead (approximately 9 miles from the Visitor Center). Hike 6.4 miles; trailhead elevation 7,400; net elevation gain/loss 2,600 feet. **Scheduled: Thur May 3 (Don Taylor).**

Hermit/Boucher Trail to Yuma Point. Rating B! Expansive views unfold upon reaching the slickrock point below the headland of Yuma Point, 2.5 miles from the Boucher Trail/Dripping Springs Trail junction. Here at 5,429 feet, the inner gorge opens up to reveal fine views of the Colorado River below. This point is a rewarding destination for a memorable day hike. Hike begins at the Hermit TH, follows the Hermit Trail to Dripping Spring Trail, then after 2.7 miles, takes the Boucher Trail to Yuma Point. Option of visiting Santa Maria Springs on Hermit Trail upon return hike out. All of these trails are designed 'wilderness' trails by the National Park and are not regularly maintained. We will be riding the Hermits Rest shuttlebus to get to the trailhead, the outbound ride is approximately 45 minutes long. **Meeting Point:** Village Route/Hermits Rest Transfer Station. Hike 10.4 miles; trailhead elevation 6,640 feet; net elevation gain/loss 1,211 feet; accumulated gain/loss ~2,000 feet (Hike 11.9 miles; Net elevation gain/loss 1,900 feet; accumulated gain/loss 2,200 feet if visiting Santa Maria Springs). **Scheduled: Tues May 1 (Randy Park).**

South Kaibab, Tonto Trail, Bright Angel Trail. Rating A. This is a one way hike, starting at the South Kaibab trailhead and ending at the top of Bright Angel. Hikers have excellent views of the canyon as they hike down South Kaibab 4.3 miles to the intersection of the Tonto Trail. Turn left (west) on the Tonto Trail. The hike then traverses the Tonto Plateau on the uncrowded Tonto Trail for 4.4 miles. When the Bright Angel trail is reached, hikers will follow the Bright Angel trail up towards Indian Gardens (.3 miles) and then continue up the Bright Angel trail to the South Rim (4.5 miles). Water stops hopefully at Indian Garden, 3 Mile Rest House and 1½ Mile Rest House on the the Bright Angel Trail. **Meeting Point:** Large information boards outside the main Visitor Center. Hike 13.5 miles; trailhead elevation 7,200; net elevation loss/gain 3,360 feet. **Scheduled: Wed May 2 (Randy Park).**