

SaddleBrooke Hiking Club
Grand Canyon National Park Hiking Trip
April 30 – May 4, 2018
(Revision 1, April 22, 2017)

Mark your calendars now. The SaddleBrooke Hiking Club has put together 3 1/2 days of hiking in the Grand Canyon National Park. The trip promises a wide cross-section of hiking experiences at all levels of difficulty. The current plan is for club members to drive up on Monday, April 30 (late afternoon and sunset hikes are available that day), 3 days of hikes Tuesday-Thursday and return to Saddlebrooke on Friday, May 4th. Club members must make their own transportation, food, and lodging arrangements, and can participate in one, two, three, or four days of hiking as they choose. It is not necessary that individuals stay for the entire stay or arrive on the 1st day.

A National Parks pass (purchased annually for non-seniors) or a Golden Age Pass (62+ senior lifetime pass) can be used to enter the park. For those that do not have these passes, the entrance fee to Grand Canyon National Park is \$30.00 for a car (up to four people) and good for seven days.

Susan Hollis at shollis@yahoo.com or 520-825-6819 is the trip leader and organizer. Dianne Temple is her associate for this trip. To confirm your participation please contact Dianne at 520-825-7353 or email diannetempleaz@gmail.com

Schedule:

Monday, April 30: Drive to GCNP, late afternoon or evening hike at rim

Tue-Thur, May 1-3: Hikes

Friday, May 4: Possible short morning hike, drive home

Driving to GC Park:

It is approximately 336 miles from SaddleBrooke to the Grand Canyon Village and should take about 6 hours to drive. Google Maps recommends the best route, which is via Phoenix and I-17 to Flagstaff. Hikers will provide their own transportation.

Lodging:

You should make lodging reservations as soon as possible since the demand for lodging at the Grand Canyon is always high. Always verify the cancellation policy of your lodging choice.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts and Delaware North handle the lodging and RV park within the GCNP. There are usually no penalties from Xanterra or Delaware North for cancellations at least 3 days before arrival. Because of this policy, if the lodging you desire is full, check back at a later date. Five major hotels are located right outside the park in the town of Tusayan. A GCNP Shuttle bus is available from Tusayan to the South Rim. There is tent camping within the park and RV camping both within and outside of the park. Within the park, the El Tovar Hotel is the most expensive, and Maswick Lodge South is the least expensive. Reservations cannot usually be made more than 365 days in advance.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts: A variety of lodging facilities within the park. Maswick Lodge, Bright Angel Lodge and Cabins, El Tovar Hotel, Kachina Lodge and Thunderbird Lodge. Toll free 888-297-2757. Website: <http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com/lodging/reservations/>

Delaware North – Yavapai Lodge or Trailer Village RV Park within GCNP. 877-404-4611 or <http://www.visitgrandcanyon.com/>

Tusayan Hotels (it is 6.3 miles from Tusayan to Grand Canyon Visitor Center):

Grand Canyon Plaza Hotel
Red Feather Lodge
Holiday Inn Express – Grand Canyon
The Grand Hotel at the Grand Canyon
Best Western Grand Canyon Squire

Mather Campground within the National Park is for tents and smaller RV's (no hookups, a RV dump/water station is located near the campground). Reservations can be made through the **National Recreation Reservation Service** by calling 1-877-444-6777 or online at <http://www.recreation.gov/> Reservations can be made up to **6 months in advance**. Laundry and showers located near the campground for a fee.

Trailer Village within GCNP for RV's (full hook-ups and cable TV). Advance reservations via Delaware North (see above web address and phone# for Delaware North).

Camper Village for RV's only - Commercial campground located 7 miles south of Grand Canyon Village in the town of Tusayan. Call (928) 638-2887. RV Hook-ups and coin-operated showers are available.

Phantom Ranch: The club is not planning on overnighting at Phantom Ranch. If you want to hike to the bottom of the canyon and spend the night at Phantom Ranch, then you need to make your own lodging and meal reservations. You should call on May 1, 2017 to make your reservation for May 2018. Xanterra handles the reservations at Phantom for the cabins and dorm rooms. The National Park handles permits for the backpacking campgrounds below the rim (Bright Angel, Indian Garden or Cottonwood). <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/campsite-information.htm>

Elevation: GCNP lies at an elevation of 6400 to 7000 feet. If you struggle hiking at this elevation, we recommend that you arrive a few days early, or spend a few days in Flagstaff, to acclimate yourself to this elevation.

Food/Groceries:

Canyon Village Marketplace - A general store with groceries, clothing and gifts is located at Market Plaza in GCNP. Open daily year-round, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Several small market places are in Tusayan.

There are many restaurants within GCNP and in Tusayan.

Hikes, meeting places, transportation within the park:

Hikes at each level of difficulty will be offered each day. A list of the hikes will be provided 3 months before the trip. Please contact the hike leader to sign-up for the hikes.

Know where the Hiking Guide plans to meet for the hike and which shuttle you need to take to get there. Or where you need to park if driving to the meeting place. Be on time for your hikes. If the shuttle takes 30 minutes to get to the trailhead, catch the correct shuttle. Parking with-in the park is very limited except at the main Visitor Center.

Ground Transportation within the park is provided by the Grand Canyon Shuttle buses. There are 4 Routes and we will be using these shuttles to access many of the trailheads (Hermit's Rest Trailhead and South Kaibab Trailhead can only be accessed via bus). Please refer to the GCNP's schedule at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm>

Pre-trip pot luck and Group Dinner on the trip:

A pre-trip pot luck will be help at least a week before the trip. The purpose of the pot luck is to as hiking guides questions you may have about the hikes. Do last minute sign-up for hikes. And meet other members going on the trip.

We hope to have a Group Dinner at GCNP for anyone interested attending. This depends on our ability to get a reservation for a large number of people. Information will be forthcoming regarding this.

Weather:

Average high on the South Rim for early May is 65 degrees. Average low at night on South Rim for early May is 35 degrees. Early May is usually very good for hiking, there are less crowds and hiking temps are cool. Precipitation occurring in May is rare.

Contacting members of the hiking club while there:

Cell phone numbers for the hiking guides will be provided with the list of hikes. Unlike the current hiking sign-up sheet, the sign-up sheets for these hike will request the hikers cell phone (if available) and lodging/camping area. This way, the hiking guides can contact hikers in an emergency.

Other things to do at the Canyon:

- Visit Yavapai Geology Museum and explore geologic history on the Trail of Time.
- Join a Ranger-Led program (get program listings at the visitor center)
- Visit the Mary Colter landmark buildings, such at Hopi House, Bright Angel, and more. Take a walking tour of the Village Historic District. (Brochures available at visitor centers.)
- Explore (need a car) Desert View Drive with stops at Grandview, Moran, Navajo and Lipan Points. At Desert View climb the Watchtower (created by Mary Colter) for 360 degree view. Visit Tusayan Museum and walk the Tusayan Ruin trail (on south side of Desert View Drive before Lipan Point).
- Visit Verkamp's Visitor Center which has exhibits on the Historical Community that lived at Grand Canyon
- Visit the Historic Kolb Studio which has art or photograph exhibits.
- Bike the new bike paths or Hermit's Road (only open to shuttle bus and bikes). Bike rentals are available at the Visitor Center or bring your bike from home.