



HIKING THE GRAND CANYON



Words cannot truly describe the immensity and beauty of the Grand Canyon- a mile deep, six miles wide and 287 miles long. Distance is deceptive and the scale unimaginable. The best way to experience the splendor of the Grand Canyon is on foot and this itinerary is designed to show you the best that the Canyon has to offer both above the Rim as well as its hidden secrets. The trip begins with a day hike in the magnificent red rock country of Sedona surrounded by stunning red rock monoliths.

Duration	7 days
Season	March-July, September-November
Style of Trek	Deluxe Camping
Trek Grade	Easy - Moderate
Start	Phoenix
Finish	Phoenix

Once at the Canyon, we hike the Bright Angel Trail (voted America's #1 Best Day Hike) and get our first view of the stunning vistas that left the early explorers in awe. We then descend into one of the most beautiful and remote landscapes in the world, into the heart of the Grand Canyon at Havasu Canyon home to towering 200ft. waterfalls, beautiful cascades, and tropical blue-green pools. This lush oasis will be our home for the next three nights where we will hike and explore this incredible area. Evenings are spent at a permanent camp (we have an exclusive arrangement with the Havasupai tribe) searching for stars, having hearty meals and conversations about the days adventures. You will learn about the area's natural and geological history, historical facts as well as the legends and culture of the local Havasupai ("people of the blue-green water"). By working closely with the Havasupai Tourist Enterprise we strive to show you their majestic land with the respect and reverence due to these proud and resourceful people. This challenging adventure takes you through the heart of the canyon and will leave you with a sense of accomplishment, awe and a true appreciation and love of one of the grandest places on earth.

DAY 1 PHOENIX

Upon arrival in Phoenix, transfer to nearby Scottsdale and our hotel this evening located in Old Town. Tonight we meet for dinner at a local restaurant where your trip leader will answer questions and discuss your plans for tomorrow. Overnight Phoenix. (D)

DAY 2 PHOENIX – SEDONA – GRAND CANYON, SOUTH RIM

After breakfast, we depart Phoenix travelling north through the desert to the higher plateaus and blazing red rock canyons. After a short drive, we arrive in Sedona in the heart of Red Rock country considered by some to be the spiritual vortex of the Southwest. Our late morning hike

takes us along Oak Creek Canyon with its panoramic views of the valley and stunning rock formations such as Cathedral Rock. During the hike, your guide will introduce you to the unique geology and cultural history of the area.



After our hike, enjoy a picnic lunch near the creek before setting out for Grand Canyon National Park. The drive up Oak Creek Canyon is one of the most scenic in Arizona. From here we travel across the Colorado Plateau to Grand Canyon Village where the evening will be spent under the stars.

Total hiking: 5-8 miles. Overnight Mather Point Campground, Grand Canyon Village. (BLD)

DAY 3 DAY AT THE SOUTH RIM, HIKE THE BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL

After breakfast, we have our first chance to enter into the Canyon itself on the famous Bright Angel Trail. Voted America's #1 Best Day Hike, this trail offers some of the best views of the enormous Canyon. As the trail descends, you travel back in geologic time through the various levels of sedimentary rock. It took the Colorado River between 5 and 6 million years to carve the 10 mile wide and 5000 feet deep gorge. Rest houses stationed along the trail allow hikers the option to choose the length of today's hike. Lunch will be provided on the trail and dinner tonight will be served back at camp.

Total hiking: 3-12 miles. Overnight Mather Point Campground, Grand Canyon Village. (BLD)

DAY 4 HUALAPAI HILLTOP, DESCEND INTO THE GRAND CANYON

Rising early this morning, we have breakfast and make the 3 hour drive to Hualapai Hilltop and the Havasupai trailhead perched on the edge of the canyon. Here we meet up with the mule team that will carry our gear to camp allowing us to travel with only daypacks. The trail descends steeply at first, but soon levels out near the canyon floor. After a trailside lunch, we descend deeper into the labyrinth of red sandstone as the canyon begins to widen and the vegetation turns lush arriving at the remote village of Supai where mail still arrives by mule train. After a welcome rest stop, it is another 2 miles, passing Navajo and Havasu Falls to reach our private base camp set amidst the cottonwood trees on the banks of Havasu Creek. While your guides prepare dinner, you can enjoy the refreshing pools of Havasu Falls only a short distance away.

Total hiking: 10 miles. Overnight private base camp. (BLD)

DAY 5 EXPLORE HIDDEN HAVASU CANYON

Our first adventure this morning is a short hike to the 210ft. Mooney Falls. After a scramble down the steep trail and through a narrow tunnel, we arrive at the base of the falls where the

blue-green water sparkles in the sun. From here you may choose to continue on to Beaver Falls. For the daring a visit to the “green room” is a must- a hidden cave under the first tier of the waterfall only accessible by swimming through a hole in the travertine wall. Once you emerge, take the leap to the 18ft. frothy pool below and reunite with the members of the group who decided to stay dry!

Total hiking: 2-8 miles. Overnight private base camp. (BLD)

DAY 6 MORE ADVENTURE IN CARBONATE CANYON

Today we have two very different and unique hikes. This morning we walk up the canyon to a hidden side cleft in the cliff wall to the Tonto Bench, a broad rock terrace between the Supai sandstone and the Red Wall limestone. This rocky trail rises from the valley floor revealing stunning vistas of the Grand Canyon all the way to the North Rim. After lunch back in camp, we head out this time to Carbonate Canyon a narrow side canyon where miners from the early 1900's found precious minerals within the canyon walls. On the way, search for fossils of sea creatures who once swam the waters of this now dry land. The rest of the afternoon is free to relax in one of the shady camp hammocks, or continue on a short distance to the hidden Navajo Falls.

Total hiking: 4-10 miles. Overnight private base camp. (BLD)

DAY 7 CANYON ASCENT AND RETURN TO PHOENIX

After breakfast, it's time to leave our canyon oasis behind and begin our ascent back to the canyon rim. The trail is long but hikers have a true sense of accomplishment as they stand again at the canyon rim. Arrangements can be made for those wishing to take an optional helicopter flight or horseback ride out of the canyon (for an additional fee). These departures are timed to arrive back at the canyon rim at approximately the same time as the group hikers. On the return ride, we stop for dinner along the way arriving back in Phoenix between 6:00 and 8:00PM. If flying out this evening, please do not schedule your flights before 9:00PM.

Total hiking: 10 miles. (BL)





SERVICE INCLUDES

- Pre-trip briefing upon arrival
- Round-trip transportation from Phoenix to Grand Canyon
- 1 night hotel accommodation on twin share basis in Scottsdale
- 5 nights camping
- Reservation entry and overnight permits
- Packhorses to carry gear and supplies in/out of the Canyon
- All meals and snacks as noted on itinerary
- Bottled water

OPTIONAL

- Helicopter flight out of the Canyon (prearranged prior to departure)
- Packhorse ride in and/or out of the Canyon (prearranged prior to departure)

Cost per person	Group size
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\$2125.00 USD	4-6
\$1675.00 USD	7-10
\$1525.00 USD	11-12

SERVICE EXCLUDES

- Daypack
- Bar/alcoholic beverages
- Tips for guides
- Travel Insurance (unless requested)
- Airfare (unless requested)
- Airport transfers
- Additional accommodations before or after dates specified on itinerary
- Personal expenses e.g. souvenirs, clothing, laundry, and optional trips

Contact Us

PO Box 1043

Traverse City, Michigan

USA 49685

231.264.6182

231.264.6482 fax

866.992.BLUE

BluePlanetAdventures.com



Learn more about the Grand Canyon with a comprehensive reading list compiled by Longitude Books.

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