

FUN Weekend Day Trip Guidance

This is a quick guide to assist in initial planning for weekend activities. The list provides some day trip possibilities and information on approximate total and travel times, as well as some starting points for additional planning information. *This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive trip planner.*

Note that this guidance applies to *weekend* activities. Vehicle use during the week will continue to follow SOP guidance limiting travel to Tusayan, Desert View, and Hermit's Rest.

Vehicle use for weekend activities should focus on:

- Safety - Must comply with:
 - Federal travel regulations
 - NPS policy restricting driving to 10 hours
 - HOAL safety procedures (vehicle safety kits, emergency contacts, check-out/-in procedures)
- Connections with the FUN curriculum:
 - Informal learning opportunities related to park operations and planning
 - Focus on group involvement and networkingExamples include:
 - Time in and around GRCA
 - Ranger Programs, day hiking, etc...
 - Day trips outside of GRCA
 - Visiting other NPS sites, museums, etc...Exclusions include:
 - Destinations that are not related to FUN curriculum
 - Sporting event in Phoenix, etc...
 - Destinations that could portray the NPS in a negative light
 - Gambling and clubbing in Las Vegas, etc...
- Demand and fairness - HOAL has limited vehicles and the social committee needs to plan the most equitable use of vehicles to accommodate the needs of all students, not just those planning excursions.

Fuel for government vehicles will be provided per regular SOPs for reasonable excursions.

The social committee should work with the logistics committee on planning vehicle use/key signout. The social committee lead should seek support from class coordinator and/or social and logistics committee coordinators to address any questions about acceptable use of vehicles. If further guidance is necessary, social committee lead should contact FUN program manager and/or HOAL Superintendent.

Long day trips that include physical activities like walking, hiking, and bicycling, as well as extended desolate drives can be especially taxing in the high desert environment of Northern Arizona. Please make the appropriate preparations to ensure your health, wellness, and safety prior to, during, and after your weekend trip. Activity-specific guidance on having a safe and enjoyable experience can be found in many planning resources. If you have specific concerns or questions about maintaining your health and wellness during a specific activity, please ask.

If you have other ideas (state parks, wildlife viewing, hiking locations, etc.), please ask about their suitability for a FUN weekend day trip and to possibly obtain or be directed to more information.

FUN Weekend Day Trip Guidance

Within GRCA

Grand Canyon National Park offers a wide variety of up-to-date brochures, fliers, and online resources featuring events, programs, and activities that can assist with your trip planning. This additional information can be obtained in many visitor services locations, on the HOAL campus, on the GRCA website, or ask a visitor services representative for more information.

Visitor Services

South Rim offers a broad variety of visitor centers, museums and services:

Grand Canyon Visitor Center and services (Mather Point), Yavapai Geology Museum, Verkamp's Visitor Center, Kolb Studio, El Tovar/Bright Angel/Maswik Lodges and services, Hermit's Rest

- Time: 1hr to all day; walk/bike/bus/drive
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, partners-concessions, health & wellness
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm>

Ranger Programs

South Rim offers a variety of interpretive programming daily and into the evening.

- Time: 1hr to all day; walk/bike/bus/drive
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, Interpretation
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/sr-programs.htm>

Desert View

Desert View Watchtower, Tusayan Ruin and Museum, Ranger Programs, Colorado River views, Desert View Drive (several excellent viewpoints)

- Time: 3-6hrs; 1:30hrs round trip driving
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, partners-concessions, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/desert-view.htm>

Day Hiking: Rim Trail

Mostly paved, limited elevation gain/loss, views, visitor services, NPS bus service, high use

- Distance 0-13 miles one way
- Time: 1-8hrs; walk/bus/drive to trail
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, partners-concessions, health & wellness, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/RimTrail.pdf>

Day Hiking: Bright Angel Trail

Maintained dirt trail, steep, canyon experience, views, some facilities, good turn-around points, highest use, features tunnels/Mile-and-a-Half & Three Mile Resthouses/Indian Garden/Plateau Point

- Distance .2-12 miles round trip
- Time: 2-12hrs; walk to trailhead
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, health & wellness, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/BrightAngelTrail.pdf>

Day Hiking: South Kaibab Trail

Maintained dirt trail, steep, canyon experience, views, no facilities, good turn-around points, high use, features Ooh-Aah Point/Cedar Ridge/Skeleton Point

FUN Weekend Day Trip Guidance

- Distance 2-6 miles round trip
- Time: 3-12hrs; NPS bus/shuttle to trailhead
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, health & wellness, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/SouthKaibabTrail.pdf>

Day Hiking: Hermit Trail

Unmaintained, steep, rocky, strenuous, canyon experience, views, no facilities, good turn-around points, moderate/low use, features Santa Maria/Dripping Springs

- Distance 3-7 miles round trip
- Time: 4-12hrs; NPS bus to trailhead
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, health & wellness, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/HermitTrail.pdf>

Day Hiking: Grandview Trail

Unmaintained, very steep, rocky, strenuous, canyon experience, views, moderate/low use, features Horseshoe Mesa/stone cabin

- Distance 2.5-6 miles round trip
- Time: 5-12hrs; bus/drive to trailhead
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, health & wellness, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/upload/GrandviewTrail.pdf>

Bicycling: Hermit Road / Hermit Greenway Trail

Mostly paved, excellent viewpoints, Hermit's Rest

- Distance: 7 miles one way
- Time: 2-5hrs / HOAL bicycles/NPS bus shuttle option
- Value: GRCA experience, NPS operations, health & wellness
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/bicycling.htm>

Bicycling: Arizona Trail (GRCA - Tusayan)

Paved, woodlands trail, wildlife, Tusayan services, low use

- Distance: 6.5 miles one way
- Time: 2-5hrs / HOAL bicycles/NPS bus shuttle option
- Value: GRCA experience, gateway community, partnerships, health & wellness
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/bicycling.htm>

Bicycling: Bright Angel Bicycles (Retail / Tour Operator)

Bright Angel Bicycles can provide tours, rental equipment, shuttle service

Website has an informative bicycle routes brochure.

- Cost: \$\$ / \$\$\$
- Value: GRCA experience, concession
- Additional Information: <http://bikegrandcanyon.com/>

Other local activities can be researched in the Grand Canyon Chamber and Visitor Bureau brochure:

http://grandcanyoncvb.org/images/pdfs/GrandCanyonCVB_2017_VisitorGuide.pdf

FUN Weekend Day Trip Guidance

Outside of GRCA

The following locations offer up-to-date information online including hours, fees, tours, events, programs, and activities that can assist with your trip planning. Additional site-specific information may be obtained in some GRCA visitor services locations, and/or on the HOAL campus.

Flagstaff Area National Monuments

Wupatki, Sunset Crater, and Walnut Canyon National Monuments

- Time: 8-10hrs; 4:30hrs total trip driving
- Cost: Park Fees \$ (GOV)
- Value: NPS operations, networking
- Additional Information: https://www.nps.gov/waca/learn/management/flag_parks.htm

Flagstaff Museums

Museum of Northern Arizona, Pioneer Museum, Riordan Mansion State Historic Park

- Time: 8-10hrs; 3:30hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Admission \$ / \$\$
- Value: Non-NPS operations/collections, networking
- Additional information: <https://musnaz.org/>
<https://azstateparks.com/riordan-mansion/>
<https://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/museum/pioneer-museum/>

Flagstaff Art Tour

Northern Arizona University Art Museum, Museum of Northern Arizona, galleries

- Time: 8-10hrs; 3:30hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Admission \$ / \$\$
- Value: Non-NPS operations/collections, networking
- Additional information: <https://nau.edu/artmuseum/>
<https://musnaz.org/>
<http://www.flagstaff365.com/venue-type/visualart/?view=list&type>

Lowell Observatory (Flagstaff)

- Time: 8hrs; 3:30hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Admission \$ / \$\$
- Value: Non-NPS operations/science, networking
- Additional information: <https://lowell.edu/>

Meteor Crater

- Time: 8-10hrs; 4:30hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Admission \$\$
- Value: Non-NPS operations/science, networking
- Additional information: <http://meteorcrater.com/>

Military Site/Museums

Fort Tuthill Military History Museum; Planes of Fame Air Museum

- Time: 6-8hrs; 3:30hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Admission \$ / \$\$
- Value: Non-NPS operations/collections, networking

FUN Weekend Day Trip Guidance

- Additional information: <http://www.forttuthill.org/> <http://www.planesoffame.org/>

Navajo Culture

Navajo National Monument, Navajo Interactive Museum (Tuba City)

- Time: 8-10hrs; 5:30hrs total trip driving
- Cost: Admission \$
- Value: NPS and Non-NPS operations/collections, networking
- Additional information: <https://www.nps.gov/nava/index.htm>
<http://www.explorenavajo.com>
<http://www.discovernavajo.com/Default.aspx> (NOTE: many activities here are beyond day trip.)

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam

- Time: 8-10hrs; 5:30hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Park Fees \$ (GOV), tour fees \$
- Value: NPS operations, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/index.htm>

Valle Verde National Park Service Sites

Tuzigoot NM, Montezuma Castle NM, Montezuma Well

- Time: 8-10hrs; 5:30hrs total trip driving
- Cost: Park Fees \$ (GOV)
- Value: NPS operations, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/moca/index.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/tuzi/index.htm>
 - Consider also visiting USFS's Palatki and Honanki Heritage Sites to see how another Non-NPS/Non-DOI federal agency manages cultural heritage sites (add 1hr driving).
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/coconino/recreation/recarea/?recid=55368>

Petrified Forest National Park

- Time: 8-10hrs; 6hrs round trip driving
- Cost: Park Fees \$ (GOV)
- Value: NPS operations, networking
- Additional Information: <https://www.nps.gov/pefo/index.htm>
 - Consider also visiting Homolovi State Park to see how a state agency manages a cultural heritage site. <https://azstateparks.com/homolovi/>
 - Consider just "Standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona" ... such a fine sight to selfie.

Grand Canyon Railroad / Williams

Focus on historic travel from rail to Route 66

- Time: 6-10hrs; walking
- Cost: Admission \$\$ / \$\$\$
- Value: Non-NPS operations/collections, partners-concessions, gateway community, networking
- Additional information: <https://www.thetrain.com/the-train/>
<http://www.azstatermuseum.org/> (coming 2018)
Pete's Route 66 Gas Station Museum.