

**Order of the Arrow
Camping Guide
Part 5**

**National
Parks,
Recreation
Areas and
Monuments**

Grand Canyon National Park

The Grand Canyon Council, BSA sponsors these hikes in cooperation with the Grand Canyon National Park. The Grand Canyon Council offers hiking awards for each of the trails. More information about the cost and procurement of awards can be obtained by writing or calling:

Grand Canyon Council, BSA
2969 N. Greenfield Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7718
602-955-7747

The Grand Canyon National Park Service also has patches available for each of the hikes and you can obtain them at the Visitor's Center on the South Rim. It is suggested that you write or call to verify this information as current.

The exploits of one-armed, Major John Wesley Powell, are well known to any who have read about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. In its report to Congress, the National Park Service reported 4,547,027 visitors to the Grand Canyon in 1992 alone! A permit system has been in use for years. Respect for its restrictions are vital to the preservation of this most grand hiking opportunity. Hikes in the canyon, perhaps more than anywhere else, require fastidious planning and preparation.

PERMITS: It should go without saying that the Grand Canyon National Park is internationally popular (about 40% of its visitors are from other countries). Unless you plan your trip and receive reservations well in advance, you will probably be disappointed by not getting a permit. Full compliance with NPS rules and regulations is required, and **violators are cited**. **All hikes in this series require permits**. For information, a trip planner packet, hiking permits, and camping reservations in the Grand Canyon, contact:

Backcountry Reservation Office
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Note: The Supai, Rainbow Bridge, and Paria Canyon hikes require contacting other agencies as noted in the hike descriptions.

MAPS: Unless otherwise indicated, either of these USGS topographic maps covers the trails in this award series. Grand Canyon National Park and Vicinity, Arizona(1:62,500) or Bright Angel Quadrangle, Arizona (15'). A large number of hiking guides and privately published maps are available. The planning packet, available from the Backcountry Office, contains a good map and lots of information. Inner Canyon Hiking, published by and available from the Grand Canyon National History Association, P.O. Box 219, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 is suggested.

PACE: A simple but important rule of thumb - It takes two to three times as long to hike out of the Canyon as it does to hike in! On summer days the temperatures can exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. More than a gallon of water may be needed each day per hiker. **Drink the water!**
Don't save it!

CAVEATS: Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Canyon Council, BSA have combined to offer a few additional cautions:

1. Plan your trip with the least experienced hiker in mind. Allow plenty of time for the slowest hiker. The faster hikers can use the extra time to soak up the experience.
2. Good physical condition is required of both Scouts and Scouters. Don't underestimate the ruggedness of this one-mile-deep canyon.
3. Completion of a corridor hike is strongly recommended before attempting threshold, primitive, or wilderness hikes. Corridor trails are well maintained trails crossing the Canyon and include the North and South Kaibab Trails and the Bright Angel Trail.
4. Leaders of any non-corridor hike are strongly advised to experience the hike themselves before leading the unit.
5. A ratio of 6 boys to 2 leaders is optimal to assure both safety and resource protection.
6. Summer months (May to September) are very hot in the Canyon and the Tonto Trail hikes are not recommended for these months.

GRAND CANYON TRAIL AWARDS: This series of hiking awards is available only to registered Scouts and consists of a center or title patch and twelve segments. The title patch is available to any Scout who completes one of the segment hikes. It is highly recommended that new Scouts and those with no experience in the Canyon start, with one of the first two hikes described. A brief description of the twelve hikes follows:

RIM TO RIVER: Actually, this hike is rim to river to rim, unless you hire a helicopter or mule to get back out. We recommend this or the following hike for a first-time Grand Canyon experience. On this trail you don't have to catch a ride 100 miles to pick up your vehicles. Use the Bright Angel Trail, the South Kaibab Trail or a combination of both. If you want to experience both, go down the shorter but steeper Kaibab and up the longer but more gradual Bright Angel. Camping (by permit only) is available at Phantom Ranch and Indian Gardens.

RIM TO RIM TO RIM: This hike is 40.6 to 47 miles depending on route choices and should not be attempted in less than four (4) days. Use any combination of corridor trails (South Kaibab, Bright Angel, and North Kaibab Trails). The entire trip is completed in one outing, but is not to be a marathon. Allow plenty of time.

BASS, GRANDVIEW, HANCE, HERMIT and THUNDER RIVER TRAILS: These are five separate hikes, each recognized by a different segment. They all go from the South Rim to the River, except for the Thunder River Trail, which starts at the North Rim. None of these trails is maintained, but each still requires a permit, as does all inner-canyon hiking. To get that permit, previous Grand Canyon hiking experience is required. Information, experience, and mature judgment are especially important on these hikes. Do plenty of reading and learn from the experiences of others. To compete each of these hikes you must reach the Colorado River.

PRIMITIVE TRAIL: Go from either rim to the Colorado River by any route not yet mentioned. The Boucher and Tanner Trails are examples. Everything said for the previous five trails applies to this segment also.

SUPAI TO RIVER: This hike takes you into Havasu Canyon, home of the Havasupai Tribe. The 10-mile trail to the campground isn't part of the awards program, but is the only way to get to the trailhead. This segment begins at Mooney Falls and goes eight miles to the Colorado River. The 16-mile round trip takes a full day, so three days are needed for this outing. The water-covered vertical descent down Mooney Falls is strenuous and hazardous. The last four miles are within the Grand Canyon National Park, and camping is not permitted in that area of the park. Advance registration and fees (\$30.00 per hiker for two nights in 1992) are required. Write or call:

Havasupai Tourist Enterprise
Supai, AZ 86435
602-448-2141

Drive to Hualapai Hilltop, 60 miles north of Peach Springs, AZ on Arizona 66. The best map is the USGS, Grand Canyon National Park, West Half (1:48,000)

PARIA CANYON: The canyon of the Paria River is about 45 miles long, with its origin near Bryce Canyon National park and its terminus at Lees Ferry on the Colorado River. The hike begins in a shallow wash just below US 89 in southern Utah. Hikers should allow four to six days to complete the trip to Lees Ferry. The river is shallow and easily waded in its entirety, except in flood conditions. Check weather conditions with the BLM office just before you set out. Contact:

Bureau of Land Management
320 N. First Street
East Kanab, Utah 84741
801-644-2672

A backpacker's guide and illustrated map are available from the Kanab District Office. Before leaving, check in with the National Park Service at Lees Ferry, 602-335-2235, to let them know when you expect to arrive and how many are in your group in exchange for up-to-the-minute hiking conditions. The following USGS quadrangles (15 minute series) will cover the hike: Paria, Utah, Paria Plateau, Arizona and Lees Ferry, Arizona.

RAINBOW BRIDGE: There are two trails you may hike to earn this segment. The first is the 14 mile Rainbow Trail (elevation: 6,300' to 3,800') that starts at the abandoned Rainbow Lodge and goes around the west side of Navajo Mountain. The Cameron Trail is several miles longer but is easier (elevation: 6,000' to 3,800'). It starts near Navajo Mountain School and goes around the east and north sides of the mountain. You can return by either trail, go out by boat on Lake Powell, or come in by boat and hike out. Information for these hikes is available from:

Superintendent
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040
602-645-2471

This hike is in a remote and seldom visited area of the Navajo Reservation. Permits are required by and are available from the tribal government. Contact:

Director
Recreational Resources Department
Navajo Tribe
Window Rock, AZ 86515
602-871-4941, EXT 1645

Navajo Mountain, Utah (15 minute series) is the USGS quadrangle covering this hike.

GRAND CANYON TRAILS MEDALS: To earn this special award you must complete one of the requirements from each category:

- Body:
1. Hike any three separate hikes in the Grand Canyon.
 2. Earn the RIM to RIM to RIM award.
- Mind:
1. Write your own 800-word report on your hike(s) covering the geology, the flora, and the fauna of the areas as you saw them.
 2. Read a book on the Grand Canyon appropriate for your age and interests and approved in advance by your leader. Be sure to name your book on the application for the medal.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Guadalupe Mountains National Park is located approximately 42 miles south of Carlsbad Caverns. From El Paso, TX take U.S. Hgwy. 62/180 to the Park. This is the highest point in Texas. See the difference in the vegetation from the desert floor to forest only one mile above. There are nature trails, day hikes, and backpacking in the park. There is a Visitor's Center and the Butterfield Stage Line Pinery Station built in 1858. There are two campgrounds Pine Springs and Dog Canyon. These are fee areas. This is a hiking park with eighty miles of trails that lead you through forests, canyons and the desert. Permits are not required for day hikes but you must secure a permit at the Visitor's Center for overnight backpacking trips. Permits available at Pine Springs, McKittrick Canyon or Dog Canyon Visitor's Centers with no fee. Strictly, primitive wilderness camping, at designated locations is permitted. If backpacking, remember that to take a minimum of one gallon of water per person per day. There is no water available in the backcountry. No open or charcoal fires are permitted anywhere in the park. It is always good to call or write ahead:

Superintendent
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
HC 60, Box 400
Salt Flat, TX 79847-9400
915-828-3251

The following areas and hikes can be recommended:

DOG CANYON:

Dog Canyon is located in the Northern section of the park. It is a developed campsite with fifteen tent sites, water available and a Ranger Station on the site. It is an excellent hiking and nature study area. Take New Mexico 13 from US Highway 285 (approximately 12 miles north of Carlsbad, NM) For further information contact the Park Information Service at 915-828-3385.

McKITTRICK CANYON:

McKittrick Canyon is a unique ecological zone with many types of trees that are not common to this area. There are cliffs, mountains, forest, and a stream. Water, restrooms, and a picnic area are available at Ranger Station. The old Pratt is located 2.7 miles one way up the trail and it's another 1.1 miles to Hunter Line Cabin and the Grotto. This is good site for hiking and nature studies with an easy trail, but take water. There is no camping in the canyon. This is a day use only site. The best time to visit is in October when the trees are changing color, but parking is limited. Take US Highway 62-180, seven miles northeast from the Pine Springs Campground.

McKITTRICK TRAIL:

This is a wilderness camp area and hiking trail with mountains, a meadow, desert, cliffs and forest. Take US Highway 61-180 seven miles northeast of Pine Springs Campground. Trail starts just beyond the McKittrick Canyon Parking lot. Proceed through McKittrick Canyon into Guadalupe high country 6.6 miles one way to Mc Kittrick campsite. This strenuous hike climbs 2,380 feet in two miles and reaches its highest point of 7916 feet before a descent to Lost Peak - Mescalero Trail junction. Leave vehicles at McKittrick Canyon Parking lot. Remember Camping is not allowed in McKittrick Canyon.

GUADALUPE PEAK TRAIL:

Guadalupe Peak is the highest point in Texas. This is a moderately strenuous hike, climbing 3000 feet in 4.4 miles. Beware of high winds and rapidly changing weather conditions. The designated camping is one mile before summit, 150 yards to the right in a small stand of Junipers. Take US Highway 62-180 trailhead located in parking lot of Pine Springs Campground.

GUADALUPE PEAK

This 9-mile round trip trail begins at Pine Springs Campground and climbs over 3,000 feet to the top of Guadalupe Peak for a spectacular view. There is a patch available for hiking Texas' high point from the Park Service.

DEVIL'S HALL HIKE

This hike is along the wash floor of Pine Springs Canyon for 5 miles round trip. It is rocky but relatively level hike to the narrows of the canyon.

EL CAPITAN HIKE

From Pine Springs Campground this 9 miles round trip takes one to a spectacular view of El Capitan's sheer rock wall.

THE BOWL HIKE

From the Pine Springs Campground take this 9-mile loop trip up the Tejas trail to Pine Top, east on the Bowl trail and down Bear Canyon Trail. The trail leads to a relict forest of dense pine and Douglas firs in the high country.

MANZANITA AND SMITH SPRINGS HIKE

Begin this relatively simple 2-mile round trip hike at Frijole Historic Site. Interpretive signs introduce the geology, ecology and history of the area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Kurtz, D. and Goran, W., Trails of the Guadalupe - A Hiker's Guide to the Trails of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Environmental Associates, Champaign, IL, 1986.

MAPS: Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Trails Illustrated
USGS Maps: PX Flat, TX, Guadalupe Peak, TX

Big Bend National Park

Big Bend National Park is located about six hours southeast of El Paso is a premier location. It is one of the least visited national parks and has accommodation ranging from a tourist hotel in the Chisos basin to primitive sites in the desert. Elevations range from 1800 feet at eastern end of Boquillas Canyon to Emory Peak at 7825 feet. All overnight backpackers must obtain a Backcountry Use Permit which are issued in person at the visitors center at Panther Junction and are available on first come first serve basis up to one day in advance of departure. The maximum group size is 15. The Chisos Basin Campground and the Campground at Rio Grande Village are fee areas. There are also group site available in the Chisos Basin area. The Visitor's Center can be contacted at:

P.O. Box 129
Big Bend National Park, TX 79834
915-477-2251

Big Bend is one of the least used National Parks and generally there are no crowd except during Thanksgiving week, Christmas to New Year's and spring break (Second and Third week in March). Plan on carrying all of your water, as there are no reliable sources of water in the backcountry. This park is recommended for visit from October through April. Summer can be oppressively hot.

The following areas and hikes can be recommended:

WINDOWS TRAIL

This is a 2 mile one way hike to a spectacular view at the Window. This is an easy hike over well-maintained trails. This is one of the parks more popular destinations. The trail begins in the Chisos Basin camp area a heads west out through Oak Canyon. You will return by the same trail. The more adventuresome may wish to hike past the rim to Oak Spring and to Cattail Falls. This will add another two miles one way to the hike but is well worth the walk. Cattail Falls is one of the less frequented wonders in the park. Cattail Falls can also be reached from a unmarked turnoff on the road to Castolon.

LOST MINE TRAIL

The trailhead is on the south side of the road up to the basin. There is a small parking lot available. This trail is a 2.4 mile one way trip but does not go to Lost Mine Peak. The trail travels southeast from the trailhead along the northern flank of Casa Grande Peak. After rising up out the canyon the trail follows the ridge between Green Gulch on the north and Juniper Canyon on the south.

EMORY PEAK

This is a 4.5 mile one way to the third highest peak in Texas. Beginning in the Chisos Basis Visitor=s Center Parking lot, hike south to Pinnacles Trail. The trail climbs through a number of forested switchbacks to the ridge high above the basin. Numerous primitive campsites are available along the route. At 3.5 miles, take the Emory Peak trail to the west.

SOUTH RIM TRAIL

This is a moderately strenuous 14.5-mile loop hike along the south rim of Chisos Mountains. Beginning at the Chisos basis travel south on the Meadows trail. There are a number trail options available for a shorter hike but continue south at the Colima Trail junction at 4.1 miles. Continue on to the southeast rim and northeast rim trails to reach the Boot Canyon trail. Travel north on the Boot Canyon Trail toward Boot Spring and then continue north on the Boot Spring trail after the junction with the northeast end of the Colima Trail. The 1-mile one-way trip up to Emory Peak is an interesting addition to this hike. Return to the visitor center by the Pinnacles Trail.

THE CHIMNEYS TRAIL

This 7.6 one mile hike goes between the road to Castolon and the road to Santa Elena. You can hike the trail from either end and have the vehicle waiting at the opposite end with proper planning and support. The trail passes a high ridge, known as the Chimneys. Petroglyphs and the remains of a small rock shelter can be found. There is very little shade on this route so it is best to avoid the warm weather.

MARISCAL MINE

This site contains the ruins of an abandon mercury mine. This site is 25 miles from the paved road but is very interesting. This is a very seclude location with a primitive campsite, Fresno, available near by. The park has a flyer available to describe the ruins and the history making for a fine self-guide tour.

RAFTING AND FLOAT TRIPS

A number of guide float and raft trips are available through local outfitters. These trips include 2-day float trips to 7 days trips through the lower canyon. One-day trips include Colorado Canyon and Santa Elena Canyon. Overnight trips include Santa Elena, Mariscal and Boquillas Canyons.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Parent, Lawrence, Hiking Big Bend National Park, Falcon Press, 1996

MAPS: Big Bend National Park, Trails Illustrated

USGS Maps: Basin, TX, Panther Junction, TX, Glenn Spring, TX, Mariscal Mountains, TX, Emory Peak, TX, Rio Grande Village, TX, Cerro Catellan, TX, Solis, TX, Castolon, TX, Terlingua, TX, Peña Mountain, TX, Reed Camp, TX, Tule, Mountain, TX

Valley of the Fires Recreation Area

The Valley of Fires Recreation Area is area run by the BLM that recently acquired it. It is located four miles west of the town of Carrizozo, NM. It is situated amid black, fissured rock of the Malpais lava flow, one of the youngest and best preserved lava fields in the United States. Valley of Fires provides a vivid example of some of the dynamic processes that have shaped the face of the earth. The park features an interpretive nature trail through the bizarrely folded and twisted lava formations, which support an abundance of plant and animal life. Facilities include camping and picnic sites, restrooms, tables, grills and water. A group picnic shelter is available by reservations. Area has 463 acres with an elevation of 5,250 feet. In addition to the facilities, there is a 1.2-mile Malpais Nature trail that provides a close-tip look at the lava surface.

Bosque Del Apache **National Wildlife Refuge**

The Bosque Del Apache is located approximately 2-½ hours north of El Paso near Socorro, NM. The bosque is a great place for nature study. The refuge has a 15-mile loop trail with many observation platforms. Bicycling the trail is an excellent way to get around refuge and remain sufficiently quiet for good observation. The only camping available is a group site. The prime time for viewing is during the winter, but make your reservations well in advance as this area is often reserved more than a year in advance, particularly during the festival of the cranes which occurs on the third weekend of the month. Avoid the area before the first hard freeze, as the mosquitoes can be very bad.

White Sands National Monument

White Sands National Monument is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo, NM on Hwy 70/82. The terrain is gypsum dunes. It's excellent for hiking, camping, orienteering and nature study. This is a primitive "No Trace Camping" area (Wilderness Camp). Open fires are not allowed. Drinking water is available only at the visitor center. Covered picnic sites and latrines are located in the heart of the dunes area. For groups of over ten people, call in advance for a reservation. This is a fee area, but if you call in advance, sometimes you can arrange to do a service project in lieu of the fees. Parking is available. For reservations call 505-479-6124.

Help

Our Cities.

Our Oceans.

Our Trees.

Our Towns.

Our Forest.

Our Rivers.

Our Air.

Our Mountains.

Our Plants.

Our Fishes.

Our Streams.

Our Lakes.

Our Deserts.

Our Animals.

Our Tomorrows