

Grand Canyon

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park



A Brief Timeline of Grand Canyon National Park

One for all: managing one of America's crown jewel national park's through 100 years of challenges, changes, and increasing desire for access.

Mission of the National Park Service

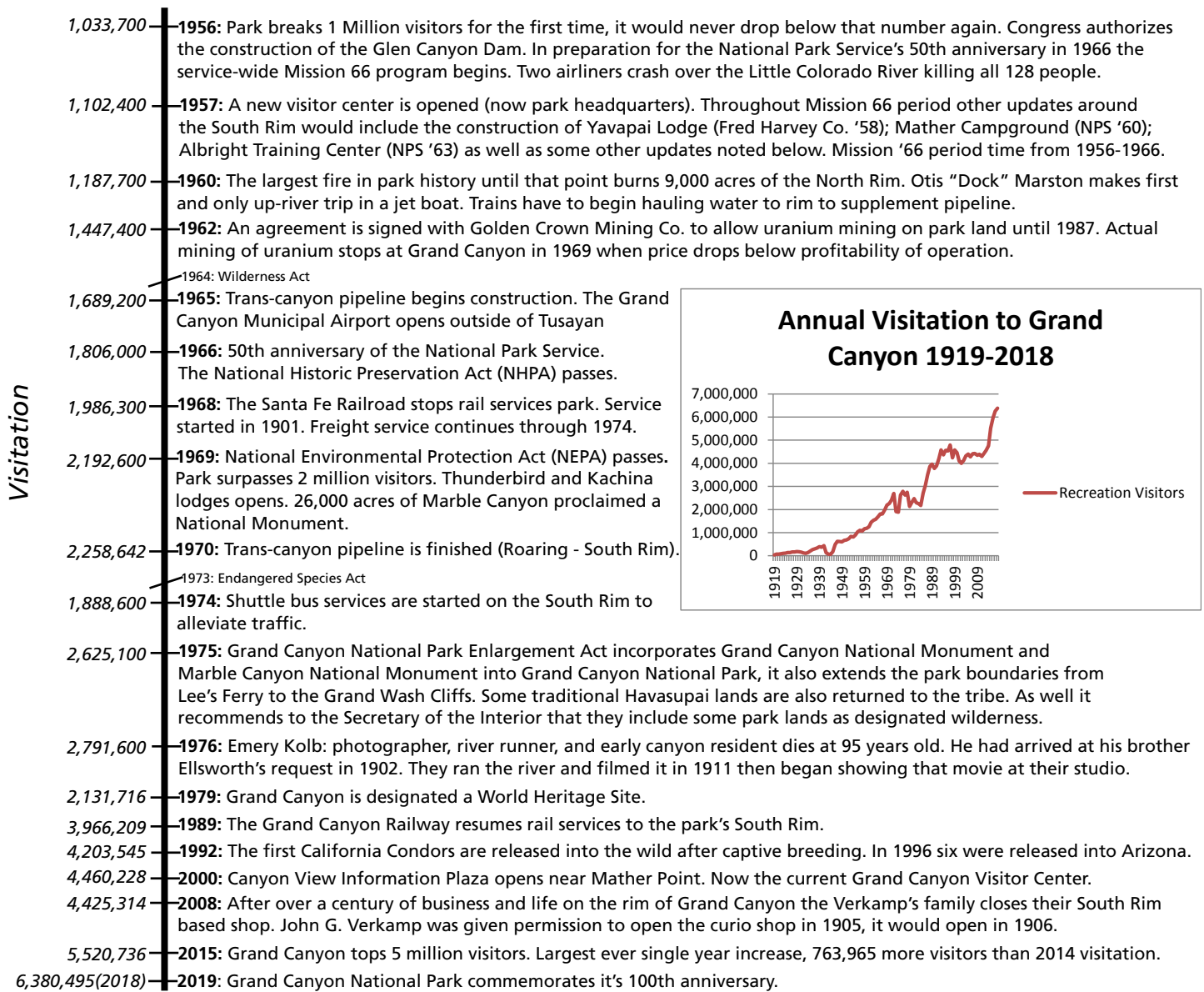
The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



(NPS Photo: Ranger Naturalist Polly Mead-Patraw, first female ranger naturalist at Grand Canyon, 1929)

Visitation (annual number of visitors)

37,745	1919: Congress elevates the status of Grand Canyon to a National Park on February 26th, it is the 17th National Park. The National Park Service (NPS) arrives and begins constructing infrastructure and buildings around the park. That same year Captain John Hance, early pioneer and prolific story teller dies. He built his first home near Grandview Point in 1882 and spent his life entertaining tourist. Automobiles are allowed on Hermits Road for the first time since it's construction in 1914.
67,485	1921: Congress changes the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River. the Dave Rust tram crossing the Colorado River at Bright Angel Creek is replaced with a suspension bridge (removed after construction of the Black Bridge in 1928). The first flight occurs within the canyon. Construction of Phantom Ranch begins, construction of the ranch concludes in 1922. Mary Colter, architect of Phantom Ranch (as well as Hopi House in 1905, Hermit's Rest and Lookout Studio in 1914, Desert View Watchtower in 1932, and Bright Angel Lodge in 1935), suggests the name over calls to honor Theodore Roosevelt.
134,053	1925: Glen Sturdevant is hired as first ranger seasonal ranger naturalist, becoming the first permanent ranger naturalist at Grand Canyon in 1927. The South Kaibab Trail is constructed starting in January then finished and open to travel by June.
140,252	1926: Automobiles surpass the railroad as most popular way to travel to park. Innovative reclaimed water plant constructed.
162,356	1927: Superintendent Minor Tillotsen begins project modernizing park infrastructure which includes the construction of Desert View Road. Congress revises park boundaries to include large sections of what was the Kaibab National Forest.
167,226	1928: Dedication of the Yavapai Trailside Museum.
121,267	1932: President Herbert Hoover creates the Grand Canyon National Monument adding 273,000 acres of new federally protected areas along the park's borders. Most of this along the North Rim of Grand Canyon. Desert View Watchtower and the pipeline from Indian Garden to the rim are constructed. The Grand Canyon Natural History Association founded.
105,475	1933: The Civilian Conservation Corp arrives at Grand Canyon and begins work throughout the park updating trails, roads, and other infrastructure. Over 1000 men mostly between 18-25 work for this depression era program at the park. Famous works include the River Trail connecting Bright Angel Trail to Phantom Ranch, re-shaping the roadways and paths along both rims, and many other conservation projects throughout the park. The CCC remains at the park until 1942.
336,557	1938: One year after Buzz Holmstrom's completes the first solo river run, Norman D. Nevills conducts the first commercial river trip. That same year a new graded road from Peach Springs to Hualapai Hilltop is constructed. The 215 mile paved road connecting the North Rim to South Rim is completed. This is also the first year reservations become required in lodges and for mule trips. Average visitation increase from 1933 to 1938 is 48,411 visitors a year.
436,566	1941: Harold Bryant named superintendent and expands greatly the interpretation and education activities at the park.
64,568	1944: War World II curtails visitation to lowest point since 1919. Park used as rest & relaxation site for military with many facilities closed throughout the park. Total park staff number 9 employees.
486,834	1946: Visitation climbs dramatically after WWII. Park staff note that it is straining old and crumbling infrastructure.
682,152	1951: President Harry Truman signs bill to protect scenic value of roads within the Kaibab National Forest. U.S. Geologic survey discovers that the Orphan Lode is rich in Uranium. Park staff note massive increase in new phenomenon: litter.
814,700	1954: The South Entrance Road diverted to pass Mather Point. The Golden Crown Mining Company begins to erect a cable car to the Orphan Mine and sinks a 1,500 foot elevator shaft to mine uranium, shaft and tram is finished in 1955.



2017 Visitation Statistics (Most recently available detailed statistics)

Visitor Activities

- 2017 Visitation: 6,254,238
- Busiest month - July: 837,258
- Train Passengers: 197,842
- Commercial Air Flights: 119,897
- Concession Lodging (nights): 653,927
- Tent Campers: 147,320
- RV Campers: 70,862
- Interpretive program attendance: 275,106
- Junior Rangers Sworn in: 32,376

Backcountry/Trail Users

- Total backcountry hikers: 97,883
 - Overnight Permits issued: 15,660
 - Commercial River User Days: 113,668
 - Recreational passengers (river): 25,154
 - Mule riders to Phantom: 2,567
 - All mule riders (rim and canyon): 20,901
 - Total backcountry campers: 312,503*
- *not per person, per night. All types of users, trail and river.

Traffic Count (by vehicle)

- Desert View: 309,802
- North Rim: 135,108
- South Rim: 1,502,977
- Tuweep: 19,595
- Busiest Month SR - July: 165,778
- Total Vehicles: 1,967,482
- Average people per car: 3.17
- Shuttle bus boardings: 7,775,599
- Bus boardings since inception: 165,740,177

Admin, Law Enforcement & EMS

- Part I&II Offenses investigated: 974
 - EMS Incidents: 1,135
 - Fatalities: 20
 - SAR Incidents: 290
 - Concession Franchise Fees: \$2,662,061
 - Congress Base appropriations: \$21,234,300
 - Total Income: \$21,005,323*
- *Income Sources: transportation (shuttles), utilities, concessions, quarters, donations, filming, and other. Entrance fees are applied to several of these sources and reflected in figure above.



(NPS Photo: Superintendent Tilotsen on North Rim)