# **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 challeneges, changes, and increasing desire for access.

### **Mission of the National Park Service**

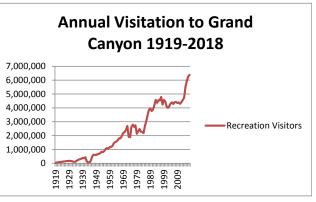
The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation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



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

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. -1921: Congress changes the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River. the Dave Rust tram crossing the Colorado River 67,485at 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. -1925: Glen Sturdevant is hired as first ranger seasonal ranger naturalist, becoming the first permanent ranger naturalist at 134,053 -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. -1938: One year after Buzz Holmstrom's completes the first solo river run, Norman D. Nevills conducts the first commercial 336,557river 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 vear. 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. –1954: The South Entrance Road diverted to pass Mather Point. The Golden Crown Mining Company begins to erect a 814,700cable car to the Orphan Mine and sinks a 1,500 foot elevator shaft to mine uranium, shaft and tram is finished in 1955.

- 1,033,700 -1956: Park breaks 1 Million visitors for the first time, it would never drop below that number again. Congress authorizes the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam. In preparation for the National Park Service's 50th anniversary in 1966 the service-wide Mission 66 program begins. Two airliners crash over the Little Colorado River killing all 128 people.
- 1,102,400 1957: A new visitor center is opened (now park headquarters). Throughout Mission 66 period other updates around the South Rim would include the construction of Yavapai Lodge (Fred Harvey Co. '58); Mather Campground (NPS '60); Albright Training Center (NPS '63) as well as some other updates noted below. Mission '66 period time from 1956-1966.
- 1,187,700 1960: The largest fire in park history until that point burns 9,000 acres of the North Rim. Otis "Dock" Marston makes first and only up-river trip in a jet boat. Trains have to begin hauling water to rim to supplement pipeline.
- 1,447,400 1962: An agreement is signed with Golden Crown Mining Co. to allow uranium mining on park land until 1987. Actual mining of uranium stops at Grand Canyon in 1969 when price drops below profitability of operation.
- 1,689,200 1965: Trans-canyon pipeline begins construction. The Grand Canyon Municipal Airport opens outside of Tusayan
- 1,806,000 –1966: 50th anniversary of the National Park Service. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) passes.
- *1,986,300* –**1968:** The Santa Fe Railroad stops rail services park. Service started in 1901. Freight service continues through 1974.
- 2,192,600 -1969: National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) passes. Park surpasses 2 million visitors. Thunderbird and Kachina lodges opens. 26,000 acres of Marble Canyon proclaimed a National Monument.
- 2,258,642 1970: Trans-canyon pipeline is finished (Roaring South Rim).
- 1,888,600 1974: Shuttle bus services are started on the South Rim to alleviate traffic.



- 2,625,100 1975: Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act incorporates Grand Canyon National Monument and Marble Canyon National Monument into Grand Canyon National Park, it also extends the park boundaries from Lee's Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliffs. Some traditional Havasupai lands are also returned to the tribe. As well it recommends to the Secretary of the Interior that they include some park lands as designated wilderness.
- 2,791,600 1976: Emery Kolb: photographer, river runner, and early canyon resident dies at 95 years old. He had arrived at his brother Ellsworth's request in 1902. They ran the river and filmed it in 1911 then began showing that movie at their studio.
- 2,131,716 1979: Grand Canyon is designated a World Heritage Site.

4,460,228 - 2000: Canyon View Information Plaza opens near Mather Point. Now the current Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

4,425,314 - 2008: After over a century of business and life on the rim of Grand Canyon the Verkamp's family closes their South Rim based shop. John G. Verkamp was given permission to open the curio shop in 1905, it would open in 1906.

*5,520,736* **--2015**: Grand Canyon tops 5 million visitors. Largest ever single year increase, 763,965 more visitors than 2014 visitation. *6,380,495(2018)* **--2019**: Grand Canyon National Park commemorates it's 100th anniversary.

#### 2017 Visitation Statistics (Most recently available detailed statistics)

Traffic Count (by vehicle)

Busiest Month SR - July: 165,778

• Desert View: 309.802

• South Rim: 1,502,977

• North Rim: 135 108

• Tuweap: 19,595

#### 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
- An mule nders (nm and canyon). 20,9
- Total backcountry campers: 312,503\*
   \*not per person, per night. All types of users, trail and rive
- 901• Total Vehicles: 1,967,482• Average people per car: 3.17
  - Shuttle bus boardings: 7,775,599
  - Bus boardings since inception: 165,740,172

- 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,
- \*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)