Make sure your Grand Canyon adventure goes off without a hitch with our free printable planning resources!

**CONTENTS**

What to Wear 2

What to Pack 3

Visiting with Kids 4

Photography Tips 5
LIGHT LAYERS

Light layers give you the most flexibility to adapt your outfit to the Canyon’s weather.

In the summer, wear shorts, a t-shirt, and running shoes with a light jacket or sweater.
In the winter, opt for jeans, good shoes (or even boots – it snows at the Grand Canyon!) and a long-sleeved shirt with a jacket or sweater.

COMFORTABLE, STURDY SHOES

Terrain can be rough and unpredictable. Running shoes, sport sandals, or hiking boots are ideal. Avoid flip flops, high heels, or new shoes that you’re still breaking in.

Hikers should wear a mid-weight boot with lots of ankle support.
For the Rim trail, wear a running shoe with good tread.

HAT

Some areas of the Grand Canyon, such as the West Rim, don’t provide much shade. A hat with a wide brim is always essential to protecting yourself from the hot sun. If you’re visiting between November and April, consider packing a warmer hat.

SUN PROTECTION

The sun shines brightly all year at the Grand Canyon, so bring sunscreen and a pair of sunglasses no matter what season you visit in.

If you’re taking a guided tour, read the tour description carefully in case you need to pack or wear anything special, such as close-toed shoes or a bathing suit.
COMFORTABLE, STURDY SHOES
LIGHT LAYERS
HAT
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
WATER AND REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES
SNACKS
CAMERA
SPARE BATTERIES
MINI FIRST AID KIT
SMALL BACKPACK
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER
Kids ages 4-14 can earn their official Junior Ranger badge by completing the Ranger Badge booklet, available for free at visitor centers throughout the park.

CHECK OUT THE SKYWALK
Take a walk on the wild side! The glass Skywalk extends 70 feet out from the edge of the West Rim and offers views 4,000 feet straight down to the Canyon floor.

HIKE THE RIM TRAIL
The Rim trail is mostly paved and doesn’t descend into the Canyon, so it’s perfect for active families. Just remember to keep an eye on your kids – the trail isn’t entirely fenced.

KEEPING YOUR KIDS SAFE

ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE
Don’t let your kids wander off on their own or explore beyond the safety railings – many accidents occur when children and adults leave the trails and get lost or enter an unsafe area.

BRING LOTS OF SNACKS AND WATER
Save time and money by bringing along packable snacks like granola bars, apples. There are also water refill stations located throughout the park, so be sure to pack a reusable water bottle.

PACK TOYS & ACTIVITIES
Toys, books, and other activities will keep your kids occupied while you wait in line for food, shuttle buses, or ranger demonstrations.

DON’T FEED THE ANIMALS
One of the most common injuries reported at the Grand Canyon is squirrel bites sustained trying to feed the squirrels. Feeding the animals also disrupts their natural diet and encourages the wildlife to stay in busy, populated areas rather than their natural habitat.
GRAND CANYON VISITOR GUIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

BE AWARE OF HAZE

There’s a lot of atmosphere between your camera and the Canyon, so the image on your camera’s LCD screen may appear more washed out than you expected.

WATCH OUT FOR CONTROLLED BURNS

Be sure to check on any plans for controlled burns so you can avoid reduced visibility due to smoke.

BALANCE YOUR LIGHTING PROPERLY

A properly exposed Canyon shot will likely result in a white sky, so use your tripod and exposure bracketing to capture lowlights and highlights.

WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE

Keep an eye on the sky for the California Condor. If you see one, consider making a quick dash to the rim so you can capture both bird and Canyon in a single shot.

CONSIDER A WINTER VISIT

Snow may make taking photos more challenging, but you may be rewarded with a rare and beautiful shot of the Canyon blanketed in snow. Plus, there are fewer visitors competing for golden photo opportunities in the winter.
MISTAKES TO AVOID

QUANTITY OVER QUALITY
The more photos you take, the less time you'll have to pause and reflect on what might make for an interesting composition. Take a few moments before deciding.

IGNORING THE FOREGROUND
Including something in the foreground, such as wildflowers, trees, rocks, or even people adds perspective and scale, helping viewers to experience the Canyon more completely.

WHAT TO PACK

TRIPOD
Tripods will prevent blurry photos. They're essential for sunrise, sunset, or night shots.

POLARIZER
This will help separate the clouds from the blue sky and reduce glare on the Canyon.

NEUTRAL DENSITY FILTER
The Canyon can appear dark next to the sky. A neutral density filter can help you properly expose your photo.

CABLE RELEASE
This will help you take multiple shots and reduce camera shake. You'll need one for sunset photos!

FLASH
You'll need fill light for proper exposure to snap photos of people with the Canyon in the background

AIR BLOWER
It gets dusty around the Canyon.