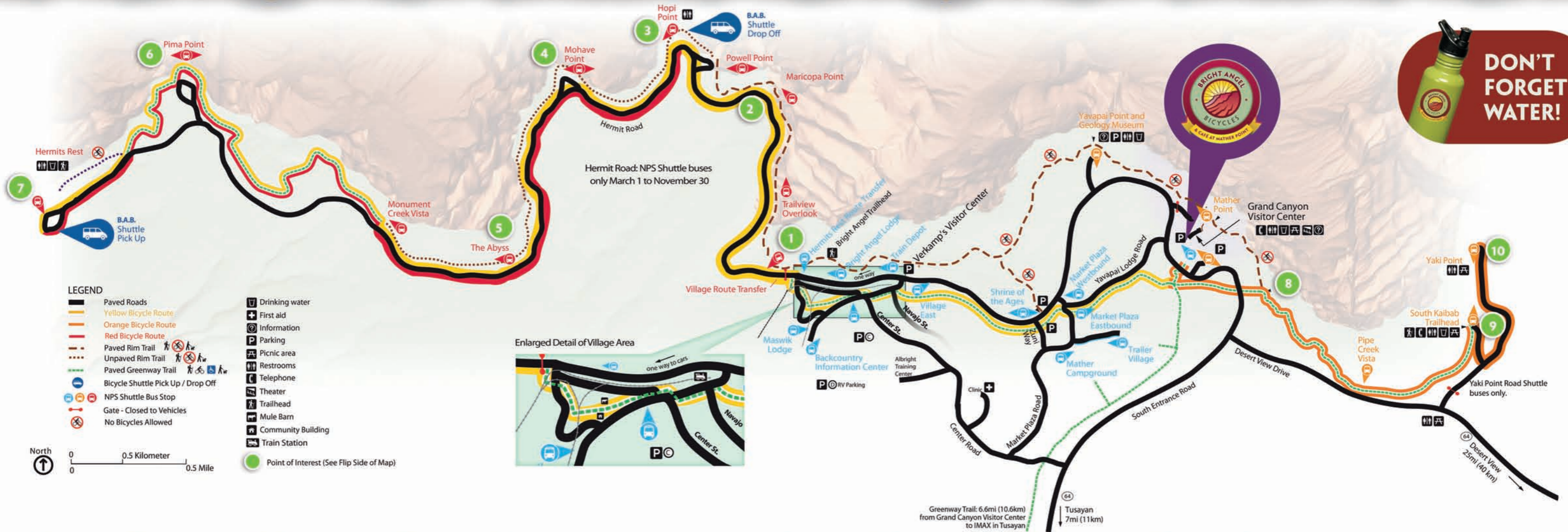


# BIKE ROUTES

BIKE RETURN TIME / SHUTTLE INFO:



## IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES:

**PHONE NUMBERS**  
 Trauma/Medical Emergencies: 911  
 Bright Angel Bicycles Main: 928-638-3055  
 Bright Angel Bicycles Second Line: 928-814-8704

## IN CASE OF ACCIDENT / SERIOUS INJURY

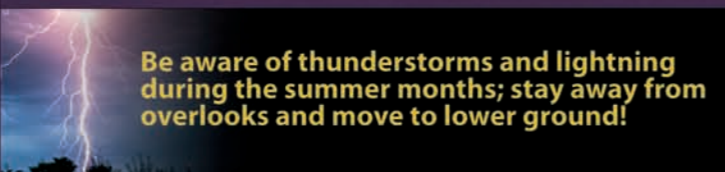
If you are concerned with a person's physical condition, call 911. If a person feels like he/she cannot complete the ride in a non-emergency situation, please board a park shuttle bus and return to Bright Angel Bicycles.

## IN CASE OF MECHANICAL FAILURE

Call Bright Angel Bicycles for further instructions. If you are in an area without cell coverage, board a park shuttle and return to our shop.

## RULES FOR BIKERS:

- DO NOT RIDE ON RIM TRAIL OR INNER-CANYON TRAILS (pedestrians only)
- Wear helmet at all times
- Obey all traffic signs and signals
- Ride on greenways / approved roads only
- Use hand signals
- Control speed
- Keep both hands on handlebars at all times except when signaling
- Keep children in trailers buckled at all times
- Always ride single file with the flow of traffic and stay on right hand side of road or greenway
- Watch for wildlife; stay at least six car lengths away from large animals
- Pull off road and STOP! until shuttle bus passes
- Watch for shuttle bus traffic when entering roadway
- If utilizing a shuttle bus, you must load and unload your own bicycle when entering roadway
- Never cross double yellow road lines



## RED BIKE RIDE

**TIME DURATION:** 1.5–2 hours  
**ONE WAY:** 5.5 miles / 8.6 km  
**ROUND TRIP:** 11 miles / 17.6 km  
**ELEVATION GAIN / LOSS:**  
 ● Hopi Pt to Hermits Rest + or - 420 feet / 132 meters  
**CONDITIONS:** Paved Greenway Trail; Hermit Road closed to private vehicles March through November  
**NPS SHUTTLE ACCESS:** 5 stops  
**RECOMMENDED FOR:**  
 ● Families with young children  
 ● Riders short on time  
 ● Riders wanting less vehicle traffic  
 ● Riders wanting an easy ride with 95% downhill or flat surfaces from Hopi Point to Hermits Rest

## YELLOW BIKE RIDE

**TIME DURATION:** 2.5–6 hours  
**ONE WAY:** 10.5 miles / 16.8 km  
**ROUND TRIP:** 21 miles / 33.6 km  
**ELEVATION GAIN / LOSS:**  
 ● Visitor Center to Hopi Pt + or - 50 feet / 15 meters  
 ● Hopi Pt to Hermits Rest + or - 420 feet / 132 meters  
 ● Beginning of Hermit Rd. 6% grade for .5 mile / .75 km  
**CONDITIONS:** Paved Greenway Trail; main road; traffic-restricted road (Hermit Road—shuttle bus only)  
**NPS SHUTTLE BUS ACCESS:** 11–15 stops  
**RECOMMENDED FOR:**  
 ● Riders looking for a longer, more strenuous ride  
 ● Riders with more time

## ORANGE BIKE RIDE

**TIME DURATION:** 1–1.5 hours  
**ONE WAY:** 3.5 miles / 5.6 km  
**ROUND TRIP:** 7 miles / 11.2 km  
**ELEVATION GAIN / LOSS:**  
 ● + or - 142 feet / 43 meters  
**CONDITIONS:** Paved Greenway Trail; traffic-restricted road (shuttle bus only)  
**NPS SHUTTLE BUS ACCESS:** 3 stops  
**RECOMMENDED FOR:**  
 ● Families with young children  
 ● Riders short on time  
 ● Riders wanting less vehicle traffic





# POINTS OF INTEREST



Please Don't Forget to Recycle this Map When You Are Finished With It



## 1 HERMIT ROAD HISTORY

The Hermit Road is a 7.1 mile paved road that provides access to some of the most dramatic views in the Park. Originally built as a wagon road by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company in 1913, the road was improved in 1935 to cater to the automobile revolution of the times. The first wagon road that was built served as the route to the Hermit Trailhead. At the time, there was a tourist camp located in Hermit Basin. The Hermit Camp and Hermit Trail were constructed as a result of competition with Ralph Cameron who owned the Bright Angel Trail and Indian Gardens at the time. Hermit's Rest was completed in 1914 to serve as a rest house for tourists utilizing the Hermit Trail and sight-seeing tours. As more cars arrived at Grand Canyon National Park, improved road surfaces were needed. During the the improvement of 1935, sections of the original wagon road were abandoned. In 2008 the Hermit road was improved again and the abandoned three mile section of wagon road between Monument Creek Vista and Hermit's Rest was transformed into the Greenway Trail. With the newly completed Greenway Trail, the Hermit road is now the primary destination for cyclists and pedestrians wishing to access some of the South Rim's most iconic views.

## 2 LOST ORPHAN MINE

Staked as a claim in 1893, the mine was patented by Dan Hogan in 1906 with the help of businessman Charlie Babbitt. The goal was to "strike it rich" mining copper just below the rim. After the mine failed, Hogan joined Teddy Roosevelt's Roughriders to fight in the battle of San Juan Hill. Sold in 1946, the mine was abandoned until the Cold War era when Uranium ore was found in the mine and work resumed. From 1956-1969, 800,000 tons of ore were mined and shipped to Tuba City to be milled. Located very close to a spring and water source in Grand Canyon, recent studies have focused on the potential for water contamination.

## 3 HOPI POINT

Hopi Point (pronounced hope-e) is one of the best East- West views in the Park. The Colorado River can be seen looking in either direction. Check to see what color the river is. Is it green or is it brown? If you are lucky enough to see it when it is brown, you are getting a glimpse into the past to see what the river naturally used to look like. Named by the Spanish conquistadors in 1540, a rough translation of the word Colorado in Spanish is "Red Color". Named after a tribe of Native American people, the Hopis speak a Uto-Aztecan language, a dialect whose origins have been traced back to Mexico. Currently the tribe has reservation land east of the Park surrounded by the Navajo Nation. The Hopi tribe believes that all people climbed from the third world into the fourth world (where we are now) through a spring in an area East of Hopi point on the Little Colorado River.

## 4 MOJAVE POINT

Looking to the West from this viewpoint, the mighty Hermit rapid can be seen. The Colorado River is one of the only rivers in the world that classifies rapids on a 1-10 scale (generally it is from 1-6). Hermit rapid is classed an "8" depending on water level. Can you see the waves of Hermit rapid? How big do you think they are? They can reach heights of up to 20 feet high! 100 miles down stream lies Lava rapid, which is the highest classed commercially run rapid in North America. The vast majority of rapids in the Grand Canyon are caused by debris that is funneled into the river channel from side canyons. When these side canyons flash flood they deposit boulders into the river which in turn create the waves and rapids that the Canyon is famous for.

## GIANT ENDANGERED BIRD ALERT!

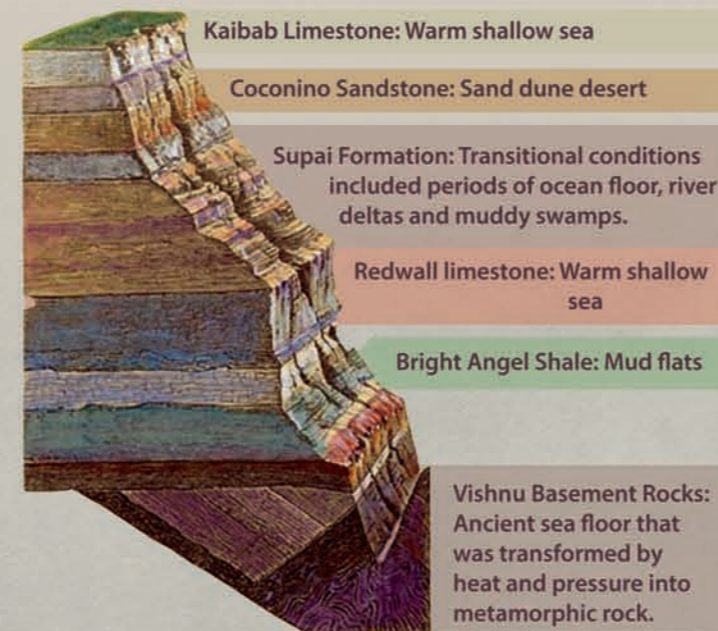
The California condor is the largest land bird in North America with a wingspan of up to 9 1/2 feet and weighing up to 23 pounds. A program to bring the vulture back from near extinction was started in the Park. Look for them along Hermit road.



## 5 THE ABYSS

As you stare down almost 4,500 feet to the bottom of the gorge, the grandeur of this place becomes very clear. Use this point to look more closely at the structure of the Canyon's geology. The Canyon was formed by a 4 part process which is easy to remember using the acronym "D-U-D-E": **D**eposition (layers are deposited over time), **U**plift (layers raise to higher elevation by tectonic forces), **D**own Cutting (rivers, mud slides and debris flows cut into existing layers as a knife would cut into a layered cake), **E**rosion (environmental elements such as freezing/thawing, plant root acidity and rain storms further erode the chasm).

## HOW DID SOME OF THESE LAYERS GET FORMED?



This diagram only covers some of the layers. For a more complete diagram see the sign posted at the Abyss. Illustration sourced from NPS.GOV.

## 6 PIMA POINT

Named after the Pima tribe that resides in and around the Gila and Salt rivers of Southern Arizona, the name can roughly be translated to the "River People". Granite Rapid can be seen to the right (East). On the Western side of the viewpoint, if you look down into the Canyon you can see portions of the Hermit trail. Evidence of "Hermit Camp" can be seen in the form of old building foundations. The camp was a retreat for tourists below the rim of the Canyon. It consisted of a central dining hall, eleven tents with pine floors and beds and a stable. People could ride mules down the Hermit trail for a day, or connect onto the Tonto trail and head East towards the Bright Angel trail on a multi-day trip.

## 7 HERMIT'S REST

Completed in 1914 and designed by the famous architect Mary Jane Colter, Hermit's Rest marks the western end of paved road along the South Rim of the National Park. Ms. Colter is responsible not only for Hermit's Rest, but also seven other buildings within Park boundaries. She is also responsible for the architectural style "National Park Rustic". She enjoyed emulating Native American architecture and using materials from the area. Look at the building, it almost looks like it could blend in with the walls of the Canyon! Snacks and refreshments can be bought here and the Shuttle bus can be boarded for your return trip to the Grand Canyon Village. With all these references to "hermits", where does the name come from? Well, a French Canadian born man by the name of Louis Boucher came to the Grand Canyon in the early 1900's and promptly decided to descend into the Canyon and take up residence. Mr. Boucher lived in the Canyon for the better part of two decades and became known as the "hermit of the Grand Canyon". Word got out of this man and his knowledge of the area became a valuable commodity, eventually leading him to become the area's primary guide for the Fred Harvey Company.

## 8 FIRST VIEW / YAKI TRAIL

Take a moment to absorb the breathtaking view ahead of you. You are looking at the world's second biggest canyon. At 277 miles long and with an average width of 18 miles at it's widest point, the Grand Canyon is only exceeded by Mexico's Copper Canyon which is wider and deeper but has a completely different appearance as it is forested. If you're feeling a little out of breath, it's because you are currently at approx. 7000 foot elevation. Now take a gander at the other side and consider that it is a full 1000 feet higher! Because of it's increased elevation, the North Rim of the Canyon receives much more significant snow and is closed to tourists during winter months. If you're curious about how the Canyon was formed, hop over to number 5 (the Abyss) and read about it.



## THE GRAND CANYON'S MEDICINE CABINET:

The plants of the South Rim are not only beautiful but have amazing medicinal qualities. The Mormon Tea Plant / Ephedra fragilis (pictured) was used by native people and area settlers to soothe asthma, flus and the common cold. It contains pseudoephedrine which has stimulant properties and can be found in the pharmaceutical drug Sudafed.



## 9 SOUTH KAIBAB TRAIL

The South Kaibab trail is a stunning choice of path for visitors who want to traverse the Canyon on foot or by mule. If you dismount your bike and follow your nose, you'll be lead to the nearby mule stables where mules are readied to take passengers down the dusty trail from rim to river. These sure-footed animals are carefully chosen and rigorously trained before ever carrying a human down the trail. They are desensitized to loud noises and bright lights that could startle them along the trail. The mule wranglers are also carefully selected and meticulously trained. For this reason the mule operation boasts zero mule related fatalities in a century of operation.

## TARANTULA HAWKS



Grand Canyon is home to the often misunderstood Desert Tarantula. Though it's appearance seems forboding, the spider's venom is harmless to humans and it rarely bothers a soul. It's most feared enemy however, the Tarantula Hawk, packs a severely painful sting when delivered to humans. The female tarantula hawk, a member of the wasp family, captures, stings, and paralyzes the spider, then either drags her prey back into her own burrow or transports it to a specially prepared nest. There a single egg is laid on the spider's abdomen, and the entrance is covered. When the wasp larva hatches, it creates a small hole in the spider's abdomen, then enters and feeds voraciously, avoiding vital organs for as long as possible to keep the spider alive. After several weeks, the larva pupates. Finally, the wasp becomes an adult, and emerges from the spider's abdomen to continue the life cycle. If you see a Tarantula Hawk, keep your eye out for tarantulas nearby.

## 10 YAKI POINT

The South Kaibab Trail (originally known as Yaki Trail) was originally built and completed in 1928. It was used as a utility trail so that supplies could be quickly transported into the Canyon while avoiding the highly trafficked Bright Angel Trail. During the depression Civilian Conservation Corps worked to develop trails and infrastructure inside the Canyon. Mule packers would make one trip each day, hauling coal, mail, and food to CCC workers in and around the Canyon. Despite snow, landslides, and other obstacles, the unit claimed to have never missed a delivery. Mule delivery is still the primary method by which mail and other supplies reach Phantom Ranch.