



# INFORMATION PACKET

## *The Grand Traverse*

### *North Rim to South Rim, Grand Canyon*



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## Your Trip....

When the first European explorers came to the edge of the Grand Canyon on their search for El Dorado in 1540, they literally had no idea what they saw. The visual vocabulary for a gorge a mile deep, six miles wide and 277 miles long was simply not available; the distances were deceptive, the scale unimaginable. It took John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran, geology professor, and amateur linguist with a gift for observation and a fondness for river travel, to illuminate this grandest of canyons, and to truly discover North America's greatest natural wonder.

On this adventure you descend into one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, the heart of the Grand Canyon, where we will hike and explore this incredible landscape. Some say you haven't lived until you've taken a journey through Grand Canyon. This journey will leave you with a sense of accomplishment, awe and a true appreciation and love of the grandest place on earth.

## Rim to Rim.... The Grand Traverse

You are about to embark on a journey that few have the opportunity to experience. Due to extremely high demand and an exceedingly small number of available rooms, accommodations at Phantom Ranch are arguably the most difficult lodging reservations to obtain in the world. This is definitely one of the world's most sought after adventures.

We will be hiking one way from the North Rim to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Carrying only day packs, we will traverse the canyon spending two nights at world famous Phantom Ranch located in the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Our lay over day finds us exploring the secrets of the inner canyon and relaxing next to the mighty Colorado River. Awe inspiring adventures below the rim will be book ended by a peaceful night at the North Rim Lodge and a celebration of our triumph on the South Rim. John Wesley Powell said it best when he first explored its depths in 1869, "The wonders of the Grand Canyon cannot be adequately represented in symbols of speech, nor by speech itself. The resources of the graphic art are taxed beyond their powers in attempting to portray its features. Language and illustration combined must fail." This adventure is truly beyond description and is an important check mark for every adventurer's life list. You are about to join an exclusive club of the very few who have hiked the Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim.

## We are the Grand Canyon Experts

Arizona Outback Adventures operates more multi-day tours to Grand Canyon than anyone else. Our guides each spend as many as 120 days every year in the canyon. Only they have the intimate knowledge and understanding that comes from essentially living in the canyon.

While we offer various types of trips, including day hikes, there is a common thread running throughout. They are active vacations focusing on hiking, exploring, fun and learning about the unique land and culture.

While you will see other people in the canyon, our guides will lead you to the hidden secrets. The most beautiful spots in the canyon are hidden from all but the most experienced travelers. Highlights include narrow side canyons with clear springs feeding lush gardens of ferns and watercress, underwater grottos, and awe-inspiring overlooks.



# THE GRAND TRAVERSE 5-Day

**STARTS:** 8:00am from the Marriott Courtyard    **ENDS:** 3-5:00pm Marriott Courtyard    **GUESTS:** 4 min – 12 max  
**OVERNIGHT:** (4) nights Lodging    **FITNESS LEVEL RATING:** Advanced

## DAY 1: DRIVE FROM SCOTTSDALE/PHOENIX TO THE GRAND CANYON NORTH RIM LODGE

**8:00am** Today we shuttle from Scottsdale/Phoenix to the Grand Canyon North Rim with some interesting stops along the way. We break at Cameron Indian Trading Post, established in 1916 it is a famous showplace for fine Native American art and Southwest art. Then, after crossing the Colorado River near Lees Ferry (the launch point for rafting the Grand Canyon), we stop for lunch at the base of the Vermillion Cliffs. Days end will find us settling into the Cabins at Grand Canyon's North Rim Lodge before enjoying a sunset stroll and dinner in this spectacular setting.

**Hiking: 0-2 miles    Meals: Breakfast on own, Lunch & Dinner included**

## DAY 2: HIKE DOWN THE NORTH KAIBAB TRAIL TO PHANTOM RANCH

Get ready to burn off that big breakfast! Today's descent is 14 miles and 5,700 feet into the grandest of canyons and through nearly every biological life zone in the North America. As we drop from the alpine to the desert, each step takes us thousands of years back in geologic time through ancient oceans, deserts, lakes, and swamps. With mind blowing vistas, fascinating trail design and workmanship, 100 foot waterfalls, plus green spring fed oases, the North Kaibab Trail is a national treasure. At trails end, we find Phantom Ranch nestled on the banks of Bright Angel Creek just before its confluence with the mighty Colorado River. Phantom Ranch was originally founded in 1903 as a hunting camp and named by Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter after nearby Phantom Creek. This will be our home for the next two nights.

**Hiking: 14 miles (Trailhead is at 8,241 feet – Phantom Ranch is at approximately 2,500 feet – TOTAL elevation loss of nearly 6,000 feet)**  
**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included**

## DAY 3: A DAY TO ENJOY PHANTOM RANCH AND THE PEACEFULNESS OF THE CANYON WALLS

Today we hike the beautiful Clear Creek Trail and River Trail. However, many participants choose to use this day for relaxation, cheering on the Rafters, socializing with other adventurers, or stretching out in the shade with a book and a cold beer. All our meals will be at Phantom Ranch and a day in the very bottom of Grand Canyon is all yours with the canyon walls blocking out the rest of the world affording a feeling of tremendous peace and tranquility. Photographic and bird watching opportunities abound in this lush green riparian habitat fenced in by sheer walls of rock. Your guides will be available all day to share with you the secrets of one of the world's most special places.

**Hiking: 3-5 miles    Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included**

## DAY 4: ASCEND THE BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL TO THE GRAND CANYON SOUTH RIM VILLAGE

The rising sun finds us preparing to conquer the canyon. Our exit is the Bright Angel Trail, one of the classic treks in Grand Canyon. After crossing the Colorado River, the trail snakes its way up out of the inner gorge to the shady oasis of Indian Gardens. Here we will refuel and refill with water before tackling the steep ascent up Jacob's Ladder through the Redwall layer. While always a tremendous challenge, your guides will provide you with helpful hints, strategies, techniques, and their insider knowledge of the keys to a successful ascent. With proper preparation, hydration, and diet, the entire group will soon be high-fiving and hugging on the rim. We walk just a few more steps to our lodge perched right on the rim of the canyon. Tonight we celebrate our shared accomplishments at historic El Tovar before retiring to our rooms for some well deserved rest.

**Hiking: 10 miles (Phantom Ranch is at approximately 2,500 feet – Trailhead is at 6,785 feet - TOTAL elevation loss of nearly 4,300 feet)**  
**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included**

## DAY 5: TOUR THE SOUTH RIM AND RETURN TO SCOTTSDALE/PHOENIX

For those who can't get enough of the canyon the fantastic Rim Trail awaits. Using the shuttle system you can hike one way along the rim and it is a great way to stretch your legs and get a birds-eye view of the route you traversed in the days prior. Other interesting cultural sites include Hopi House, condor talks, and the many interpretive centers. Following this relaxing morning we will begin driving back to Scottsdale/Phoenix with a stop for lunch en-route. We will return between 3:00pm-5:00pm.

**Hiking: 0-3 miles optional    Meals: Breakfast on own, Lunch included**

### INCLUDED IN COST:

- Round-trip transportation & Rim to Rim luggage shuttle
- 2 Professional, Wilderness First Responder certified guides
- All permit fees and National Park entry fees
- 1 night lodging at Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge – double occupancy rooms
- 2 nights lodging at Phantom Ranch – dorm rooms
- 1 night lodging on the Grand Canyon South Rim – double occupancy rooms
- Meals (Lunch Day 1 – Dinner Day 4 + Lunch Day 5)
- Snacks, Bottled water & Gatorade
- Commemorative gift
- Taxes & dining gratuities for included meals

### NOT INCLUDED IN COST:

- Breakfast Day 5
- Airfare to and from Phoenix
- Pre & Post Trip Accommodations
- Airport Transfers
- Optional Gratuities to AOA guides
- Personal Insurance & Expenses

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Airfare is not included in the cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. We recommend your airline flights be scheduled to arrive the day prior to your trip start date and depart the day after your last trip date. Flights can be booked to arrive and depart from Phoenix International Airport (PHX) in Phoenix, Arizona. **Before purchasing your ticket(s), please check with our office first to insure that your trip has the necessary minimum number of guests required to operate.** AOA cannot be responsible for penalty fees or additional airfare costs as a result of trip cancellations or changes to our itineraries.

### **Where do we depart from?**

Marriott Courtyard Old Town Scottsdale - 3311 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
Phone: 480-429-7785 [www.courtyard.com/PHXSC](http://www.courtyard.com/PHXSC)

### **What time will we depart?**

We will be departing at **8:00am** from the front lobby. We will not be hiking this day so comfortable, casual clothing is fine.

### **When will we return? When should I schedule my flight home?**

You will return to Scottsdale/Phoenix between 3:00pm and 5:00pm on the last day of the trip. Please do not schedule return flights before 7:00pm, as the return time is dependent upon traffic and drive time. If you must schedule a flight out that evening, please notify our office and we will do what we can to accommodate and assist you in getting to the airport on time. After an intense week of activity in the sun, many trip members are very tired at the end of the trip. Considering this we strongly suggest departing the day after your trip ends. AOA will not be responsible for additional expenses incurred by trip members for missed flights. Transfers to and from the airport and your hotel are on your own.

### **Can I meet the group some place other than Phoenix?**

YES, there is an option to meet in Flagstaff, Arizona at the Flagstaff Airport Parking lot at 10:30am. Please ALWAYS notify our office of your travel plans in advance so we can confirm a meeting location with a map and directions.

## WHERE TO STAY PRE & POST TRIP

Pre- and post-trip lodging is not included in the cost of the trip and we recommend you reserve rooms well in advance at the Marriott Courtyard Old Town Scottsdale. We highly recommend this hotel as it is where we will be departing from on Day 1 of the itinerary. We have negotiated special rates for guests traveling with AOA at this hotel. We do not pick up at any other hotel so if you decide to stay elsewhere, please expect to take a taxi to the Marriott Courtyard the morning of the start of your trip.

## THE ACCOMMODATIONS

### **Sleeping quarters OUT of the Canyon**

Your first night lodging will be at the North Rim Lodge and your last nights lodging will be at the El Tovar Hotel on the South Rim. These are the finest accommodations available within Grand Canyon National Park, however travelers need to understand that these are historic National Park lodges and the typical amenities of a luxury resort are not available.

### **Sleeping quarters IN the Canyon**

We will spend two nights at Phantom Ranch. On most trips all accommodations are shared same sex dormitories (think bunkhouses with one bathroom). It is common that there will be other travelers (not in our group) sharing our dorms. Rarely we are able to reserve private cabins allowing couples/families to stay together, however please be advised that you will likely share this cabin with other members of our group. We will make every effort to accommodate requested roommates, however please keep in mind that this is the **ONLY** place to stay and options are very limited.

Phantom Ranch is a comfortable oasis nestled at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It is tucked in beside Bright Angel Creek on the north side of the Colorado River and is the only lodging facility below the Canyon rim. The Ranch can only be reached by mule, by foot, or by rafting the Colorado River and is a popular stop-over point for hikers and mule riders traveling to the bottom of the Canyon via the famous Bright Angel or Kaibab trails. The ranch was designed by architect Mary E. J. Colter and completed in 1922. The rustic cabins and main lodge are built of wood and native stone and do not intrude on the natural beauty and solitude of the setting. Overnight accommodations at Phantom Ranch consist of dormitory spaces and cabins. Cabins and dormitories are heated in the winter and cooled during the summer months.

**Dormitories** are separated for women and men - each has ten bunk beds, a shower, and restroom. Nearly all of our trips stay in the Dormitories. Phantom Ranch also has a limited number of unique, rustic **cabins**. Each is furnished with a set of bunk beds, all bedding, cold water sink, toilet, liquid soap, and towels. Showers are provided at a central location. We rarely have cabins reserved. Should you be assigned to a cabin we will notify you before your trip with a list of your cabin mates. Also popular is the Phantom Ranch Canteen where meals, beverages, and sundries are available for the adventurous travelers who journey to the bottom of the Canyon.

### ***Will there be electricity to charge batteries and equipment?***

Yes, the dorms and cabins have electrical outlets. That said they can be in high demand, so we recommend that you bring enough batteries for all your equipment for the entire trip.

AOA will pay for room, tax and provided meals on the itinerary when staying at the lodges. You are responsible for any additional charges (i.e. telephone, snacks, laundry...), when you check out of the hotel.



### **BATHROOM & SHOWER FACILITIES**

Trailside toilet facilities are composting toilets and are located strategically along the trails we will hike. Most national park toilets are stocked with toilet paper, but it is always nice to have your own roll in your pack. Ask your guides for helpful hints and etiquette for using these toilets and should you need to go at times when they are unavailable.

*...and here's one for the ladies ...* feminine hygiene products should be brought in plastic ziploc bags. Please bring extra ziplocs for disposal after use. Please remember, your guides, whether female or male, have spent many days with groups in the backcountry. They have certainly heard your question before and will always be helpful and mindful of your privacy. Plus, they may have extra supplies should you need any.

### **SINGLE TRAVELERS**

Single rooms cannot be accommodated at Phantom Ranch, but they can be requested while on the rim. All trip prices are based on double occupancy when on the rim. If you specifically request single hotel accommodations you will be asked to pay a single supplement fee. If you wish to share hotel accommodations we will assign you a roommate of the same sex, if one is available. If a roommate can not be found, you will be charged the full single supplement fee. Please be advised that there are a limited number of single rooms available.

### **IF YOU HAVE MEDICAL NEEDS...**

If you have any physical or psychological medical conditions, it is very important you let us know well before departure by filling in the appropriate spaces in the medical information portion on your personal information form. Trip leaders have the right to deny participation to anyone at any time during the trip if they feel the trip member is mentally or physically incapable of continuing and/or if a trip member's continued participation jeopardizes the group's or his/her own safety. Under either of these circumstances, refunds are not given.

All guides carry a **basic** first aid kit for emergencies. Your guides do not carry prescription medications. Please be aware that hospital facilities for serious medical problems may be a long way away, that a doctor may not always be available, and that evacuation can be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. By signing our release form, you agree to pay for emergency evacuation and emergency medical care should the need arise. No refunds are given if you should have to leave the trip.

### **IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS OR SPECIAL REQUESTS...**

Please let us know if you have any specific dietary needs or requests (i.e. vegetarian, gluten free, allergic to nuts, love hot chocolate, etc.) This information should be included on your Personal Information Form you will receive in your confirmation packet. We encourage you to be specific to what you can eat and what you prefer to eat. We make every effort possible to accommodate these requests. Please keep in mind that at Phantom Ranch we have a choice of only 1 of 3 possible meals: Steak, Hikers Stew or Vegetarian (on some nights only 1 is available). On the rim, we eat in restaurants where you can order off the menu. Should your specific dietary requirements not be met by the provided meals please inquire with our office about potential solutions. In addition, we would love to know if you are making this trip because of a special occasion such as an anniversary or birthday.

### ***Should I bring my own snacks?***

Plenty of food and snacks will be available to you at all times during the trip. However, you are welcome to bring snacks that you prefer. Should you bring your own, remember to **never** leave them in your backpack unattended. Animals will chew through your backpack, ziploc, etc to get to your food. Losing your food will bother you far less than the big hole chewed through your new backpack.

## DRINKING WATER IS PROVIDED

AOA provides bottled water for all guests. You will need to keep the bottles we provide and refill them at locations along the trail and at Phantom Ranch. If you have a Camelbak or similar hydration pack with a water bladder/reservoir, we recommend you bring that and fill it each day.

We rent backpacks and sell water bladders appropriate for this trip. Information will be on your Personal Information form.

## THE TRAILS & HOW TO TRAIN FOR THE TRIP

The Grand Traverse is a strenuous trip and is not recommended for novice hikers. Day 2 requires that you hike downhill for 14 miles and for those with a history of knee problems this can present a serious challenge. For the majority, the most difficult day is our hike up the Bright Angel Trail. It requires that you gain almost 4,300 feet of elevation over 10-miles. The final 4-miles consist of unrelenting uphill switchbacks. The trails are wide and well maintained however, there are sections with loose rock and many "step ups/step downs". Before embarking on this trip you should feel confident in your ability to walk uphill for up to 8 hours.

We recommend doing some significant training before you join us, as your trip will be far more enjoyable if you do not have sore muscles or blisters. The best way to prepare for the trip is to start moderate training with hiking and walking a few months before departure. Walking and hiking targets specific muscles that are utilized differently than when running or cycling. We recommend that you take long, swift walks wearing the boots or shoes that you will wear into the Canyon. Within a month of the departure you should have 1 hike accomplished (without serious discomfort) that is at least 12 miles in length. As always, ***you should consult with your physician before commencing with any new workout program.***

Certain sections of the trail are quite rocky and we recommend wearing mid-weight, sturdy, supportive hiking shoes or boots. However, comfortable athletic shoes or trail running shoes can work also. Whichever you choose, please make sure you break them in prior to your trip.

### ***Are any of the trails steep or exposed?***

Yes. There are a few steep sections and exposed overlooks on the trails we hike. The good news is that the trails are 8-10 feet wide and it is possible to complete the entire hike without going within 5-feet of a drop off. If you have any concerns about your hiking ability, fear of heights, or the trails, please share them with your guides. They are highly experienced in supporting and leading you through whatever route you choose - fear of heights is one of the most common concerns they encounter.

### ***Will we get wet during the hikes?***

Only by choice – you may dunk in some of the tributary creeks such as Bright Angel and you may want to soak your feet in the Colorado River. We require protective footwear at all times when wading or refreshing in the. The guides will not let you wander around or wade barefoot. On this trip your feet are equivalent to your car, so take care of them and protect them. Guides are always available to assist with any stream crossings you might encounter.



## TEMPERATURES TO EXPECT

During most months the canyon receives very little precipitation. During these times, you should plan for warm, sunny days. July and August have sporadic afternoon thunderstorms and December, January and February can have winter rain or snow storms. There is also a rare possibility of winter storms on the rim occur during the months of March and April. Remember, it is a dry heat!

Listed below are the average air temperatures at the 3 locations we will visit during our trek. On the trails in between these locations expect temperatures to be in between the two. You can check up-to-date weather conditions prior to departing for your trip at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and enter "Grand Canyon, Arizona" for the city – this will give you the forecast for the South Rim only.

The rim of the canyon is located at approximately 7,000-8,000 feet in elevation with Phantom Ranch located at approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. It is common for there to be a temperature difference between the two locations of 30-degrees or more. This wide temperature range makes it difficult to provide generalized weather advice for your adventure, therefore we have provided the detailed table below to help you prepare for your trip.

*Phantom Ranch Weather Statistics*

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Annual
Average High - °F	91.3	101.4	106.3	102.6	97.6	85.8	81.8
Average Low - °F	62.4	71.0	76.8	74.0	68.1	58.4	55.8
Avg Precip (in)	0.37	0.37	0.83	1.59	0.81	0.68	8.44

North Rim Weather Statistics

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Annual
Average High - °F	62.0	73.0	77.0	75.0	69.0	59.0	56.2
Average Low - °F	34.0	40.0	46.0	45.0	39.0	31.0	30.3
Avg Precip (in)	1.17	0.86	1.93	2.85	1.99	1.38	25.24

South Rim Weather Statistics

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Annual
Average High - °F	69.8	81.0	84.3	81.4	76.1	64.5	62.5
Average Low - °F	39.1	46.9	54.2	52.8	46.8	36.1	35.0
Avg Precip (in)	0.64	0.39	1.93	2.23	1.52	1.15	15.54

**WHAT TO PACK**

During most times of the year, you will spend nearly all of your vacation in shorts and t-shirt. Lightweight, quick-drying fabrics such as nylon, fleece and other synthetic materials are preferred. Cotton, especially denim, is not recommended as it retains heat and moisture. Of course, comfortable cotton is great for nighttime and sleeping apparel.

Items and luggage brought only for the trip to and from the Canyon, or the rest of your vacation, can be left in the locked vehicle at the rim. The vehicle WILL be shuttled to the south rim so everything you need will be there when you get there.

GEAR LIST		
<p><b>Provided Gear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trip leader first-aid kit (AOA provided)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crampons (Seasonal - AOA provided)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sport top Water bottles</li> </ul> <p><b>Official Papers and Personal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Photo identification or Passport</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Airline tickets</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Credit Cards and Cash</li> </ul> <p><b>Luggage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Soft-sided duffel bag, medium-size</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daypack 2500 - 4000 cu. in. to carry your camera, water bottles, lunch, change of clothes, toiletries, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Luggage tags or luggage locks</li> </ul> <p><b>Outerwear</b></p> <p><i>(please bring - guides will make final decision based on forecast and time of year whether these items will be required IN CANYON)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain jacket (or poncho), lightweight, waterproof and breathable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain or wind pants, waterproof &amp; breathable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mid-weight fleece or similar</li> </ul>	<p><b>IN THE CANYON</b></p> <p><i>(carried in your backpack)</i></p> <p><b>Clothing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hiking pants (optional)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Hiking shorts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Long-sleeve shirt</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 T-shirts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Underwear</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 pair Hiking socks (synthetic or wool)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sun hat (wide brim suggested)</li> </ul> <p><b>Footwear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots or trail shoes - sturdy, mid-weight, and well broken-in</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 'Camp' shoes such as tennis shoes or sandals</li> </ul> <p><b>Gear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3 liter hydration system (if preferred)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight or headlamp &amp; spare batteries/bulb</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunblock &amp; lip balm</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toiletry kit - medications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Personal first-aid kit, small</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Several ziploc plastic bags for trash &amp; dirty clothes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch and/or travel clock</li> </ul>	<p><b>OPTIONAL IN CANYON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water-sport footwear – for wading in creeks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Camera, film, spare batteries, memory cards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small binoculars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch with alarm or travel clock</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spare contact lenses or glasses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reading and writing materials</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trekking poles (highly recommended)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ear plugs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Baby wipes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gaiters – low cut to help keep socks clean &amp; shoes free of debris &amp; rocks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear</li> </ul> <p><b>FOR THE RIMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Casual shirts for dining &amp; travel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Casual pair of pants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair of shorts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 T-shirts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3 Underwear</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Socks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Items for the rest of your vacation!</li> </ul> <p><b>SEASONAL**</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket or fleece</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gloves</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Warm hat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mid-weight long sleeve layers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Warm socks</li> </ul> <p><i>**Seasonal = May and October</i></p>

**WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT MONEY FOR**

**Cash**  
 Take most of your money in small denominations of cash. The Phantom Ranch Canteen also offers a limited variety of hiker items including snacks, beverages, stamps, T-shirts, postcards, and first-aid supplies. You may also want to have cash on hand for tipping your guides at the end of the trip as an ATM may not be available. Guidelines for tipping are found below.

### **Credit Cards & ATM Cards**

Credit Cards and ATM Cards are accepted at most major establishments in the cities. Most of the establishments on the rims accept credit cards also. There are no ATM's available at Phantom Ranch.

### **Is there a place to lock up valuables in the canyon?**

NO! However, keep in mind that there are few thieves that will go through the difficult process of obtaining permits/reservations and then hike 10 miles into the Grand Canyon for the opportunity to carry your personal items back to the rim. Plus, there are many less difficult methods of obtaining your credit card number or swiping your watch. To be safe, we recommend having a small pouch that you keep with you at all times. A tiny fanny pack or something else light that you can both carry with you and easily stow in your backpack is ideal. Items such as expensive watches, jewelry, etc should be left in the luggage trailer at the rim unless you plan to wear them at all times.

### **Tipping**

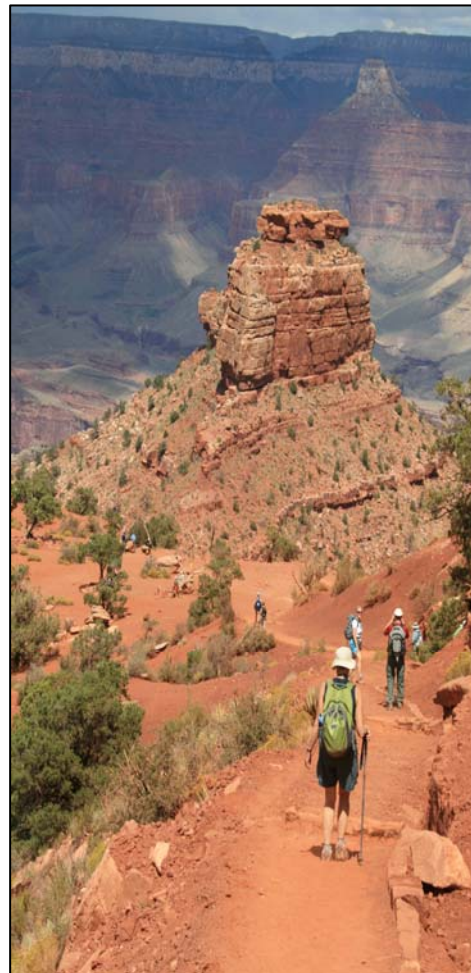
Guests often ask us for guidelines on tipping their guides. The guides appreciate gratuities and divide them equally. AOA prides itself on our outstanding crew and they are there to meet all your expectations. If you feel the service provided has been outstanding, the standard gratuity is 10-15% of the trip price. Tipping is at your discretion and this information is provided **only** as a suggestion. It is not required, but it is customary.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

If there is an emergency and you need to be reached, please give your friends and family the following information: Between 9:00am and 6:00pm, Monday – Friday, they can call our office at 480-945-2881 and ask to speak with Hansi, the Multi-day Tour Manager. Before 9:00am or after 6:00pm Monday – Friday and all day Saturday & Sunday, they can call Hansi direct on her cell phone at 602-717-2732. She will then contact the trip leader if the group is not inside the canyon. If the group is inside the canyon she will contact the National Park Service which will attempt to deliver a message only in dire emergencies.

## **CREATING THE PERFECT VACATION**

Our guides don't take *clients*, they lead our *guests*. Good guides love to share these spectacular places with others – that is why they chose their profession. Ask lots of questions. This will indicate to the guide that you are interested and they will share their knowledge. This adds tremendously to the quality of your experience. Always be respectful of the place you are in, your fellow travelers and your guides. Never be afraid to express your concerns or ideas – after all, it is your trip!!



# OUR MISSION...

## TOP 13 REASONS TO TRAVEL WITH AOA...

*By Lynne and friends - Washington*

1. If you have an inquiring mind, they can help fill it with great geological, historical, biological and anthropological stories.
2. You get to eat gourmet meals and THEY wash the dishes!
3. You don't have to pack in any food, tents, water, sleeping bags or great air mattresses, but you can enjoy all of these.
4. You get to explore places you would never find yourself.
5. You can visit the Garden of Eden and be blessed by a Medicine Woman – and the Guides aren't bad to look at either!
6. You can rediscover muscles you forgot you had.
7. You can share camaraderie with adventurous souls from around the World, who also may have feminine hygiene products in case you forgot yours.
8. You can share a rare privilege that only a few are brave enough to try.
9. You can have near-death experiences that don't end in death.
10. You can get frozen, frightened, frazzled, frizzled, fatigued... and then fed fabulously!
11. You can experience true humility and the magic of being inside one of Mother Nature's most beautiful creations.
12. They make you feel invincible.
13. You can live your dreams of adventure.

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***"Arizona Outback Adventures LLC provided an amazing tour for my fast WEB corporate board meeting. Your staff was professional and the trip was perfect-exhilarating without being excessive. We also learned a great deal..."***  
***- Mark - Ohio***

## ON EVERY TRIP WE PROMISE TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS IN 5 KEY AREAS

1. **SAFETY** - It is our foremost priority. All guides are First Aid and CPR certified and equipped with extensive first aid kits, additional water and a cell phone or two-way radio. Many have advanced certifications such as Wilderness First Responder, Swift Water Rescue and National Outdoor Leadership degrees.
2. **COMFORT** – Backcountry luxury – we will provide everything you need from spacious tents with luxuriously thick sleeping pads to a private wash/shower station. Also, personal hygiene can be challenging for inexperienced backcountry travelers, therefore, our guides take care to provide the tips and tools to keep you clean and comfortable.
3. **FOOD** – Backcountry gourmet – A professional chef plans our menu and trains our guides on how to prepare and present his culinary creations. Expect hearty, healthy meals with fresh vegetables, fruits and proteins every day. If you have any special dietary needs or restrictions, they can easily be accommodated.
4. **EDUCATION** – Learning the natural and cultural history of these magnificent landscapes adds tremendously to your experience. Veteran Adventure Travelers know that fulfilling and memorable vacations go far beyond gorgeous vistas.
5. **EXCEPTIONAL GUIDES** – Our guide teams are carefully chosen for their ability to work together and use their individual expertise to ensure your every need is cared for. They are professional, knowledgeable, sensitive, humorous, great leaders and skilled teachers.

## TAKE IT FROM OUR GUESTS...

*"I cannot say enough about the high quality service provided on the trip. The scenery was spectacular, but (the guides) made the trip even more enjoyable. Outstanding service!"*

*Robert – Maryland*

*"Thank you, thank you, thank you, for an amazing week. We felt cared for (spoiled even), protected, and adventurous. (The guides) made very strong, lasting impressions on us. Their dedication, playful spirit and laid back nature made for a perfect combination. What an incredible feeling to be awe-inspired every day."*

*- Tammi – North Carolina*

*"I have just returned from the most exciting, incredible, adrenaline outdoor adventure. Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to experience the greatness and beauty of the Grand Canyon. You do a super job of giving your clients a feeling of safety while challenging them to do the extra mile."*

*Marjory – Canada*

*Thank you. (The Guides), most fearless of all leaders, gave me a gift that was totally unexpected. It has been a long time since I felt adventuresome and wild the way I did on my trip. Their encouragement and support challenged me, and I found myself doing things and going places I never thought I would have dreamed of. I loved it all..."*

*-Megan – Vermont*

*"Thanks for a great trip! I did far more than I ever thought I could or have done before. Your guides are Arizona Outback Adventures' greatest asset. I am sure you are not short of outstanding references but if you ever need one from a senior, feel free"*

*Joyce - Arizona, Age 65*



# MULTI-DAY TRIP RESERVATION FORM

16447 N. 91<sup>st</sup> St. #101 - Scottsdale, AZ 85260 - Toll Free 1-866-455-1601 - Phone: 480-945-2881  
Fax: 480-970-1825 - [www.aoa-adventures.com](http://www.aoa-adventures.com) email: [info@aoa-adventures.com](mailto:info@aoa-adventures.com)

You may reserve your trip by mailing or faxing this form (number above) or calling our office (toll free 1-866-455-1601). Mailed or faxed reservations are not guaranteed a spot until our office confirms them via phone or email. A \$500 per person deposit is required to hold your reservation on any trip. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, personal checks and cash. The balance is due 60 days prior to your trip departure date.

Title of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  M  F # of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #2: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose AOA? \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOM PREFERENCE:**

- Single room  Willing to share room w/ \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 bed  2 beds  2 beds + rollaway  Connecting (if available)

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RENTALS:**

- Rent Sleeping Bag (\$40)
- Rent Backpack (\$45)

**HAVASUPAI SPECIFIC:**

- Helicopter IN  Helicopter OUT (\$110/way)
- Horseback IN  Horseback OUT (\$110/way)

**HAVASUPAI ESCAPE ONLY**

- Horse to Carry Personal Gear R/T (\$65)
- Horse to Carry Personal Sleep Bag R/T (\$10)

**TRANSPORTATION:**  Meeting at Hotel  AOA Shuttle  Following in Own Vehicle

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Price of the chosen trip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date reservation was made: \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  Automatically charge this card for the balance 60 days out

We will be emailing you our Trip Policies, please 'sign' and send back to receive your confirmation packet.

For Office Use Only

ACT: \_\_\_\_\_ QB: \_\_\_\_\_ POLICIES Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ Rec: \_\_\_\_\_ CONF PKT: \_\_\_\_\_ DEP PKT: \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTI-DAY TRIP POLICIES

Please read carefully before signing and return to our office as soon as possible with your other required trip documents.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TRIP TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ TRIP DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESERVATIONS

These tours are very popular and advanced planning is often necessary. We recommend making your reservations at least 3-5 months in advance. We can accommodate last-minute bookings provided space is available, so please call our office to check. You may reserve your trip by mailing or faxing a trip reservation form or by calling our office (toll free 866-455-1601). Please allow at least 10 minutes to complete your application by phone. Mailed or faxed applications are not guaranteed until our office has confirmed them and we have received the required deposit.

## TRIP INFORMATION

Once you have made your reservation, a confirmation packet containing detailed pre-trip planning information will be mailed to you. You will need to fill out and return the Personal Information form(s), Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnification Agreement (s), Multi-Day Trip Policies form, Appearance Release form and Credit Card Authorization form no later than 60 days prior to your trip departure date. The final balance is due 60 days prior to your trip and will be automatically charged to your credit card on file unless we are notified otherwise. Approximately 2 weeks prior to your trip, you will receive a Departure Packet via email that contains your final trip information.

## PAYMENTS

**DEPOSITS:** All prices are quoted in US dollars and are subject to change. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, personal checks and cash. A \$500.00 per person deposit is required to hold your reservation on any trip. For your protection, it is always better to pay for all your travel arrangements by credit card.

**BALANCE DUE:** The balance is due 60 days prior to your trip departure date. The balance will be automatically charged to your credit card on file. If you would like to pay the balance on a different credit card, please fill out the credit card authorization form in your trip confirmation packet and mail it back with your other required forms.

## SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms / tents are available for an additional charge and a limited number are available on each trip. Please see the itinerary sheet of your specific trip for the single supplement price. If you are traveling alone, we can often pair you up with another single traveler.

## DISCOUNTS

Please call our office for special group discounts. If you do not use our transportation on a Havasupai trip, your trip will be discounted \$25.00 per person.

## CANCELLATION FEES

All cancellations must be made in writing via email or fax.

91 or more days prior	Full refund
61 to 90 days prior	\$500.00 per traveler
31 to 60 days prior	50% of trip cost per traveler
0 to 30 days prior	100% of trip cost per traveler (no refund)

## TRANSFERRING TRIPS

If you want to transfer your trip to another date, the above cancellation fees will apply.

## ITINERARY CHANGES

Every attempt will be made to adhere to each trip's published routes and itinerary; however, safety issues, weather or other extenuating circumstances beyond our control may result in unexpected changes. Should these changes affect a guest's travel plans, Arizona Outback Adventures is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by guests (e.g., non-refundable air tickets, rental cars, hotel reservations, visa fees if applicable, gear, medical expenses, etc.).

## TRIP CANCELLATION

**TRIP MINIMUMS:** Each trip requires a minimum number of participants for departure. Arizona Outback Adventures (AOA) reserves the right to cancel scheduled trips that do not meet minimum sign-up requirements (usually 4 guests). If a cancellation is necessary, AOA will notify guests no less than 45 days prior to the departure date of their trip. In the event of a trip cancellation, the options are:

Guests may select another departure date for an equivalent trip at no additional charge;

AOA will operate the trip for an additional charge per guest based on the number of guests signed up 30 days prior to the departure date of the trip; or,

AOA will provide a full-refund of any monies paid to AOA.

**FORCE MAJEURE:** AOA reserves the right to revise or cancel all or a portion of a trip for force majeure (e.g., terrorism, war, fire, flood or other natural disaster) or any other circumstances beyond our control. If a trip is cancelled due to force majeure, AOA will make every effort to offer an alternative trip for the same departure and return dates with an itinerary that offers experiences similar to the original trip. If AOA offers an alternative trip in place of the original trip, guests may choose to join the alternative trip or select another departure date for the original trip at no additional charge.

If a guest chooses to cancel altogether, cancellation fees will apply as outlined above. In the event of AOA's cancellation and AOA does not offer an alternative trip, full or partial refunds, if any, will be at AOA's sole discretion.

In the event of cancellation by AOA, AOA is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by guests in preparing for the trip (e.g., non-refundable air tickets, rental cars, hotel reservations, visa fees if applicable, gear, medical expenses, etc.).

*Due to the possibility of itinerary changes or trip cancellations, we strongly recommend that our guests purchase travel insurance that includes the cost of their airline tickets, many of which are completely nonrefundable and nontransferable.*

## PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Other Members in you Party (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If you are signing up multiple participants, you are responsible for relaying these Multi-Day Trip Policies to them. By signing above, you are accepting the responsibility to do so.*