

## Grand Canyon National Park's Ranger Audio Tour Stop # 16 **Shiva Temple**

Hi there. This is Ranger Haley, and welcome to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. A vast expanse of sculpted mesas, buttes, and spires lies between you and the North Rim. This amazing landscape was first seen by European conquistadors in 1540, but the immense scale proved too demanding for the conquistadors. The inner canyon remained a mystery to modern man for over 200 years until John Wesley Powell successfully rafted through the Grand Canyon in 1869. However, Powell's crew concentrated on the river corridor leaving most of the otherworldly mesas, buttes, and spires untouched.

The exploration of these beauties has fallen to modern Grand Canyon explorers, many of them local residents adventuring on their weekends and holidays. As such, each mesa, each butte, each spire has its own unique and often quirky story. See if you can locate Shiva Temple using the viewfinder. It's a broad, flat topped plateau rising prominently to the northwest. This plateau, which seems so distant, so peaceful, lies at the heart of a tale of wild speculations, competition, and revenge.

In the mid 1930s, Shiva Temple drew the attention of biologist Harold E. Anthony. Anthony proposed that Shiva Temple might have been separated from the rest of the world just long enough for creatures to have followed unique evolutionary pathways, sort of like the exotic animals of the isolated Galapagos Islands. Soon the press was speculating that Anthony might find dinosaurs or even primitive human-like creatures still alive in the canyon's vast wilderness.

In 1937 Anthony put his theory to the test by planning the first summit of Shiva Temple. Long time Grand Canyon explorer and resident Emery Kolb offered to guide the high profile expedition, but Anthony turned down the local hero for a mountaineer from out of town. Kolb's pride hurt, he exacted his revenge by making a mockery of the scientific pursuit. Kolb gathered some male coworkers, two lady friends, and plenty of moxie. Then, Kolb's team successfully made the first summit of Shiva Temple, where they erected a homemade flag in their honor. When the scientific team summited Shiva, they failed to find dinosaurs or Neanderthals. Instead, they came across that flag, some film canisters, and tissues smeared with lipstick, indicating that women had beaten them to the top.

Thus Shiva Temple stands strong within the canyon, a monument to science, exploration, and the triumph of a Grand Canyon local hero.

Thanks for taking a few moments to learn about historic explorations of Shiva Temple, and I hope you enjoy your own exploration of Grand Canyon National Park.