

Grand Canyon National Park's Ranger Audio Tour Stop # 2 **Grand Canyon Village**

Welcome to Grand Canyon Village.

The village at Grand Canyon consists of the hotels and shops that line the rim in the immediate proximity of the Grand Canyon Railroad terminal. Although humans have been inhabiting this region for nearly 10,000 years, it was the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1901 that really put Grand Canyon Village on the map. With the creation of the railroad, it was a relatively easy trip by train to see one of the greatest wonders on the planet. Even today, over a thousand visitors a day disembark into the village on the train to begin their Grand Canyon experience.

The main focal point of the Village is the El Tovar Hotel. This grand hotel was the pride of the Fred Harvey Company when they opened the doors to business in 1905. Designed as a Norwegian Hunting Lodge to appeal to more refined tastes, it has served millions of guests in its hotel, restaurant, and lounge over the last century. Go inside and enjoy the turn of the century architecture and furnishings that have made the El Tovar so famous.

Just across from the El Tovar is Hopi House. Created at the same time as the El Tovar, the Hopi House is an amalgamation of many Native American designs from the region. Architect Mary Colter visited sites throughout the four corners region to gain inspiration for the structure. Today, it houses and sells art and artifacts created by American Indians. In the summertime, Native American dancers perform daily on the stage in front of Hopi House.

As you move west along the rim, you will come to two significant viewpoints. Lookout Studio, also designed by Mary Colter, affords great views of the canyon and also hosts daily condor programs during the warmer months. A little bit farther down the trail, you will arrive at Kolb Studio. The Kolb Brothers were long time residents of the canyon and helped popularize tourism here with the film of their trip down the Colorado River and with their photography. Visit the downstairs of Kolb Studio to see exhibits featuring art work from the canyon.

If you keep on walking west past Kolb Studio, you can either continue hiking the rim trail or begin hiking down the Bright Angel Trail. The Rim Trail continues west for another 8 miles, affording incredible views of the canyon and Colorado River. The Bright Angel Trail is 10 miles long and takes you down to Indian Garden and on to Phantom Ranch. Do not attempt to hike to the bottom of the canyon and back in one day.

Thank you and enjoy your visit to Grand Canyon National Park.