

## Grand Canyon National Park's Ranger Audio Tour Stop # 9 **Hermit Road**

Welcome to the Hermit Road, a seven mile long scenic drive along the canyon rim, leading from Grand Canyon Village to Hermit's Rest.

In 1911 to 1913 the Santa Fe Railway constructed a wagon road from Grand Canyon Village to Hermit's Rest. The road was built to provide access to the Hermit Trail, which led 8 miles down into the canyon to the tourist destination of Hermit Camp. The Hermit Trail and Hermit Camp provided an alternative for those tourists who did not want to pay a one dollar toll to use the Bright Angel Trail, then privately controlled by Ralph Cameron.

With a tremendous increase in automobile traffic to the South Rim in the 1920s, the National Park Service built the current Hermit Road in 1935. The 18 overlooks along the Hermit Road provide a continually changing view of the canyon. During its history, the road has also provided access to the Orphan Lode Mine which produced copper and uranium from the early 1900s to 1969, the Powell Memorial, the Hopi fire lookout tower, and Hermit's Rest designed by architect Mary Jane Colter.

By the early 1970s, summertime traffic congestion on the Hermit Road became severe and the National Park Service initiated shuttle bus service to allow visitors to enjoy the Hermit Road experience free of parking congestion and with less noise and air pollution.

Visitors may access the Hermit Road by shuttle bus from March through November and by their own personal vehicles from December through February.

In 2008, after 73 years of use, a major construction project restored the Hermit Road while still retaining its historic character. A new paved hiking and bicycling trail was also built along the west end of the road and a new walking trail built along the remainder of the canyon rim. A continuous trail now leads from Grand Canyon Village to Hermit's Rest.

Thank you and enjoy your visit to Grand Canyon National Park and the newly restored Hermit Road.