





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park  
Backcountry Information Center

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## 2011 Summer / Fall Backpacking Season

Your backcountry permit request should arrive at the Backcountry Information Center at least 21 days prior to the start of your hike to allow us enough time to process your request. Remaining sites are given out in person at the Backcountry Information Center. Availability information below excludes last minute permits.

**August.** Permits are easily obtained last minute at the park. There are very few hikers in remote areas. Most summer use occurs at the inner canyon campgrounds (Indian Garden, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood). Warning: elevated hiking risk due to extreme summer heat. High temperatures at the bottom of the canyon in the shade range from 100°F to 115°F (35°C - 42°C). Low temperatures at the bottom of the canyon range from 70°F to 80°F (20°C - 25°C). Flash flood and lightning risks remain elevated until the end of the monsoon, usually in early September.

**September.** Backpacking season comes on strong in September even though temperatures remain near 100°F at the bottom of the canyon. A few sites at Indian Garden, Bright Angel, and Cottonwood Campgrounds remain available through advance reservations. Permit requests for trips starting the first 10 days in September need to be submitted by August 15. After September 10 advance reservations are full for these campgrounds. North Bass is full September 15, 16, 18-21, and 24-30. Horn Creek is full except for September 1, 2, 18, 19, and 30.

**October.** Desert temperatures finally moderate and safer hiking conditions prevail. Bright Angel and Indian Garden Campgrounds are 99% full the entire month. At Cottonwood Campground some large group sites remain available between October 9-31. Other locations:

- Kanab Creek: full October 9-15
- South Bass: full October 3-11, may be available other dates
- Boucher: full October 5-12, may be available other dates
- Horn: full all month
- Red Canyon: full October 5-17, except for the night of October 12
- Esplanade: full October 3-6 and October 13-17, may be available other dates
- Deer Creek: full October 8-14, available most other dates
- North Bass: full all nights except for October 14, 16, 21, 28, and 29
- Nankoweap: full all nights except for October 2, 3, 7, 11, 13, 15, 23, 29, and 30

### Options for hikers who are unable to obtain a permit in advance:

**Last Minute Permits/Waitlist:** Several campsites in Bright Angel, Indian Garden, and Cottonwood Campgrounds are made available each morning for the next day. For best chance of success arrive at Grand Canyon National Park two or more days before you wish to backpack. Go to the Backcountry Information Center and get a waitlist number. Return to the Backcountry Information Center by 8 a.m. the next morning. Campsites are awarded to the lowest numbers present. Those who do not obtain a permit the first morning will receive a lower waitlist number for the following morning.

**Day Hike:** No permit needed to day hike. Weather and trail conditions are variable and change dramatically from one year to the next. Plan Ahead and Prepare.

**North Rim (Kaibab Plateau/ Highway 67/ North Kaibab Trailhead):** Grand Canyon National Park facilities on the North Rim will **begin closing down for the season on October 15**. The North Rim Backcountry Information Center will remain open through November 27, unless snow closes Highway 67 leading into the park prior to that date. At the North Rim Campground campsites with limited services such as portable toilets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For information on trail conditions and situations affecting the backcountry of Grand Canyon National Park visit [www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/trail-closures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/trail-closures.htm)

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