



Name of Trail Loop: South Kaibab Trailhead Loops

Passage and location: Grand Canyon – South Rim and Inner Gorge Passages 37 & 38

Length of loop trails:

South Kaibab/Indian Garden Loop: 12.8 miles (with shuttle) or 18.3 miles

South Kaibab/Phantom Ranch Loop: 16.6 miles (with shuttle) or 20.9 miles

South Kaibab – Horseshoe Mesa – Grandview Point Loop 38.0 miles

Loop trail descriptions: All three loops start at the South Kaibab Trailhead. The trail begins with a series of tight switchbacks. (See trail descriptions on the Grand Canyon National Park website

<http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/campsite-information.htm> for a full description of trails for these loops.) After passing through the Red Wall, the trail reaches the Tipoff where there are pit toilets, 4.4 miles from the trailhead. Note that you cannot drive Yaki Point Road from SR 64 to South Kaibab Trailhead. You will need to park elsewhere and ride a Shuttle Bus out to this trailhead or hike to it.

South Kaibab/Indian Garden Loop. The intersection with the Tonto Trail is located about fifty feet up-trail from the pit toilets. Head west on the Tonto Trail. It is 2.1 miles to Pipe Creek, a reliable water source according to the Park Service. The Bright Angel Trail is reached in another 2.2 miles and Indian Gardens in another 0.4 miles on the Bright Angel Trail. Shade, “purified” water, toilets, and benches invite the hiker to a rest stop. From Indian Garden it is 4.5 miles to the South Rim. It is 4.3 miles along the Rim Trail from the Bright Angel Trailhead back to South Kaibab Trailhead. A shuttle bus ride before or after leaving/reaching the Canyon Rim will shorten total hiking miles.

South Kaibab/Phantom Ranch Loop: At the Tipoff continue down the South Kaibab trail, crossing the Black Bridge and reaching the Bright Angel Campground after another 2.6 miles. A camping permit is required to stay overnight—contact the Grand Canyon National Park Backcountry office. It is about a fourth mile to the Phantom Ranch Canteen. The return to the Rim is via the Bright Angel Trail, crossing the Colorado River on the Silver Bridge. It is a total of 9.1 miles to the Rim; Indian Gardens is about half way at 4.8 miles. Once on the Rim, take the Rim Trail 4.3 miles to the South Kaibab Trailhead or use the shuttle bus to shorten the loop. The Park Service does not recommend a round trip to the River and back in one day due to the 10,022 of elevation loss and gain for this route.

South Kaibab – Horseshoe Mesa – Grandview Point Loop. The intersection with the Tonto Trail is located fifty feet or so up-trail from the pit toilets. Head east on the Tonto Trail. It is a multi-day trip of 19.8 miles to Cottonwood Creek and another 4.5 miles to Grandview Trailhead. See the detailed descriptions of the “Tonto Trail: Grandview Trail to South Kaibab Trail” and the” Grandview Trail and Horseshoe Mesa” descriptions provided by the National Park Service in the link above. A camping permit is required to stay overnight—contact the Grand Canyon National Park Backcountry office. From the South Kaibab Trailhead to the Grandview Trailhead it is 24.3 miles. Hike down the Grandview Point access road to Highway 64 for 0.6 miles. Cross the highway and head in a southwesterly direction cross county. In about a fourth mile you should meet the power line. Follow the power line in a westerly and northwesterly direction until reaching the Arizona Trail in about 6.9 miles. Turn east/right onto the Arizona Trail, crossing the highway and reaching the South Kaibab Trailhead in less than a mile.

Recommended seasons of use: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

Elevation Start: 7,260’

Elevation Gain/Loss: Indian Garden Loop: 4,191’ (8,382’+ elevation traveled)

Phantom Ranch Loop: 5,011’ (10,022’+ elevation traveled)

Horseshoe Mesa-Grandview Point Loop: 5,947' (11,894'+ elevation traveled)

Access point: Grand Canyon National Park, South Kaibab Trailhead. Parking is not allowed at the South Kaibab Trailhead; take shuttle bus from various locations in the Park.

Water: See Park Service trail descriptions for listing of reliable and seasonal water on trails used for loops. For up to date details on water sources please visit the Arizona Trail Water sources at <https://aztrail.org/explore/water-sources/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/> which has user comments about the status of water sources.

Notes: See Park Service Backcountry Office tips for hiking in the Grand Canyon during summer or winter months. Grand Canyon trails maps are available from Trails Illustrated and other sources. Staying overnight in the Canyon requires a permit from the Backcountry Office; submit a request well in advance of the date(s) needed. For specific turn by turn information on the Arizona Trail visit the Arizona Trail databook <https://aztrail.org/explore/databooks/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/>

The Arizona Trail Association provides this information as a service to the community. The ATA cannot, and does not, guarantee the accuracy of any of the information. Water and trail reports are only accurate for a limited time. Some information will not be accurate. Trail conditions and water sources may change quickly. Trail conditions are also highly subjective. What is passable to some may not be passable to another. The user of this information is solely responsible for their own safety. Hike your own hike. Ride your own ride.