

# Grand Canyon – Rim-to-Rim – Backpacking Trek

Fall Break 2018 – 7 days/nights (4 days/nights hiking) - Sept. 22 – 28 (or maybe Sept. 23 – 29)

Estimated cost: \$900-\$1100 per person (plus meals/snacks/souvenirs)  
4 hiking days (24 miles, 10k' elevation change), 2 full travel days, 1 local day.

Draft Itinerary by day:

Day	Start	End	Description
1	Atlanta	Phoenix, to South Rim	Air & shuttle from ATL to South Rim campground (~\$500 air + \$30 entry/permits). If you have airline points/other, you can use those for air booking to Phoenix.
2	South Rim	Indian Garden C/G	Hike down to Indian Garden C/G (~4.5mi), 0.5mi side trail to 3k' overlook, other
3	Indian Garden	Bright Angel C/G	Hike down past River Rest House on to Bright Angel C/G (~5.3mi), additional 0.5mi side hike to Phantom Ranch for dinner (\$36 but worth it); other: silver bridge (swim beach), black bridge (1/2 mile tunnel). Plan to swim – no showers until first night off trail!
4	Bright Angel	Cottonwood C/G	Hike up to Cottonwood C/G, ~7.2 mi, easy, not bad climb. "Raging River" (?) side trip, "keyhole" single-person slot, other.
5	Cottonwood	North Rim	Hike up to North Rim (~6.8 mi), easy until steep last quarter mile. A bit like Blood Mountain on AT.
6	North Rim	Phoenix	Early shuttle back to Phoenix airport area, sightseeing, other possible (TBD)
7	Phoenix	Atlanta	Fly home (takes all day due to time zone changes)

There's a lot we don't know details on yet, but this rough plan has been given a thumbs-up by someone who did a similar trip last year. We must make reservations on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, so deposits and commitment will be required before then. A firmer price/plan/details will be available before deposits are due.

Weather: Average temps: 47F/76F south, 69F/97F bottom, 39F/69F top. Note that those are "average" and it can rain, long sleeves/pants needed for sun protection, etc. Proper gear will be required.

There's about a 4,400' descent over the first two days and about a 5,781' ascent over two days, about 500'/mile average, but continuous. For March through September, we'll setup several conditioning day hikes and some weekend backpacking. A minimum participation in those hikes will be required. The safety and success of the entire group depends on everyone being able to successfully complete the route. The days are relatively short but the elevation change is significant and it is a primitive area with no road access, so skills and conditioning plans are required.

Interest Survey:

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet if you are interested based on the above description. No money is required now, more detailed information will be available before you must commit. Details on cost, dates, flights, training day hikes and backpacking weekends will be developed in conjunction with those who express interest. If you sign up, you'll be included in those decisions and planning. If you are interested, you should sign up!