



Commercial Use Authorization Requirements for Commercial Day Hiking Operators

I. DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL USE

A commercial use is defined as any or all goods, activities, services, agreements, or anything offered to park visitors and/or the general public for recreational purposes which uses park resources or is undertaken for or results in compensation, monetary gain, benefit, or profit to an individual, organization, or corporation, whether or not such entity is organized for purposes recognized as non-profit under Local, State, or Federal law.

Guided trips or services which collect a fee in excess of the actual personal costs of the trip and/or for payment of other than actual personal trip expenses for guides or leaders, are considered commercial trips. This includes nonprofit organizations providing a livelihood for people through provision of these services.

Groups who are part of a school (and can meet the educational fee waiver requirements), church, family, or non-commercial organization are not required to obtain a permit. A non-commercial organization that is recognized under the Internal Revenue Service Code of Federal Regulations as Tax-Exempt and who can show proof that their activity is not taxable for commercial purposes does not need to obtain a Commercial Use Authorization. The organization must submit their request in writing stating why their proposed activity is not taxable and non-commercial to the Division of Concessions at Grand Canyon National Park along with a copy of their IRS determination letter.

II. INTRODUCTION

These requirements will serve as guidelines for commercially guided day hikes below the rim of Grand Canyon National Park. These requirements describe operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA). In the event of a conflict between the terms of the CUA and these requirements, the CUA will prevail.

CUA's will not be issued to concessionaires to provide services authorized or required to be provided under the terms of current concession contracts.

CUA's are mandatory for conducting commercial trips into Grand Canyon National Park; however, their issuance is a courtesy, not an entitlement. Requests for CUA's are handled in the order received, considering other workload commitments. Four or more weeks should be allowed for this process. Commercial services are not authorized until the CUA is finalized. Prospective permittees should not schedule any commercial trips to the park prior to obtaining a fully executed copy of the CUA.

Failure to obtain and have available for inspection a CUA to provide commercial services into Grand Canyon National Park may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from the park.

All applicants for a CUA will be required to meet the following requirements prior to issuance of a CUA:

- A. Proof of general liability and automobile liability insurance coverage (Certificate of Insurance) naming the United States Government as an additional insured. Minimum acceptable level of general liability insurance is \$300,000 per occurrence. Minimum acceptable level of automobile liability insurance as required by the State of Arizona.
- B. Payment of all required fees: A non-refundable fee of \$300.00 for application and administration of the CUA, irrespective of the length of the CUA. Entrance fees will be paid as required at the Entrance Stations.
- C. Proof of First Aid and CPR Certification (specific information in Section IV. C.)

All applicants must also meet the following conditions:

III. MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **Trip Leader/Guide** - The trip leader/guide will employ a staff with the expertise to operate all services authorized under this CUA. The leader/guide will furnish the park with a list that identifies staff members and their qualifications.
- B. **Park** - The Superintendent manages the total park operation, including CUA's. The Superintendent carries out the policies and directives of the National Park Service. Through park representatives, the Superintendent reviews, supervises, and coordinates commercial activities related to Grand Canyon National Park.

The Concessions staff coordinates the park activities relating to commercial services, and makes recommendations on all commercial operations to the Superintendent. Concessions staff have line authority from the Superintendent to make field decisions, which pertain to commercial operations, and act as liaisons between the permittee and the Superintendent.

Members of the Visitor and Resource Protection Division serve as the direct line of communications to the permittee about backcountry, trail, and corridor use regarding law enforcement, safety, search and rescue, emergency medical services, resource protection, and fire management issues.

IV. STAFFING AND EMPLOYMENT

- A. **Guide Registration** - The permittee will register all guides with the park by submitting a completed Staff Registration Form for all employees guiding within the park. The permittee will employ a staff with the expertise to operate all services authorized under this CUA.
- B. **Guide Qualifications** – The following minimum qualifications must be met by each guide operating within Grand Canyon National Park.
- All guides must possess a valid Wilderness First Responder first aid certificate plus adult CPR. More advanced first aid such as an Emergency Medical Technician certification are also accepted and encouraged. Photocopies of current first aid and CPR certification must be submitted with the Staff Registration Form.
 - Guides must be at least 18 years of age and physically capable of hiking in the canyon environment.
 - Guides must be trained in basic safety and resource protection, Leave No Trace principles, park rules and regulations and in the requirements of the CUA conditions.
 - Guides must possess previous relevant outdoor experience and have hiked (a minimum of two times) on the entire length of the trails that they are guiding on.
- C. **Guide-to-client Ratios** – All groups will maintain a ratio of no less than one guide for every seven clients or two guides for every 9. Maximum group size in the inner canyon is 11 people including guides. If the permittee has staff members participating in a training capacity, those staff members will be counted in the staff/client ratio.

V. OPERATING PROCEDURES

- A. **Trip Leaders/Guides** – Each group must have one person identified as the group or trip leader who will remain with the group at all times. If the party is divided into more than one group, each group will have a trip leader. The trip leader will inform the group of all park rules and regulations and has responsibility for the group.
- B. **Orientations** – The trip leader must provide an orientation to clients for the proposed itinerary and be capable of revising the itinerary for the group or an individual if an emergency situation occurs. The orientation must include basic hiking etiquette when passing other hikers or mules, Leave No Trace principles, park rules and regulations, safety procedures, litter, human waste and emergencies. Each participant should be supplied with a map (may be a photo copy) of the trail hiked. Guides/Leaders will provide their clients with accurate information on a broad spectrum of topics related to the Grand Canyon and national parks, including, but not limited to, geology, wilderness impacts, history, ecology, etc.

VI. APPROVED LOCATIONS FOR VEHICLES

Under an approved permit the permittee will be authorized to use the following described lands or facilities within Grand Canyon National Park.

VEHICLES UNDER 22 FEET IN LENGTH: ALL LOCATIONS IN THE PARK IN WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS PERMITTED TO PARK ARE AUTHORIZED FOR USE WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF HERMIT'S REST ROAD, NORTH RIM LODGE ACCESS ROAD AND ALL RESIDENTIAL OR SCHOOL AREAS.

VEHICLES 22 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH: ALL LOCATIONS IN THE PARK NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED HEREIN AS AUTHORIZED FOR USE ARE, BY THEIR OMISSION, UNAUTHORIZED FOR USE PURSUANT TO THIS PERMIT.

The permittee is authorized to use the following described lands or facilities within Grand Canyon National Park.

Vehicle Access to Park

The permittee may access the **Village Area** via South Entrance Road, Village Loop Road, Center Road, Market Plaza Road, and Zuni Way. The permittee may access **Desert View** by Highway 64 (Desert View Drive) and the **North Rim** via Highway 67.

COMMERCIAL LOADING/UNLOADING AREAS:

ALL COMMERCIAL OPERATORS MUST TURN OFF VEHICLE ENGINES AT ALL TIMES WHEN NOT ACTIVELY LOADING OR UNLOADING PASSENGERS. Drivers must remain with their vehicles at all times when stopping in area designated as loading/unloading only. All vehicles must proceed to an authorized parking area once unloading has been completed. The following areas are approved for loading/unloading of passengers and/or luggage only:

VILLAGE AREA

Bright Angel Lodge	Vehicles may load/unload on both sides of the commercial vehicle lane adjacent to the lodge sidewalk. Loading/unloading or waiting for passengers in this lane is limited to 15 minutes maximum. <u>Parking in this area is now prohibited.</u> Drivers must move vehicles forward (west) as vehicles leave so additional vehicles can enter the lane behind them. <u>No vehicle may be unattended at any time in this area.</u> Obstructing traffic on Village Loop Drive is strictly prohibited. Loading/unloading passengers directly in front of the lodge is limited to passenger vans and automobiles only.
Maswik Lodge	West side of building where the bus loading/unloading signs are posted.
Yavapai Lodge	Loading/unloading is restricted to commercial vehicle parking spaces located in the front/eastside of the building. Stopping on the Market Plaza side of the building is prohibited.
El Tovar Hotel	Loading and unloading restricted to vehicles less than 22 feet in length. Vehicles loading/unloading may not obstruct traffic around the circle. No vehicles may be unattended in this area at any time.
Kachina Lodge	Loading/unloading of vehicles in this area is authorized <u>for overnight guests only.</u> It is restricted to the curbside immediately east of the Thunderbird Lodge (See lodge staff for assistance first)
Thunderbird Lodge	Loading/unloading of vehicles in this area is authorized <u>for overnight guests only.</u> It is restricted to the curbside immediately east of the Thunderbird Lodge (See lodge staff for assistance first)
Lot A (Park Headquarters)	Vehicles may stop in front of park headquarters to load or unload passengers, but after doing so must leave the parking lot immediately.
Grand Canyon Visitor Center (Canyon View Information Plaza)	Vehicles may load or unload passengers in the designated zone, but after doing so must proceed to the parking area immediately. <u>Accessing the GCVC via the Yavapai Lodge Road (formerly Canyon View Bypass Road) from South Entrance Road to Yavapai Lodges is prohibited.</u>

DESERT VIEW DRIVE

Desert View	Vehicles may utilize the shuttle bus stop to load or unload passengers. Vehicles must
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	proceed to an authorized parking area once unloading has been completed.
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NORTH RIM

North Rim Lodge Historic Loop	Vehicles may only load and unload passengers and/or luggage between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily. Loading/unloading will only occur in front of the North Rim Visitor Center or in the Upper Parking Lot.
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COMMERCIAL PARKING AREAS:

The following areas are approved commercial vehicle parking areas. Vehicles may park in any of the designated areas as long as the requirements noted below are met.

VILLAGE AREA

Bright Angel Lodge	<u>Due to traffic obstructions from vehicles backing up onto the Village Loop Road, stopping/parking of commercial vehicles in the commercial vehicle lane, in front of the lodge, or in the parking lot is now prohibited.</u>
Yavapai Lodge	Additional commercial vehicle parking spaces <u>for overnight guests</u> are available near the Yavapai East and Yavapai West buildings by special parking permit only. All requirements outlined on the permit must be followed and the permit must be visible in the vehicle at all times. See lodge staff for details.
Maswik Lodge	Three (3) designated bus parking spots which are limited to vehicles over 22 feet in length and located on the eastern side of the building near the railroad tracks directly across from the backcountry office. Additional commercial vehicle parking spaces <u>for overnight guests</u> are available near the lodge buildings by special parking permit only. All requirements outlined on the permit must be followed and the permit must be visible in the vehicle at all times. See lodge staff for details.
Backcountry Office	Designated oversized vehicle parking area located in the southwest side of the backcountry office. The 14 parking spots in the middle of the lot are limited to vehicles over 22 feet in length. The parking spots on the outer edges of the parking lot are limited to vehicles under 22 feet in length. Vehicles may not take up more than two spaces and must be parked between the stripped lines. Commercial vehicles are prohibited on the northwest side of the building.
Market Plaza	Due to traffic congestion, vehicles over 22 feet in length are discouraged from entering the Market Plaza Parking Lot. Vehicles may not take up more than two spaces within the parking lot and must be parked in between the white stripped lines. Vehicles may not stop in the traffic lane that leads to the shuttle bus stop and Yavapai Lodge to load and unload passengers. Vehicles may not stop in the traffic lane in front of the general store, post office, or bank to load and unload passengers.
Yavapai Observation Station	Entry/Parking is restricted to vehicles less than 22 feet in length.
Lot C (Magistrate Court)	Entry/Parking is restricted to vehicles less than 22 feet in length.
Lot D (Gravel lot near Railroad Tracks)	Entry/Parking is restricted to vehicles less than 22 feet in length.
Village by-pass road	Commercial vehicles may park along the Village By-Pass road near the APS power station provided they are not obstructing traffic or in an area where signs indicate parking is prohibited.
Grand Canyon Visitor Center (Canyon View Information Plaza)	All commercial vehicles may use the commercial parking lot at Grand Canyon Visitor Center. <u>Use of the Yavapai Lodge Road (formerly Canyon View Bypass Road) from South Entrance Road to Yavapai Lodges is prohibited.</u> Vehicles less than 22 feet in length should park to

allow two vehicles per space.

DESERT VIEW DRIVE

S. Kaibab Trailhead	Commercial vehicles under 22 feet may park at the trailhead provided that they possess a valid Backpacking or Day Hiking CUA and are accessing the S. Kaibab Trailhead for an organized hike.
Desert View/Watchtower	Vehicles may only park in the authorized commercial/oversized vehicle parking area only. Park within lines.

NORTH RIM

North Rim Lodge Access Road	Vehicles may only park after the "Do Not Enter" signs in front of the North Rim Visitor Center. A maximum of three buses can park in this area at one time. Commercial vehicles less than 22 ft in length must park in the Lodge parking lot.
North Rim Upper Lot	Vehicles entering the park after 9:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. must park in the upper lot. Vehicles that cannot find parking in front of the visitor center must park in the upper lot.
North Kaibab Trailhead	Parking is restricted to vehicles less than 22 feet in length. Coach buses are not allowed to stop or park in this area.
Widforss Trailhead	Parking is restricted to vehicles less than 22 feet in length. Coach buses are not allowed to stop or park in this area.

ALLOWABLE STOPS:

DESERT VIEW DRIVE

Tusayan Ruin/Museum	Allowable stop only for commercial vehicles less than 22 ft in length. Guided tours inside the museum by commercial tour operators are prohibited. Guided tours outside in the ruin area by commercial tour operators are allowed as long as no NPS guided tour is taking place or is scheduled to begin within 15 minutes of the commercial company's arrival to the ruin area.
Grandview Point	Commercial Vehicles may access the upper parking lot only.

NORTH RIM

Point Imperial	A maximum of three coach buses may park in this area at one time Road access to this point is narrow and winding with blind curves. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that vehicles longer than 30 feet NOT travel this road.
Cape Royal	A maximum of three coach buses may park in this area at one time Road access to this point is narrow and winding with blind curves. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that vehicles longer than 30 feet NOT travel this road.
North Kaibab Trailhead	Allowable stop only for commercial vehicles less than 22 ft in length. Coach buses are not allowed to stop or park in this area.
Widforss Trailhead	Allowable stop only for commercial vehicles less than 22 ft in length. Coach buses are not allowed to stop or park in this area.

THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR USE, PARKING, LOADING, UNLOADING, OR STOPPING AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR FOR VEHICLES LESS THAN 22 FEET IN LENGTH.

- Hermit's Rest Road
- Any of the picnic areas along Desert View Drive on the South Rim and along Hwy 67 on the North Rim.
- Any National Park Service shuttle bus stop

THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR USE, PARKING, LOADING, UNLOADING, OR STOPPING AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR FOR VEHICLES OVER 22 FEET IN LENGTH.

- Hermit's Rest Road
- Bright Angel Trailhead
- Any of the **overlooks** or **viewpoints** along **Desert View Road**, except where noted under loading/unloading, parking, or allowable stops.
- Any of the **overlooks, trailheads** or **viewpoints** on the **North Rim**, except where noted under loading/unloading, parking, or allowable stops.
- Any of the picnic areas along Desert View Drive on the South Rim and along Hwy 67 on the North Rim.
- Any National Park Service shuttle bus stop**

Additional Approved Parking Locations for Day Hikes

- A. Hermits Rest Trailhead (Hermits Trail access)
- B. Grandview Point (Grandview Trail access)
- C. Moran Point (Hance Trail access)
- D. Lipan Point (Tanner Trail access)
- E. South Kaibab Trailhead – commercial vehicles less than 22 feet in length may drive around the barriers and park at the trailhead. Vehicles must have commercial company name clearly marked on vehicle. Vehicles may not proceed to Yaki Point.
- F. North Kaibab Trailhead – limited to vehicles less than 22 feet in length.

Shuttle Bus Stops and Services:

The use of any shuttle bus stop for loading/unloading of passengers, parking, and/or stopping is not authorized. The Grand Canyon Visitor Center (formerly Canyon View Information Plaza) and Mather Point accessible shuttle is for visitors who are physically disabled. The accessible shuttle runs on a regular schedule that will not be altered for tour operators.

The permittee may be authorized to use the above indicated paved roads and stops which are open at the time of visit, and under the direction of the Superintendent, who may revoke or modify this authorization at any time in writing or verbally to the permittee in the interest of visitor service, convenience, and safety, or to meet administrative or management needs in the park. Parking at authorized stops is permissible to the extent space is available.

VII. ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

Permittees must abide by the Grand Canyon National Park Cultural Site Information SOP (8213-0001). Under this SOP, permittees may disclose the location and lead clients to Class I archeological sites. Permittees may visit Class II archeological sites as long as they do not promote them to their trip participants and only visit them when specifically requested to do so by a trip participant.

VIII. TRAILS AND BACKCOUNTRY USE REGULATIONS

Approved Locations for Day Hiking

- A. Commercial day hiking will be on ESTABLISHED TRAILS ONLY.**
- B. All guided day hiking trips must meet Grand Canyon NP safe hiking/Hike Smart standards.**

The following areas are considered reasonable for most people especially during the warmer months.

1. Bright Angel Trail to 3-Mile Rest House
2. South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge
3. North Kaibab Trail to Supai Tunnel
4. Hermit Trail to Santa Maria Springs or Dripping Springs
5. Grandview Trail to designated turnaround at Coconino Saddle
6. Tanner Trail to Escalante Saddle (75-Mile Canyon Overlook)

- C. **Rim-to-River-to-Rim hikes are PROHIBITED.** Commercial day hikes will not be advertised as endurance events. The permittee is responsible for organizing and providing reasonable and appropriate hikes for their clients' abilities.
- D. **Camping** -- No camping will be allowed for day hike trips.
- E. **Group Size**--Maximum Group size in the inner Canyon is 11 people.
- F. **Human Waste/Waste Management** – Groups are required to abide by all park rules regarding proper disposal of human waste in order to prevent the pollution of water sources, the spread of disease, and the aesthetic degradation of backcountry areas. Improper disposal of human waste is a violation of park regulations and violators are subject to fines. The use of backcountry toilets is preferred. When this is not possible, guides will provide a shovel, paper, zip-lock bags and instructions for their clients to dig a hole six inches deep and carry out their used paper. All trash must be packed out of the corridor/backcountry and disposed of in an appropriate waste container.
- G. **Cigarette Smoking** – Smoking on trails is highly discouraged. Smokers must use caution when smoking to prevent dropping ashes or embers that might ignite a wildfire. Cigarette butts are trash and must be packed out of the corridor/backcountry for proper disposal. Trip leaders/guides will ensure that cigarette butts are disposed of properly.
- H. **Food** – All food scraps (fruit peels, nut shells, etc.) are considered trash and must be carried out. It is a violation to feed the wildlife, including squirrels.
- I. **Personal Consumption of Wild Edibles** – Gathering of fruits, nuts, berries, edible plants, or plant parts for personal consumption is permitted. Wild edibles or other plant matter may not be gathered for transport outside the park or for commercial purposes.
- J. **Rock Climbing** – Technical rock climbing is prohibited.

IX. EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES

- A. **Guide Equipment** – A group size first aid kit will be carried by each group. The guide will carry a small shovel, toilet paper and plastic baggies for appropriate disposal of human waste. Guides will also be prepared for emergency situations where they may need to revise their original trip plan to accommodate clients who may be struggling to complete their intended hike. Some recommended additional items include flashlight, compass and emergency overnight equipment. Guides leading Rim to Phantom Ranch Day Hikes for Phantom's overnight guests must contact a Backcountry Ranger at 928-638-7966 a minimum of 2 weeks prior to trip departure to go over any special instructions and details regarding the planned hike.
- B. **Client Equipment** – The trip leader/guide will ensure that each member of the group has adequate food and water for the proposed itinerary, appropriate footwear, clothing, and sun-block. For long day hikes, clients will be prepared for emergency situations where the original trip plan may need to be revised due to unforeseen emergency situations. Some recommended additional items for long day hikes include flashlight, compass, and emergency overnight equipment.

X. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

An accident resulting in personal injury, death or property damage shall be reported to the Superintendent, as soon as possible. [36 CFR 2.33, 3.4, 4.4] All motor vehicle accidents resulting in injury, personal/government property damage, or injury to park wildlife or resources must be reported to park law enforcement immediately at 928-638-7805 or by dialing 911. Commercial operators must remain on scene until the arrival of law enforcement officers.

All commercial operators are responsible for providing their clients with the necessary information to locate or contact their group if they become delayed or separated. Commercial operators may not abandon their clients in the park and are solely responsible for making arrangements for their clients to rejoin their group after being separated. Lost or missing clients must be reported to park dispatch as soon as possible and without unnecessary delay, at 928-638-7805. While self-rescue is encouraged in cases where no additional resources are needed, the National Park Service retains the

authority to make the determination to employ additional resources when the situation warrants.

While self-rescue is encouraged in cases where no additional resources are needed, the National Park Service retains the authority to make the determination to employ additional resources when the situation warrants.

The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness, whether employees or guests, to the Public Health Consultant at 928-226-0168. This information, along with other information received, will be evaluated by the Public Health Consultant to help identify outbreaks of illness associated with contaminated water or food sources or caused by other adverse environmental conditions.

Application for Commercial Day Hiking CUA

To apply for a commercial day hiking CUA, complete the application and mail with supporting documents, (Certificate of Insurance, staff registration form with copies of guides first aid certification), and permit fee to: Grand Canyon National Park, Attn: Concessions Office, PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Telephone inquiries should be directed to the Concessions Office at 928-638-7707 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Processing time can take **four or more weeks** depending on the time of the year so please plan accordingly.