

Grand Canyon Trek

Discover some of the marvels that the Canyon has to offer



Ultimate Challenges

T: 020 7386 4680
events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk
www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk



Grand Canyon Trek

Trek through the iconic Grand Canyon

When the first European explorers came to the edge of the Grand Canyon on their search for El Dorado in 1540, they were overwhelmed by what they found.

The visual vocabulary for a gorge a mile deep, 6 miles wide and 277 miles long was not available; distances were deceptive, the scale unimaginable.

On this stunning challenge we will descend into the Grand Canyon at Havasu Canyon, to our base camp near Havasu Falls.

We will spend another 3 days exploring this incredible landscape, crossing pools of turquoise blue water, jumping into breath-taking waterfalls, traversing massive fields of grapevines and spend our nights under the stars learning from our hosts, the Havasu 'Baaja' Native American tribe.



Detailed itinerary

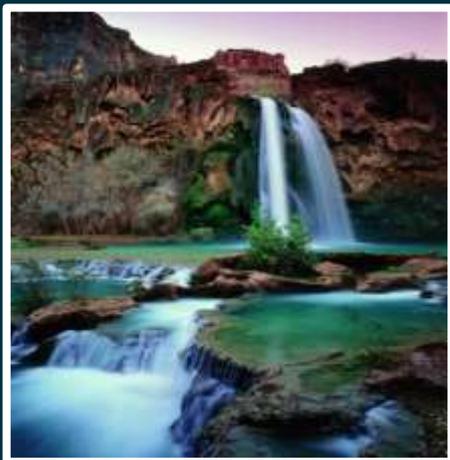
Day 1: Depart UK to Phoenix, Arizona

We depart Edinburgh for our flight to Phoenix, Arizona. On arrival we will be transferred to our hotel where we will meet our guides. Tonight we will have a briefing about the challenge ahead.

Day 2: Phoenix to Oak Creek (10km) 3-5 hours trekking

After an early breakfast we transfer through the Sonoran Desert to Sedona. From here we have an acclimatisation trek of about 10km along Oak Creek.

We stop for a picnic lunch before our transfers through Oak Creek Canyon to our hotel on the famous Route 66.



Day 3: Oak Creek to Havasu Falls (16km) 5-7 hours trekking

We start early with a transfer to Hualapai Hilltop for the start of our trek.

We join the trail at 5,400ft, following it until we reach a dry stream bed and the trail begins to level out. After a trail-side lunch, we descend deeper in the labyrinth of red sandstone. At 3,200ft we continue on the cottonwood-lined paths through the Indian village into the canyon's back-country. A further 3km trek brings us past the Havasu Falls and into camp – home for the next three nights.

Day 4: Option one Mooney Falls to Beaver Falls and the Colorado River (25km) 7-9 hours trekking

For participants that would like a challenge (with prior agreement from the guides) we will get up in the dark for a quick breakfast before setting off in the pre-dawn light for our destination: the Colorado River. After a quick session on techniques for the descent we will work our way down the precipitous trail, tunnels, and ladders to the base of Mooney Falls.

Day 4: cont.

We will continue our brisk pace downstream along a more primitive trail than we have seen yet climbing up and down over rock outcroppings, wading the creek and ducking under overhead branches. Bypassing Beaver Falls via some short, strenuous climbs we will traverse high above the creek for awhile before dropping back down next to the creek for the final push to the mighty Colorado.

The 5km miles will include numerous stream crossings before we finally leave the creek to climb up and around massive shelves of rock to finally reach our goal. Here you are standing a 1.6km below the rim of the canyon.

From here there's still an 13km hike back to camp, with the numerous stream crossings, primitive nature of the trail and multiple up and down climbs along the way making it much more difficult than the distance would suggest.

Detailed itinerary

Day 4 Option 2

Mooney Falls to Beaver Falls (12km) 5-7 hours trekking

Today we are confronted with our first challenge, Mooney Falls – a steep trail with tunnels and ladders into the brittle stone adjacent to the waterfall which is used to descend further down the canyon.

After a successful descent of Mooney Falls we will continue down the canyon, crossing the creek several times before the top of Beaver Falls. Only those brave enough to jump 10 feet into a deep pool will be able to continue. The next thrill is a down climb along a series of limestone ledges to a giant, beautiful pool at the base of the main cascade of Beaver Falls. From here we have a return trek to camp, with our guides taking us off the beaten track to explore.

Day 5: Havasu Falls and Carbonate Canyon (10km) 5-6 hours trekking

Today we will hike up Carbonate Canyon and look for fossils, explore the area, and then swim and relax at Havasu Falls.

Day 5: cont.

Over the past several million years, Havasu Creek has carved out a natural amphitheatre for itself 150 feet high and maybe six hundred feet wide. Carbonate Canyon holds most of the evidence of mining done here during the 1800's and early 1900's, mining calcite and lead last occurred here during WWII. With permission from Supai rangers some of these mines can still be explored today. After a delicious lunch at our base camp we'll spend the afternoon hiking with our guides up to two new waterfalls for some swimming, relaxing and exploring. As you explore and swim in the clear blue waters ask your guides what this paradise looked like prior to the big flood of 2008.

We will climb around where Navajo Falls used to be and then play in New 50 ft. Falls and 35 ft. Rock Falls which both have wonderful afternoon sun exposure, perfect for a late day dip. Tonight we will celebrate our time in the Canyon with a festive meal and group reflection!

Day 6: Havasu Falls to Las Vegas (16km) 4 - 6 hours trekking

We start very early this morning, leaving camp at 5am. We trek back along the same path that brought us to the canyon floor. The trek to the rim is difficult, but reaching it brings us to the end of our challenge. We are transferred to Las Vegas for a celebratory dinner.

Day 7

We transfer back to the airport for our return flight to the UK.

Day 8

Arrive UK.

Challenge grade

Challenging to tough

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change