

2012

Grand Canyon National Park

You can tell that whoever
named "Ooh Aah Point" was
very impressed with its view
of the Grand Canyon.
(9/7/2011, South Kaibab Trail,
South Rim, Grand Canyon
National Park)

OOH AAH POINT

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The Great Smoky Canyon

When we arrived at the Grand Canyon, there were several fires burning around it (caused by lightning strikes). Depending on where you were and the direction of the wind, you could have a clear view of the canyon, or most of it could totally disappear behind the smoke. Near sunset the wind moved some of the smoke out of the valley, giving the canyon a similar effect to what you might find at Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

(9/5/2011, Lipan Point, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Year's Day 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7
 8	 9	 10	 11	 12	 13	 14
 15	Martin Luther King Day 16	 17	 18	 19	 20	 21
 22	 23	 24	 25	 26	 27	 28
 29	 30	 31			December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29



The Huge Canyon

The thing most first-time visitors to The Grand Canyon comment on is just how big it really is. Despite the fact that most have seen photos of it, photos just don't convey its size. The tiny visitors at the Trailview Overlook may give you a hint of its size. This overlook looks down on the Bright Angel Trail, which is probably the best-known trail in the park as visitors ride the mule trains down it from Grand Canyon Village down to the Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the canyon.

(9/9/2011, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			Groundhog Day		
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	President's Day					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			



Desert View

The 25 mile Desert View Drive heads east from Grand Canyon Village. At its east end is The Watchtower (upper-right of photo), which is probably the most recognizable structure at The Grand Canyon. It opened in 1933, and there is no charge for visitors to use its observation deck or to climb up its 4 stories inside for spectacular views of the eastern portion of the canyon. It can be seen from several of the observations points on the North Rim.

(9/5/2011, Lipan Point, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
					1	2
						3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Savings Starts (+1 hour)						Saint Patrick's Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Spring (10:14 pm PDT)					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Trees At Sunset

Some trees on the rim of the canyon catch the last rays of sun before sunset.
 (9/7/2011, trailhead for the South Kaibab Trail, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter Day 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	Tax Day 16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Canyon Near Sunset

We had a lot of thunder storms on our trip. In fact, we went well over a week without having a single day where it didn't rain. The up side to this was a lot of interesting weather, including this portion of a rainbow over the canyon to the north of The Watchtower.

(9/12/2011, turnout east of Yaki Point, Desert View Drive, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mother's Day						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Memorial Day					
27	28	29	30	31		



East Rim

Although most visitors know the Grand Canyon as a national park, much of the Grand Canyon is actually accessed from national forest or indian reservations. This view of a mountain ridge under a thunder storm is a from the easterly section of the Grand Canyon.

(9/16/2011, east of Marble View Point, Kaibab National Forest, North Rim of the Grand Canyon)

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Flag Day		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Father's Day			Summer (4:09 pm PDT)			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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California Condor

In many ways the California Condor is a remarkable success story. It is the largest bird in North America with a wing span that can exceed 9 feet. However, by 1987 there were only 22 of these birds left in the wild, so they were all captured for a breeding program. There are now nearly 400 of them living, with nearly 200 in the wild. However, they are not yet a sustaining population in the wild, with the biggest issue being lead poisoning from shot in some of the dead animals they eat. We were fortunate enough to have two good days of condor sightings on our trip. This is female 133, born on 5/22/96. She has successfully mated and had chicks, but sadly her chick #633 from this year died in December.

(9/7/2011, South Kaibib Trail, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



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Sun Rays

The smoke from the fires in the area really made the last rays of sun stand out in the canyon. The thunder storms not only lit fires, but they also dumped a lot of rain, which is why the Colorado River was running so muddy.
 (9/5/2011, Lipan Point, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Lightning Strike

Several of the thunder storms during our trip put on some nice light shows. This storm passed over the North Rim, and is 8-10 miles from our location.

(9/10/2011, Yavapai Point, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
	Labor Day					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	Fall (7:49 am PDT) 22
23						
30	24	25	26	27	28	29



Sunset by Cape Royal

The Grand Canyon is known for its spectacular colors at sunrise and sunset. We were fortunate enough to catch these last sun rays on the ridge that leads between Cape Royal (view point at upper left) to Wotans Throne (not visible behind the tree on the right).

(9/15/2011, Cliff Springs Trail, North Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Columbus Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Halloween	31		November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



Double Rainbow

Moran Point has been good to me. I've seen very few double rainbows in my life. One of them was on my first trip to the Grand Canyon in 2000 following a thunder storm. On my second trip in 2011, I was treated to this spectacular double rainbow, again at Moran Point.
(9/11/2011, Moran Point, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
				1	2	3
Daylight Savings Ends (-1 hour)		Election Day				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Veteran's Day						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				Thanksgiving Day		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Sunset "V"

I don't know that I have ever seen a phenomenon quite like this before. We had an orange sunset, but apparently some clouds were positioned just right to block the orange in a particular place, creating a "V" where the orange was missing. This effect lasted for at least 5 minutes, which is quite long for a sunset phenomenon.

(9/19/2011, parking area for Cape Royal, North Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	Winter (3:12 am PST)	22
23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day				
30	New Year's Eve 31	25	26	27	28	29

The last of the sun drops behind the backlit trees and the horizon.
(9/7/2011, trailhead for the South Kaibab Trail, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park)

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