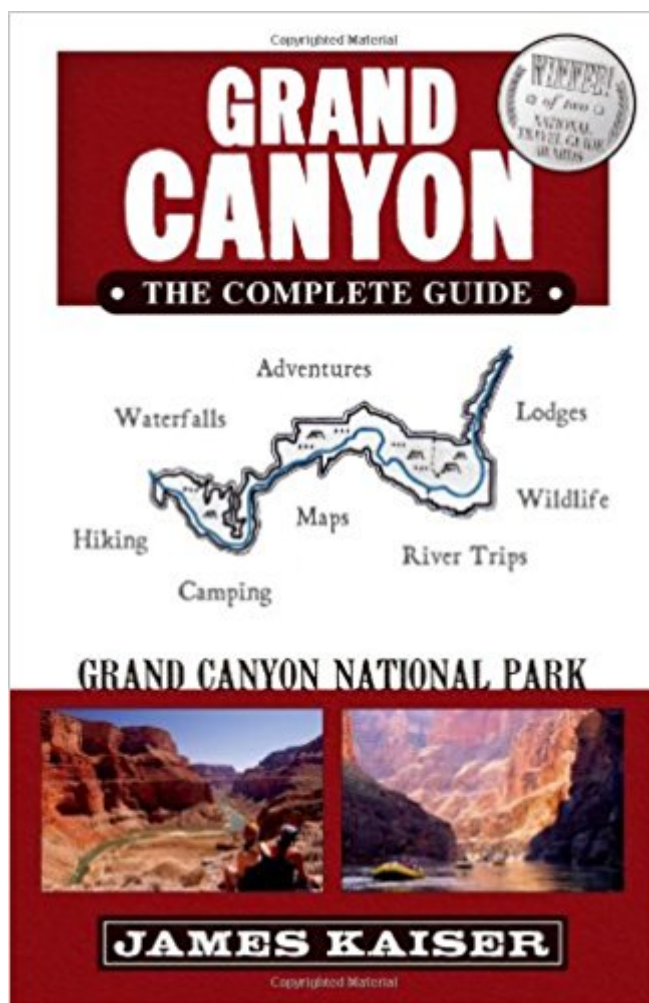


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# Grand Canyon, The Complete Guide: Grand Canyon National Park



## Synopsis

Filled with beautiful color photographs, this award-winning guidebook reveals the best of America's most famous national park. *Grand Canyon: The Complete Guide* equips travelers with detailed maps, travel tips, and extensive listings for lodging, camping, and sightseeing. From river rafting to mule rides, Grand Canyon is filled with adventures. But without careful planning, a trip there can be overwhelming. This guide divides Grand Canyon into sections--the South Rim, North Rim, Colorado River, and Havasu Canyon--and offers invaluable tips on enjoying the park's highlights while avoiding the crowds. The park's most popular hiking trails are covered in detail, and outfitters for backpacking, mule rides, and whitewater rafting are listed. Carefully researched chapters about the park's history, geology, and wildlife take readers behind the scenes, providing fascinating context for one of earth's greatest natural wonders.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Hands down, these are the best travel guides I've ever read." --Wandering Educators  
"Kaiser's stunning photography can be found on nearly every page, and even if you never read a single word of text, just viewing this book is mind-blowing." --Road Trip America  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

James Kaiser is an award-winning travel writer and photographer and author of *Acadia: The*

Complete Guide, Joshua Tree: The Complete Guide, and Yosemite: The Complete Guide.

I love the fact that this book includes so many color photos, something usually lacking in travel guides. After all, how can you decide where to go if you have no idea what it looks like first? The information in this book is overall very helpful, though in comparison to non-photo travel guides it is somewhat lacking in detail. But the 4th edition of the book (published in 2011) has one major and inexcusable flaw: Pages 110-111 consist of a two-page map of the South Rim, with labels for more specific regions that are addressed later in the book. Each such section has a two-page blow-up map to show more detail for the respective region. So far, so good. Pages 122-123 are supposed to be a two-page map of Grand Canyon Village region, one of the most important parts of the park to have a map for. But when you turn to pages 122-123 you'll find the exact same map of the South Rim that appears on pages 110-111. There is no blow-up of the Grand Canyon Village region anywhere in the book. Obviously the publisher screwed up. This is an inexcusable mistake that drastically reduces the usefulness of the book, because the missing map is supposed to have numbers that correspond with descriptions of specific locations in the section on Grand Canyon Village. As a result, you can read all about those places but you will have no idea where they are because of the missing map. This is a huge disappointment.

I have purchased a number of different travel books over the years, and have settled on Moon books being my overall favorite (they cover MANY places). I like that Moon covers more of the attractions (I can look online for a hotel and restaurants). James Kaiser books (I have Grand Canyon and Yosemite) are FANTASTIC. Moon still had me circling trying to figure out how to spend our limited time in these massive parks. Moon helped, but this travel book was well worth every penny. Just wish he had more books! It is like talking to a friend who has been there. After spending the last couple months trying to figure out a plan, I was able to narrow it down to what our family really wanted. I liked that he gave his honest feedback (sections that were not really worth the time; THANK YOU). I liked that he gave some time indication for the trails. I like that he included science and history information so you feel like not only are you going to visit, but you are going to understand what you are looking at. I loved the full color pictures aside the information. I like the maps, they give you a general sense of the relation to other parts of the park, and then the maps that break it down into the section of the park he is covering. I even like the quality of the paper (I can highlight and underline until my heart is content). I like that they are a quick read, and that I really WANTED to read ALL the information. But I also liked that it is categorized well enough that I

can skip around back to sections I want to review. I am not sure you would need another travel book to accompany? I had read so much already, it is difficult to determine. I know any place we are traveling that he has covered, James Kaiser's books will be included in my planning process!

This book isn't a hiking guide. It isn't a rafting guide. It isn't a lot of things- it is sort of a superficial conglomeration of all of them. It has a very broad scope. I suppose I would best classify it as a combination photo-essay/vacation-guide- and admittedly the photos are very striking. It also covers canyon geology and history in great detail (for an amateur reader). It has VERY superficial descriptions of many trails in the park but not, I feel, in sufficient detail to allow hiking them with this book alone. For instance, not enough emphasis is placed upon water sources. The descriptions are only a paragraph, whereas easily half of the book covers canyon history. I think this book was meant to be a general overview of GRCA activities for someone contemplating a vacation in the region. It is meant to give one ideas to explore further via other sources. But it is NOT an adequate hiking guide on its own- which is my interest. (As a hiking guide it wouldn't rate even half a star- it would be a menace.) If I knew precisely what the book's intent was I might rate it differently, but I rated it as a sort of coffee-table book on the Grand Canyon and overview sourcebook for activities that are available there.

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