



## Bright Angel Trail Closure – FAQs for River Runners

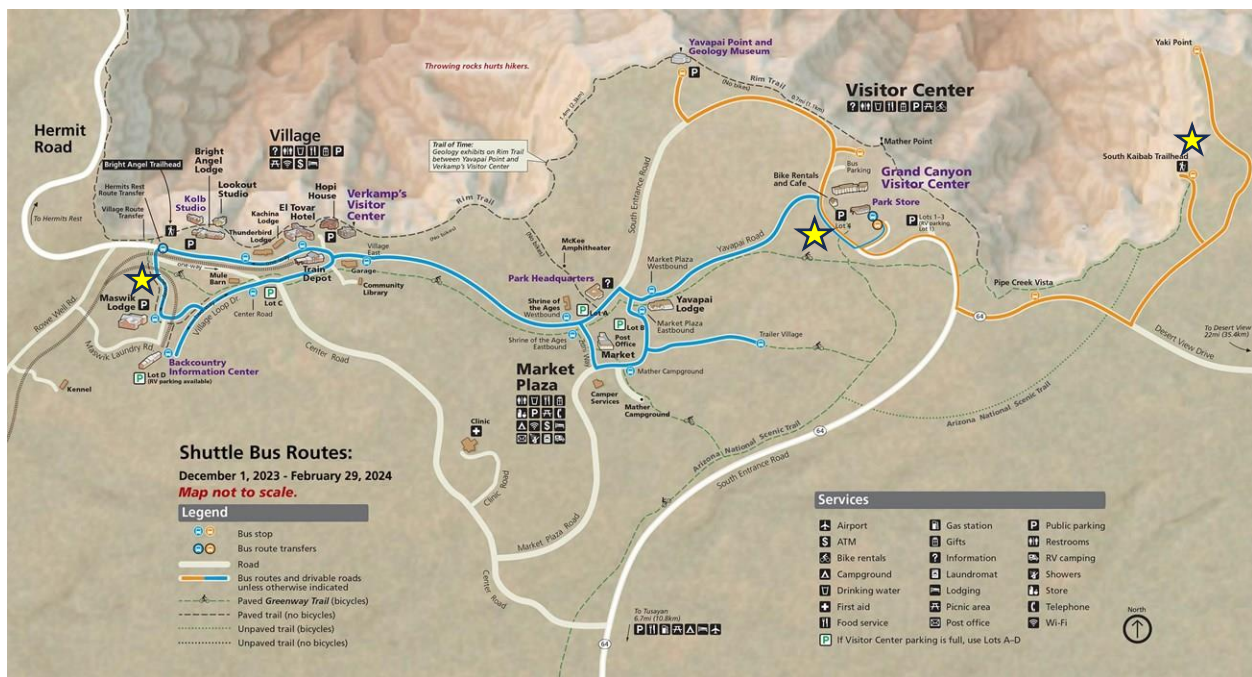
The Bright Angel Trail in Grand Canyon will be closed for waterline construction from 12/1/23 – 4/14/24, with only the top ½ mile remaining open for visitors. Here’s what river runners need to know.

### How do I hike in or out between Phantom Ranch and the South Rim?

The South Kaibab trail will be the only hiking route between Phantom and the South Rim.

### If we’re exchanging a car at the South Rim, where do we park?

The South Kaibab trailhead is best accessed from the Visitor Center (not the Village). Parking is available at the Visitor Center, then you can catch a 9-minute shuttle ride ([Orange Route](#)) to the trailhead. The first bus is at 8am, and last is at 6:30pm. They run every 15-22 minutes throughout the day free of charge. The road to the trailhead is only accessible by shuttle, bicycle, or on foot (closed to private vehicles).



### What if I’m taking the Groome Shuttle to/from Flagstaff?

The Groome Shuttle’s South Rim pickup spot is at the Maswik Lodge, in Grand Canyon Village. To get to the South Kaibab trailhead from there, you’ll take the [Blue route shuttle](#) to the Visitor Center, then switch to the Orange shuttle. This trip can take 40-50+ minutes, so be sure to allow extra time. The first bus is at 8am, and the last Blue shuttle is at 7:30pm.

### How about staying a night at the South Rim?

This is a great option for those interested in enjoying a night at the Rim before or after the hike and seeking the simplest logistics. If you spend the night before your hike, you can take the [Hikers’ Express](#)

shuttle bus from Bright Angel Lodge to the South Kaibab trailhead. An express shuttle leaves at 8am and 9am in December, January, and February; 7am, 8am, and 9am in March; and 6am, 7am, and 8am in April. The express bus only runs one-way toward the trailhead, not back to the Village.

### What do I do if I missed the last shuttle and need a ride?

If trail users need access to or from the South Kaibab trailhead when the shuttle buses are not running, please contact Xanterra Taxi Service (928.638.2631). If you know you will need transportation outside of what Groome and/or Xanterra offer, please contact us at the Canyon REO office (928.774.3377) before your trip to make custom shuttle arrangements.

### What else should I know about the trail?

The South Kaibab trail *does not* have water along the way, so hikers will need to pack enough water for the whole hike. A trail shelter with shade was recently completed along the trail at Tipoff, approximately 4 miles from the trailhead and 2 miles from the river. Pit toilets are available near the shelter at Tipoff and also at Cedar Ridge, 1.5 miles from the trailhead. From river to rim, this trail traverses 2,440 vertical feet over 7.2 miles. During the winter months, icy trail conditions are present on the upper reaches of all inner canyon trails. There is little shade from the sun and elements. Assess conditions before you go.

### Helpful links:

- About [South Kaibab Trail](#), and [PDF](#) (We highly recommend you read this info in its entirety)
- [Kaibab Rim Shuttle Bus](#) (Orange Route), [Village Shuttle Bus](#) (Blue Route), [Hikers' Express Bus](#)
- [Groome Grand Canyon Shuttle](#) to/from Flagstaff
- About the [Transcanyon Waterline Project](#)
- [Canyon REO](#) homepage



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