

March 5, 2001

Alan,

I got some information on the Grand Canyon from a book I got at the library. The North Rim is at a higher elevation than the South Rim, and it is open only from mid-May to mid-October. The South Rim is open year-round. The entrance fee of \$20 (per vehicle) is good for 7 days. Looking at the map, it might be a little shorter to get there from Vegas by going around the north side of the canyon, taking US 15 northeast from Vegas and eventually getting on 89, which takes us on east and then south, crossing the Colorado River. It might also be a more scenic drive than the southern route - taking 93 southeast of Vegas, east on 40, then north on 64 and 180. On the other hand, it is probably through the mountains and we could be going up and down and around. Maybe we can ask somebody what the best route is when we get to Vegas.

Hiking trails on the South Rim include the Rim Trail, 9 miles and level, providing great views; Angel Trail, a 7.8 mile trip from rim to river, which is too much for old guys, but we could turn around at Indian Gardens, which is at the half-way point, and they say that makes a good day-long hike; and the South Kaibab Trail, which descends into the canyon and is also too much for one day, but the round trip to Cedar Ridge "makes an excellent and spectacularly scenic day hike".

They suggest arriving early in the day and mid-week to avoid crowds.

I also found the Web site for the National Park System: www.nps.gov. It has a lot of information on the Grand Canyon, including 3-dimensional trail maps.

Steve