

Hike the Grand Canyon

April 1–5, 2026

Led By: Annie Wetter and Tim Zeszutek



Continuing Education
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point





An Itinerary for Grand Canyon, Phantom Ranch

April 1–5, 2026

The Grand Canyon receives 5+ million visitors every year and is commonly toured by bus, train, jeep, helicopter and raft; however, these guided trips do not offer a comprehensive understanding of the depth and vastness of this truly majestic place. This five-day Grand Canyon adventure includes a two-day guided hiking expedition through the heart of the inner Grand Canyon from the South Rim, down to the Colorado River, and up to the South Rim by a different trail (with an overnight stay at the renowned Phantom Ranch). The bookend days allow for acclimation, preparations and getting to know the canyon. If you are interested in a unique challenge of body and mind, and if you enjoy hiking and are looking for a life-changing experience alongside other like-minded hikers, then join us on this hiking adventure!

It might be time to check off another item on your bucket list!

Trip Leaders: Annie Wetter and Tim Zeszutek

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – Phoenix to the Grand Canyon

- (Travel Day)
- You will fly on your own to meet tour leaders Annie and Tim in Phoenix for the start of the journey.
- Minivans transfer the group directly to the South Rim (*Grand Canyon Village*).
 - You will settle in, learn about the lay of the land and overnight in the Grand Canyon Village. Plan the next day's hiking, activities, and hiker prep with your tour leaders.
- Overnight: **Maswik Lodge**
- Meals Included: groupdinner

Thursday, April 2, 2026 – South Rim of the Grand Canyon

- Enjoy a full day of acclimating to the South Rim by hiking the trails or descending the Bright Angel Trail, riding bicycles, riding shuttles and/or enjoying the Grand Canyon Village. Peruse great shops, restaurants, arts and crafts, and free activities/shows/ranger programs.
- With the tour leaders, you will review hiking preparations, partition and pack supplies, and go over food and water prep for the next two days of hiking.
 - The primary goal is to acclimate to the temperature and altitude of the South Rim.
- Overnight: **Maswik Lodge**
- Meals Included: none



Friday, April 3, 2026 – The Real Adventure Begins

- Rise early to beat the heat and hike down the South Kabab Trail. Enjoy scenic overlooks, surreal topography, desert wildlife, and unique ecosystems. Share memorable hiking experiences along the way and before noon, you will arrive at the Phantom Ranch.
 - Built in 1922, this historic oasis resides near Bright Angel Creek. Rest your feet, reflect on your achievement, and enjoy the peacefulness of this place. Safely take a dip in the cold waters of the Colorado River or warmer Bright Angel Creek.
 - Enjoy a hearty home-cooked dinner at the Phantom Ranch Canteen, meet hikers from around the world, and send postcards (by mule) to your family.
- Overnight: **Phantom Ranch**
- Meal Included: group dinner

Saturday, April 4, 2026 – Hiking back to South Rim

- After breakfast at Phantom Ranch, head north on the Bright Angel Trail.
 - The most popular hiking trail into Grand Canyon, the Bright Angel Trail lets hikers walk in the footsteps of the canyon's Indigenous peoples, miners, and early tourists, as they descend into the canyon's depths. Offering outstanding views, and morning and afternoon shade; this trail offers an excellent first trip into the canyon.
- The rest of the day you can explore the south rim more or get some well deserved rest.
- We will celebrate success over a delicious dinner!
- Overnight: **Maswik Lodge**
- Meals Included: breakfast, hiker lunch and group dinner

Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Depart for Phoenix Airport

- (Travel Day)
- An early morning departure on the group shuttle will transfer you back to Phoenix and have you saying goodbye to new (and old) friends and an incredible experience, one that you will remember forever.
- Meals Included: none

Required Screenings:

Hiking 2 days in the Grand Canyon is a strenuous journey. It can be a very rewarding, once in a lifetime opportunity, but your safety and enjoyment are largely dependent on your physical preparation and health condition. To help ensure safety for all and maximize your enjoyment, this tour mandates these two requirements prior to registration:



1. **Watch this 20 minute video in its entirety through this QR Code**
2. **Self-evaluation of baseline physical fitness status:** Determine if you are capable of walking on a treadmill at 3.3 mph at 10% grade for 30 continuous minutes. If you are not capable of completing this second task now, you probably shouldn't book this tour. Hiking Rim-to-Rim is a 20-mile journey with a total elevation change of around 10,200 feet with temperatures sometimes exceeding 120 degrees in the shade (which is often limited) and your tour leaders require a serious commitment to a regular physical training program. A recommended physical training program is provided to all hikers. Furthermore, if you have musculoskeletal issues with your spine, knees, ankles or feet, this tour is not recommended.
3. **Exercise capacity screening test required 1 month before tour departure** - This is a treadmill test, which can be completed in-person at our UWSP Health and Human Performance Lab or virtually online. Please note: Failing this screening test could result in UWSP Adventure Tours cancelling your participation on this tour (thus it would be subject to the cancellation policy).

Meet the Trip Leaders



Annie Wetter – Annie is a retired professor of nutrition at UW-Stevens Point and an experienced tour leader. Annie has explored many mountainsides, hiking throughout the Sierra Nevada, the Dolomites of Italy, the Rockies, and to the top of Mt. Whitney. She has backpacked in boots and on cross-country skis out West and has cycle toured with her husband through the low and highlands of Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria. Annie led the New Zealand II 2014 tour, co-led the Mallorca cycling tour in 2002, as well as several study abroad trips to Austria through UWSP. She is more than excited to return to the trails of the great canyon and co-lead her third Rim-to-Rim tour.



Tim Zeszutek – Tim is the Marketing Specialist and Graphic Designer for UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education and has led both Day and Multi-Day Trips with CE. 2025 was the first time he experienced the Grand Canyon with a Rim-to-Rim hike and he can not wait to go back! In the past Tim gone on many hiking trips around Wisconsin and backpacked through rugged terrain in the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico. He has led a hiking trip to Acadia National Park and a couple of the Ice Age Trail segments with CE. Lately, he has been running through Schmeckle Reserve to be ready for different Stevens Point fun runs and regularly biking the Green Circle Trail.



Pricing

Registration Fee

Double occupancy rates: **\$2,900 per person**

No Single occupancy rate available on this trip.

***Registration closes September 30, 2026**

Payment Schedule:

\$450 due upon registration (*\$450 of this fee is nonrefundable*)

\$1,225 due by **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**

\$1,225 due by **Friday, December 19, 2025**

***Since we make financial commitments in advance, no refunds will be issued for cancellations less than 90 days prior to the trip. Cancellations received more than 90 days before the trip will receive a full refund minus \$450. However, you may send a substitute in your place. Please email us at uwspceweb@uwsp.edu to inform us of a cancellation or substitution.**

Price includes: The cost includes all accommodations (3-4 star rustic lodging and the cozy and renowned Phantom Ranch), all group transfers from beginning to end of itinerary, 2 tour leaders (experienced Grand Canyon hiking leaders and other adventures, and Wilderness First Aid certified), meals listed in itinerary, and park entrance fee. Also included are a physical training program, traveler handbook, and online traveler orientation to meet your tour leader(s), get questions answered and better prepare for the big hike.

Not included: Roundtrip airfare/transport (to/from Phoenix), extra activities, meals and drinks not covered in itinerary, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, and sundries), gratuity for local drivers and guides, laundry services and travel insurance.

Please note: The cost comprises land-only rate, per person, with variable occupancy accommodations (double occupancy at Maswik Lodge and group occupancy at Phantom Ranch). Depending on weather and other variables, some activities/accommodations/schedules may change prior to or during the tour. Eligible age for this tour is 18 years and older. This tour will only accommodate those with strong fitness/health levels, however it is still required that travelers train for this hike. With some free time built in, tour leader(s) can ensure a fun and safe wellness adventure for everyone!

Group size: 10 hikers (including 2 trip leaders)