

Thunder River is a lush oasis from the North Rim of Grand Canyon, where nary a person rarely explores (that means you may see a handful of people). This beautiful hike takes you along a 30 mile (48.3 km) loop from 7000 feet (2133.6 m) to 2000 feet (609.6 m) in elevation by the time you reach the Colorado River. Voted one of the top ten hikes in North America by *Backpacker Magazine*, you won't even have to take a step on the trail to see why- with vast panoramas of the canyon from the North Rim, to vegetation that looks completely out of place in the landscape around Thunder River cascade. As you approach, you will quickly understand where Thunder River gets its name as you hear the water gushing from the canyon wall.

Difficulty	OH @#%&!	Solitude	Number of backpacking (miles/km)	Elevation changes (feet/m)
8	8	8	30/48.3	5,000/1,524

Day 1

We depart Phoenix and head North to Jacob Lake where we will spend the night. Today is a travel day since the drive to the trailhead is long. Since we are near the North Rim, a drive to see the views from the North is a possibility.

Day 2

After packing up, the group drives on paved and dirt roads for about 1.5 hours to the trail head. Once we reach our destination, we begin the hike down approximately 2,000 ft (609.6 m) over roughly 6.5 miles (10.5 km) to the end of the Esplanade. This is where we make our first camp. The trail is rocky and steep, with two short down climbs in the first 3 miles (4.8 km), before reaching the relatively flat, open expanse of the Esplanade. This is a great place to take in the star-studded skies of the southwest.

Day 3

From the Esplanade, we will hike to the mouth of Thunder River. This is a 1,500 ft (457.2 m) decent over 3 miles (4.8 km). The first part of this hike has a steep drop before reaching the rolling hills of Surprise Valley. From here, the trail takes us to the Thunder River drainage. The rest of the day is spent hiking along the river and Tapeats Creek for another 3.5 miles (5.6 km) to our camp along the Colorado River.

Day 4

From our camp at the Colorado (Lower Tapeats Camp), we will leave the main trail and take a route that connects the Lower Tapeats and Deer Creek camps. We will climb about 700 ft (213.4 m) and hike about 4.5 to 6 miles (7.2 to 9.7 km). This route follows the river downstream, beautiful views are encountered along the way. Deer Creek is just as scenic as the Thunder River canyon and worth the hike over along the river.

Day 5

From Deer Creek we will begin our climb out to Surprise Valley. We complete the loop we started 2 days earlier. From Surprise Valley, we hike out the same trail as our descent, but on this night we camp on the opposite side of the Esplanade. This allows us to camp just below the climb out on our final day. Today's hike gains more than 2,000 ft (609.6 m) over 7.8 miles (12.6 km).

Day 6

The trip is finished with a 1800 ft (548.6 m) climb over 3.5 miles (5.6 km) to the Bill Hall trailhead. Once out of the canyon, we begin the drive back to Phoenix, with our first stop at Jacob Lake.

Cost

\$1450 per person from Flagstaff (7:15 AM pick up)

\$1500 per person from Phoenix (4:30 AM pick up)

The following are included in the tour price:

- Round trip transportation from Phoenix or Flagstaff.
- All permits, fees and taxes.
- All food while on the trail prepared on the trail by your guide.
- All necessary gear (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, meal kit, trekking poles, headlamp, etc.) – Check out the “About Us” section on our website for more information about our gear.
- A certified, medically trained guide that will lead you safely on your journey.
- An unforgettable experience!

Our prices do not include guide gratuity (10% of the tour price is recommended).