

ABYSS OVERLOOK



IS THE TRIP DANGEROUS?

Our mules are carefully selected for strength, endurance, good temperament and gentleness. They are thoroughly trained by our guides so that they are well adapted to the unique environment and work situation of the Grand Canyon. Although we have 95 years experience in working with mules, they are animals and not always predictable. The restrictions we place on our riders are intended for their safety and to avoid distracting or disturbing the mules. There is always an element of risk due to trail conditions, other trail users, and the sudden appearance of wildlife native to the Grand Canyon. Serious accident or injury seldom occurs, and the risk is minimized by carefully following instructions from your Trail Guide. All riders must sign a risk acknowledgement agreement before taking the trip.

RIDER QUALIFICATIONS-READ CAREFULLY

You may be disqualified as a rider if you do not meet the following qualifications:

1- Each rider must not weigh more than 225 -lbs. (102kg), fully dressed and, yes, we do weigh everyone! Remember that your clothing and gear may add at least 8 lbs (2.6kg) to your body weight. Even if you are below the weight limit, your weight must be proportionate to your height to ensure comfort and safety.

2- Each rider must be able to speak and understand fluent English. All riders must be fluent in ENGLISH in order to be able to understand the Trail Guide's instructions. In an emergency there is no time for translations! English competency will be checked upon arrival.

3- Each rider must be at least 4' 7" (1.38m) in height, regardless of previous riding experience. Although there are no age restrictions, all riders must be at least 4'7" (1.38m) tall, measured at check-in time. A last minute disqualification is a terrible disappointment to a child so we urge you to measure carefully. CHILDREN 15 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

4- Each rider must be in good physical condition and able to mount and dismount a mule without assistance.

NO RIDER MAY BE PREGNANT. Riding a mule requires both upper and lower body strength and good overall muscular condition. Back and knee strain can emerge after just a short time in the saddle. Riders with heart or respiratory problems should carefully consider the rigors they will encounter. Hot summer temperatures can contribute to dehydration and/or heat exhaustion. In the winter months temperatures can be freezing or below and cause hypothermia. Trips may be cancelled due to heavy snowfall or other dangerous conditions. If you have any doubts, we strongly urge you to consult your physician prior to making reservations. We reserve the option to disqualify a rider if, in our judgment, a rider's safety may be compromised. As our Livery Manager says "We'd rather make you mad than jeopardize your safety".

POTENTIAL RIDERS WITH PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITIES MUST CONTACT US IN WRITING PRIOR TO THEIR RIDE SO WE CAN EVALUATE THEIR NEEDS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

5- Riders must not be afraid of heights or large animals.

Our mules are very sure-footed but big animals and should not be confused with donkeys or burros, which are smaller. A mule is often larger than a horse and can be quite intimidating to first-time riders. If large animals or heights disturb you, we recommend that you not take the mule trip.

WHAT TO WEAR-WHAT TO TAKE

MANDATORY

WIDE-BRIMMED HAT: (April through October)

The hat must tie underneath your chin. (We have string or you can buy a hat at the desk). Ball caps are not recommended, as they do not provide enough coverage.

LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT: Lightweight in the summer to protect from sunburn and dehydration. Wear a tank top or T-shirt underneath if you like. In the winter, a long sleeved shirt combined with sweaters or sweatshirts.

LONG PANTS, NO SHORTS OR CAPRI PANTS.

SOLID, CLOSED-TOE SHOES: With a smooth, hard sole (like cowboy boots). Tennis shoes are okay in the summer. We recommend warm socks and boots in the winter.

RECOMMENDED

ONE CAMERA, COMPACT VIDEO CAMERA, OR PAIR OF BINOCULARS PER PERSON. They must be on a strap or string around your neck, leaving your hands free. If your camera has a wrist strap, or no neck strap, we will help you tie a neck cord with string from the desk.

RAINGEAR: Rain jacket provided.

SCARF OR BANDANA: Year-round. Cotton for summer, wool or silk for winter.

WARM/LAYERED CLOTHING:

(October through May)

During the winter months we strongly suggest a warm hat, gloves, socks, shoes or boots that protect from the cold. We also recommend thermal style underwear, fleece, wool shirts, sweaters, coats etc.

SUNGLASSES: Good quality with ultraviolet light protection. If you have your own restraining device, please bring it along otherwise we will provide you with string to tie your glasses on.

SUN PROTECTION: Sunscreen, lip sunscreen, or a moisturizer is always recommended.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES ABOVE THE RIM

SUMMER: (June-August)

Average summer temperatures on the rim, range from a low of 47°F to a high of 84°F.

SPRING: (March-May)

FALL: (September –November)

Average temperatures range from a low of 25°F to a high of 76°F.

WINTER: (December-February)

Average temperatures range from a low of 18°F to a high of 45°F

DEPARTURES

CHECK IN: Riders should call (928) 638-3283 to confirm their reservations 2 days prior to the ride. This will allow us to inform you of any weather or other conditions that affect your trip.

We strongly urge you to check in at the Bright Angel Transportation Desk the day before the trip. By doing so, we can prepare you in advance so you can be ready to go for the following day. If you are unable to check in the day before, you must check in at least 60 to 90 minutes before the ride and be at the Mule Barn at least 30-minutes before the ride departs. Failure to check in on time may result in the cancellation of your reservation and forfeiture of your deposit. **We reserve the right to cancel mule rides due to inclement weather or other conditions that may affect the trip.**

NOT ALLOWED ANY TIME OF YEAR

Backpacks, waist packs, extra camera lenses, camera bags, full-sized video cameras (8mm or WHC-C are okay with restrictions), two-way radios, cell phones or purses. Wallets and keys should be moved from a back pocket to a front pocket so you don't lose them on the ride (or sit on them leaving an indelible impression!)

STANDBY WAITING LIST

Persons arriving at the Grand Canyon without mule reservations can place their names on a waiting list for the Abyss Overlook mule ride. (Many times cancellations make mules available, and we may be able to accommodate you). During the winter schedule it is reasonably easy to obtain the mule trip; however, summer visitors may encounter long waiting lists.

Please inquire at the Bright Angel Transportation Desk to get information regarding the waiting list policy.

PLEASE NOTE: We sell color DVD/videotapes to prepare visitors for the mule trips. Viewers can experience the splendor of the Canyon by mule. Write:

Xanterra Mule Trip DVD's
PO. Box 97
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023
Or order through www.grandcanyonlodges.com
For Reservations or information

Call
(888) 29-PARKS (297-2757) or (303) 29-PARKS (297-2757)
(303) 297-3175 FAX



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Box 699, GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023

**For same or next day reservations-
(928) 638-2631**