

## WHAT TO WEAR—WHAT TO TAKE MANDATORY

We provide you with a new canteen when you check in — you get to keep it when you're done! We provide one of our rain jackets — just in case. We provide a small plastic bag to put your overnight things in and transport them to Phantom Ranch. Guests will want to take clothes to change into once they arrive at the ranch. We require that hats, cameras, glasses, and sunglasses be secured to your person — see below!

**HAT:** (From April through October the hat must be wide-brimmed) A hat must be worn at all times while on the mule. The hat must tie underneath your chin. (We have string available or you can buy a hat at the desk). Ball caps are not recommended as they do not provide enough coverage. Visors or hoods are not considered hats.

**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. In winter we recommend warm socks and boots.

### 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 strap, we will help you tie a neck cord with string at the desk.

**RAIN PANTS:** You can bring your own or rent ours (we have a limited supply). Experience has taught us that when it's cold, wet and windy, waterproof and windproof pants keep you warm and dry.

**WARM GLOVES:** Recommended from October through May.

**SWIMSUIT/SHORTS/WATER SANDALS:** Bright Angel Creek is perfect to get in and cool off April-October.

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

**LAYERED CLOTHING:** For temperatures below freezing during the winter months — thermal style underwear, fleece, wool shirts, sweaters, jackets, etc.

**FLASHLIGHT:** Many guests find a flashlight helpful on overnight trips.

**SUNGLASSES:** Good quality with ultraviolet light protection. If you have your own restraining device (e.g. Crookies or Chums) please bring it along. If not, we will provide you with string to tie your glasses on.

**SUN PROTECTION:** Sunscreen, lip sunscreen, or moisturizer are always recommended.

Guests spending the night at Phantom Ranch often wish to purchase a variety of items for sale at the bottom of the canyon, including beer and wine, snacks, stamps, post cards, T-shirts, film, first aid supplies, and toiletries. Major credit cards and cash are accepted.

## DEPARTURES

**CHECK IN:** Riders should call (928) 638-3283 to confirm their reservations 2-4 days prior to the ride. This will allow us to inform you of any weather or trail conditions that may affect your trip. **We strongly urge you to check in at the Bright Angel Transportation Desk the day before your 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 by 6:15 A.M. the day of the ride. 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 adverse trail conditions.**

## NOT ALLOWED ANY TIME OF YEAR

**Backpacks, waist packs, extra camera lenses, camera bags, full-sized video cameras, (8mm or VHS-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 trail (or sit on them all day, 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 overnight trip. (Many times cancellations make mules available, and we may be able to accommodate you.) During the winter 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 DVDs

P.O. Box 97 Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

Or order through [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)

For reservations or information call:

(888) 29-PARKS (297-2757) or (303) 29-PARKS (297-2757)

(303) 297-3175 FAX

or visit [www.grandcanyonlodges.com](http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com)

# Xanterra

SOUTH RIM, L.L.C.

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# PHANTOM RANCH



## DO'S & DON'TS

# Xanterra

SOUTH RIM, L.L.C.

at Grand Canyon National Park

Authorized concessioner of the National Park Service.  
Exclusive operator of the only accommodations on the South Rim,  
Grand Canyon National Park.

## IS THE TRIP DANGEROUS?

Our mules are selected for strength, endurance, temperament, and gentleness. They are trained by our

guides so that they are well adapted to the unique environment and work situation at the Grand Canyon. Although we have over 100 years of 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 accidents and/or injuries seldom occur. The risk is minimized by carefully following instructions from your Trail Guide. All riders must sign a risk acknowledgment agreement before taking the ride.

## RIDER QUALIFICATIONS

### READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY!

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

1. **Each rider must not weigh more than 200 lbs. (91kg), fully dressed and, yes, we do weigh everyone!** Remember that your clothing and gear may add at least 8 lbs. (2.6k) 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 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.

3. **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.

4. **Each rider must be in good physical condition and able to mount and dismount a mule without assistance. NO RIDER MAY BE PREGNANT.** A mule trip is physically rigorous. Riding requires both upper and lower body strength and good overall muscular condition. Back and knee strain emerge after just a short time in the saddle. Riders with heart or respiratory problems should carefully consider the rigors they will encounter. The trip begins and ends at 7,000 feet above sea level. Summer temperatures may exceed 110°F and can contribute to dehydration and/or heat exhaustion. Temperatures can be zero and below in winter months and cause hypothermia. Trips may be cancelled in case of 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.**

The trails are literally carved out of the side of the canyon and the drops are very steep. Our mules are sure-footed, but they tend to walk on the outside of the trail. Furthermore, mules are 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.

## PHANTOM RANCH

Phantom Ranch is a comfortable oasis nestled at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. The ranch was designed by architect Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter and completed in 1922. The rustic cabins and main lodge, built of wood and native stone, are a reminder of days gone by and do not intrude on the natural beauty and solitude of the setting. Phantom Ranch can only be reached by mule, by foot, or by rafting the Colorado River. Cabins are furnished with bunk beds, all bedding, sink, toilet, soap, and towels. Showers are available. The friendly staff at Phantom Ranch stands ready to ensure your comfort and share with you the wonders of this unique wilderness location.

## CLIMATIC VARIATION

The great depth of the Grand Canyon produces a variety of conditions between the South Rim and Phantom Ranch. Temperatures usually vary by 20°F (7°C) between the top and the bottom. Riders must be prepared for these changes.

### SUMMER (June – August)

Temperatures often exceed 100°F (44°C) at the bottom of the canyon. We recommend riders wear clothing that is light but covers the body to prevent sunburn and excessive water loss.

### WINTER (December – February)

From the snow at the South Rim to the pleasant desert temperatures at Phantom Ranch, a winter trip in the canyon is an unbelievable experience. Average temperatures on the rim range from a low of 20°F to a high of 43°F. Average temperatures at Phantom Ranch, range from a low of 38°F to a high of 58°F.

### SPRING (March – May) & FALL (September – November)

Be prepared for anything as the weather varies during these seasons. Inner-canyon temperatures are generally very mild. The leaves turning in the fall and the wildflowers blooming in the spring are simply spectacular. Average temperatures at the South Rim range from a low of 34°F to a high of 62°F. Average temperatures at Phantom Ranch, range from a low of 55°F to a high of 82°F.

