

Questions and Answers

Backcountry Fee Increase 2025

This is approximately a 60% increase, correct?

Yes – the proposal is to increase the nightly participant charge from \$15 to \$24, and this is a 60% increase.

Does this increase apply to any other park fees?

No, this increase applies only to Backcountry Permits.

Is any of this fee increase for Backcountry Information Center costs?

No. Backcountry Information Center funding will not be increasing.

How Much Will the \$9 Fee Increase Bring In?

The fee increase is expected to bring in roughly \$750k each year. Funds from this proposed increase will allow the park to fund backcountry activities and park projects that enhance the visitor experience.

Can you please tell me about these backcountry activities and park projects?

Funds have not been allocated to specific projects at this time, but past projects have included backcountry impact mitigation and restoration work, trail maintenance, standby emergency response services (e.g., park dispatch, Search and Rescue shifts, and helicopter standby), Canyon Rangers, and more.

Why increase the fees now, so soon after the last increase? Why not wait a year or gradually increase fees over a few years?

The NPS places a high value on Grand Canyon backcountry hiking and has allocated millions each year in non-permit-fee funds in support of this activity. With the Park proactively addressing essential longstanding needs, less funding remains available for supplementing backcountry fees and providing critical support to the backcountry. Increased funding is needed now, and Backcountry hikers are therefore being asked to pay a bit more towards these backcountry related costs.

How did the National Park Service come up with \$9?

The park identified that for backcountry, at least \$750k in additional funding is needed. The \$9 charge is calculated by dividing \$750k by total expected backcountry user-nights.

My group and I cannot afford this amount – are there other options?

Less expensive options are available at Grand Canyon for rim permits and for shorter trips. Day hiking also is a great way to experience the canyon, and permits are not required for day hiking. Please see our website for day hiking recommendations or contact our Backcountry Information Center to discuss possibilities.