

GRAND CANYON - A Must Stop

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This years GCSAA annual conference in Phoenix enables you to see one of the worlds great natural wonders. Plan now to take a few extra days to visit the Grand Canyon, only 218 miles away.

Mount Everest. The Sahara. The Amazon. The Grand Canyon. These are standards by which the earths immense wonders are measured. Rising toward an evening sky from the rim, purple shadows scale the canyon walls and monumental buttes with erosion scarred slopes, eclipsing in minutes a layered geological past measured in millions of years.

Because its over 2,000 miles away from southern Florida, many have never seen its splendor. Having visited the area five times in the last fifteen years let me share some tips and ideas.

Drive north from Phoenix on I-17 to Flagstaff. This 137 mile drive will take you thorough several climate changes from dry lowlands to semi-mountain terrain. Note the Arizona Highway Patrol works this road as a radar battle zone, pack your detector.

Flagstaff is an interesting little town. Many, many motels at low winter rates, half the cost of Phoenix. The University of Northern Arizona is there with a unique sports complex. A Big Sky Conference member they have a

25,000 seat domed stadium, and they use it wisely. Designed around the portable football field, in the winter it is transformed for hockey, basketball, volleyball, and other sports all set up at one time. Just sit in a different section for each event. If there is a game in town check. Just north of town on route US 180 will be snowcapped 12,670 foot Humphreys Peak. The snow ski area is called the Snow Bowl. Since you will be in a rental car drive past the clean cars in a parking lot at the mountain base and drive up the dirt road to the ski lodge. We are not talking Aspen or Jackson Hole but for Floridians that snow plow down the slopes it's fine. If you have never been on skis this is the place to start. Wear your golf rain suit pants or plan on a wet seat. You can rent all equipment needed.

Continue north on route US 180 which has merged with state road 64. Form here its a straight shot through the Kaibab National Forest. Look back to see Mt. Humphrey 50 miles away.

Before you enter the park stop at the town of Tusayan, a small collection of stores. Yes, those are the world famous golden arches you see on the right. Go into McDonalds they have an interesting story to tell. Since the community is so isolated they must house all their employees on the property. Because of its overhead a Big Mac is the highest priced in the nation. Next door is a souvenir shop with their typical authentic junk from Tai-

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Yaki Trail — Canyon takes on a new look below the rim

Photo by David Bailey

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wan. If this is your first trip to the canyon book a helicopter ride. It will be expensive so decide before you get there, otherwise the price range of \$60 to \$200 per person will scare you off. Prices vary on length of travel. That may not be your only scare but I guarantee you it will be very exciting and well worth the money. Since you will not get an immediate flight, maybe even the next day, kill some time at the movie theater across the street. This is an I-MAX movie. There are few in the east and none in the south. This revolutionary movie concept uses a film ten times the normal negative size of movie film, it has absolutely life like detail. The seats sit high like in a stadium, so pick one in the center at the top for the best view and effect. The movie theme is about the first white man explorers in the canyon so the history lesson is a good introduction. You will feel everything but the water in your face when you raft down the Colorado River.

Enter the park and stop at the first overlook view area. Words can not do the sight justice. Take time to watch other peoples reaction at the view. Next go immediately to the visitors center for all the info you need. Here is an excellent book selection, buy a 25¢ park map from the ranger behind the main desk. Watch the slide show prepared by Kodak.

Check into a hotel in the village area. The best bet is the Bright Angel Lodge. Its location is priceless, a good restaurant at fair prices. The historic El Tovar Hotel will cost twice the price but is no doubt the best. One company runs them all. No matter where you stay visit the El Tovar lobby, gift shop, and eat once in the main dining room. Wait for a window view in the table line.

When you drive the rim road go as far east as the Desert View. The stone Indian Watchtower gives a good view of the river in the distance. Because of new dams upstream

the color of the river has changed in recent years to blue form muddy brown. This area looks best in the early A.M. light. At this point when you look at your map do not get the idea to drive around to the north rim. Its a 200+ mile trip for nothing in the winter, its closed! The higher elevation has it snowed in four months of the year.

Do not go to the Grand Canyon and miss a sunset. The last two hours of daylight must be viewed from only one place Hopi Point. Pick a spot and do not move, the constantly changing light show varies every few minutes. This is the oldest and best laser light show on earth. Be There!

Winter is the best time of the year for a real feel of the canyon when you take a hike below the rim. Yaki Point is the best of the two trails. At least walk down the trail for one hour to the O'Neil Butte. This puts you 1,200 feet below the rim. Its a two hour return walk. The long hike is seven miles down to the Phantom Ranch on the river. Spend the night and enjoy the beefstew and starlight. To get there you must be in good shape, have quality footwear like hiking boots, a day backpack, canteen, and flashlight. You must carry out all food and drink containers you tote down. Leave early in the morning upon the return hike. The last two miles are harder than the first five, take your time, rest and enjoy the view. Which ever hike you select do not overdress. There can be forty degree temperature difference down in the canyon from the cool rim top in the early morning. Mule rides are available along Bring Angel Trail.

A much easier hike of a different nature is away from the main canyon. Still in the park boundry at the western edge, your destination is the Havasupai Indian Reservation with the most isolated village in the continental
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Hauasu Falls is located on Indian Reservation in southwest section of park

Photo by David Bailey

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USA, Suapi. The location is about 200 miles from the village at the canyon headquarters. The only way there is to park at the reservation entrance and hike or horseback ride eight miles down a dry creek bed. Helicopters land for \$200 per person. Suapi is like another world in a different century. The population is about 400. But then you see two homes with TV satellite dishes that were flown in. There is a modern 30 room inn built since the park expanded in 1976 to include the Indians. It was needed because once there, you must spend the night, just like the Phantom Ranch trip. In the winter neither are filled to capacity. Why go there? The series of waterfalls are beautiful. Not powerful like Niagara, or majestic like in Yosemite, but perfect balance and rock formations, clear blue limestone mineral water. If a great photo is your objective this is the single best in all the canyon area. The hike is only a 2,500 foot elevation change so its an easy walk. Time is only three hours down and four hours back up. You can walk down and horseback ride back out for \$30. Do not over do it by walking to the village and then the falls. See them the next day, stay a second night, and out the next morning. The inn cost about \$40 and there is a trail fee of \$8.

The Grand Canyon is a one of a kind experience no matter how you view it. To go from Florida to Phoenix and not visit the Grand Canyon would be like coming here and not going to Disney World or seeing the Atlantic Ocean. ■



The trail to Suapi, a tree can grow anywhere except where you want it to. ■

MODE-OF-ACTION of Chipco Aliette will be Discussed at GCSAA Meeting

MONMOUTH JUNCTION, N.J. -- Scott Johnson, Rhone-Poulenc Inc.'s Aliette product manager, will make a presentation on the mode-of-action of Chipco® Aliette® at the upcoming GCSAA meeting in Phoenix. The presentation will be based on the results of a long term research project conducted by Dr. David Guest of the University of Melbourne, Australia.

According to Johnson, "the main conclusions from Dr. Guest's work are: Chipco Aliette's activity involves both a direct effect on the fungus and an indirect effect via host metabolism, the degree of direct vs. indirect action varies for each host-pathogen interaction and that the development of resistance to Aliette is unlikely because of the combination mode-of-action."

Chipco Aliette was introduced at the 1986 GCSAA meeting for the prevention of Phythium in Turf. The product is also registered in foliar and drench applications on ornamentals to prevent Pythium and Phytophthora root rot.

For more information on Chipco Aliette, write to Rhone-Poulenc Inc., Agrochemical Division, P.O. Box 125, Monmouth Junction, N.J. 08852.

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SHOWBOAT & CELEBRITY *New Rye Mixes*

International Seeds, Inc. Halsey, Oregon has been granted trademark registration to Product Manager Harry Stalford.

They are Showboat® overseeding mixture and Celebrity® overseeding mixture.

Showboat® is an economy mixture of Derby turf-type perennial ryegrass and Oregon annual ryegrass.

Derby is a top-rated variety internationally and annual ryegrass is considered the workhorse of the ryegrasses.

Celebrity® is a premium blend of Derby, Regal and Gator, three of the finest turf-type ryegrasses available in the marketplace today.

Generally the ryegrasses in Showboat® and Celebrity® will germinate in matter of 7-10 days or even less under ideal conditions.

Both mixtures are widely used to overseed golf courses in the Southern U.S. as well as home lawns, parks and playgrounds. ■