

Bucket List #2: Hike the Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim

I want to hike the Grand Canyon from rim to rim because it would be such an exhilarating, challenging, and a once in a lifetime experience. There are also two main motivating reasons as well.

The first reason is that I would love to be able to see it from a different perspective because like most people, I've only seeing the Grand Canyon from above. It's empowering and jaw dropping, but it's also slightly distant and removed. As you can imagine, the experience within the canyons should be remarkably different and eye opening. I really want to get into the crevices, feel the old rocks along my palms, and be a part of it. I want to look up in wonder at the sky and truly understand how tiny I am and how enormous and grand the Grand Canyon really is.

The second reason is I love hiking. I love fulfilling sensation after finishing a hike and the feeling that I can conquer anything in the world. I know that the Grand Canyon will be far more difficult than any hike I've ever done, but I am ready to take on that challenge. Since Blacksburg is surrounded by mountains, there are ample hiking opportunities, several of which I've done multiple times. The most memorable hike I ever did was a sunrise hike to McAfee's Knob. A group of friends and I woke up at 3:45 AM, piled into a large van, and headed out into the abyss towards the McAfee's Knob parking lot. The way up the mountain was long and hard; for four miles, we hiked, or more like tripped up, a trail that was illuminated by a few dim cell phone lights and flashlights. When we got to the top, it was so windy and cold that huddling together didn't even help. Once the sun peaked over the horizon, the sky was a mixture of pink, yellow, and orange- the most beautiful painting I had ever seen. At the edge of the knob, the view is even more spectacular. You have a 180-degree view of mountains, rolling hills, and the vast sky. I've been to McAfee's several times but this was the hardest but most rewarding. I hiked a mountain for 8 miles on no sleep, no caffeine, and partially in the dark, but the view that we saw at the top made it 100% worthwhile.

With my deep love for hiking and desire to see the Grand Canyon from a different perspective, hiking the Grand Canyon from rim to rim is another top experience on my bucket list. It's 24 miles total and would probably require 2-3 days. Since I've never backpacked before, this would definitely be a completely different from anything I've ever done, but I can't wait to embark on this adventure eventually!