



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

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Date: May 19, 2008

National Park Service to test a pilot shuttle bus program between Grand Canyon National Park and neighboring town of Tusayan

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – Effective Monday, June 2, 2008, the National Park Service (NPS) will initiate a pilot shuttle bus program between Canyon View Information Plaza (CVIP), on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, and the neighboring town of Tusayan. The service will be available through September 1, 2008 (Labor Day weekend).

The NPS will use this opportunity to test the feasibility and evaluate the effectiveness of providing this service in the future. Depending on its success, the NPS may also run the pilot shuttle bus program during the summer season of 2009.

“We are able to test this program, because of the support and generosity of our Tusayan neighbors,” stated Park Superintendent Steve Martin. “Several Tusayan businesses have offered to provide parking on their premises to support this project. Through their efforts Grand Canyon visitors will have greater options for visiting and enjoying the park this summer.”

Service will be provided daily from 8:00 a.m. through approximately 9:00 p.m. at 20 minute intervals. Designated shuttle bus stops in Tusayan will include: The National Geographic Visitor Center/IMAX Theater and RP’s Stage Stop (IMAX/RP’s), Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn (Squire Inn), Grand Canyon National Park Airport (Airport) and Canyon Flight Trading Company (Canyon Flight). Public parking will be available in the vicinity of each of the designated stops.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Those taking advantage of this voluntary service by parking in Tusayan and riding the shuttle bus into Grand Canyon National Park's south entrance will have expedited entry into the park and will be able to connect with the park's free shuttle bus system at CVIP. This shuttle service will be provided free of charge, however, visitors entering the park via shuttle bus will need to purchase their entrance pass in advance. Entrance passes can be purchased at most of the hotels in Tusayan, including Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn, the Grand, Grand Canyon Red Feather Lodge, and the Quality Inn. Entrance passes can also be purchased at IMAX, RP's Stage Stop, Canyon Flight Trading Company and Grand Canyon National Park Airport – Grand Canyon Airlines. Entrance passes purchased at these locations are valid for private vehicle or shuttle bus entry for seven days and are accepted at any of Grand Canyon National Park's entrance stations. Those holding a valid America the Beautiful National Park and Federal Recreation Lands Pass or other valid pass will not need to purchase an additional entrance pass. For more information on the America the Beautiful pass please visit www.recreation.gov.

Informational signs regarding the pilot program and designated parking locations will be posted along highway 64 south of Tusayan, as well as at various locations in Tusayan.

“This is a great opportunity for our visitors to enter and travel throughout the park without the hassle of their vehicle,” stated Superintendent Martin. “Visitors will start their Grand Canyon experience at Canyon View Information Plaza. They can visit the visitor center and bookstore, meet with a park ranger to learn more about the Grand Canyon and National Park Service programs that are being offered - they can personalize their experience here, and view the Canyon at near-by Mather Point. Visitors can also connect to the Park's free shuttle bus system at Canyon View Information Plaza, as well as to the Greenway trail system, where they can stroll along the Canyon rim at their leisure.”

Buses will be easily identifiable and fueled with clean burning compressed natural gas. The buses are all wheelchair accessible and are equipped with bike racks. For additional information regarding buses used in this program, please contact the park at 928-638-7888.

Information regarding the Tusayan pilot shuttle bus program will be available in the summer edition of *The Guide*, a free publication offered by the NPS, beginning May 25. *The Guide*, can be downloaded from the park's website at www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/upload/2008summerGsr.pdf. *The Guide* also contains information regarding the park's other shuttle bus routes which run throughout the South Rim area – information includes shuttle bus stops, routes, parking, and schedules.

For more information about visiting Grand Canyon National Park, please visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grca or call 928-638-7888.

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