



È ormai pomeriggio inoltrato
- ore 17,46 -
quando arriviamo sul

Grand Canyon

ci affrettiamo subito a scattare
alcune foto, approfittando
dell'ultima luce prima del
tramonto



9° giorno - Sabato 17 Novembre 2007
Grand Canyon

South Kaibab Trail

Kaibab sentier sud
Südlicher Kaibab Pfad
南カイバップ(インディアン)の通った道

The South Kaibab Trail is steep in 60 miles (100 km) it drops nearly 5,000 feet (1,524 m) from rim to river. The trail provides few breaks, if it steep the same way and has no water. But it is also one of the few finest Grand Canyon trails that follows ridge lines, as opposed to wide canyons, and thus offers many spectacular, unobstructed views.

To really Grand Canyon hiking and experience the South Kaibab Trail, you really try a day. Along Cedar Ridge. Above Four Angels the rise 3 miles (4.8 km) around top ridge. Beyond the rim and Cedar Ridge the trail drops 1,450 feet (443 m), passing through four major rock layers that represent 55 million years of geologic time.

The South Kaibab trailhead is located at Yaki Point, 2 miles (3.2 km) from here in East Rim Drive.

Caution: Any Grand Canyon hiking requires proper footwear. Check with the trail office for more.

A typical view South Kaibab looking the

Grand Canyon Vista

Panorama du Grand Canyon
Grand Canyon Aussicht
グランキャニオン展望

Pinnacles
Elevation: 8,100 ft
2,774 m

Cedar Ridge

South Kaibab

West Mesa Ridge
Elevation: 8,100 ft
2,774 m

Bright Angel Canyon

Pinnacles
Elevation: 8,100 ft
2,774 m

Inner Gorge

Colorado River

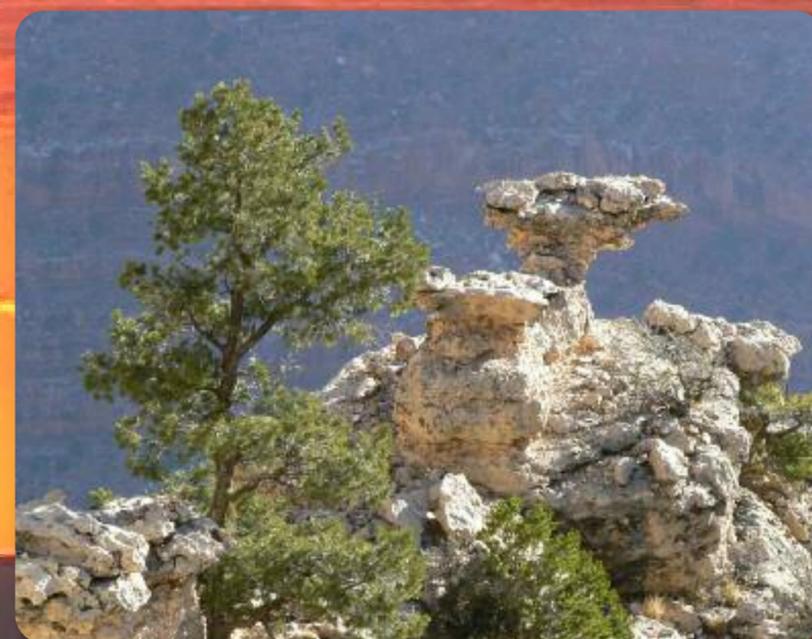
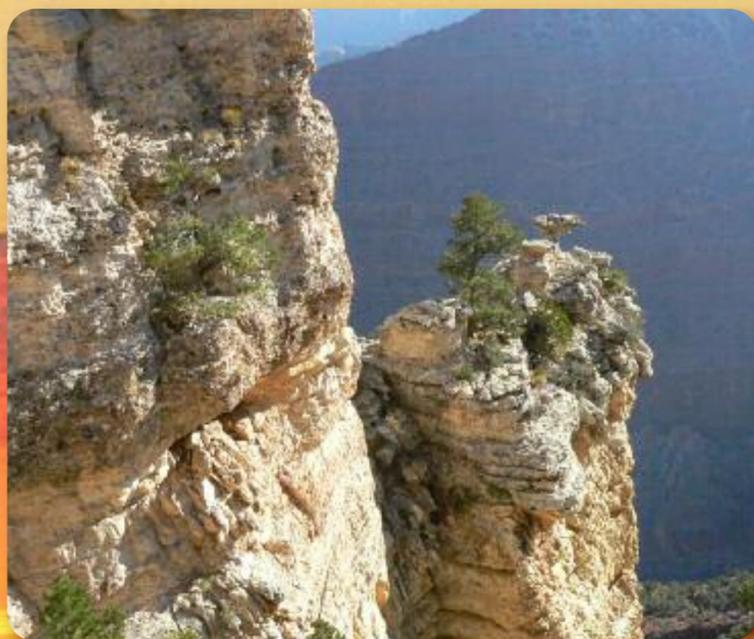
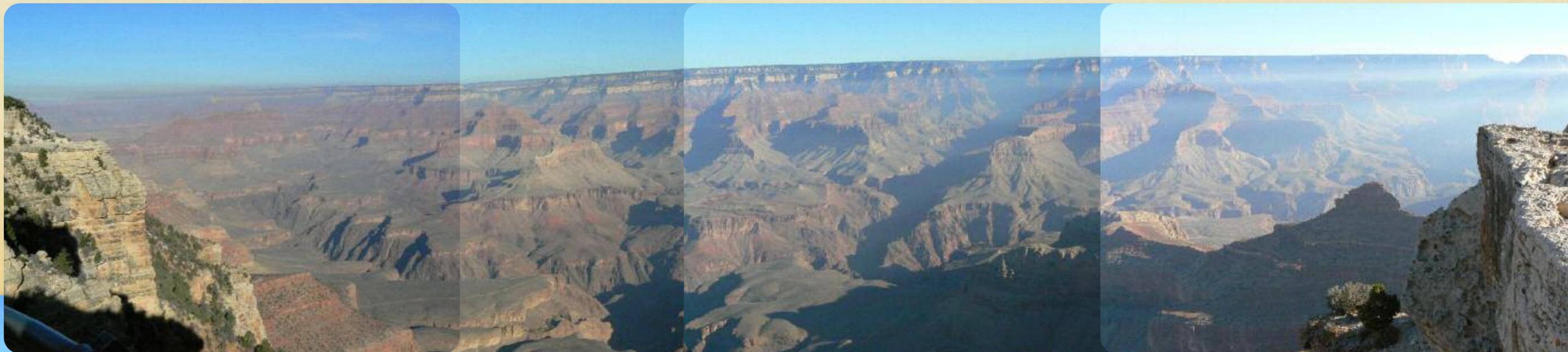
Pinnacles
Elevation: 8,100 ft
2,774 m

South Kaibab Trail

Iniziamo il giro lungo il lato Sud del Grand Canyon

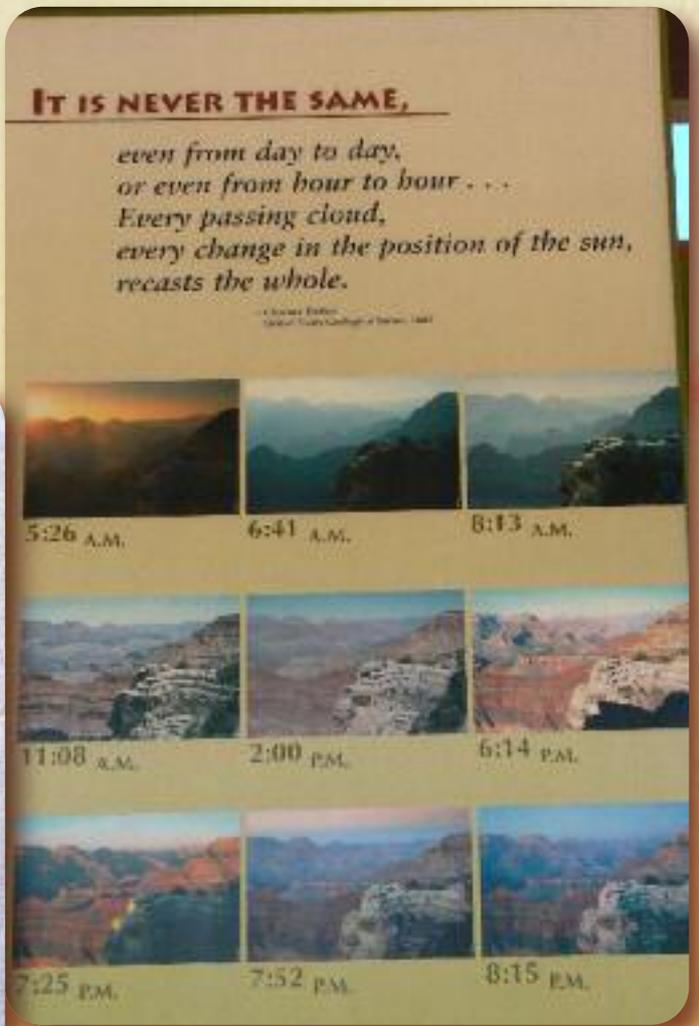
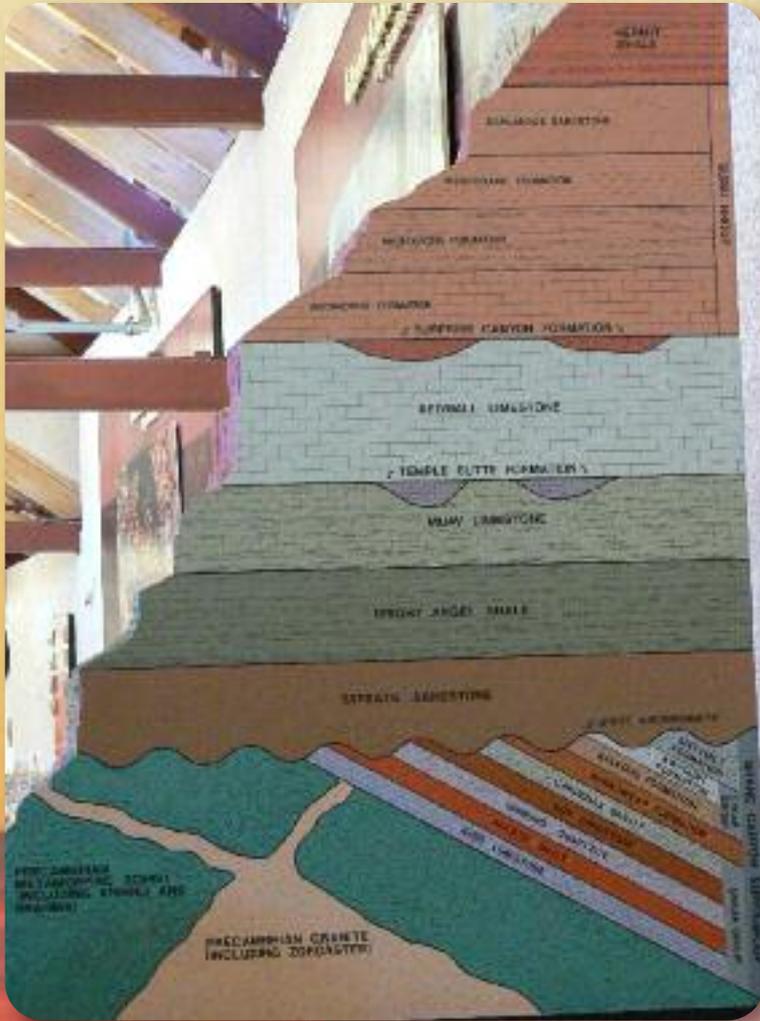


Il paesaggio è ancora avvolto dalle nebbie mattutine



Il Grand Canyon visto in vari orari del giorno

Un po' di geologia



IT IS NEVER THE SAME,

*even from day to day,
or even from hour to hour. . .
Every passing cloud,
every change in the position of the sun,
recasts the whole.*

© Grand Canyon
National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, 1988

Il tempo oggi
17 Novembre

GRAND CANYON WEATHER

SATURDAY, NOV 17

South Rim
Elevation: 6,000 ft (1,829 m)
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
High: 58 F / 14 C
Low: 37 F / 3 C

North Rim
Elevation: 8,190 ft (2,497 m)
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
High: 50 F / 10 C
Low: 30 F / -1 C

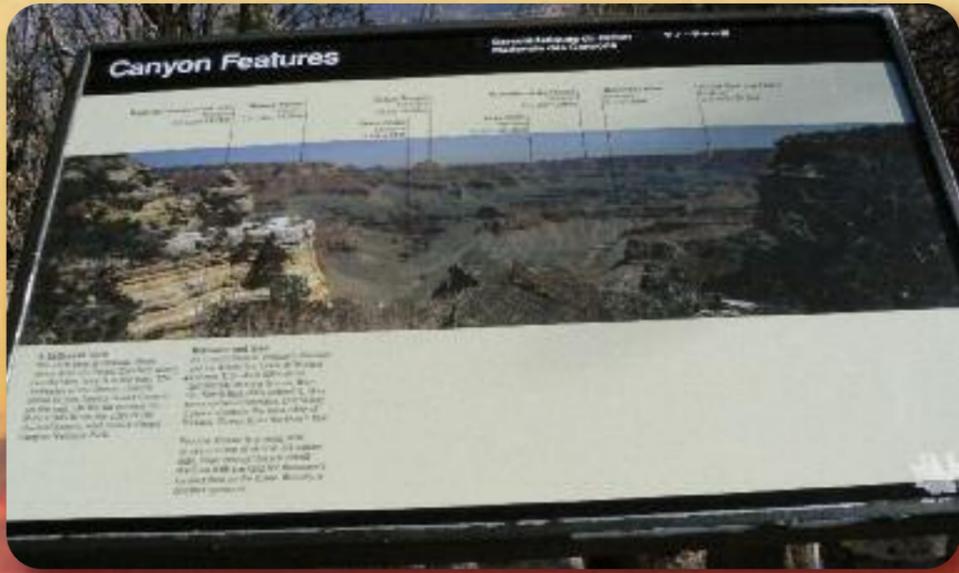
Phantom Ranch
Elevation: 4,000 ft (1,219 m)
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
High: 80 F / 27 C
Low: 50 F / 10 C

South Rim Forecast:
Mostly sunny, heavy, patchy clouds, clearing.
Mostly sunny.
Mostly sunny, staying under through PM clouds.



Il Grand Canyon visto dall'alto





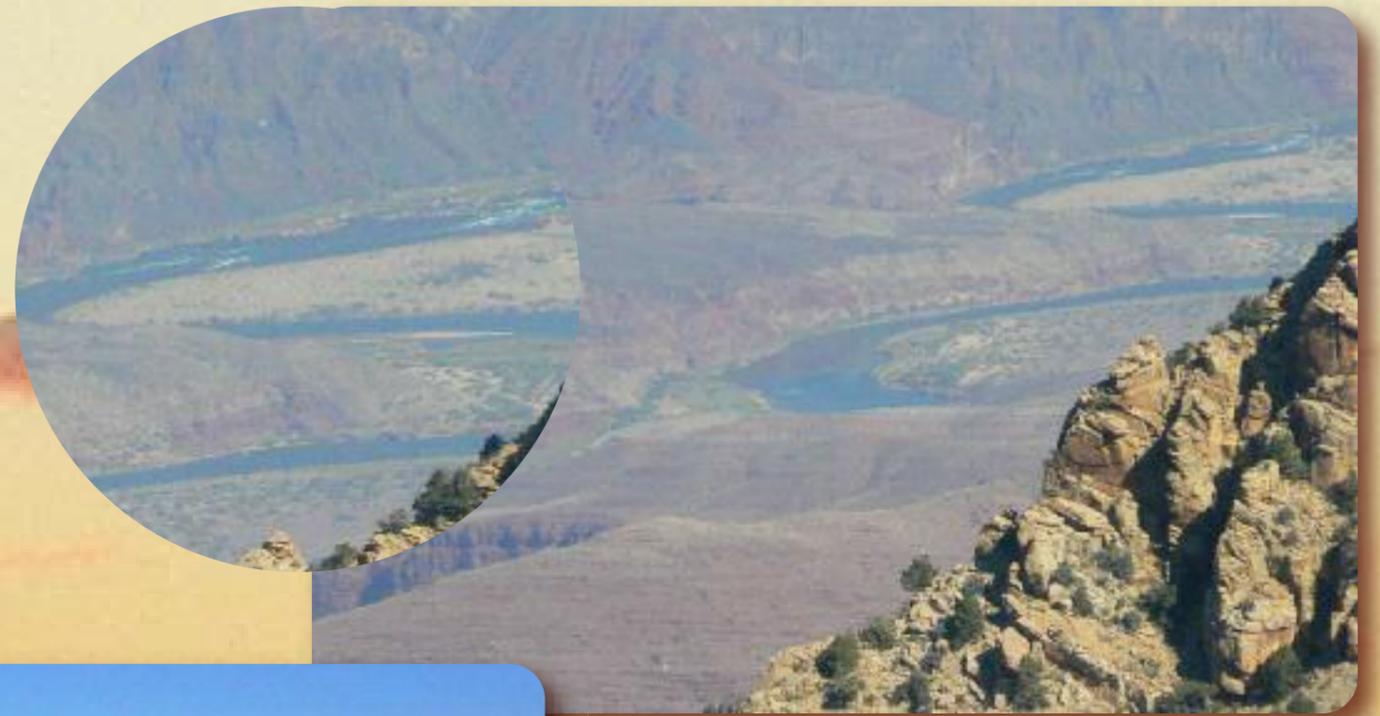


Emilio fa l'equilibrista.
In realtà Emilio si è trovato un po' in difficoltà, perchè il percorso non si è dimostrato così semplice come poteva sembrare dalla "terraferma"

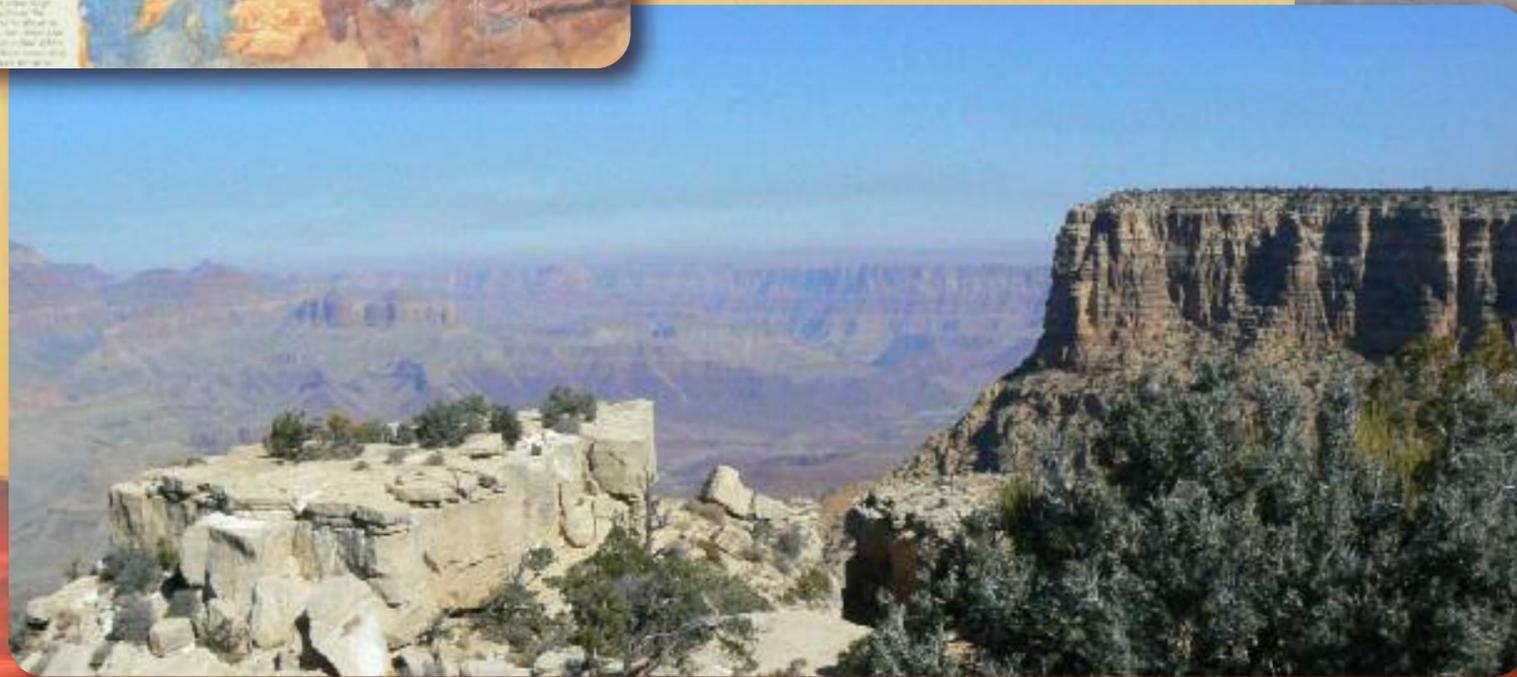




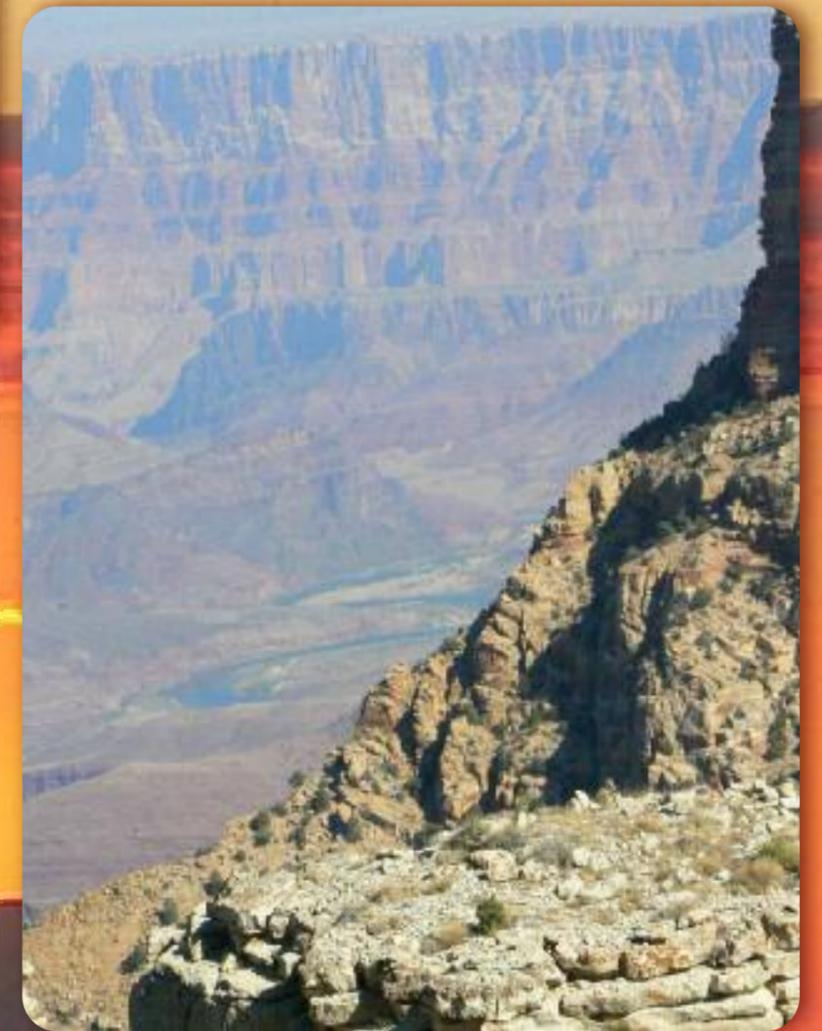
Non mancano le note di storia.

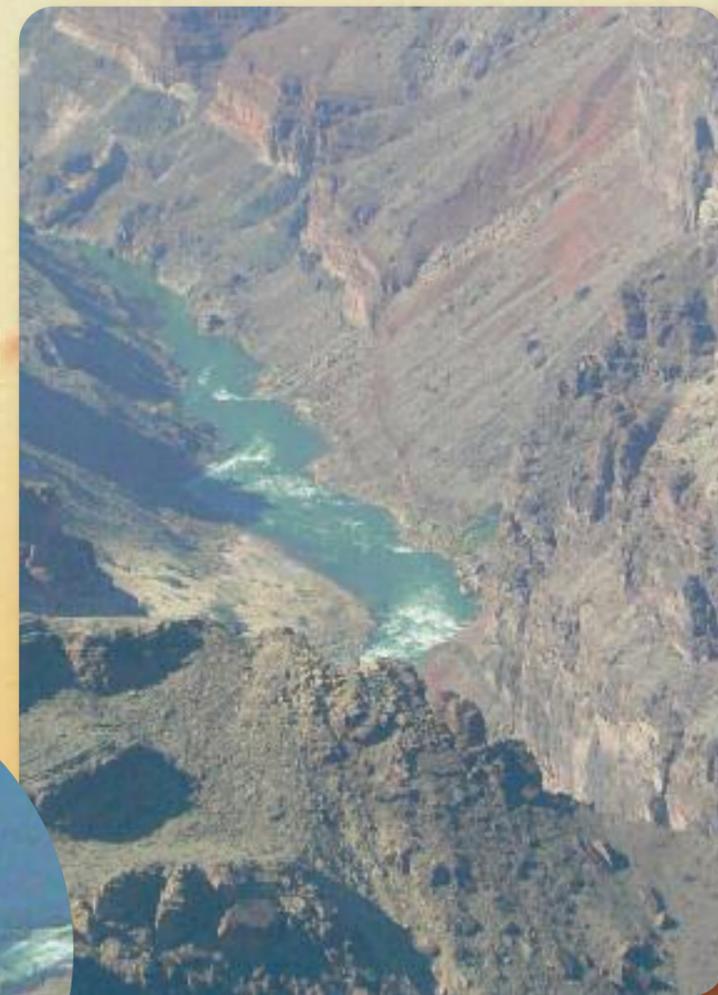


Sembra proprio di essere sul tetto del mondo



Si riesce a vedere un tratto di fiume con le rapide

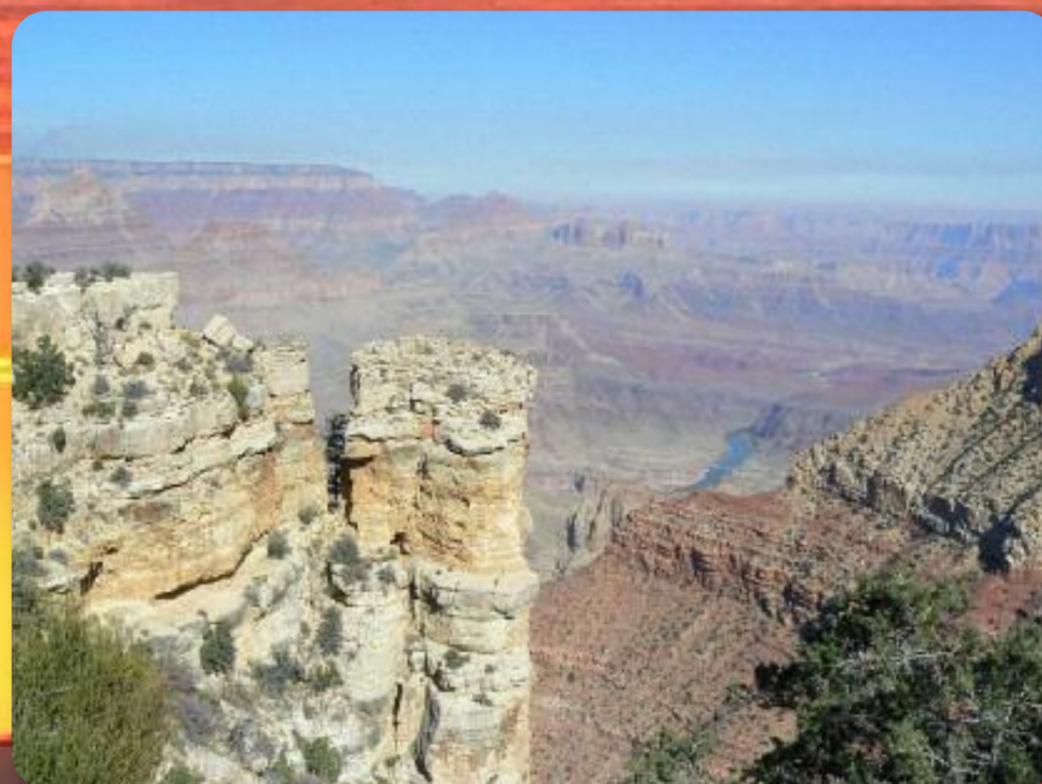


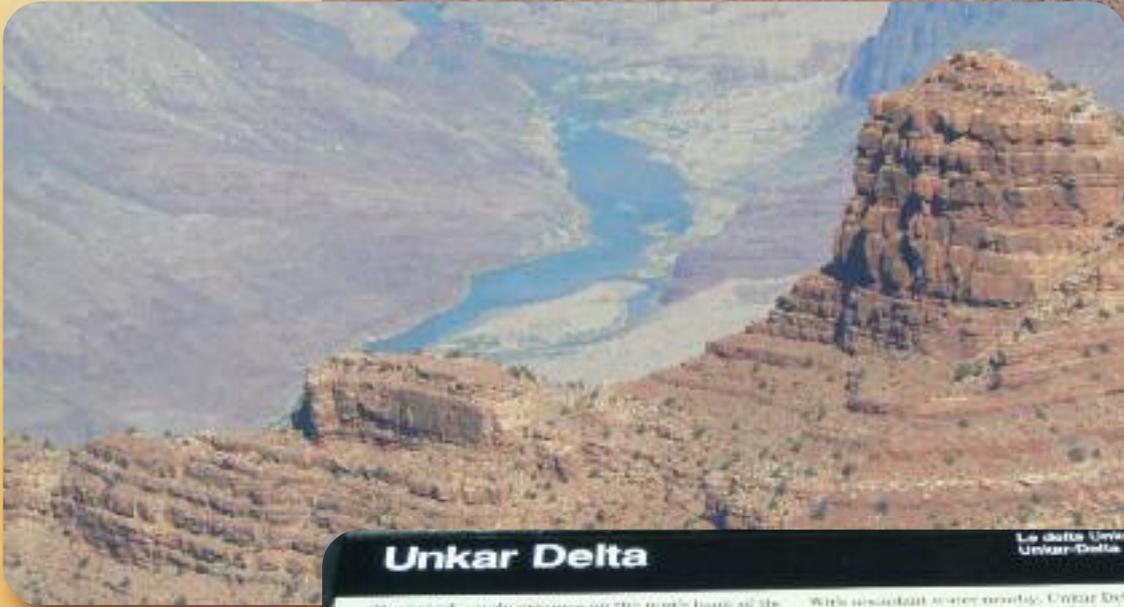
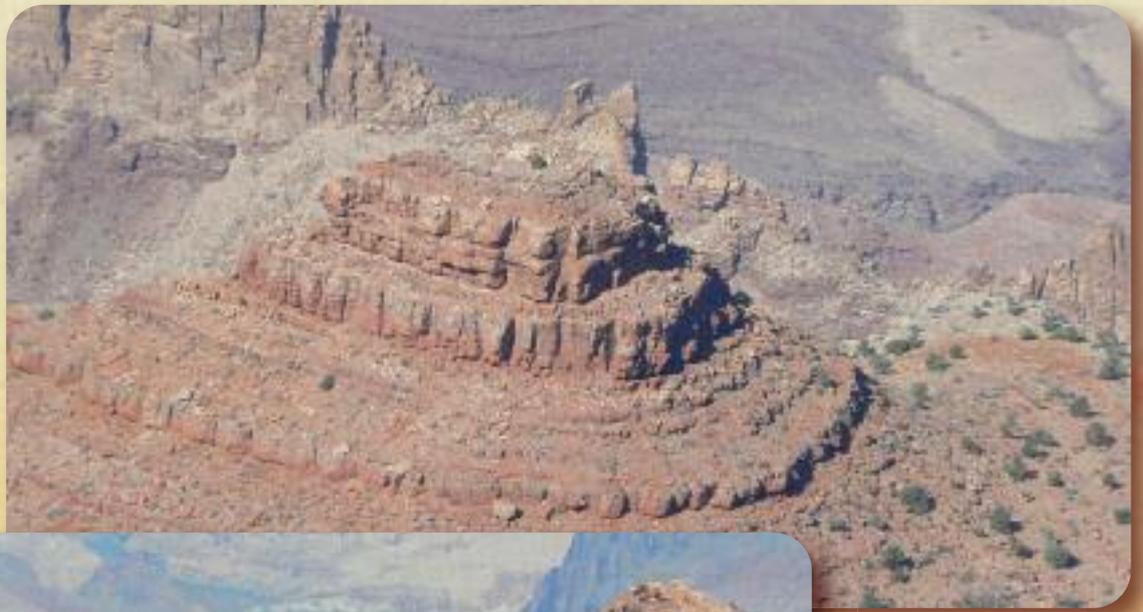


Lungo il percorso ci sono molti punti di sosta, non ce ne facciamo scappare nemmeno uno per riuscire a fotografare il Grand Canyon da ogni angolazione



Ancora rapide





Unkar Delta

Le delta Unkar
Unkar-Delta

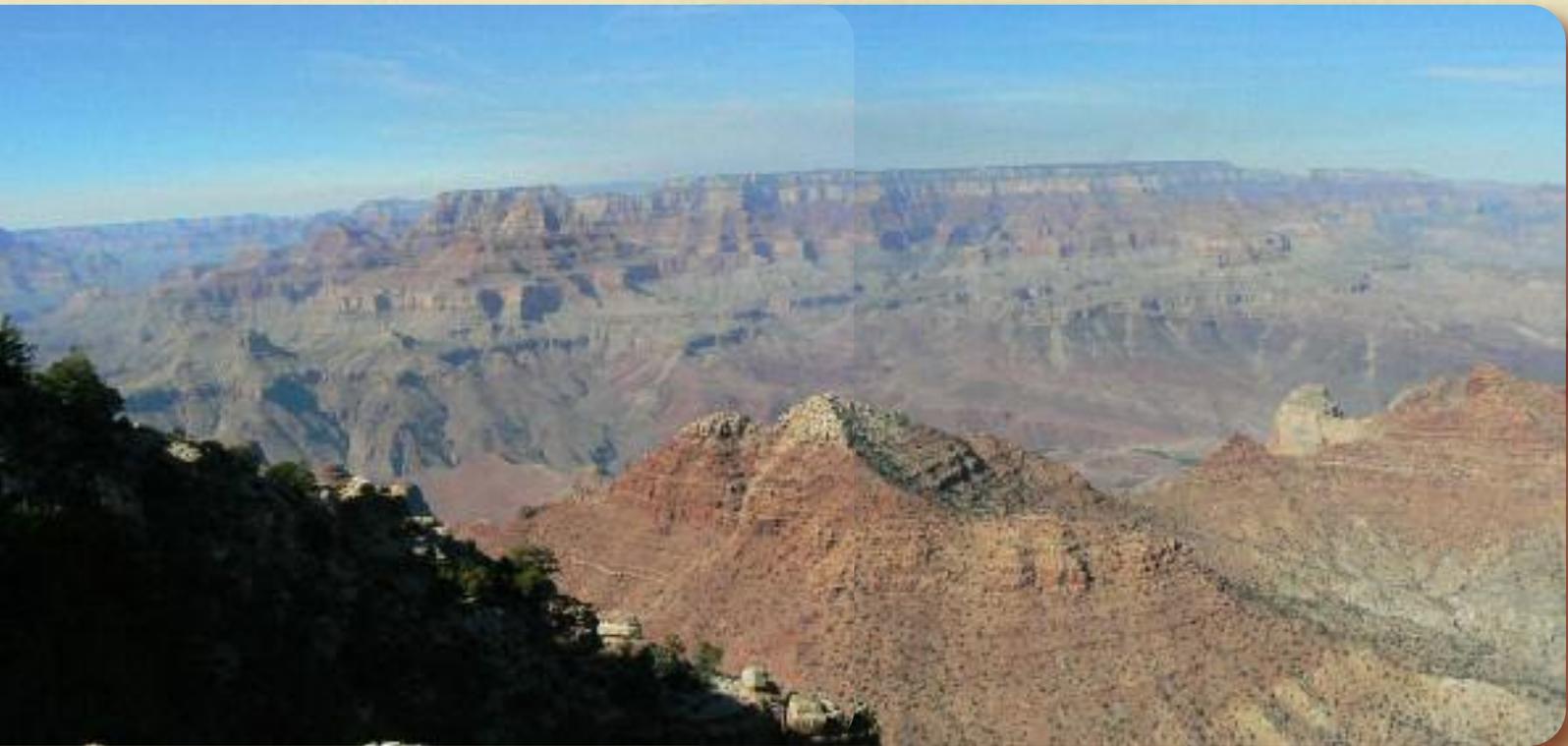
This broad, sandy expanse on the north flank of the Unkar Delta is a natural deposit of rock debris carried from the North Dine by Unkar Creek. Prehistoric Pueblo people occupied numerous sites on Unkar Delta and along Unkar Creek for about 350 years (A.D. 850 to A.D. 1200).

With abundant water nearby, Unkar Delta provided a convenient home for these prehistoric people, particularly in winter. Prominent remains on Unkar Delta include dwellings and evidence of rock art.

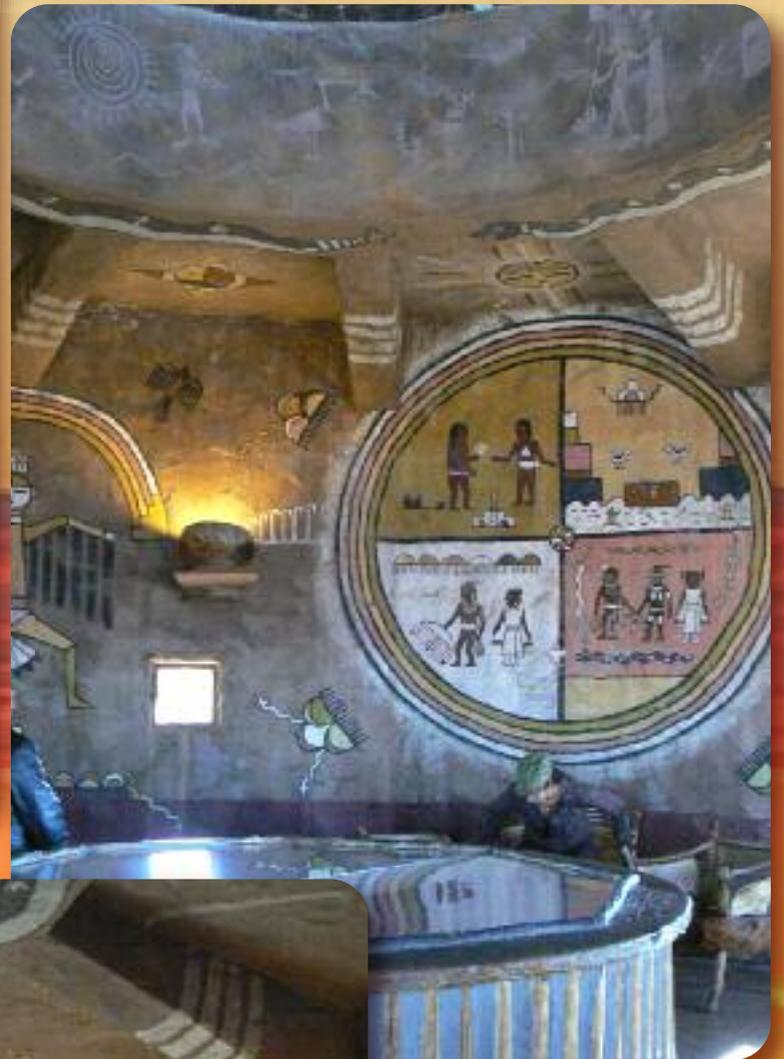
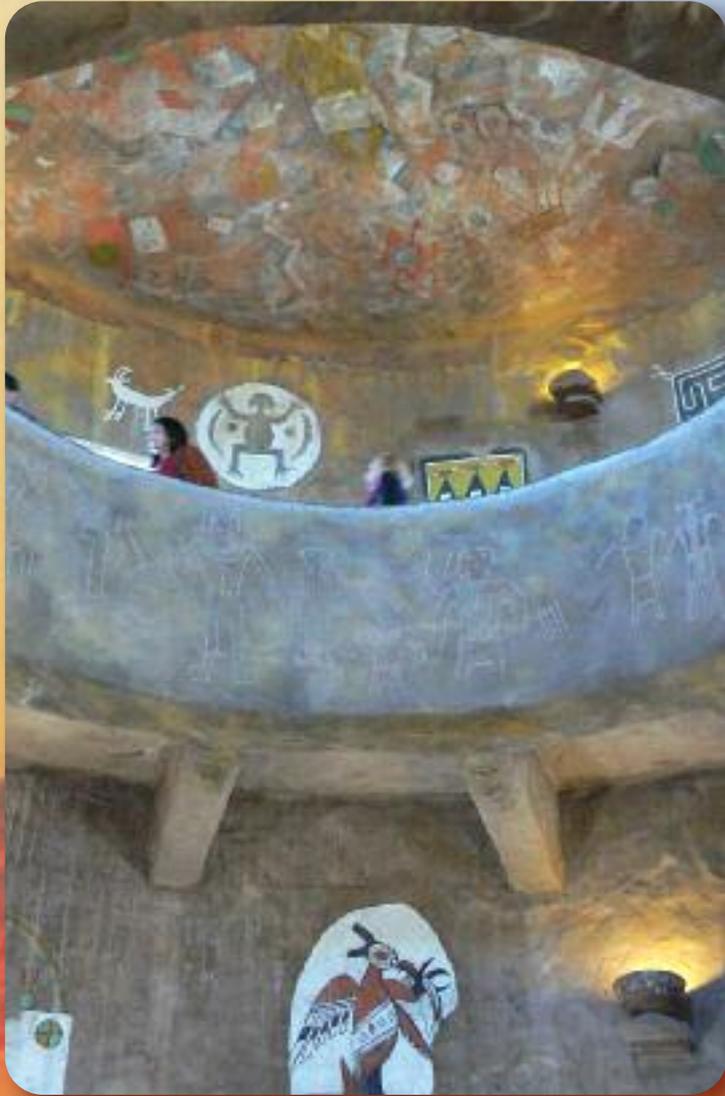
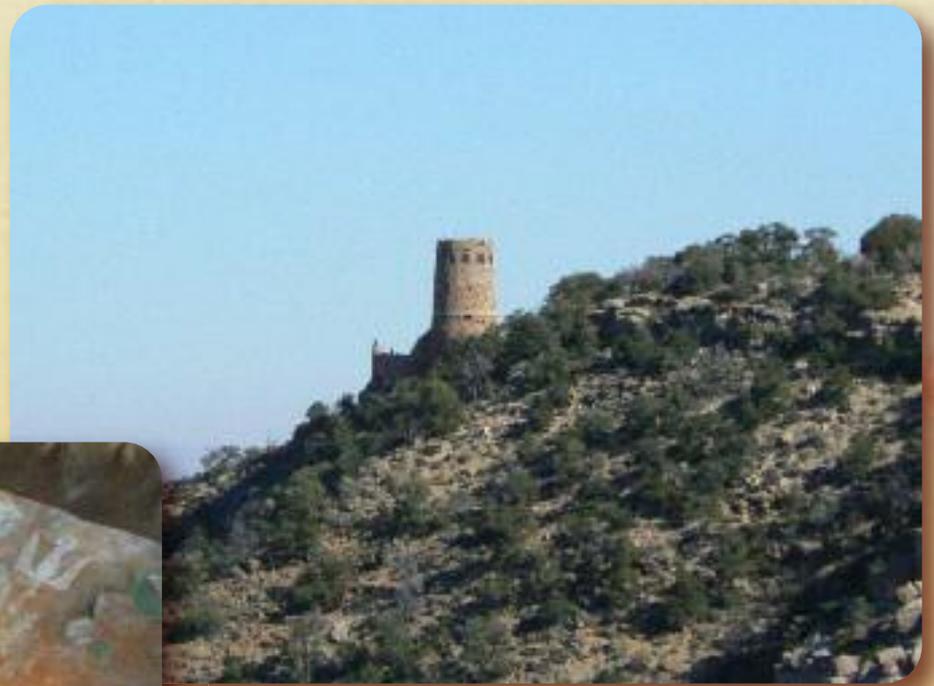
More than 2000 archaeological sites have been found in the Unkar Delta. They are extensive and well-preserved. Many prehistoric rock art sites and artifacts are also present.

Unkar Delta and North Dine, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona



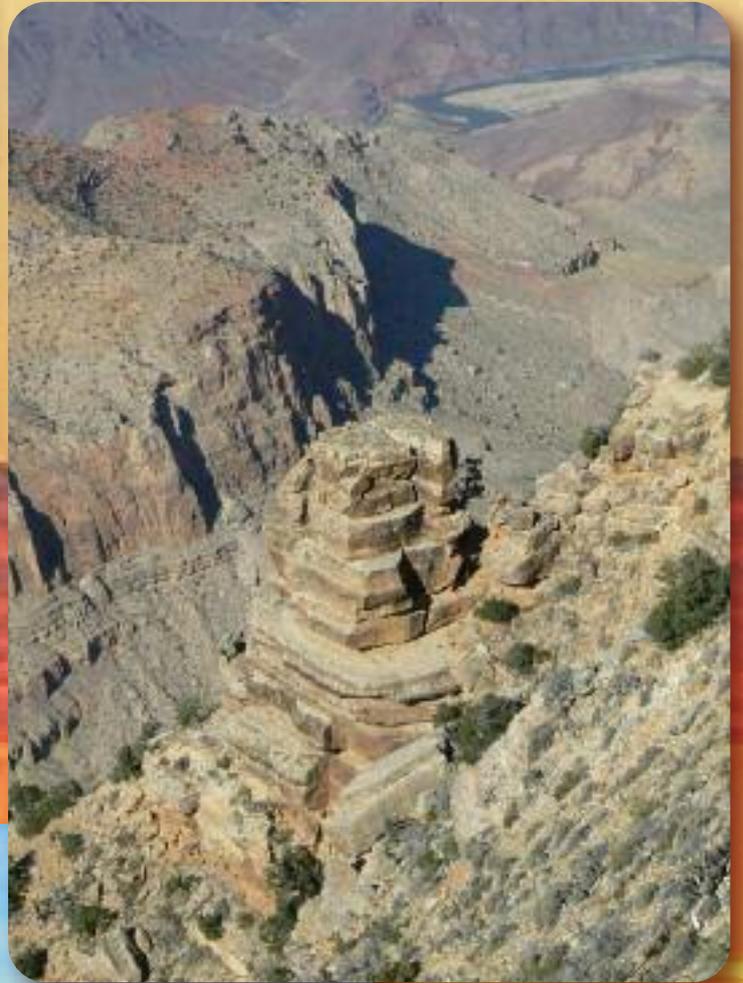


La Watchtower





Panorama dalla torre

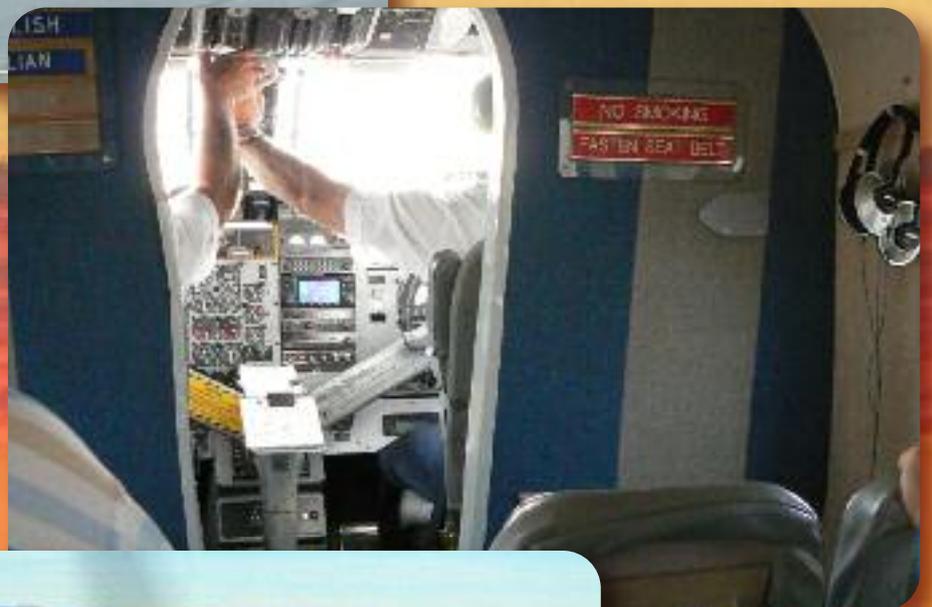


Non potevamo farci scappare l'occasione per fare un volo sopra il Grand Canyon



Il nostro velivolo: un Deaviland. Abbiamo fatto le operazioni di imbarco in piena regola con tanto di check-in, ci hanno persino pesati per una giusta distribuzione del peso a bordo

Pilota e copilota, prima del decollo, fanno i dovuti controlli

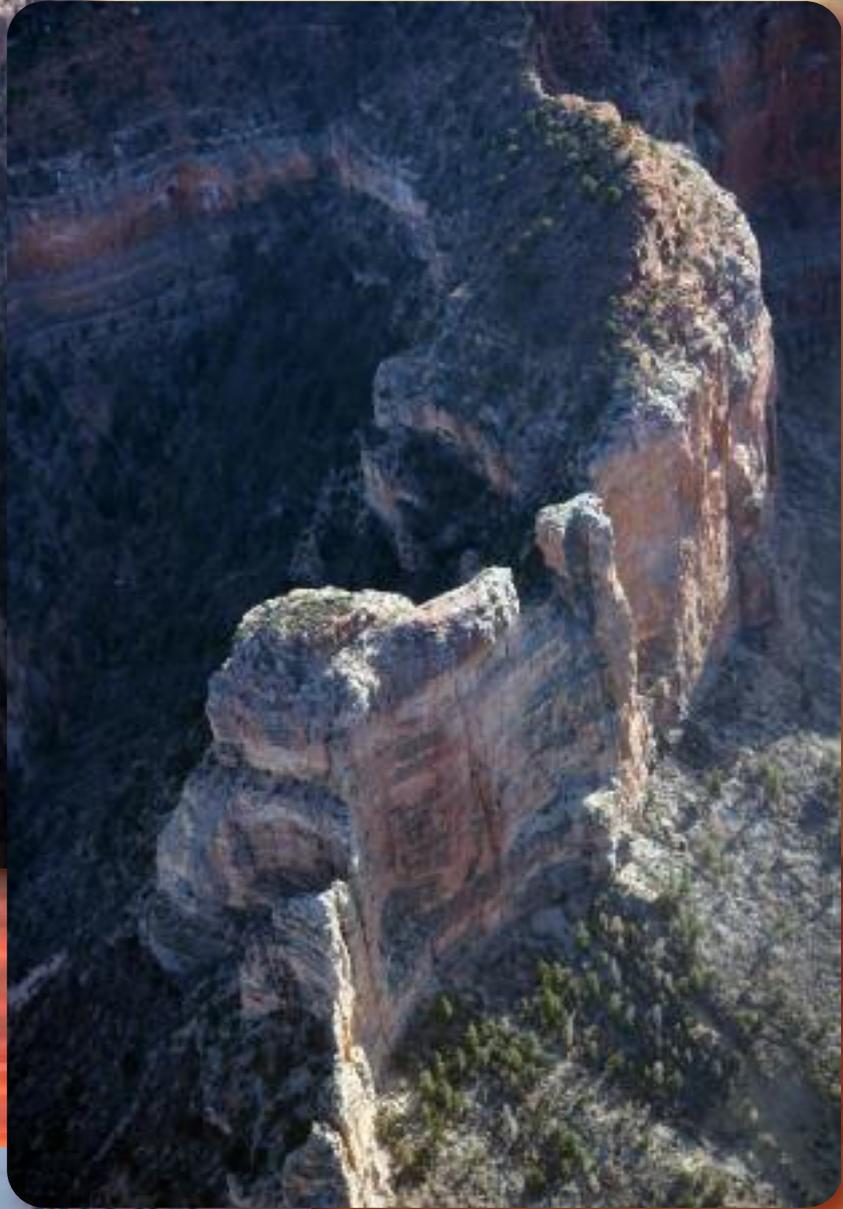




Ad un certo momento mi è venuto il mal d'aria e ho dovuto smettere di fare foto, così prendo in prestito alcune foto di Emilio

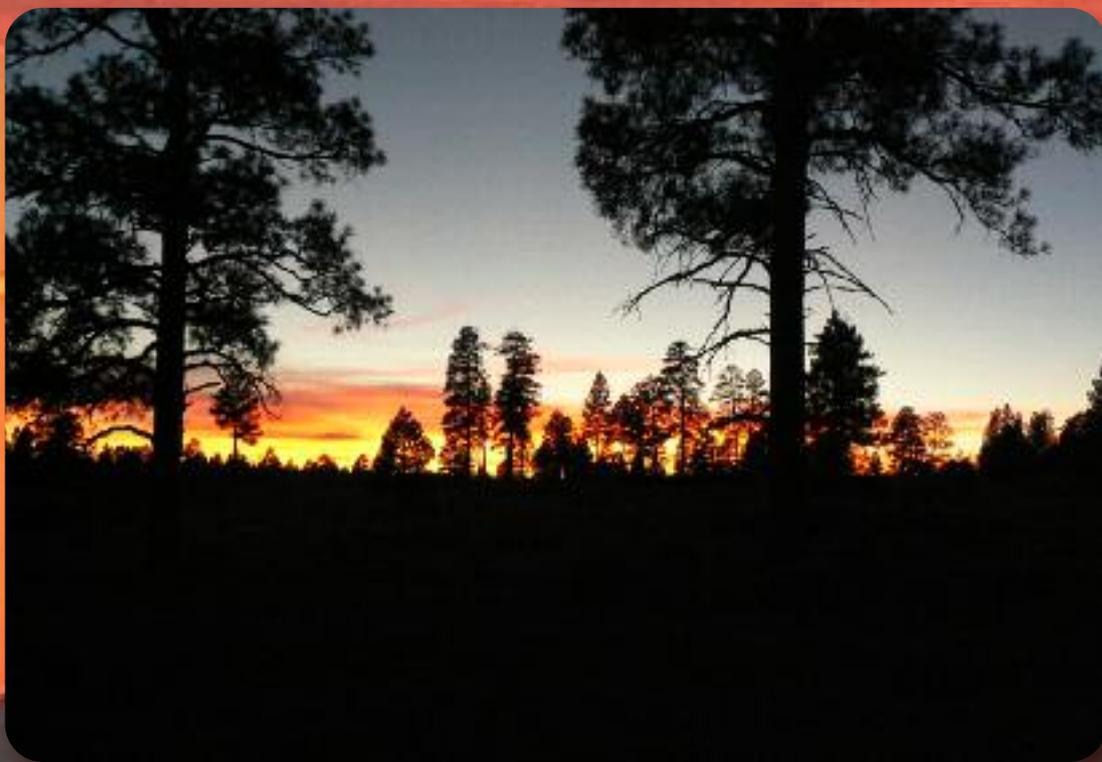


È stato un volo stupendo
(lo sapevo che non mi sarei
sentita bene)
ma ne è valsa la pena.



... e dopo l'atterraggio
l'immane foto di gruppo

Continuiamo il giro
lungo il Grand
Canyon



Anche questa sera
abbiamo avuto uno
splendido tramonto

10° giorno
Domenica 18 Novembre 2007
Williams



È l'ultimo giorno, ci sarebbero ancora un sacco di cose da vedere, d'altra parte l'America è vastissima e con tante bellezze naturali da vedere, penso che non basterebbe una vita. Ma come si fa a ripartire senza fare una capatina alla mitica

Route 66



Alla stazione di Williams è in partenza il treno per il Grand Canyon con i turisti domenicali



Ferme in stazione ci sono anche due locomotive d'epoca tirate a nuovo e già con gli addobbi natalizi





Il capostazione,
sembra più uno sceriffo
del vecchio West con tanto di
pistola alla cintura.
Il macchinista del treno in partenza
ci saluta amichevolmente

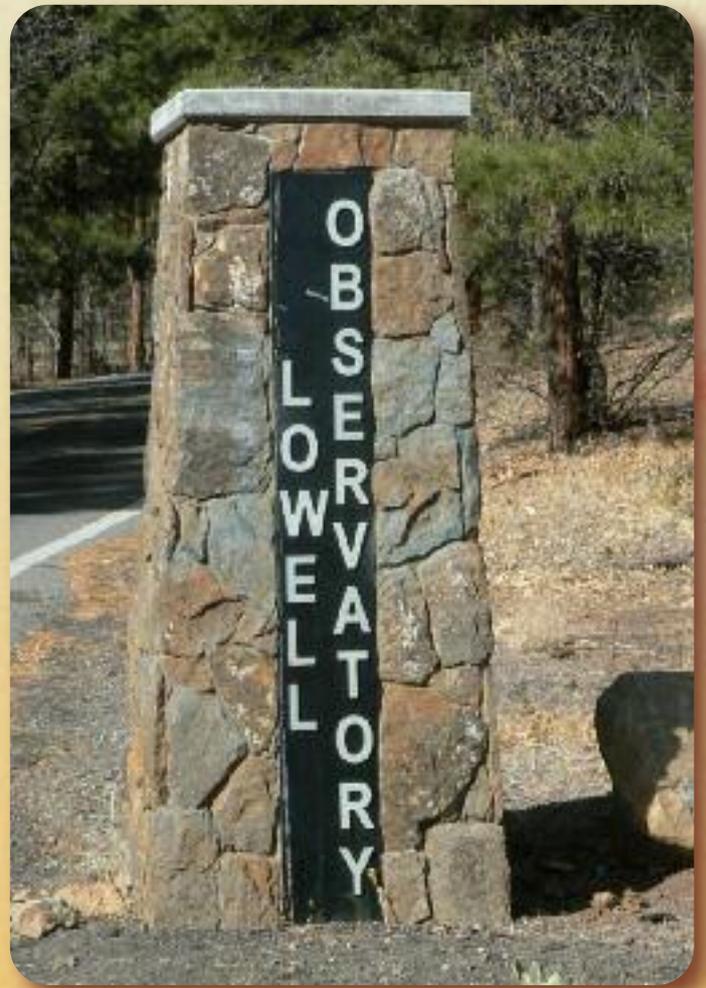
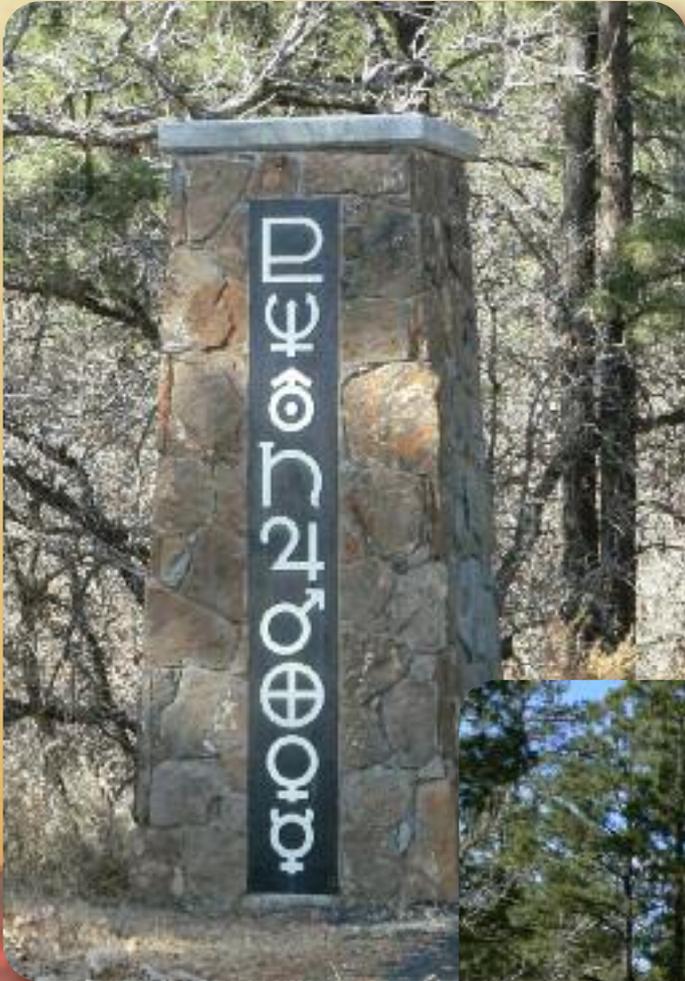


Si respira già aria di Natale

Due cowboy, in pieno stile
John Waine



Abbiamo iniziato il nostro tour visitando l'osservatorio di Mount Graham con strumentazione all'avanguardia, terminiamo con un osservatorio storico: **il Lowell Observatory di Flagstaff**



Il sentiero celeste



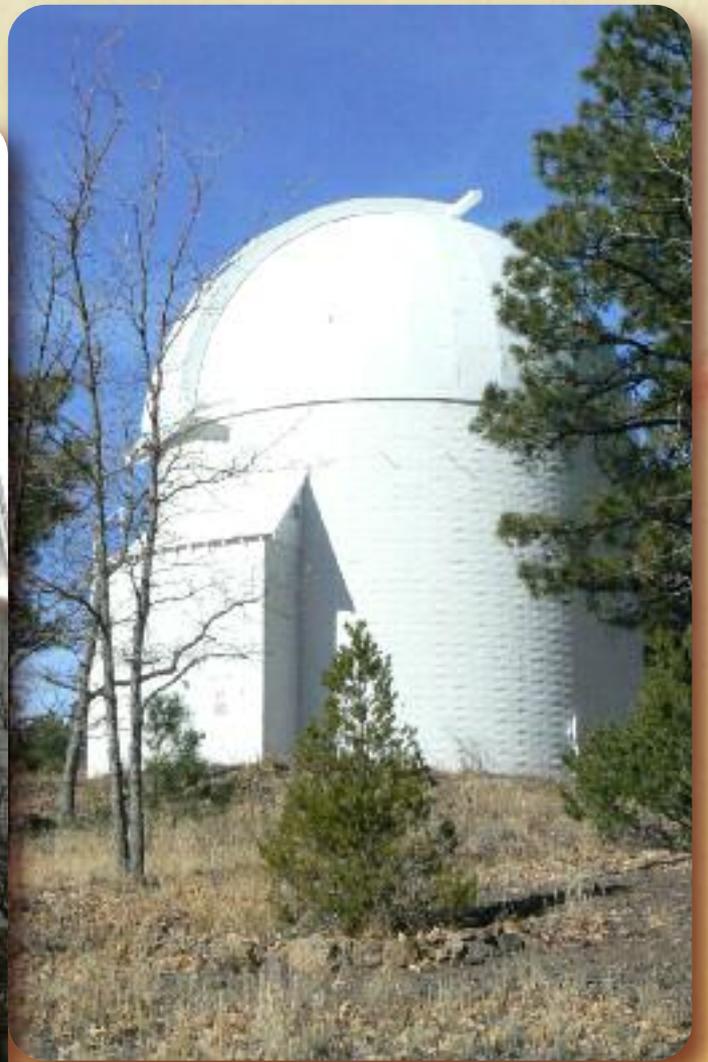
Il Mausoleo di Percival Lowell



L'interno della cupola e il telescopio usato da Lowell



Il sedile a saliscendi per poter lavorare più comodamente



Il museo
dell'Osservatorio



Thacher's Calculating Instrument

The slide rule was a common instrument for making rapid mathematical calculations. The accuracy of the slide rule increases with the length of its scale. A common slide rule, displayed here, has a scale of about ten inches. This Thacher's calculating instrument dates from around 1907 and has a folded scale sixty feet in length. It was used by Observatory astronomers to reduce and analyze astronomical data. Also on display in this room is a Millionaire, another type of calculating machine. Today, computers can carry out the calculations done by these old instruments in a fraction of the time.

THE ASTRONOMICAL REGULATOR

This precision clock, also known as an astronomical regulator, was used for accurately timing photographic exposures and measuring star positions and other astronomical phenomena.

This instrument was purchased in December 1904 for \$550 from the E. Howard Clock Company of Boston. Originally set up in the library of Percival Lowell's residence on Mars Hill, the 400-pound regulator was moved on January 1, 1917 into the new "main building," today known as the Slipher Building. It was used here for the next several decades.

Each day at 10:00 a.m. local time (noon in Washington, D.C.), a Lowell staff member would calibrate the regulator by calling Western Union in Washington to get the 12:00 p.m. tick.

A battery-powered switch was connected with wires strung from tree trunks to the 24-inch Clark Telescope. This allowed astronomers an accurate means of keeping time at the telescope.



C'è una bacheca dedicata all'italiano Schiaparelli

"Their singular aspect, and their being drawn with absolute geometrical precision, as if they were the work of rule or compass, has led some to see in them the work of intelligent being...I am very careful not to combat this supposition, which includes nothing impossible."
Giovanni Schiaparelli

It was the work of Italian astronomer Schiaparelli (pictured here) and his work on canals - apparent linear features on the Martian surface - that inspired Percival Lowell to take up astronomy as a career. Lowell built his Observatory in 1894 initially to study Mars and the possibility of intelligent life there.



... e dopo questa ultima visita, abbiamo solo il tempo per arrivare a Phoenix, per il viaggio di rientro. Riportiamo le auto alla Hertz e poi di corsa in aeroporto in tempo per prendere il Volo BA 288 ore 19,40 per Londra Heathrow.

11° giorno

Lunedì 19 Novembre 2007

arrivo a Londra alle ore 12,30,
coincidenza per Milano alle ore 15,00 Volo BA 568
Arrivo a Milano Linate ore 17,55.

È stato un viaggio intenso, senza un attimo di sosta, pieno di emozioni e con dei compagni meravigliosi.

Un viaggio che avrò sempre nel cuore.

E se dovessi dimenticare qualche particolare, questo album mi sarà certamente d'aiuto per rivivere ogni istante di questa stupenda avventura





