



# In Search of Eldorado

## Mather Point Overlook

7120 ft  
2170 m



Day 61

Wednesday

March 6th

Grand Canyon  
National Monument

Weather

40's, windy and rainy

### Hello to Family & Friends

Rain, windy, gusty, cloudy, not the best weather to end a visit to The Grand Canyon, but it is what it is, make the most of it.

I outlined my plan yesterday, so today I put it into action. After breakfast I closed up the RV and parked at the Back Country Information building, this parking lot being closer to the south exit than the VC, and hopped a bus to Mather Point.

I rode with a bunch of hikers that are planning to go down the South Kaibab Trail, the one I did yesterday, then spend two nights in the canyon at the Bright Angel Lodge down there. I passed on my knowledge of the trail to Cedar Ridge and wished them a great time.

Mather Point is directly behind the VC by 900 feet and is the start of the Rim Trail to the upper Bright Angel Lodge, the Rim Trail to Hermit's Rest and the Village.

It was extremely windy, worse than I thought it would be, and I had to buy a long sleeve shirt and stocking cap in the Bookstore to wear under my Blue Ridge Parkway waterproof jacket. Even with the stocking cap I kept the hood up and my hands in my pockets except to take pictures.

Pictures. Prepare to be amazed. The sun moving in and out of the clouds, the vibrant colors, the shadows, full clouds on the horizon. If you think the photos from the last three days were good, the photographs below are the best of the trip.

Taken from various points along the three-mile stroll.

## Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,  
A gallant knight,  
In sunshine and in shadow,  
Had journeyed long,  
Singing a song,  
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—  
This knight so bold—  
And o'er his heart a shadow—  
Fell as he found  
No spot of ground  
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength  
Failed him at length,  
He met a pilgrim shadow—  
'Shadow,' said he,  
'Where can it be—  
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,'  
The shade replied,—  
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



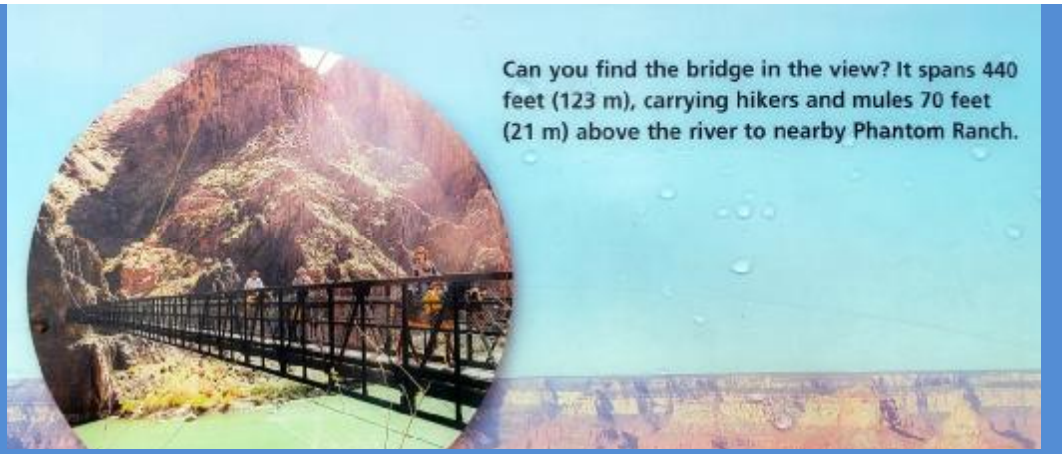


If you could see this one blown up as I do during the editing process, it looks like a painting. It does NOT look real.

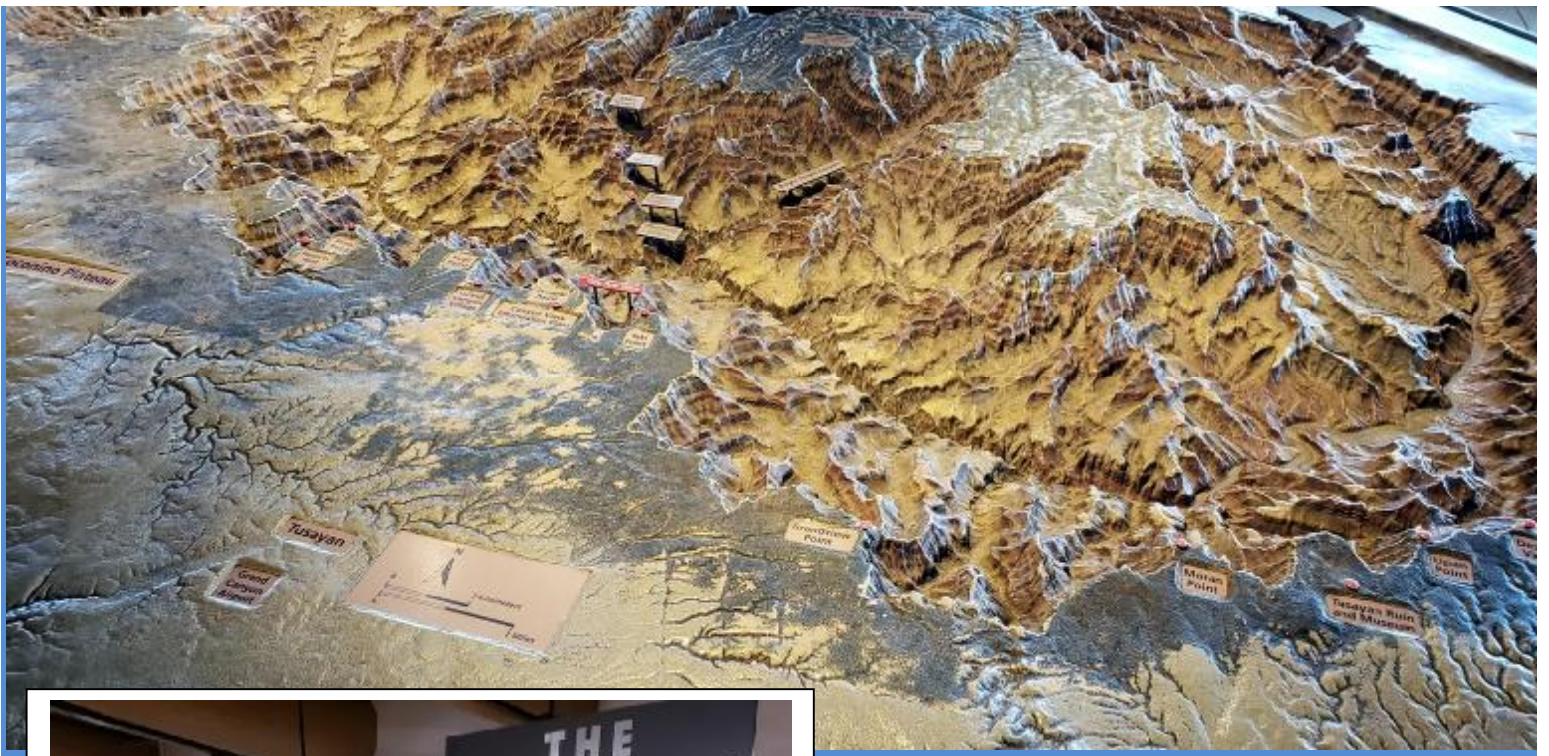








The Geology Museum. They had some really great displays in here like the ones below.



This display and another similar one are nine feet tall.



Starting from the Geology Museum is the Trail of Time. The NPS has placed markers every three feet for the next mile or so with the amount of years you are walking back in time into the Grand Canyon. There are large samples of the type of rock from each level. It would have been more fun without the rain and wind, but I enjoyed it anyways.







The rains move in over the canyon, and what happens when the sun comes out during a rainstorm? That's right, a rainbow.



Can you spot it? I didn't realize until just now, but it appears in the photo above the rain also.



There it is. Not the greatest, but a rainbow nonetheless.





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# The Lookout

Constructed of locally quarried Kaibab limestone, Lookout Studio appears as if it grew out of the canyon wall. In 1914, Fred Harvey company took a bold step to compete against Kolb Studio (just west of here). They asked Mary Colter to design a building on the promontory in front of you, to lure visitors away from the competition. Colter did just that, creating an organic design, which captivated visitors and integrated into the natural surroundings. Can you tell where Colter's walls end and the canyon walls begin?







My last look at The Grand Canyon



El Tovar lodge

From El Tovar, where I bought an ornament for the Christmas tree, I walked down to the train station.

In 1901, the screech of train brakes and the blast of a train whistle signaled the arrival of a new era in Grand Canyon Village. The railroad provided the most comfortable means of transportation to the canyon for more than a quarter century. This log depot, finished in 1910, welcomed train passengers to a growing village. By 1924, a community development plan was created for the village. Almost a century later, that planned community forms the core of Grand Canyon Village, centering on the last operational log depot in the country. Today, the depot is carefully preserved and still welcomes passengers to the canyon.







Being a little tired from battling the wind all day, and a little lazy, I took my last bus ride for nostalgias sake to the Maswik Lodge. As you can see they have a food court, but I indulged in a slice of three meat pizza at the Pizza Pub. I finished it off with a cup of frozen chocolate yogurt.

From there it was just a short walk to the RV, and I was on my way.

Grand Canyon National Park starts at Marble Canyon and the Navajo Bridge, where I spent two nights four days ago. Grand Canyon National Park ends 277 miles away near Pearce Ferry Crossing, where I stood at the edge of the Colorado River on January 26<sup>th</sup>. In-between I visited every scenic overlook along the thirty-one miles of The Grand Canyon that has roads, most of them by foot. That means there are still over 200 miles of the Colorado River, in Grand Canyon National Park, that I haven't explored. Who knows, those 200 miles may be more scenic than what the NPS lets us see.

Erin, Kali, Morgan, how about a Colorado River rafting trip?

I drove south on HWY 64 fighting a fierce wind from the southwest for 49 miles. At one point I thought the Highway patrol car following me just might pull me over for erratic driving, that's how crazy it was. Fortunately my lane is twelve feet wide, because I needed every inch of it.

I stopped in Phoenix for gas and here in Eloy for DEF, dinner (Arby's) and for the night.

I will be on the road the next two days, so if there is a newsletter I'm sure it will be short and sweet. You are all probably sick of me by now anyways.

Until next time.....

I leave you with a final photo of The Grand Canyon. I had a Grand time, pun intended.

