

The Grand Canyon(SL用)

In Arizona/in the United States, there is a very large and deep valley, and the Colorado River runs through it. This place is called the Grand Canyon, and it is 446 kilometers long, about 1.6 kilometers deep, and up to 29 kilometers wide. The weather there can be very hot in summer and very cold in winter.

Every year, millions of people come to see the beautiful views of the Grand Canyon. Ninety percent of the people visit an area called the South Rim because it is open all year round and it is easy to get there from some big cities. The North Rim is only open from May to October. Recently, people have started to visit the West Rim, too.

Native Americans have lived in and around the canyon for thousands of years. In 1540, Garcia Lopez de Cardenas from Spain became the first European to see the canyon. But Cardenas was not able to climb down into the canyon. Much later, in 1869, an American named John Wesley Powell traveled down the Colorado River by boat with some men. During the trip, Powell named the place the "Grand Canyon" in his diary.

In 1903, U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt decided to protect the canyon and made it a national monument. In 1919, it became a national park. Today, some people go hiking or camping in the canyon, and boat tours are also popular. Because the canyon is so big, a boat tour can take about two weeks. Many people enjoy this beautiful place every year.