

Flagstaff, Arizona

GRAND CANYON INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL

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~ what to expect ~

I came for a night and stayed for four. I love this hostel! Staying here is like bunking at a friend's place – because the guests are quickly enveloped in one another's lives.

Flagstaff is the big town nearest the Grand Canyon. Young and old, solo travelers and couples, international travelers and Americans, all come to visit the Canyon and they all bring their stories with them. Breakfast may be enlivened with tales of one adventurer's first road trip or another 40th birthday celebration.

Travelers without cars will be happy to know that a van tour company operates out of the hostel. Daily trips to the Grand Canyon alternate with visits to Sedona, a nearby artists community.

A two-story refurbished house with hardwood floors, the hostel can accommodate 30 guests in dorm rooms and seven private rooms with queen-size beds. Three of the dorm rooms have just three beds

– one set of bunks and a twin bed – and can also be used as private rooms. All guests share the four bathrooms along the hall.

The dorm rooms are decorated with homey curtains and comforters. Furnished with only two sets of bunks, the small but cozy rooms can be a pleasant change for travelers accustomed to dorms that sleep 10 or 12 people. In-room sinks and refrigerators round out the amenities.

There's a kitchen upstairs and another downstairs. Each morning, a free breakfast of oatmeal, toast, coffee and fresh fruit is served in a spacious first-floor dining room. Evenings often find guests sprawled on the couch in the TV room or surfing the Web in the office. Guests are also permitted to visit the owner's other hostel, The DuBeau Hostel. Located just a few blocks away, the DuBeau isn't as homey as the Grand Canyon International. But it does boast a pool table and a nice fireplace.



~ fast facts ~

Dorm Rates:	\$14–16, vary by season	Season:	all year
Private Rooms:	\$30–37, vary by season	Office Hours:	7am–midnight
Credit Cards:	MasterCard & Visa	Lock-out:	n/a
Network:	n/a	Size:	30 dorm beds & 7 private rooms
Beds:	spring mattresses		
Kitchen:	yes – 2		
Bathrooms:	shared, dorm-style		
Lockers:	no		
Extras:	free breakfast, VCR movies, laundry, high-speed Internet access, phone cards, van tours to Sedona (\$25) and the Grand Canyon (\$50)		
Be Aware:	College-housing neighborhood is nothing fancy.		
In The Area:	Grand Canyon, Sedona artists community.		
Local Tip:	Great food at the Italian restaurant/deli across the street. Featuring a fireplace in the coffee shop, the town's huge Barnes & Noble bookstore is a welcoming foul-weather refuge.		
Closest Free Internet:	public library		
Parking:	free off-street parking; free pick-up at the bus station		



is this hostel great for you?

SOLO WOMEN Yes. Like staying at a friend's house.

PARTY ANIMALS No. The sister hostel a few blocks away, the DuBeau Hostel, is a better bet.

OVER 30 Yes. Nice, comfortable camaraderie. Guests at this hostel are range from 22–64 years.

OVER 50 Yes. Try to visit the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona.

COUPLES Yes. Several nice private rooms are available.

FAMILIES Yes, if everyone's a hiker.

GROUPS No. Not big enough to accommodate most groups.