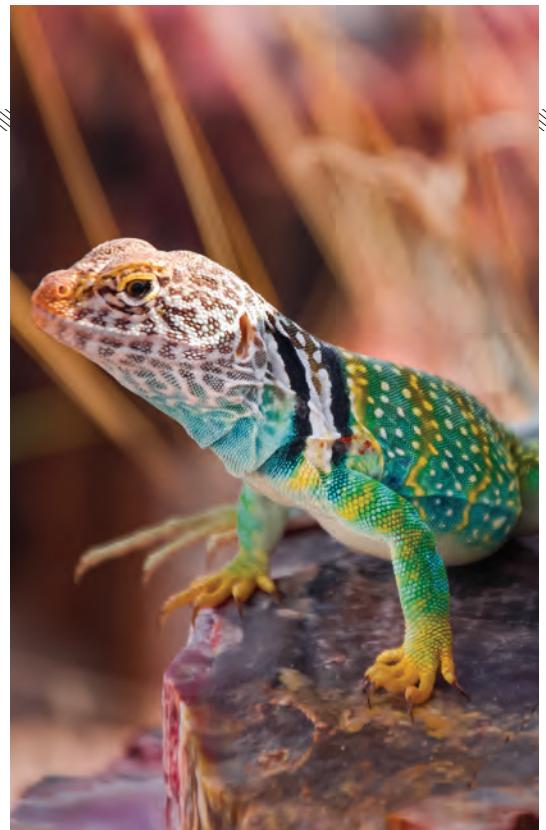
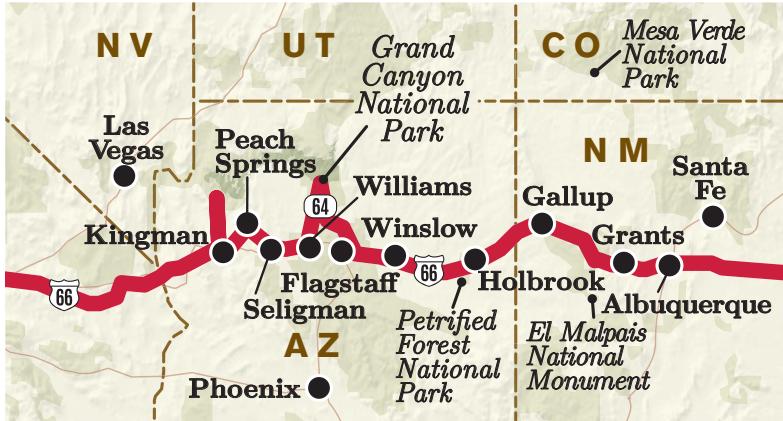


# Route 66 Kicks

*Overlook on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon  
(Grant Ordeltjeide)*

Established in 1926, the legendary Route 66 stretched 2,448 miles from Chicago to California. Get a taste of the Mother Road today on this iconic road trip.



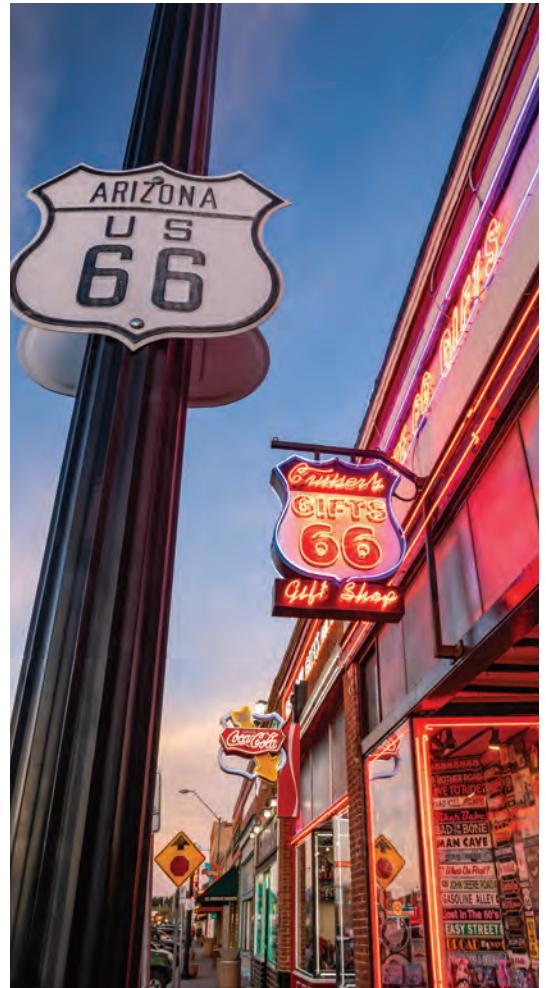
Traveling at least one section of Historic Route 66 is an American bucket list item. In bad times, migrants fleeing the Dust Bowl in the 1930s traveled on Route 66 to California, their cars weighed down by possessions and unrealized dreams. In good times, World War II veterans saw the road as a path to freedom, loading their families into cars to explore the Americana of small-town Route 66, California's sunny beaches and Disneyland.

While it was decommissioned in 1985 and replaced by five interstates, you can still drive on the remnants of one of the nation's most iconic highways. In Chicago, you'll find a sign marking the start of Historic Route 66 at Adams Street and Michigan Avenue. From there, you'll pass through the quirky small towns that lined the original route in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

While Route 66 may conjure images from the 2006 movie, *Cars*, where a desperate (and fictional) Route 66 town has been left behind thanks to the new Interstate System, you'll be delighted to find that reality is a much different story. As you stop in Arizona towns like Winslow, Williams and Kingman, you'll realize they've accomplished the impossible. They've frozen time, offering the past as a vibrant, present-day experience. You'll hear it at vintage gas stations playing 1960s music. You'll taste it in your homemade root beer and in your hamburger served in 1950s-style diners like Mr. D'z in Kingman, Ariz. You'll feel it as you drive the open two-lane road that cuts through some of the country's vast stretches of prairie and desert.

Today, the lyrics Nat King Cole sang still embody the spirit of this lively stretch of highway: "Go west, it's best, travel my way / Take the highway that's the best / Get your kicks on Route 66."

What follows are the road's highlights when your wheels traverse New Mexico and Arizona, home to the longest uninterrupted stretch of Historic Route 66.



PHOTOS: Collared Lizard at Petrified Forest National Park (John Blough), Route 66 neon signs in Williams, Ariz. (Grant Ordelheide)



# Mother Road Stops

In Grants, N.M., you'll discover vintage Route 66-themed stops, an uncrowded national park site and more. Here are some of our favorites.

By Tori Peglar and Jade Lang

## Route 66 Arch

Completed in 2016, the drive-under neon arch in Grants is shaped like the iconic Route 66 emblem. For an excellent photo opportunity, park underneath it. Find it off of I-40's exits 81 and 85 on Historic Route 66. From the arch, it's a short walk to the New Mexico Mining Museum.

## El Malpais National Monument

This uncrowded national monument's visitor center is in Grants, making it easy to learn about the area's volcanic past. Stop in the El Malpais Visitor Center to watch a film and find out about ranger programs. Hike around a cinder cone volcano on an easy-to-moderate 3.8-mile loop in the El Calderon Area.

## Cibola County History Museum

This museum opened in 2021 and showcases the area history. Nearby is the Western New Mexico Aviation Heritage Museum. In little-known Grants aviation history, Liz Taylor's third husband failed to see the airport's beacon in 1958 and fatally crashed his plane into Mount Taylor.

## New Mexico Mining Museum

The West is known for its boom-and-bust mining cycles. Here, you can learn how uranium transformed this town formerly known as the "Carrot Capital of the World." Navajo sheepherder Paddy Martinez discovered Grants' uranium reserves in 1950, which led to a 30-year mining boom. Explore the museum's exhibits and replica uranium mine.

*Learn more at [Grants.org](https://www.grants.org).*

*PHOTO: Sunset over Sandstone Bluffs Overlook at El Malpais National Monument (NPS/John Kuehnert)*

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## Petrified Forest National Park

At Petrified Forest National Park, you can bring your dog anywhere, except the park's buildings, making it one of the most pet-friendly locations in the park system. The 2-mile out-and-back Martha's Butte hike leads you to a stunning solar-marker petroglyph that gets covered exactly in half by shadow during the summer solstice. At Red Basin, you'll find petrified wood, petroglyphs and vibrant badlands formations. And there's the Painted Desert, a pink-hued landscape that changes colors with the sunset.

*Painted Desert (Depositphotos)*

# WINSLOW, ARIZONA

**Visit Winslow & explore a western town with an eclectic & wonderful story to tell. A history that includes strong ties to the rail system that built the American west, strong Hopi & Navajo native influences, wonderful cultural attractions & 10,000 of some of the friendliest folks ever!**

More details can be found at [www.visitwinslow.com](http://www.visitwinslow.com) or download the free Winslow AZ mobile app

**When in Winslow...check out:**

**Standin' on the Corner Park \* Historic La Posada Hotel \* 9-11 Memorial  
McHood Park/Clear Creek Reservoir \* Winslow Arts Trust Gallery \* Art Cars  
Old Trails Museum \* The Whispering Giant \* Homolovi State Park \* & more  
for directions and/or hotel & dining recommends stop by our Visitor Center...523 W Second St.**





# Take It Easy

In Winslow see the best eras of the Southwest brought back to life, from a historic Harvey hotel to Route 66.

By Tori Peglar and Mikaela Ruland

**T**he Eagles put Winslow on the pop culture map when their 1972 hit song *Take It Easy* referenced standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona.

It's a tune that's hard to get out of your head once you hear it. And the same goes for Winslow, a hardscrabble Route 66 town where you can experience some of the Southwest's best hidden gems.

Start at Standin' on the Corner Park featuring a bronze sculpture of a balladeer named "Easy," and a vibrant trompe l'oeil-style mural of a girl in a flatbed Ford. Considered the most famous corner on the Mother Road, you'll hear classic rock tunes from speakers in the park and be poised for the quintessential Winslow photo opp.

Surrounding the park, you'll stroll back in time, discovering Route 66 souvenir shops and the Old Trails Museum. Winslow's stretch of Route 66 still has the original

concrete roadway on 2nd and 3rd Streets. Across the street, grab a bite to eat at Flatbed Ford Café, which serves classic breakfast fare with a Southwestern twist. Think breakfast burritos alongside banana bread French toast.

From the park, walk two blocks south to First Street Pathway, an incredible six-block stroll that showcases Winslow's eclectic culture. You'll find a 35-foot-tall wood carving by sculptor Peter Wolf Toth that honors the area's tribes alongside a windmill with local ranches' brands adorning it in a nod to Arizona's ranching history. Perhaps the favorite piece of art along the walkway, however, is the Art Cars. Two classic cars were painted by designers from HGTV's *Home Town Kickstart* show to reflect the desert landscape and Hopi pottery. The best time to walk by is at night, when cut-out stars in the windows let out the light within, making for a magical scene.

Then head to McHood Park at Clear Creek Reservoir five miles southeast of downtown where you can kayak or stand-up paddleboard on the reservoir or along Clear Creek, which feels like a slot canyon. Rent your equipment at Clear Creek Rentals in town.

A visit or stay at the historic La Posada is a must. When the stunning 54-room hotel was built by Fred Harvey Co., in 1929, it was thought to be the grandest hotel in the Southwest, attracting guests like President Harry Truman, Albert Einstein and Amelia Earhart. Now privately owned, it's definitely worth arranging your itinerary so you can dine in the hotel's award-winning Turquoise Room, serving wonderfully creative Southwest dishes.

*Learn more at [VisitWinslow.com](http://VisitWinslow.com).*

*PHOTO: Standin' on the Corner Park (courtesy of Winslow Chamber of Commerce)*

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Set out for an adventure when you step aboard a fully restored, turn-of-the-century train to one of the most breathtaking destinations in the world. Experience living history through serenading musicians, knowledgeable attendants, and maybe- just maybe- an old fashioned train robbery. To lose yourself in the timeless majesty of the Grand Canyon, call 1-800-THE-TRAIN or visit [thetrain.com](http://thetrain.com).

  
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# Relive the 1950s

Historic downtown Williams, with its vintage Route 66 businesses, is one of the Grand Canyon area's best-kept secrets.

By Tori Peglar

**Y**ou'll feel as if you stepped back into Route 66's heydays when you pull into Williams, just 60 miles south of Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim. Explore its vibrant historic downtown where you'll hear the greatest hits of the 1950s and '60s playing on seemingly every corner.

You'll discover a ton of Route 66 memorabilia and souvenir shops, as well as restaurants that bring to life the 1950s and 1960s. Fuel up on lunch at Grand Canyon Coffee & Cafe. Or head to Cruiser's Route 66 to see Route 66 memorabilia and eat classic American food. For wood-fired pizza, head to Station 66 Italian Bistro at 144 W. Route 66.

If you want to sip a cold microbrew at the end of the day, stop by Grand Canyon Brewing + Distillery, which is also a full-service

restaurant. The beers are named after area attractions like Horseshoe Bend Pale Ale.

Then, leave your car behind as you head to the train depot downtown to ride the Grand Canyon Railway for the final 65-mile stretch to the Grand Canyon.

You'll avoid all the vehicle traffic backed up to get into the park. Plus, riding the train is just plain fun. The Old West lives on with staged train robberies and cowboy sing-alongs [read more about the train on page 34].

When you return to historic Williams, take a walk on the wild side on the outskirts of town at Bearizona Wildlife Park on Route 66. It may be your one opportunity to see a white buffalo.

*PHOTO: Historic downtown Williams (Courtesy of City of Williams)*

Keep Reading →

You're able to see animals up-close from your car that you normally couldn't in the wild because it wouldn't be safe. Keep in mind passengers must stay in their cars with their doors shut and windows rolled up. Bearizona rescues about 50% of its animals and gives them homes when they no longer can live in the wild. It's about education and fun.

Then, stroll Fort Bearizona Walking Area that includes smaller animals, grizzly bears, jaguars and daily animal encounters. In the Canyonlands Restaurant, you'll find replica canyon walls, ancient-looking ruins and soaring wood-carved eagles.

The restaurant serves everything from burgers to salads and sandwiches and features two bars. The best part? Food is served quickly, giving you more time in the park.

Afterwards, spend the night at The Lodge on Route 66, which has the charm of a Route 66 classic but has been totally renovated.

Learn more about Williams at [ExperienceWilliams.com](http://ExperienceWilliams.com) and Bearizona at [Bearizona.com](http://Bearizona.com).

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# IMAX Stop

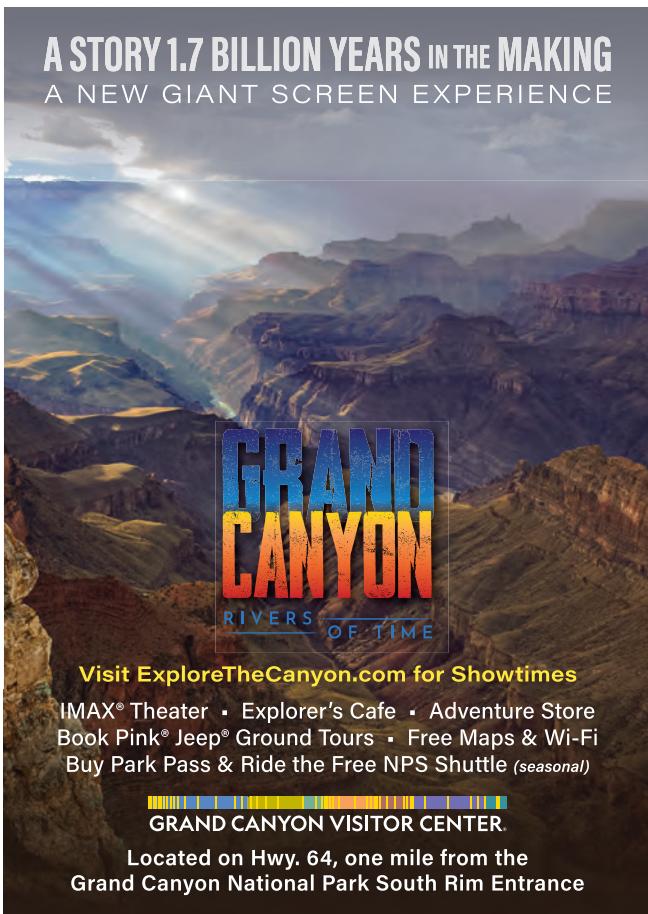
By Tori Peglar

**Y**ou'll find out why the Grand Canyon is so much more than just a large hole in the ground when you stop by the Grand Canyon Visitor Center in Tusayan, Ariz. Pronounced "Too-say-on", the town is located minutes from the South Rim's South Entrance.

The on-site giant screen IMAX theater is newly renovated as of Fall 2022 and is featuring a brand-new 37-minute film, *Grand Canyon - Rivers of Time*, to help you get a deeper understanding of the history of the park before you start exploring.

But the visitor center is also a place to learn more about area attractions, get a bite to eat and pick up a unique souvenir or map. Charge your electric vehicle while you watch the film to help keep the Grand Canyon beautiful. You can also purchase your park pass at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center, which will help you avoid waiting in longer lines at the park entrance.

*Tip: Buy your IMAX tickets online to save up to 20% at [ExploreTheCanyon.com](http://ExploreTheCanyon.com)*



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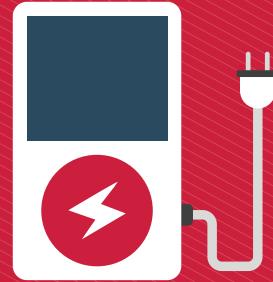
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Grand Canyon National Park South Rim Entrance

## Plug It In



Want to make your road trip more sustainable? Take it in an electric vehicle. Leave your car charging at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center in Tusayan and take the free shuttle into the park to explore the scenic viewpoints, hiking trails and historic buildings of the South Rim.

Inside the park, you'll find chargers at Maswik Lodge, Grand Canyon Auto Services and Yavapai Lodge. Near the North Rim, the North Rim Country Store on Hwy. 67 has chargers.

Exploring the surrounding area? The gateway towns of Williams and Flagstaff to the south have chargers as well as Tuba City to the east and Page, Ariz., and Kanab, Utah to the north.

For more road trip sustainability tips, visit [mygrandcanyonpark.com/things-to-do/park-itineraries/eco-friendly-sustainable-travel-itinerary/](http://mygrandcanyonpark.com/things-to-do/park-itineraries/eco-friendly-sustainable-travel-itinerary/)

-Mikaela Ruland



# A Grander Stay

Sleep well and sustainably at Yavapai Lodge.

By Mikaela Ruland

**W**hen you stay at the Yavapai Lodge in Grand Canyon National Park, you'll be experiencing a piece of the park's history, but you'll also be actively participating in its future.

The lodge was built in 1958 during the National Park Service's building boom to prepare for its 50th anniversary and serve post-World War II visitors. The lodge itself is reminiscent of Route 66 motels. Today, all rooms have been remodeled and include air-conditioning. Nestled in the trees, you'll see wildlife, such as elk, deer and squirrels, on your visit.

"There's something very special about being in such an iconic place," says Yavapai's general manager Dan Cornforth. "The immensity of the canyon changes your perspective on life."

Staying in the lodge, you'll feel its commitment to the park's future. It starts the second you pull in. With plenty of parking, you can leave your car at the lodge for the duration of your stay and take the park's shuttle to get to all the stops you want to see, lowering your carbon footprint. The lodge's commitment to sustainability encompasses all aspects of the business. In 2022, the lodge received an environmental achievement award from the Department of the Interior for its waste

diversion program. As a visitor, you can help reduce unnecessary waste by remembering to bring (or purchase on-site) a reusable water bottle. Water filling stations are available throughout the park and Yavapai Lodge.

At the end of the day, head to the Yavapai Tavern where you'll find a beautiful, pet-friendly patio that often features live music, equipped with heaters, a fire pit and a Southwestern-inspired menu with a focus on local ingredients and sustainability. Try the Melted Elk burger with tomato bacon jam and charred sweet peppers. Or, go plant-based with the Tavern Street Tacos featuring plant-protein made from black beans, and sugar-cured jalapenos. Wash it down with one of several locally brewed beers on draft.

When the stars come out, head to the Market Plaza parking lot on select nights each month for Night Sky Talks where the streetlights get turned off to make it even easier to see the stars. Telescopes are set up to allow you to get a closer look at the night sky and astronomers are on-site to help you understand what you're seeing.

*Book a room today or learn more at [VisitGrandCanyon.com](https://www.visitgrandcanyon.com).*

*PHOTO: Courtesy Yavapai Lodge Delaware North*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1958**  
Year built

**20**  
Percentage of Grand Canyon's waste stream comprised of single-use plastic

**90**  
Percentage of food ingredients sourced within 190 miles

**2025**  
Year the Yavapai Lodge will be at zero waste

**26**  
Number of shuttle stops accessible from the lodge

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Yavapai Tavern



Yavapai Lodge Guestroom



General Store

## Hay There!

Mules, the offspring of a male burro and a female horse, have been carrying people and their gear into the Grand Canyon since the late 1800s. These sure-footed creatures are well-suited to descending and climbing the steep switchbacks into the canyon and were used by miners with prospecting claims in the canyon before tourism became the main industry below the rim. When Fred Harvey Co. built Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, everything besides the stone had to be carried in on the backs of mules. Today, all supplies for Phantom Ranch are still carried in by mule, and trash and mail are carried back out.

While there were allegations of mistreatment of the mules on the Havasupai Indian Reservation as recently as 2018, the mules that operate inside the national park are thought to be well-treated. They even get regular visits from a chiropractor. Visitors can book a mule ride to Phantom Ranch through the park's concessionaire, Xanterra, or catch sight of the mule trains descending into the canyon on the South Kaibab Trail in the mornings.



*Mule in Grand Canyon National Park (Taegan Elmer)*

# The King

By Tori Peglar

**K**ingman is a classic road-trip stop filled with Route 66 lore and Americana. Here's some of our favorite ways to spend a day around town. Part of an old wagon route used in the late 1800s to bring ore from the Stockton Hill Mines to the railroad, the 2.4-mile White Cliffs Wagon Road Trail lets you go back in time. Hike approximately 15 minutes to see the wagon tracks cut deep into the stone.

More hiking and mountain biking trails await at Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area, an 11,300-acre grassland speckled with yucca, mesquite and prickly pear in the Mohave Desert.

The Monolith Gardens Loop Trail stretches 7 miles with connector trails, so you can go as short or long as you want. It's known to locals as the mini-Monument Valley because of its fun-shaped boulders.

At the Arizona Route 66 Museum, arguably the best of its kind, you can spend hours perusing remarkable exhibits with artifacts and photographs that tell the stories of the Mother Road through the people who traveled it. Afterwards, drive through Kingman's Route 66 Shield for a great photo.

Step back in time and fuel up on classic diner food across the street at Mr. D's, an iconic Route 66 stop since 1929, or get a drink and take a tour at Arizona's oldest craft distillery, Diamond Desert Distillery. If you'd rather enjoy a local brew, head to Rickety Cricket Brewing.

*Learn more at [ExploreKingman.com](http://ExploreKingman.com).*



PHOTO: Route 66 Shield (Courtesy of City of Kingman Office of Tourism)



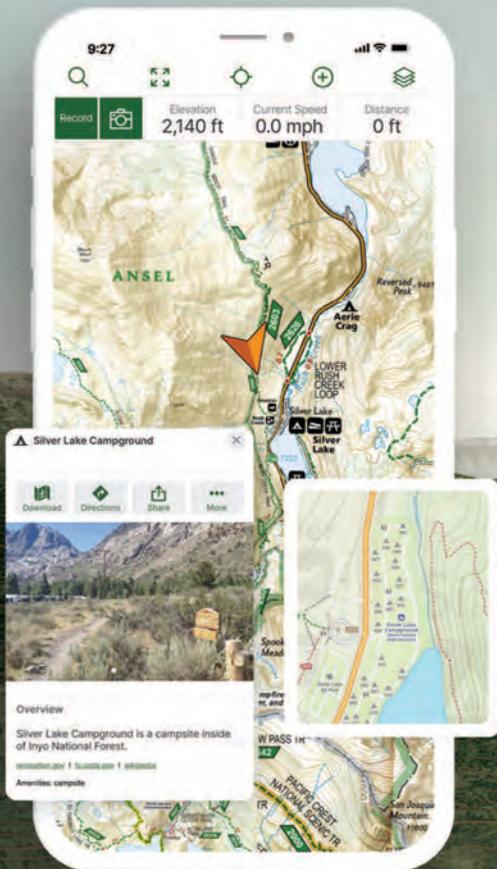
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