

Collector's Journal

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2010 Grand Canyon National Park Quarter - Arizona

Fourth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The fourth coin in the America the Beautiful Quarters Program honors Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. The series started in 2010 as a tribute to National Parks or other national sites in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

Between 2010 and 2021, one Quarter will be issued for each jurisdiction. Coins will be issued at the rate of five per year, in the order in which the sites were set aside for public use. Each coin is a limited edition that is produced for only about 10 weeks. Once the mintage ends for each coin, it can never be resumed in the future, thereby assuring the limited-edition status of each coin.

The 2010 Grand Canyon coin was preceded in 2010 by the coins for Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, and Yosemite National Park in California. The final coin for 2010 will be for Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon.

While the reverse of each coin shows a unique one-time-only design, the obverse is identical to the obverse of the State Quarters that were issued from 1999-2009. The portrait of George Washington by John Flanagan was based on a bust by Jean Antoine Houdon.

Grand Canyon National Park is one of America's most spectacular sights. Located in northwestern Arizona, it includes the region around a giant canyon formed by the Colorado River. The park covers more than 1.2 million acres and is one of the "natural wonders of the world." The canyon is up to one mile deep, up to 18 miles wide, and 277 miles long.

Although Native Americans knew about it for centuries, the first Europeans to discover the Grand Canyon were Francisco Vasquez de Coronado's expedition in 1540. Due to the canyon's isolation and the inhospitable climate, it was rarely visited over



the next few centuries. The first major exploration was by John Wesley Powell, who sailed through the Grand Canyon in 1869.

Grand Canyon was first established as a national site in 1893, and it became a National Park on February 26, 1919. Almost all visitors see the Grand Canyon from the South Rim. The spectacular view shows a rugged landscape that exposes millions of years of geological history.

The unique reverse design on the Grand Canyon National Park Quarter features a view of the Grand Canyon. It shows the granaries above the Nankowep Delta in Marble Canyon near the Colorado River. Native Americans used the granaries in the side of the cliffs as a safe place to store food and seeds. The 2008 Arizona State Quarter also showed a scene from the Grand Canyon.

Four different designs were considered for the Grand Canyon National Park Quarter. One of the rejected designs was an aerial view of the Grand Canyon, one showed a scene from the South Rim, and the final one depicted the Grand Canyon in the background with a family of bighorn sheep in the foreground. All four proposed designs were developed by the U.S. Mint after consultation with representatives of Grand Canyon National Park.

The Grand Canyon National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in early fall, 2010.

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