

# Google Maps makes Grand Canyon virtual trek

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The Grand Canyon pictured in the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona on May 20, 2012. Google Maps opened a virtual path to the wonders of the Grand Canyon by adding panoramic images gathered by hikers with Android-powered camera systems strapped to their backs.

Google Maps opened a virtual path to the wonders of the Grand Canyon on Thursday by adding panoramic images gathered by hikers with Android-powered camera systems strapped to their backs.

"These beautiful, interactive images cover more than 75 miles (120 kilometers) of trails and surrounding roads," [Google Maps](#) product manager Ryan Falor said in a blog post.

"Take a walk down the narrow trails and exposed paths of the Grand Canyon: hike down the famous Bright Angel Trail, gaze out at the mighty Colorado River, and explore scenic overlooks in full 360-degrees."

The pictures were gathered by Google Maps team members who hiked the rocky terrain with 40-pound (18-kilogram) backpacks holding a camera system, "enduring [temperature swings](#) and a few [muscle cramps](#) along the way," Falor said.

People can view the photos when visiting online maps of the Grand Canyon.

Google's Street View team has been increasingly going off-road to gather pictures to show real scenes from places on maps.

Last year, Google Maps added pictures from Cambridge Bay in the Canadian Arctic and images from the [Amazon rainforest](#) in Brazil.

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