

BLACK CANYON

Deep, steep and narrow.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison exposes you to some of the steepest cliffs, oldest rock, and craggiest spires in North America. A geological wonder that should be on every traveler's bucket list. Carved by the Gunnison River over a period of 2 million years, the canyon is among the deepest, narrowest, and darkest gorges found anywhere in the American West. In fact, it was dubbed the "Black Canyon" because its lowest sections see just 33 minutes of sunlight on any given day.

There are many reasons to explore the park, but here are our Top 5 reasons to visit the park during the winter:

Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoe Trekking

Winter Backcountry Camping

Visiting the South Rim Visitors Center since the North Rim Visitors Center is closed to vehicles after the first big snowfall

You'll essentially have the place all to yourself

It's free to visit!



OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Top tips when visiting

Keep in mind that there are no bridges that cross over the Black Canyon. If you're driving from the North Rim to the South Rim (or vice versa), be sure to allow for 2-3 hours of drive time.

The canyon is designated as an International Dark Sky Park, which means it is a great place to go stargazing.

The park is situated between 7,500 and 8,500 feet in altitude. Take your time when hiking, as it is easy to become winded.

There are no lodges or restaurants to be found inside the park. The nearest hotels, restaurants, and stores are located in Montrose, CO (about 15 miles away) and Gunnison, CO (a 63-mile drive), so plan accordingly.

Winter is minimal crowds and completely different experience than summer.

A five-hour drive from the closest international airport in Denver and situated well away from major interstates, it is the least visited national park in Colorado.

If traveling to Black Canyon in the Winter, be aware of snow and ice on the roads and the need for snow chains! Be prepared!