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Geocaching in the Great Outdoors

Geocaching in the Great Outdoors

This month:

- [Backpacking in Arizona](#)
- [Backpacking in Montana](#)

both by **Christina Raving**
aka **Huntnlady**

Backpacking in Arizona

Within Grand Canyon National Park is the Geocache, **Anasazi Ruins**. Because of the location within the National Park, this is a virtual cache, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't hunt it. A treasure awaits you not in trinkets hiding in an ammo can, but in finding the ancient Indian site.



Visiting the cache will require a wilderness permit from the National Park Service, since an overnight stay near the area will be required. [\(Info on wilderness permits\)](#)

The backpacker can start at either the North Rim or the South Rim. It is possible to hike to the Clear Creek campsites in one day, but most hikers stop at the Bright Angel Campground near Phantom Ranch at the river. It is a distance of nine miles from Phantom Ranch to Clear Creek. There is no water for that distance but Clear Creek runs constantly and is a great source of clear water. All water in the canyon should be treated before drinking.

Next Issue: An
outdoors
Geocache Jewel,
and more
backpacking
adventures

There are a few traditional campsites at Clear Creek, right where the trail and creek meet, with grub boxes to keep the critters out of the

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food. It is an "at large" area though, so there is no restriction as to where you can camp other than those that apply to the permit. The cache is only a mile and a half or so up Clear Creek from the campsite. The canyon is narrow just north of the camping area and difficult to maneuver unless you wade up the creek. In summertime this is very refreshing.

Once you are at the cache site, prepare to be impressed.

The trip up the canyon is quiet and scenic. Once you are at the cache site, prepare to be impressed. It was first located decades ago, but the area seems undisturbed and you can imagine that you are the first visitor there. The Park Service has left metates, potshards, and the ruins themselves intact. It is nothing like Mesa Verde, but it is a fairly large site with several structures to explore. It lies at the junction of two small streams and it is easily envisioned where the corn, squash and beans were grown and why the site was chosen.

Geocacher **Candleman** is the only one to visit it since the cache was placed by **Zinnware** , but Candleman wrote that he still hadn't come down from the high several months after the trip.

If you are planning a backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon, this cache is one you won't want to miss.



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