

GOLDEN EAGLE



GRAND CANYON
West

DID YOU KNOW?

Soaring high above the Grand Canyon West Rim you'll often spot golden eagles, one of the largest, fastest and nimblest raptors in North America.

- Golden eagles have gold feathers on the back of the head and neck. Juvenile eagles have neatly defined white patches at the base of the tail and in the wings for the first few years, some lack the white in the wings entirely.
- You're most likely to see a golden eagle soaring on steady wings lifted into a slight "V" with the wingtip feathers spread out like fingers.
- Golden eagles capture their prey on or near the ground, locating it by soaring, flying low over the ground or hunting from a perch.
- Golden eagles prey mainly on small to medium-sized mammals, including hares, rabbits, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, and marmots but can kill larger species including deer and bighorn sheep, and they can catch fish.
- Golden eagles usually nest on cliffs, but can build nests in trees, on the ground, or in human-made structures, including windmills, observation towers and nesting platforms.
- Golden eagles possess astonishing speed and maneuverability for their size, and can dive from great heights. These majestic birds have been clocked at close to 200 miles per hour.
- Single birds and pairs engage in aerial play with objects such as sticks or dead prey, carrying these items high into the sky, then dropping and retrieving them.
- Arizona is home to the largest number of species of birds in the United States.