

# Field Guide to Grand Canyon's Flora, Fauna, and Funga



## DISCLAIMER

This field guide is intended for educational and recreational purposes only. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, species identification should always be verified through multiple sources, especially for:

- Edible or medicinal plants
- Mushrooms (many species are toxic)
- Wildlife encounters (maintain safe distances)

### **Safety Notice:**

- Never consume any wild species without expert verification
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance
- Follow local regulations regarding protected species

## FLORA



### Utah Agave

*Agave utahensis*

This rosette-shaped agave features blue-green, sharp-spiked leaves and tall yellow-green inflorescences, thriving in the desert southwest.



### Stansbury's Cliffrose

*Purshia stansburyana*

A drought-tolerant shrub native to the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico, known for its fragrant flowers and valuable wildlife browse.



### Colorado Pinyon

*Pinus edulis*

A small to medium tree, it features irregularly furrowed bark and pairs of stout needles. Grows in open woodlands of the Southwest.



### Utah Juniper

*Juniperus osteosperma*

A shrub or small tree native to the southwestern U.S., characterized by thick shoots, scalelike leaves, and berry-like cones.



### Fernbush

*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*

A sticky, aromatic shrub with fernlike foliage and white roselike flowers, found in scrub woodlands and forests of western North America.



### Apache Plume

*Fallugia paradoxa*

A native erect shrub with peeling bark, lobed leaves, and roselike white flowers, it produces feathery pink styles after blooming.

## FAUNA



### Wapiti

*Cervus canadensis*

A large deer species native to North America and parts of Asia, known for its distinctive antlers and social behavior, thrives in diverse habitats.



### Rock Squirrel

*Otospermophilus variegatus*

Large, social rodents found in rocky habitats of the Southwestern US and Mexico, known for their burrowing and foraging behaviors.



### Common Raven

*Corvus corax*

A large, all-black passerine of the Northern Hemisphere, known for its intelligence, complex vocalizations, and adaptability to diverse habitats.



### Plateau Fence Lizard

*Sceloporus tristichus*

A spiny lizard found in rocky, wooded areas of the Southwest, it features keeled scales and metallic blue belly patches.



### Common Side-Blotched Lizard

*Uta stansburiana*

This small iguanid lizard exhibits unique male morphs with distinct mating strategies, influenced by coloration and territory dynamics.



### Mule Deer

*Odocoileus hemionus*

Indigenous to western North America, this deer features large ears and is recognized for its bifurcated antlers and black-tipped tail.

## FUNGA



### Elegant Sunburst Lichen

*Rusavskia elegans*

Bright orange or red lichen found on rocks, often near animal droppings; thrives in extreme environments and used in lichenometry.



### Desert Firedot Lichen

*Xanthomendoza trachyphylla*

A crustose lichen with a yellow-orange thallus, it thrives on rocks in arid habitats across Asia and North America.



### Hoary Cobblestone Lichen

*Acarospora strigata*

This crustose lichen features variable areoles and dark reddish-brown to black fruiting bodies, thriving on rocks in diverse habitats.



### Bristly Beard Lichen

*Usnea hirta*

A sensitive beard lichen, often used to monitor air quality, with a wide distribution and notable morphological variability.



### Yellow Cobblestone Lichen

*Acarospora socialis*

Bright yellow, areolate to squamulose crustose lichen found on rocks in western North America, common in desert regions.



### Hooded Sunburst Lichen

*Xanthomendoza fallax*

A small yellow-orange to red-orange foliose lichen, often found on bark, with rosettes up to 3 cm and hood-shaped soralia.