

Grand Canyon – Lake Powell Flight

Part 1: Grand Canyon Photos

November 5, 2019

The Grand Canyon and Lake Powell are some of the most beautiful areas in the southwestern United States. This flight was spectacular and I'm pleased to share some of my photos.

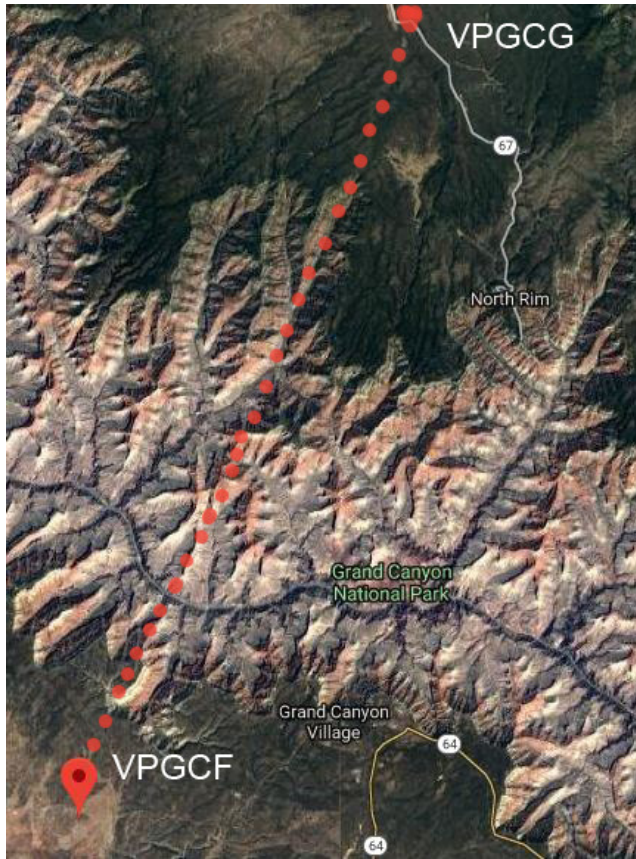
There are three parts to the series, Part 1 covers the Grand Canyon, Part 2 covers Lake Powell and Part 3 covers some of the more technical navigation and flight information.



The satellite view of the Grand Canyon provides some hint of the enormous scale. Our flight north was through the center (Tusayan) and the return skirted the eastern border along the Colorado River.

The Grand Canyon National Park, which covers 1,217,262 acres (1,901.972 sq mi; 4,926.08 km²) of unincorporated area in Coconino and Mohave counties, received more than six million recreational visitors in 2017, which is the second highest count of all American national parks after Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Grand Canyon National Park has five climate zones; Cold Semi-Arid (BSk), Humid Continental Dry Cool Summer (Dsb), Humid Continental Dry Warm Summer (Dsa), Warm Summer Mediterranean (Csb), and Hot Summer Mediterranean (Csa). The plant hardiness zone at Grand Canyon Visitor Center is 7a with an average annual extreme minimum temperature of 3.3 °F (-15.9 °C). The North Rim elevation averages 8,000 feet or 2,400 metres above sea level. The South Rim is about 1,000 ft or 300 m lower altitude.



Northward flight path via Dragon Corridor (VPGCF to VPGCG) Southward flight path (VPGCI to VPGCH)

The flight path north and south across the Grand Canyon are via FAA assigned navigation corridors, northward was the Dragon Corridor (defined as waypoints VPGCF to VPGCG) which is through the center of the canyon and southbound is via the Zuni Point Corridor (defined as waypoints VPGCI to VPGCH) which is the eastern side of the canyon. The flight paths are provided so there is context as to what path the photos were taken.



Grand Canyon Airport

Our flight path took us just south of the Grand Canyon airport on the way to the VPGCF waypoint to enter the Dragon Corridor.



Quite a big hole in front of us!



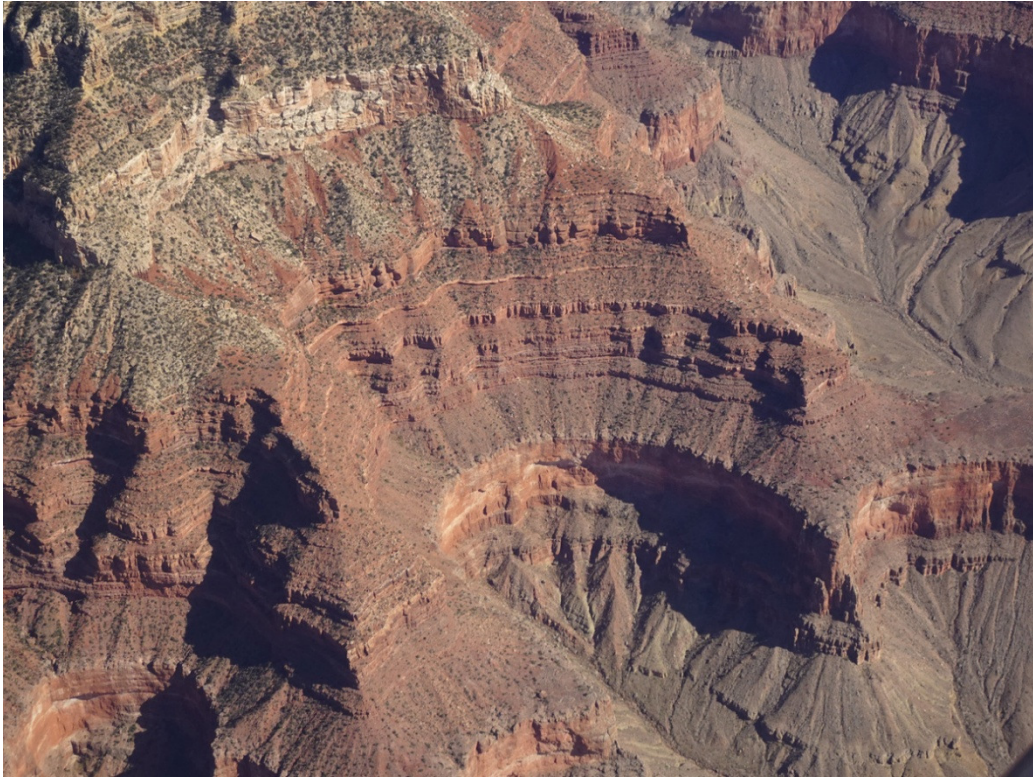
A very deep drop looking to the east



A view looking to the west

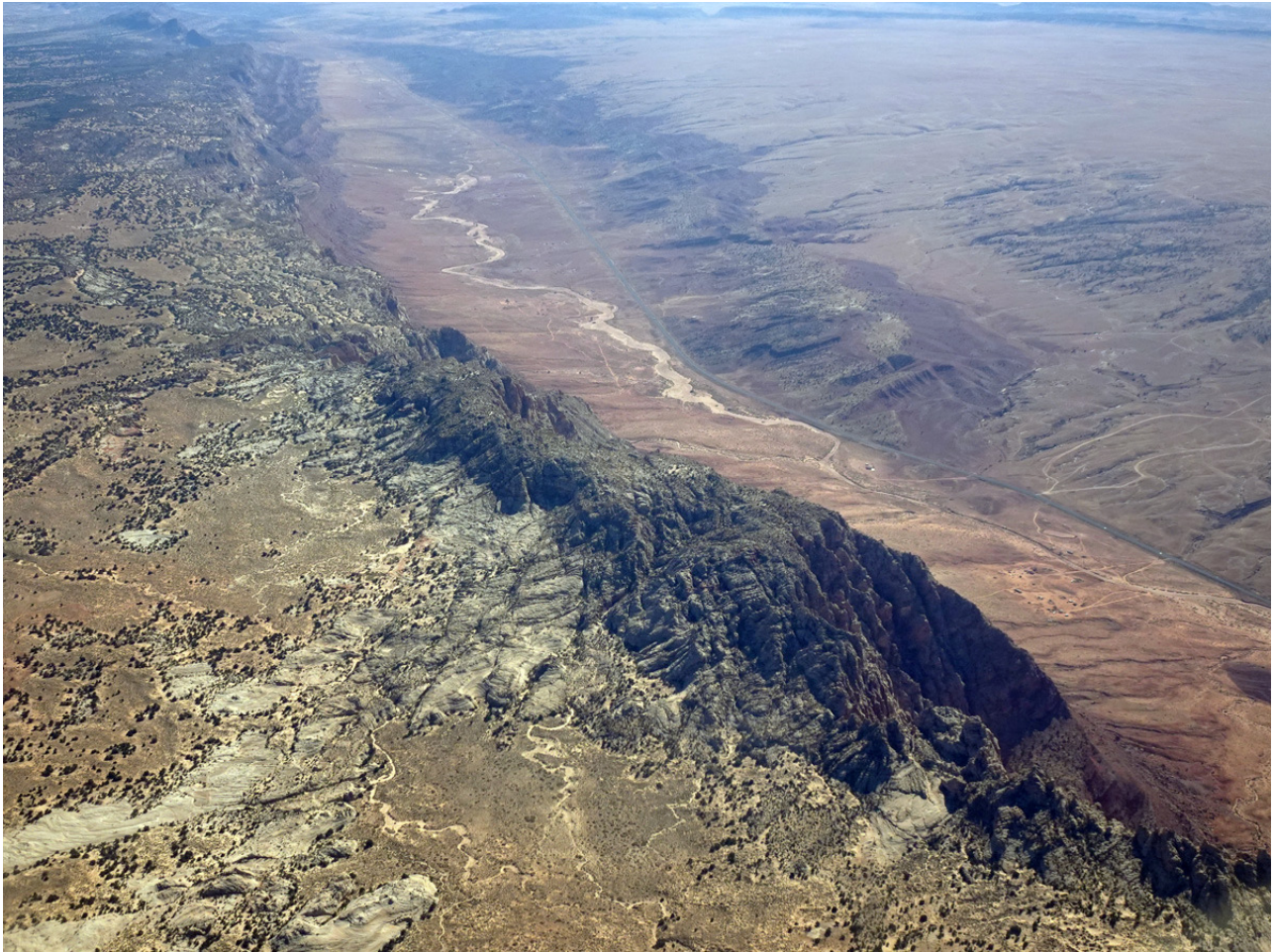


It is hard to believe the Colorado River, rain erosion and a very long amount of time made this.



Another look to the east

After this point, we over flew the end of the Dragon Corridor at waypoint VPGCG and took a north easterly course towards the city of Page, Arizona and Lake Powell. The Lake Powell photos will come in a separate installment.



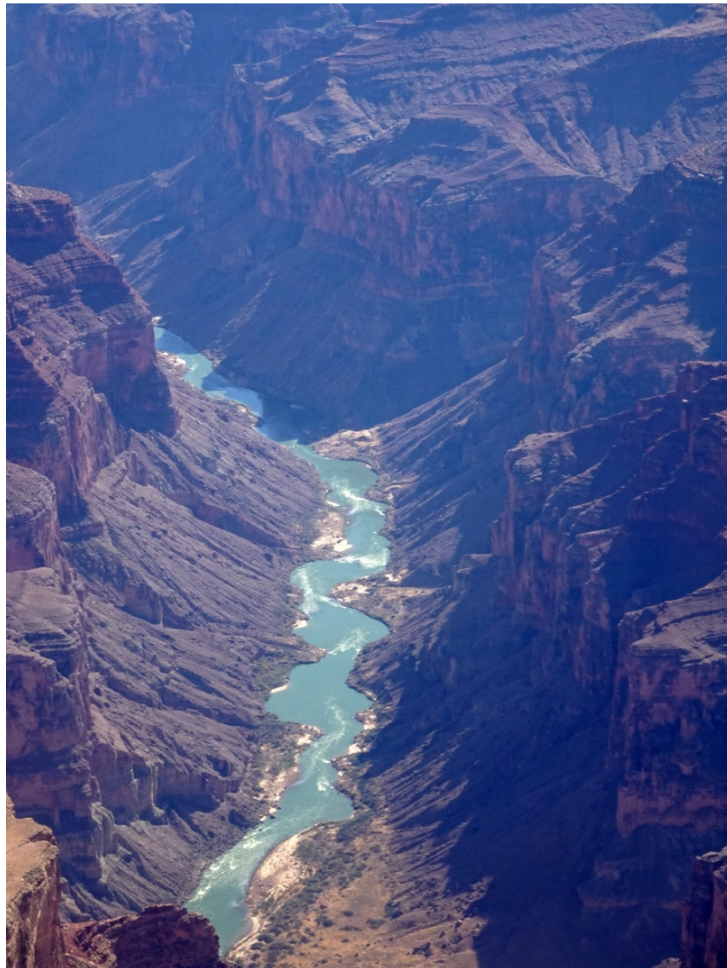
A view of the Vermilion Cliffs about 10 miles south of Bitter Springs. That is state route 89 to the right.



We are flying south over the Colorado River on the east side of the canyon.



Unless you raft the Colorado River, these sights would be difficult to reach.



A spectacular river view with rapids.



This is looking east of the Colorado River



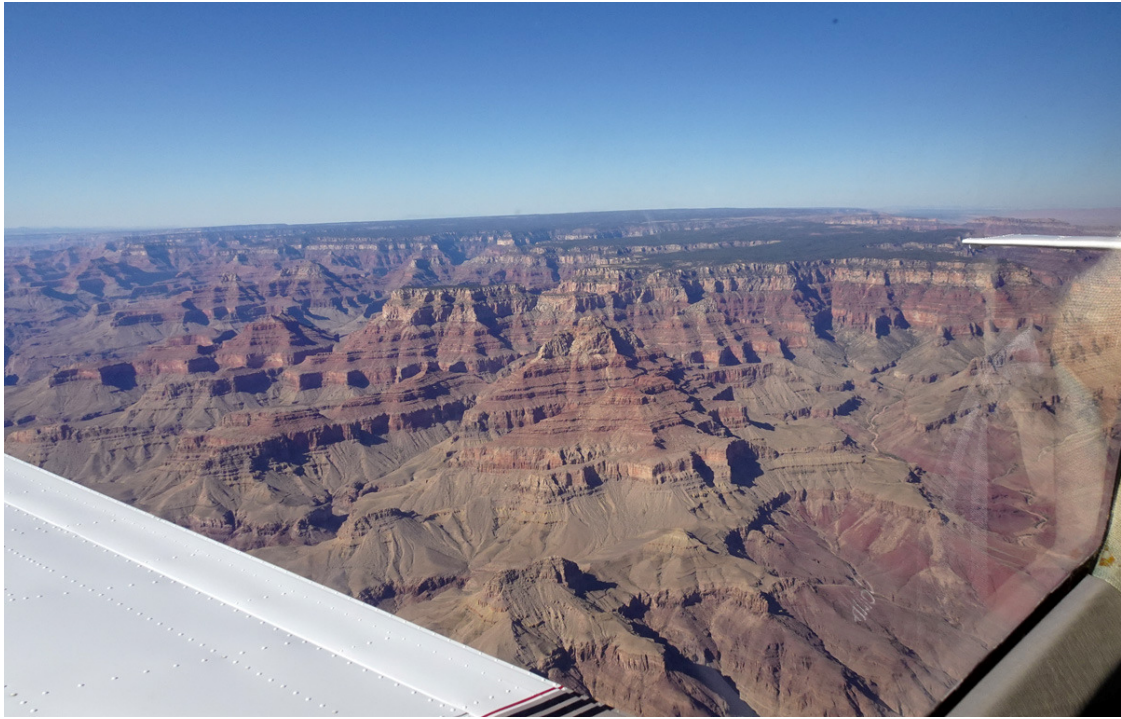
Very rugged terrain along the Colorado River



Just forward the left wing tip is civilization



This is the Desert View Watchtower on the southeast corner of the Grand Canyon



This photo is from the right rear window of the Mooney, the last view of the Grand Canyon.



Our flight path was direct to Flagstaff.

The return flight path was direct to Flagstaff. The smoke is from what we assume was a prescribed controlled burn. We didn't see any fire fighters or slurry bomber aircraft and there were no air space warnings. To the right of the smoke are the San Francisco Peaks which rise above flagstaff. Humphreys Peak, is the highest point in the state of Arizona at 12,633 feet (3,851 m) in elevation.



A closer view of the burn



A view through the Mooney propeller of the Snow Bowl ski runs on San Francisco Peaks