



Hammond's at the Depot has a wide array of colorful candies. The shop is in Grand Canyon Railway's historic depot.



Hammond's Candies' hand-crooked candy canes are especially popular at Hammond's at the Depot.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

XANTERRA AND HAMMOND'S CANDIES COLLABORATE TO OPEN VINTAGE CANDY SHOP AT GRAND CANYON RAILWAY; MORE TO COME IN OTHER LOCATIONS

WILLIAMS, Ariz., November 19, 2012 –Two Denver-based companies are teaming up to open old-style candy stores at locations throughout the West. Xanterra Parks & Resorts and Hammond's Candies have established one store and intend to expand upon their new relationship to open more stores in other Xanterra locations.

The first of the candy stores – "Hammond's at the Depot" inside [Grand Canyon Railway's](#) depot in Williams, Ariz. – opened Sept. 29, 2012. The 200-square-foot store-within-a-store concept features a wide variety of Hammond's Candies' specialty items as well as bulk candies.

"It just seems that our 'vintage' candy shop belongs here in our historic depot," said Bill Bub, Xanterra's vice president, retail. "People come to Grand Canyon Railway to enjoy a nostalgic experience and the store, like the train, helps bring back a couple of simpler pleasures from simpler times. Every time I walk in the store I feel like I'm in a Norman Rockwell painting."

Grand Canyon Railway began selling Hammond's candy canes during its [Polar Express](#) runs in past years. The hand-crooked canes which are available in 24 flavors proved so popular that the dedicated candy store was opened.

"With our Polar Express runs in full swing, the candy canes are very popular with the kids," said Bub. "And we have also noticed the adults making plenty of 'nostalgia' purchases such as flat taffy or lollipops."

[Hammond's Candies](#) has been producing candy since 1920 when Carl T. Hammond, Sr. founded the company in Denver. Its lineup of candy includes a variety of ribbon candy, lemon drops, root beer barrels and its signature "Mitchell Sweet," a bite-sized, soft marshmallow surrounded by succulent caramel.

With a legacy that dates back to the 1870s, [Xanterra](#) operates lodges, restaurants, gift stores and other concessions in state and national parks as well as Kingsmill Resort, Windstar Cruises and Grand Canyon Railway. Xanterra purchased the legendary Fred Harvey Company in 1968. Fred Harvey was a restaurateur who worked closely with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway to open the American West to tourism. The railway provided the transportation, and Harvey provided the hospitality at his famed "Harvey Houses."

Among the stops in the West was the Fray Marcos Hotel in Williams. Beginning in 1901, visitors could stop there and catch a railroad spur that would take them directly to the Grand Canyon. The Santa Fe Railway operated this train until 1968 when it ceased operation. An enterprising couple – Max and Thelma Biegert – brought the railway back to life in 1984,



The Grand Canyon Railway offers a family-friendly experience with on-board entertainment.

and Xanterra purchased Grand Canyon Railway in 2007, thus reuniting the train with its Fred Harvey roots.

The [Grand Canyon Railway Hotel](#) is comprised of 199 standard rooms, 87 deluxe rooms, 10 suites and one luxury suite – the Rail Baron Suite – as well as a spacious meeting room available for wedding receptions, seminars and other functions; a large courtyard with barbecue and wet bar; a game room for children; a large enclosed crescent-shaped pool, hot tub and an exercise room.

Grand Canyon Railway is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, www.thetrain.com or call 1-800-THE-TRAIN (1-800-843-8724).

Grand Canyon Railway is operated by [Xanterra Parks & Resorts](#).

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Xanterra Parks & Resorts® (consisting of several affiliated Xanterra entities) operates lodges, restaurants, tours and activities at national parks and state parks and resorts. Xanterra Parks & Resorts is the country's largest park concessioner. Xanterra Parks & Resorts has operations in the following locations: Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Zion, Crater Lake, Rocky Mountain and Petrified Forest National Parks, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley National Park and five Ohio State Park Lodges as well as the Geneva Marina at Ohio's Geneva State Park. Xanterra Parks & Resorts also operates Windstar Cruises, Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Va. and Grand Canyon Railway in Williams, Ariz.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts has been committed to the preservation and protection of the environment for many years. Through its environmental program, "Ecologix," Xanterra Parks & Resorts has been recognized repeatedly for environmental leadership in the hospitality industry and is the recipient of many honors, including major awards from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Travel Industry Association of America, American Hotel and Lodging Association, National Parks Conservation Association, Conde Nast Traveler, National Geographic Traveler, Colorado Department of Public Health, State of Arizona, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information about Xanterra Parks & Resorts, links to individual properties and reservations numbers, visit www.xanterra.com.

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