



NOT JUST ANY OLD PLACE

Summer rainfall creates a dreamy atmosphere at sunrise in the Grand Canyon. This view is from the North Rim, which sees only about 10 percent of Grand Canyon National Park's 6 million annual visitors.
Adam Schallau

Although Grand Canyon National Park is turning 100 this month, the natural wonder for which it's named is a bit older — about 35 million years or more. There are other big, old canyons in the world, including Tsangpo Canyon in Tibet, but there's no canyon on Earth as beautiful as ours.

A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY JEFF KIDA

EDITOR'S NOTE: When you're working on a portfolio about a place as big as the Grand Canyon, at some point, you have to zero in. What's more, when you're editing a magazine that's been featuring that canyon for almost 100 years, you have to work a little harder to find a new theme. For this special issue, Photo Editor Jeff Kida referred back to John Wesley Powell, the first person to attempt a detailed written description of the natural wonder.

“One might imagine that [the Grand Canyon] was intended for the library of the gods, and so it was. The shelves are not for books ... but form the stony leaves of one great book.”

“He who would read the language of the universe may dig out letters here and there, and with them spell words and read ... in a slow and imperfect way, but still so as to understand a little, the story of creation.”

“The glories and the beauties of form, color, and sound unite in the Grand Canyon — forms unrivaled even by the mountains, colors that vie with sunsets, and sounds that span the diapason from tempest to tinkling raindrop, from cataract to bubbling fountain.”

“You cannot see the Grand Canyon in one view, as if it were a changeless spectacle from which a curtain might be lifted, but to see it you have to toil from month to month through its labyrinths. It is a region more difficult to traverse than the Alps or the Himalayas, but if strength and courage are sufficient for the task, by a year's toil a concept of sublimity can be obtained never again to be equaled on the hither side of Paradise.”

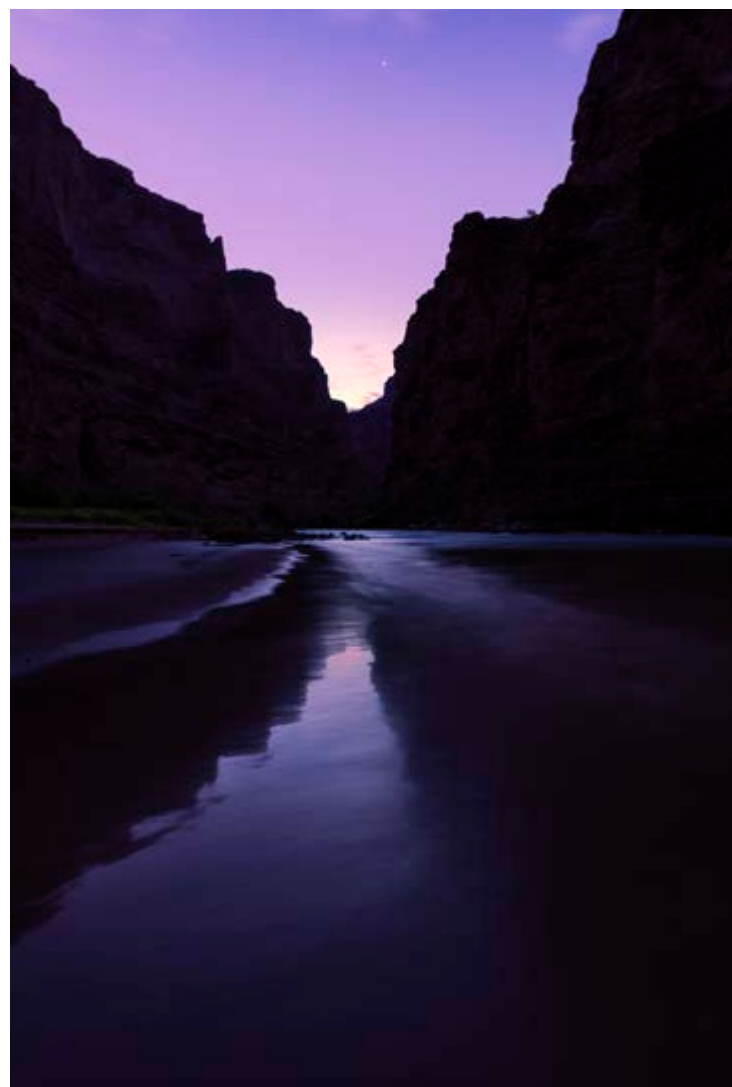
— JOHN WESLEY POWELL

Cracks and textures form in a section of Bass formation, one of the Canyon's numerous rock layers. The formation is named for William Wallace Bass, an influential Canyon pioneer. *Wes Timmerman*



“IT’S NOT WHAT YOU LOOK AT THAT MATTERS,
IT’S WHAT YOU SEE.”

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU



ABOVE: The calm water of the Colorado River reflects the light of dawn. The river flows for 277 miles through Grand Canyon National Park, and it has an average depth of 40 feet and an average width of 300 feet in that stretch. *Adam Schallau*

RIGHT: Lightning strikes the Canyon’s North Rim during a summer monsoon storm, as viewed from the South Rim’s Yavapai Point. The small, pointed butte in the center is Isis Temple. *Elias Butler*



Lipan Point, on the South Rim, offers an early-morning panorama of the Canyon's buttes and the Colorado River. This overlook is just west of Desert View Watchtower.
Adam Schallau

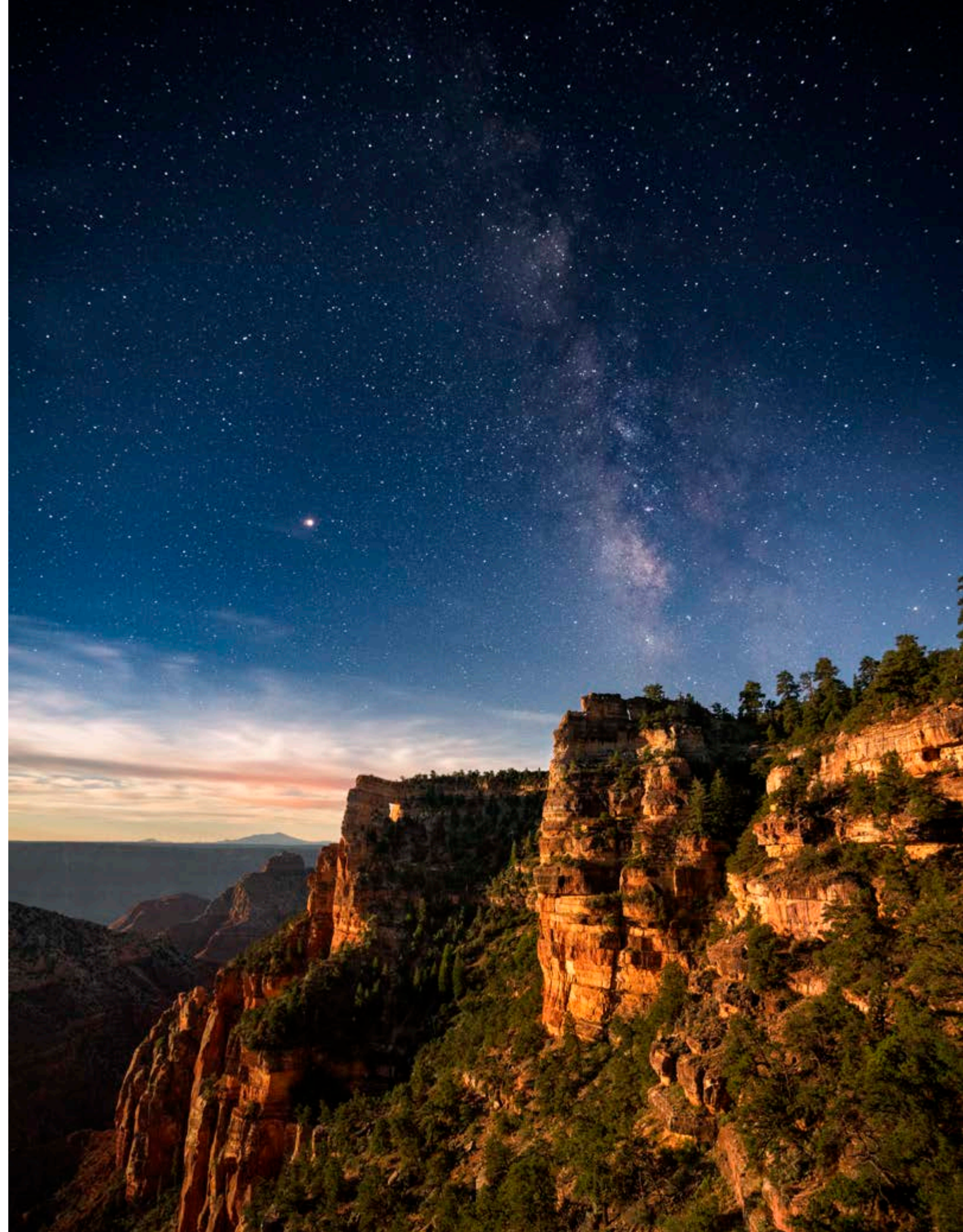




“TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE MORE DISAPPOINTED
BY THE THINGS YOU DIDN'T DO THAN BY THE ONES YOU DID DO.”

— MARK TWAIN

ABOVE: A weather phenomenon known as an inversion fills the Canyon with puffy clouds. An inversion occurs when cold air below the rim is trapped by a layer of warmer air. *Adam Schallau*
RIGHT: A full moon and the Milky Way light the night sky above Angels Window on the North Rim. The arch is visible on the way to Cape Royal, the southernmost North Rim overlook. *Adam Schallau*

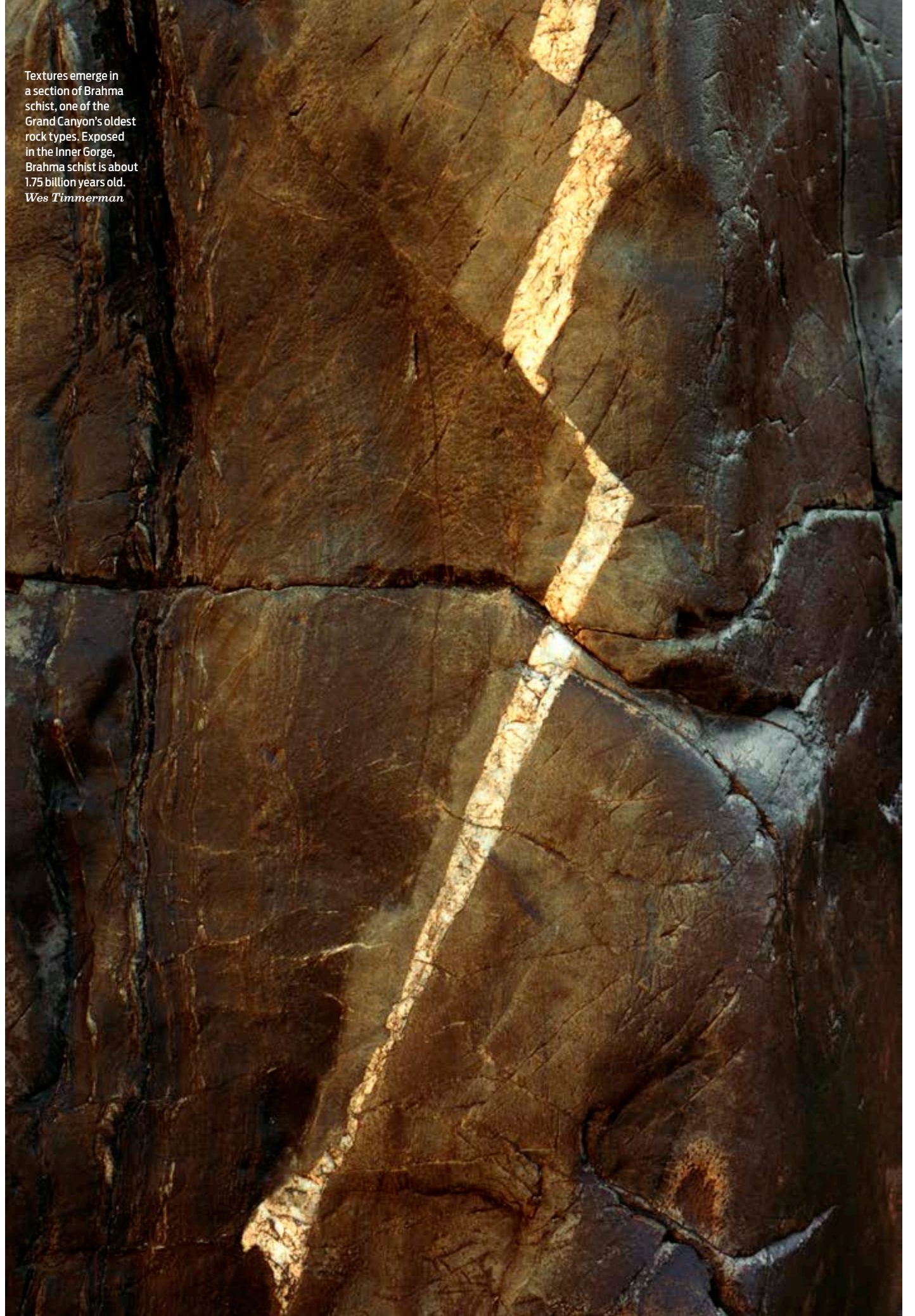




An isolated beam of light shines on the Palisades of the Desert as the Colorado River meanders past at sunset. This area is in the eastern section of the park.
Ralph Lee Hopkins



A small waterfall trickles into Saddle Canyon, a tributary of Marble Canyon, in the northeastern part of the park. This spot is near Mile 47 on the Colorado River. *Adam Schallau*



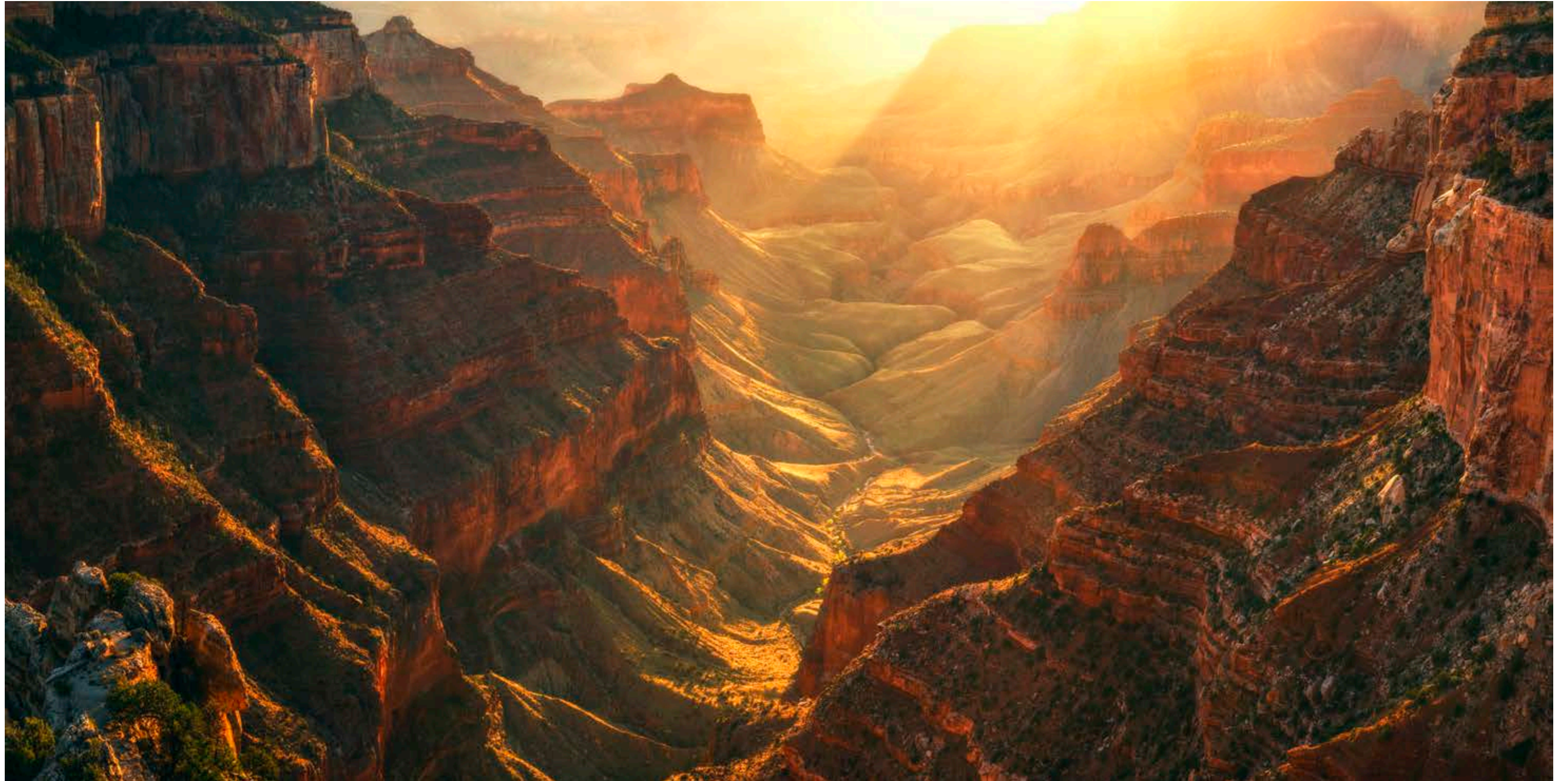
Textures emerge in a section of Brahma schist, one of the Grand Canyon's oldest rock types. Exposed in the Inner Gorge, Brahma schist is about 1.75 billion years old. *Wes Timmerman*



Lightning from a spring storm strikes near the Canyon at sunset, as viewed from Toroweap Overlook. This remote North Rim viewpoint offers a view of the Colorado River 3,000 feet below.
Peter Coskun



Deer Creek Falls feeds hanging greenery as it empties into the Colorado River near river Mile 137. Most commercial and private Canyon rafting trips stop at the 150-foot waterfall.
Derek von Briesen



“TRAVEL MAKES ONE MODEST. YOU SEE WHAT A TINY PLACE YOU OCCUPY IN THE WORLD.”

— GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

The setting sun forms long shadows at the Canyon, as viewed from Cape Royal on the North Rim. Cape Royal offers 270-degree views, making it a popular destination for North Rim visitors. *Peter Coskun*

