



OWNER'S GUIDE

TO AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Presented by the National Park Foundation
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“There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people.”

—PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, 1936

In 1872, America did something unprecedented proclaiming Yellowstone the world’s first national park, setting aside more than one million acres of wilderness as a “public park”, not for the privileged, but for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.

For more than 100 years American citizens have continued this work of transforming the great landscapes of our country and the important sites from our history into an extraordinary public treasure. Today, because of their vision and action, each of us is a shared owner in nearly 400 national park sites spanning 18 million acres and including high mountain peaks, deep valleys, sacred battlefields, celebrated monuments, picturesque seashores, extraordinary museum collections... and that is just the beginning! We are truly owners of the world’s greatest collection of nature, history and culture.

Our parks remind us who we were with when we first saw bison, an eagle, or a bear cub in the wild. They share the stories of our past in the places where they happened and introduce us to larger than life figures from Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King, Jr., to Sacagawea. They are the places that inspire us, refresh us, and connect us so proudly as Americans.

There is so much to discover in our national parks! Let this Owner’s Guide be your first step on your next national park adventure. And then remember to share your stories at www.nationalparks.org/share. Go Parks!

National Park Foundation

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About the author: Kurt Repanshek has been covering national parks for more than three decades. Following a stint with The Associated Press, his freelance career has spawned guidebooks to the national parks and articles for Smithsonian, Audubon, National Wildlife, and many other publications. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of www.nationalparkstraveler.com, a web-zine that provides daily coverage of the wonders of the National Park System.

Maps provided courtesy of the National Park Service.

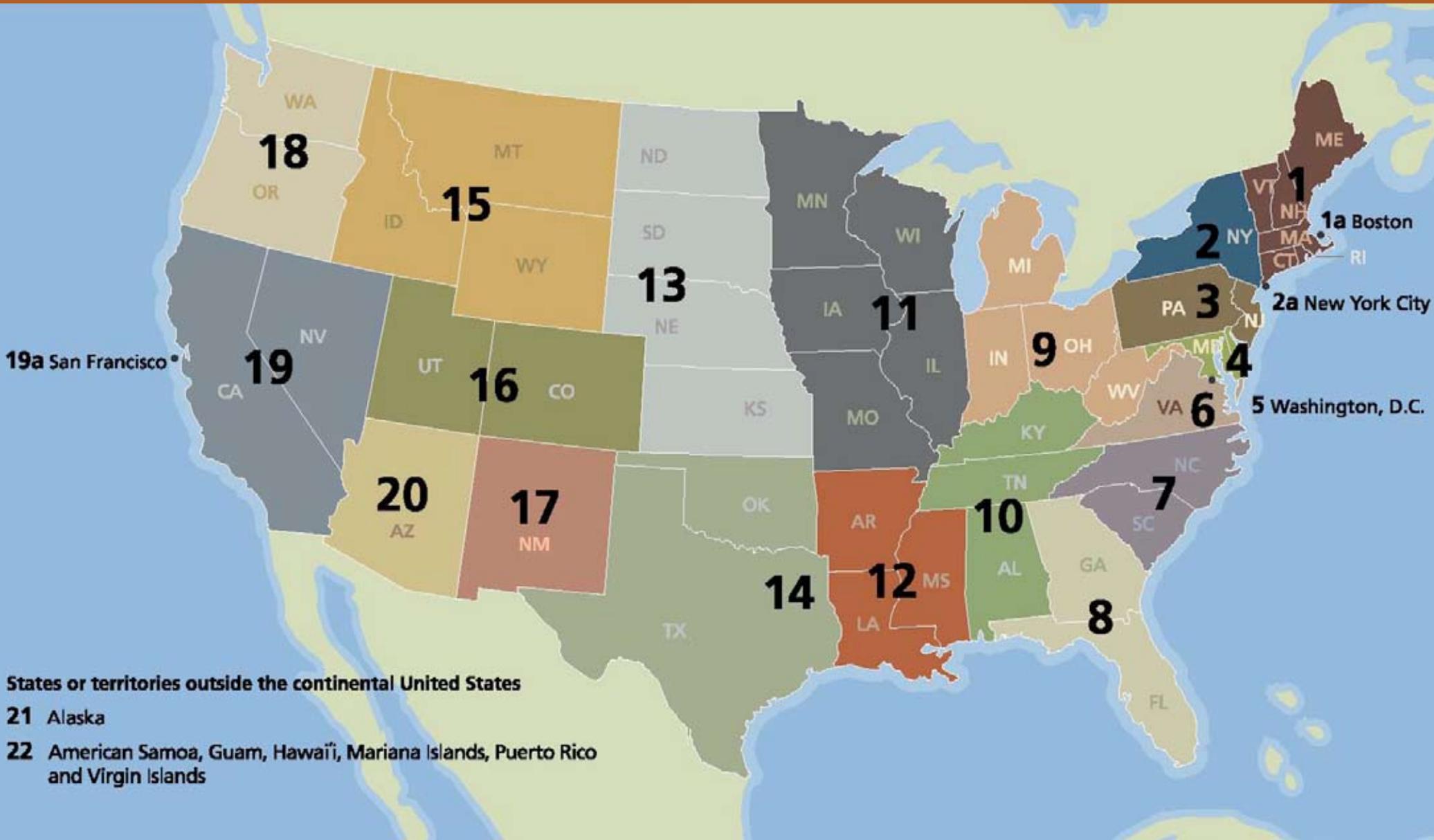
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The Owner's Guide to America's national parks is designed to make your park experience better than ever. With this guide, you can easily find national parks by state, region, and in territories outside the continental United States. Separate sections are included for cities with high concentrations of national parks such as Boston, Washington, D.C., New York City and San Francisco.

The numbers highlighted below direct you to the appropriate map section in the Owner's Guide (example: national parks in Utah and Colorado are found on Map 16.) Each section contains a summary of what you'll see in the area as well as "what not to miss" at each park. To help with planning your next national park adventure, you will find a complete directory of all 394 national parks and an abbreviations key for all national park designations in the back of the guide.



Few regions of the National Park System capture the toil and artistry of our young nation as well as New England. From New Bedford, the “richest city in the world” during the whaling age of the 19th century, and Springfield that armed the country to the art history reflected at both Weir Farm and Saint-Gaudens home, this region blends industrialism with masterworks to define America and Americans.



IN THE AREA If there's a central theme that runs through the national parks found in New England, it wouldn't be a stretch to call it artistic flair. While Acadia National Park no doubt showcases natural beauty on Mount Desert Island with its rocky shores, babbling brooks and pine-shaded granite mountains, dig into the park's history and you'll discover one of the finest art movements in this country's history. Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the Hudson River School of landscape painting that also gave us the works of Frederic Edwin Church and Albert Bierstadt, captured the island's scenery with his paintings in the 1840s and 1850s.

Those settings caught the interest of East Coast aristocrats, who flocked to Mount Desert Island to escape summer's heat and humidity. Soon a service industry arose to cater to these visitors, who included the Rockefellers, Morgans and Vanderbilts. Some of their dollars helped create today's national park; the carriage paths, for example, were installed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., an ardent supporter of the national park movement. And Mr. Cole hasn't been forgotten, as artists continue to flock to Acadia to capture its many moods.

what not to miss

CONNECTICUT

Weir Farm NHS

Take guided tours of the art studios and historic home.

MAINE

Appalachian NST

(See West Virginia)

Acadia NP

Visit late May-early June for wildflowers; first half of Oct. for foliage.

Saint Croix Island IHS

The interpretive trail features six bronze statues of Native Americans and French settlers.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cape Cod NS

Enjoy mesmerizing ocean views along the pristine beaches and grassy uplands.

Lowell NHP

Don't miss the Boot Cotton Mills Museum, with 88 operating looms

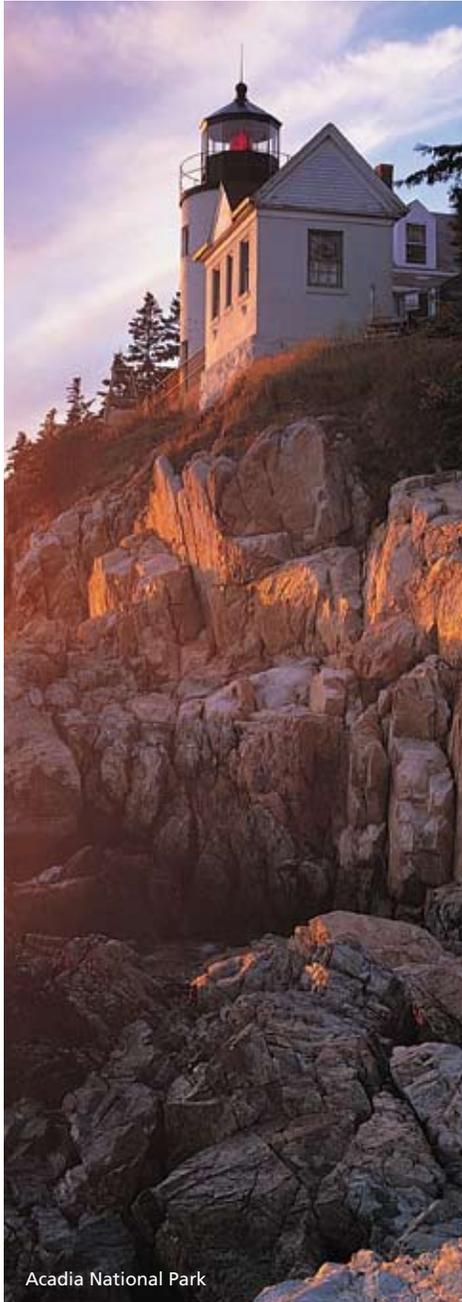


Weir Farm National Historic Site

Elsewhere in the region, Weir Farm Historic Site in Connecticut not only showcases the art of 19th Century painter J. Alden Weir, who opened his home to other artists, but welcomes today's painters to seek inspiration. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in New Hampshire pays homage to Augustus

Saint-Gaudens, considered to be perhaps America's best sculptor, and; while the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park in Massachusetts traces America's whaling history, peek into the Seamen's Bethel and you'll find a pew where Herman Melville captured some of his inspiration for Moby Dick.

There's surf and sun to be embraced in New England, as well, with Cape Cod National Seashore offering 40 miles of sandy beaches, cranberry bogs and adventures in the dunes. And then, of course, seemingly binding New England together is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a 2,174-mile footpath that is anchored in the north atop Mount Katahdin in Maine and in the south on Springer Mountain in Georgia. With numerous spurs connecting to it like interstate on-ramps, the trail can be enjoyed for an afternoon or a month.



Acadia National Park

what not to miss

MASSACHUSETTS (cont.)

New Bedford Whaling NHP

Spend a day touring the historic district; stay for Art, History and Architecture Gallery night (2nd Thurs. monthly)

Springfield Armory NHS

See an exhibit featuring the largest collection of experimental and standard military arms in the US.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Saint-Gaudens NHS

Tour the galleries, gardens and house; explore the hiking trails.

RHODE ISLAND

Roger Williams N MEM

Combine this visit with trips to the State House and historic Benefit Street.

VERMONT

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP

Enjoy hiking trails in the nation's oldest sustainably-managed forest. This is the first national park to focus on the history of conservation.

Cape Cod National Seashore



what will you see?

Adrift in the Atlantic Ocean a long stone's throw off the Maine coast, lobster-claw-shaped Mount Desert is a rumbled, and at times angular, landscape of granite, timber and water. The island stood up to glaciers thousands of years ago and today endures constant beatings from the Atlantic.

You can find the roof of Acadia National Park atop Cadillac Mountain, a 1,532-foot-tall granite hump that is the highest point on the north Atlantic seaboard. Reaching the summit via the 3.5-mile-long Cadillac

South Ridge Trail, you stride easily through cool coniferous forests that slowly give way to rocky outcrops and expansive views from this jewel of the Atlantic. Frenchman's Bay and its many isles, the horizon-stretching Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Maine all come into view from Cadillac's granite shoulder. The trek is reflective of the return to nature sought by the High Society that retreated to Mount Desert Island early in the 20th century.

Just as key to experiencing Acadia is a visit to the Jordon Pond House, where they smear fresh strawberry preserves on warm, oversized popovers, pedaling through the woods along the peaceful carriage paths, or rock-hopping along the cobbled coastlines in search of tide pools with their anemones, sea urchins, and sun stars.



Cadillac Mountain
Acadia NP

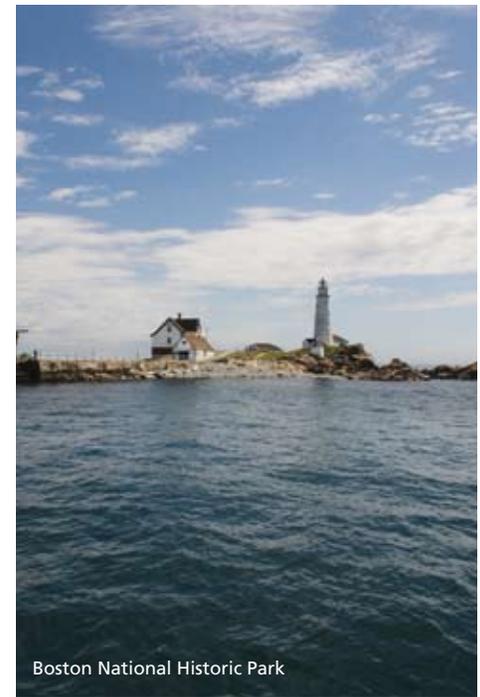
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The area around Boston, Massachusetts, is one of the country's richest when it comes to American history. Here you'll find the birthplace of the Revolutionary War, a historic site honoring the father of landscape architecture in the United States, and another in tribute to one of the nation's finest poets. Being so close to the Atlantic Ocean, it's no surprise that this region is also home to one of the country's earliest, and most important, seaport towns.

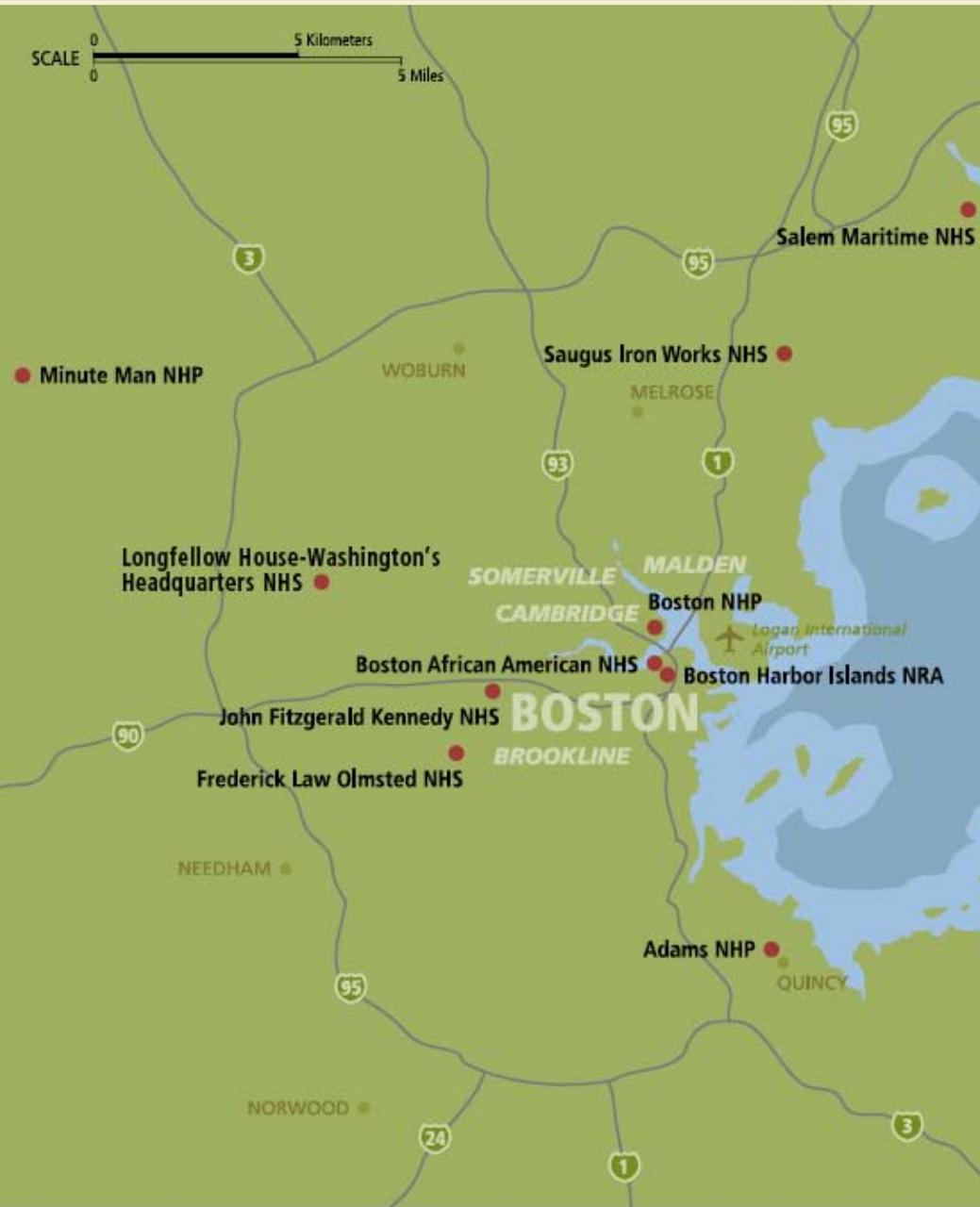
IN THE AREA Frederick Law Olmsted might have been the quintessential jack of all trades: Scientist, farmer, journalist, publisher, dry goods clerk, and gold mine manager. Today, though, Olmsted is remembered for his contributions to landscape architecture.

Indeed, his travels throughout the world and the United States introduced him to a wide variety of landscapes. He put all these experiences together as he designed park settings across the country, starting with Central Park in New York City. Other accomplishments included projects at Yosemite National Park and countless urban settings from Boston to Chicago and Louisville. From the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site you can join rangers for walking tours to some of the parks Olmsted designed in Boston.

At nearby Longfellow National Historic Site you can explore 19th century literature and the arts, tour the home of American Literary



Boston National Historic Park



what not to miss

BOSTON

Adams NHP

The birthplace, home, and final resting places of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, as well as both first ladies.

Boston African American NHS

Take the Black Heritage Trail walking tour - maps and guides available free at the African Meeting House.

Boston Harbor Islands NRA

Beachcombing, boat riding, fishing, hiking and kayaking are all favorites. Programs available May-Oct.

Boston NHP

Explore the Old State House, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere House, Old North Church and more along the Freedom Trail.

Frederick Law Olmsted NHS

Tour historic grounds and watch a film about America's leading landscape architect.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS

Guided home tours are available Wed-Sun, May-Oct.

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS

The Longfellow Summer Festival of Music and Poetry lasts---- June-Sept.

Minute Man NHP

The North Bridge, Minute Man Statue, and Battle Road are global symbols of the struggle for freedom.

Salem Maritime NHS

Tour the wharves, historic buildings, neighborhoods, and 18th century garden.

Saugus Iron Works NHS

Museum features a working waterwheel, and other machinery from American heavy industry.

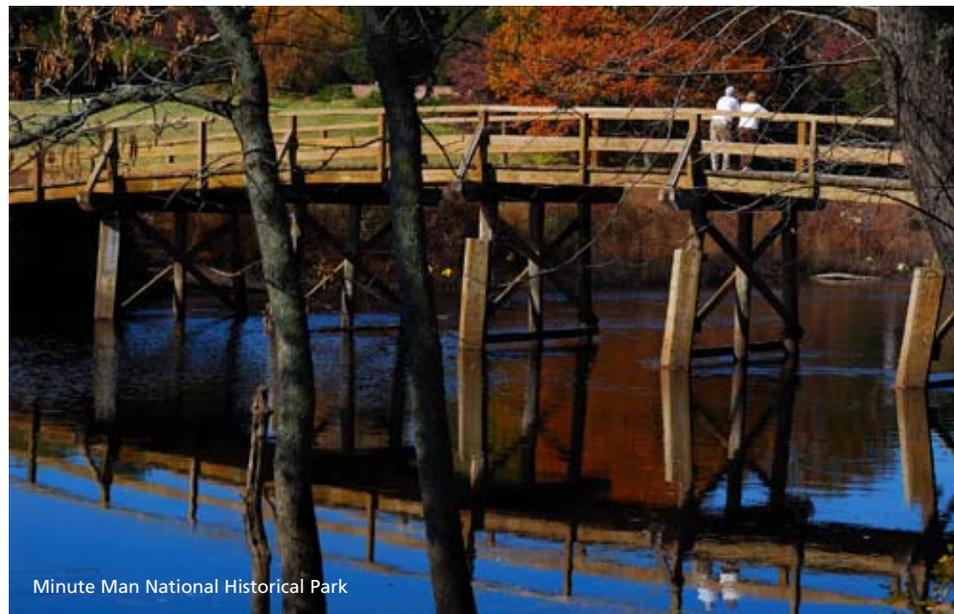
legend, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, or simply enjoy the two acres that buffer the house and the nature drawn to it from bustling Cambridge. Not only do rangers provide insights to Longfellow, but they also touch on General George Washington, who stayed in Longfellow's home during the Siege of Boston in 1775-1776.

Any visit to Boston must include a visit to Boston National Historical Park. Boston, after all, was the backdrop for the first battle of the Revolutionary War. Time in downtown Boston is well spent following the red-brick Freedom Trail that leads you past 16 nationally historic sites – meeting houses, cemeteries, even the Old North Church where Paul Revere placed two lanterns to

warn of an impending British attack. At Faneuil Hall you can imagine the scene where Samuel Adams and others decried the taxes England was levying on the colonies.

Also worthy of a visit while in Boston is the Bunker Hill Monument, which tells the story of the first major battle of the Revolutionary War.

North of Boston lies Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, where iron-making in the United States was brought to life, and Salem Maritime National Historic Site, which in its day was a bustling seaport that saw Revolutionary War privateers come and go along with merchants who traveled to the Far East for goods.



Minute Man National Historical Park



Salem Maritime National Historic Site

what will you see?

With the Atlantic Ocean so close, is it any surprise the National Park System extends into the water? And what you'll find at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area will likely surprise you.

True, there are tide pools to explore, dunes to walk, and even some pretty good fishing.



But that's only the most obvious. While the main battlegrounds of the Civil War were far to the south in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and the Carolinas, on Georges Island you'll find a Civil War-era fort. The island initially was using for farming but, in 1825 the government acquired it for defense purposes and built Fort Warren, which also held its fair share of Confederate prisoners. To this day the fort supposedly is haunted by the ghost of a prisoner's wife who, legend has it, was hanged for aiding his escape.

Throughout Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area you'll find 39 islands, each with its own personality. Some are little bigger than rocky outcrops that birds rest on. Others, such as Grape Island, have trails, campsites, and a wonderfully abundant collection of wild berries.

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Images of the American frontier in the 18th century mix with beach-combing in the Atlantic and presidential history at National Park System sites in New York. Also found here is a small chapel where women first gathered to talk about expanding their rights in the United States, as well as battlefields that witnessed impressive American victories over the British during the Revolutionary War.

IN THE AREA Upstate New York during the Revolutionary War was a frontier wilderness that challenged tactics. The Colonial Army was stretched both by the expanse of land as well as the superior numbers of the British forces. But twice in a handful of months smaller Colonial forces repelled larger British armies.

The battle commemorated by today's Saratoga National Historical Park ended with British surrender, a feat that helped convince the Colonials that they could indeed succeed in gaining independence. A few months prior to that victory, Colonial forces at Fort Stanwix held off a superior British contingent and in the process helped thwart plans to divide and conquer the colonies. Today the story of that battle is told at Fort Stanwix National Monument.

Presidential history is spread across New York State. Sagamore Hill National Historic Site on Long Island marks the last home of Theodore Roosevelt, the country's 26th

what not to miss

NEW YORK

Appalachian NST
(See West Virginia)

Eleanor Roosevelt NHS
Tour home and gardens, explore the walkways and trails of Eleanor Roosevelt's home.

Fire Island NS
Take a tour of the Fire Island Light House, explore a 300-year-old American Holly forest, enjoy the seashore.

Fort Stanwix NM
Tour the fort, which has been almost entirely reconstructed to its 1777 appearance.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS
Tour the home and adjacent library and museum; visit FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt's grave sites.

Martin Van Buren NHS
Plan to spend an hour and a half touring the home and gardens of the Nation's eighth President.

Sagamore Hill NHS
Tour the home of Theodore Roosevelt, explore the Old Orchard Museum.

Saratoga NHP
Take an auto or biking tour of the battlefield.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS
Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in here as President on Sept. 14, 1901 after William McKinley was assassinated.

Vanderbilt Mansion NHS
Take guided tours of the home, and explore the formal garden and grounds.

Women's Rights NHP
Visit the birthplace of the women's rights movement in the United States. Tour the museum, historic buildings and homes.



Fire Island National Seashore

president. During his time in office the home served as Roosevelt's summer White House. On the opposite side of the state, in Buffalo, you can find the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, where Roosevelt was sworn into office following the assassination of President William McKinley.

Another Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, also called New York State home. Today you can tour his Hudson River estate, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, and visit the FDR President Library and Museum. For FDR, escaping Washington, D.C., helped ease the presidential pressures on his shoulders. "All that is within me cries

out to go back to my home on the Hudson River," he said.

The home of Martin Van Buren, the country's eighth president and the first born under the American flag, also is a national historic site. It was from this estate, Lindenwald near Albany, that Van Buren organized two presidential bids, one successful, one not.

Beyond battles and politics, the National Park Service manages a sea-front playground at Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island where you can stroll beaches, hike through maritime forests, and find a wilderness made up of sand dunes where you can pitch your tent.



Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site



Saratoga National Historical Park

what will you see?

Keeping up with Teddy Roosevelt has not been easy for the National Park Service, but if you follow his footsteps you can learn much about the man and the country. In New York State alone there are three NPS sites that honor Roosevelt – his birthplace in New York City, where he was sworn into office in Buffalo, and his home on Long Island where he would spend the summers of his presidency.

A national park also is named after Roosevelt, in North Dakota. There on the badlands a young Roosevelt solidified his connection with the landscape and fired his love for conservation. As the country's 26th president, Roosevelt set aside an estimated 230 million acres in the form of national forests, national parks, and national wildlife refuges.

"The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem," Roosevelt told those attending the Deep Waterway Convention in Tennessee in 1907. "Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others."



Sagamore Hill NHS

2a

New York City's reputation as "the center of it all" doesn't disappoint when it comes to our national parks. Visit the site where President Theodore Roosevelt was born, where President George Washington was sworn in and where President and General Ulysses S. Grant was laid to rest. Have an outdoor adventure on a kayak at Gateway NRA that will make you forget the subways and skyscrapers. Explore the African presence in early New York at the African Burial Ground NM and through a 90 minute walking tour. There is literally something for everyone in our New York City parks!

IN THE AREA For many immigrants to the United States, New York was the first city they saw as their ships arrived in New York Harbor and headed to Ellis Island. There, as they were processed, they could gaze up at Lady Liberty, a statue that since 1886 has been a shining symbol of freedom and prosperity for those who wanted to call America home. Today you can tour both Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, including its crown, at Statue of Liberty National Monument.



Statue of Liberty National Monument

Across the harbor in the city you can find many stories that fill a rich chapter of America's history. At Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site you can see where the future president was born and reared. Not far from this brownstone stands Federal Hall, a national memorial that preserves the site where George Washington was sworn in as the nation's first president as well as where the first Congress and Supreme Court, as well as the Executive Branch, first worked.

Just beyond Federal Hall to the south stands



what not to miss

NEW YORK CITY

African Burial Ground NM

The memorial honors the estimated 15,000 Africans buried at the site during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Castle Clinton NM

Take a guided tour of this fort built in the early 1800s. Make it part of your visit to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Federal Hall N MEM

The site of George Washington's swearing in as the first President, and the signing of the Bill of Rights.

Gateway NRA

Explore the wildlife refuge, holly forest, ocean dunes and coastal uplands.

General Grant N MEM

Tour the museum and memorial popularly known as Grant's Tomb with great views of the Hudson River.

Governors Island NM

Park is currently under development. Call the park to make tour reservations.

Hamilton Grange N MEM

Temporarily closed until 2010.

Saint Paul's Church NHS

Tour a 5-acre burial ground dating to 1665, take a Church Tower Walk Apr.-Oct, Fri. 3pm

Statue of Liberty NM and Ellis Island NM

Take the Ferry to Liberty and Ellis Islands. Tour the museums and enjoy Lady Liberty!

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS

House tours take about 30 minutes and start on the hour. Last tour at 4:00 pm.

Castle Clinton National Memorial in honor of a fort built to defend New York City during the War of 1812. Not a single cannon shot was fired from Castle Clinton in the city's defense, but as the years went on the fort served as home to a restaurant, opera house, and even immigrant processing center in the days before Ellis Island took over that task.

Long before Teddy Roosevelt was able to call New York City home another stalwart of American politics did the same. Alexander Hamilton, the country's first treasury secretary and one of the Founding Fathers, had his "country home" built on Manhattan Island before it became overly urban. Today

it is known as Hamilton Grange National Memorial, taking its name from the Hamilton family's ancestral home in Scotland.

Until 1991, no one knew the ground chosen for a federal office building had long served another, more somber, purpose. But when groundbreaking commenced, the workers soon discovered the burial grounds of African-Americans. For roughly a century, from the 1690s into the 1790s, the nearly 7 acres of land in today's New York City had been used to bury both freed and enslaved African-Americans. Today you can learn more of this story at the African Burial Ground National Monument.



Federal Hall National Memorial



Ellis Island National Monument

what will you see?

As urbanized as New York City and the nearby shoulder of New Jersey might be, there's a wonderful place for area residents and visitors to head to escape the heat and humidity of summer. That place is Gateway National Recreation Area, a sprawling piece of the National

Park System that treasures both Atlantic Ocean beachfront as well as traces of America's military history in old Fort Hancock.

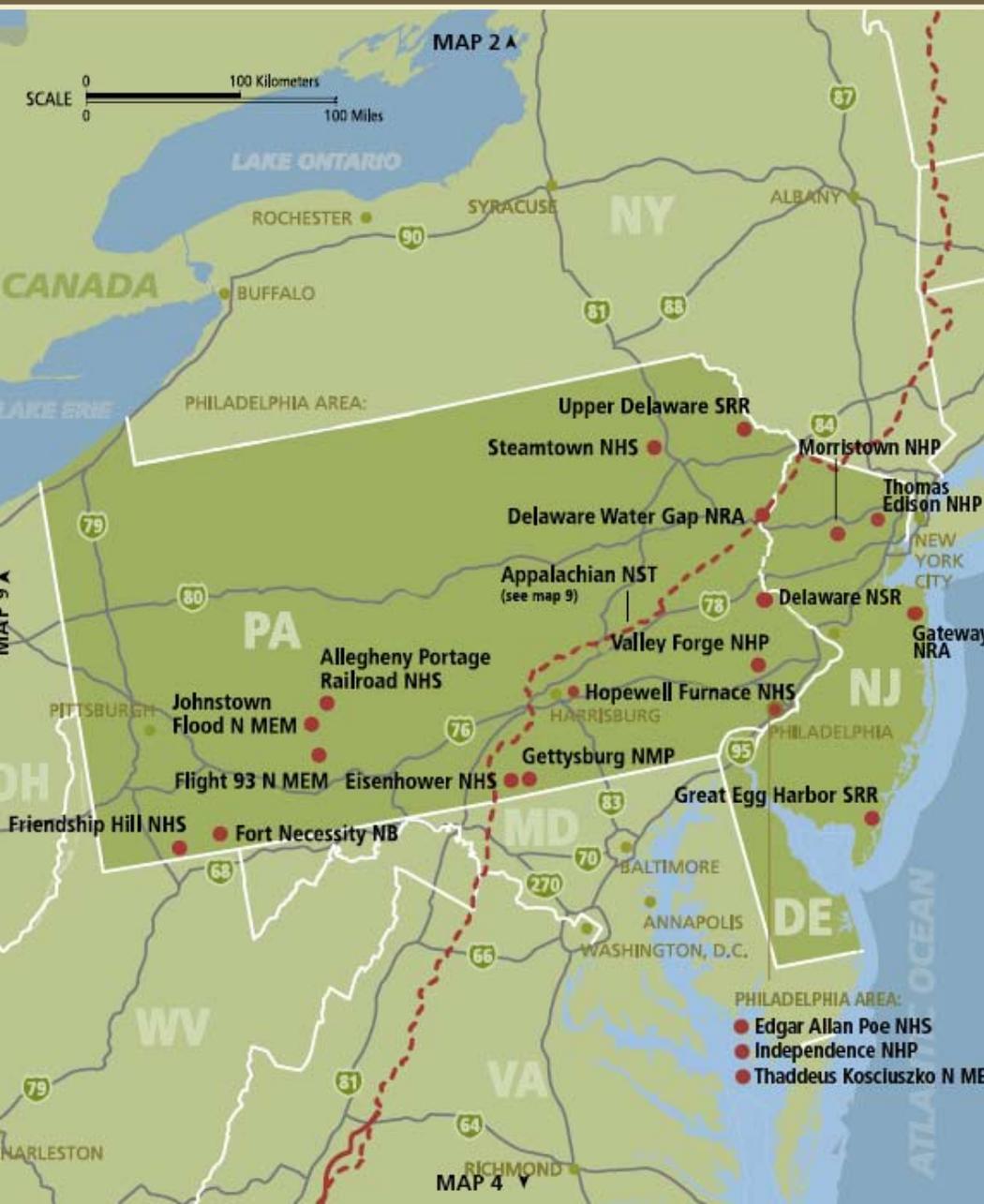
Split into three units – the Jamaica Bay Unit, Sandy Hook Unit, and Staten Island Unit – Gateway NRA fills the recreational needs of millions in the greater New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.



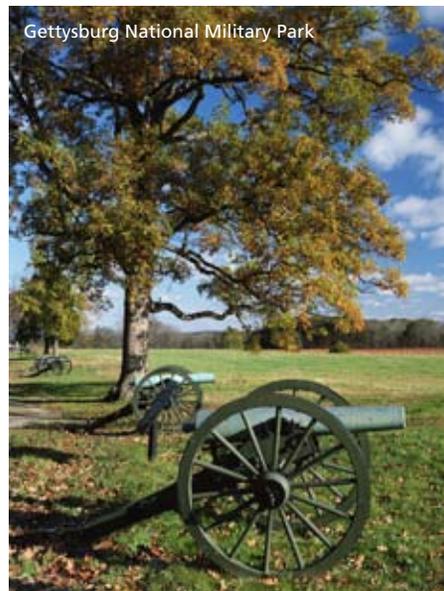
Along with beaches Jamaica Bay also protects a wildlife refuge, while the Sandy Hook Unit holds the country's oldest operating lighthouse as well as some wonderful beaches of its own along with Fort Hancock. On the Staten Island Unit you can find places to fish and sail, to fly model planes and even plant a garden.

Jamaica Bay
Gateway National Recreation Area

From the battles that led to the formation of the United States through the industrialization of the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, the history of this country can be traced through the National Park System landscapes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. One of the bloodiest battles in a war that almost tore the nation apart also is memorialized here, at Gettysburg National Military Park. Recreation isn't overlooked, either, as evidenced by two stretches of river as well as a national recreation area popular with both hikers and boaters.



Gettysburg National Military Park



IN THE AREA That there is more American history found in the eastern half of the United States than the western half only makes sense when you realize how long the East has been settled. When you look at National Park Service maps of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, you come to realize how very rich those states are in history.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield in southwestern Pennsylvania tells the story of one chapter of the French and Indian War. It was here in 1754, in what then was the country's frontier, that a young George Washington encountered the first major conflict of his military career. Fast-forward to 1777 and an older, more tactically skilled Gen. Washington coaxed his Continental Army through a grueling winter at Valley Forge, now a national military park, and led them on to ultimate victory over the British in the country's bid for independence.

At aptly named Independence Hall National Historical Park in Philadelphia you can see where the young nation's patriots gathered to chart both the break with Great Britain and the new country's future. The coming industrialization of the nation is reflected at a tiny farm in central Pennsylvania. There, at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, the story is told of how iron was made in the 1770s.

what not to miss

PENNSYLVANIA

Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS

Great for cross-country skiing or hiking. Go in Apr. and May for wildflowers; Oct. for foliage.

Appalachian NST

(See West Virginia)

Delaware NSR

One of the last free-flowing rivers on the East Coast; its home to many threatened and endangered plants and animals.

Delaware Water Gap NRA

Boating, canoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, hiking and more. Enjoy a guided hike.

Edgar Allan Poe NHS

Explore the life and work of Edgar Allan Poe. Visit in April for Poetry Month.

Eisenhower NHS

Tour the home, farm and cattle barns. Visit Apr.-Oct. when all the buildings are open.

Flight 93 N MEM

View the crash site and temporary memorial.

Fort Necessity NB

Enjoy the historic tavern, grave site and glen, as well as the reconstructed fort.

Friendship Hill NHS

Site preserves the home of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison.

Gettysburg NMP

Interpretive talks on the battle, cemetery and the Gettysburg address run mid-June to mid-Aug.

Hopewell Furnace NHS

The 19th century iron plantation is home to a blast furnace, ironmaster's mansion and more.

Independence NHP

The Liberty Bell is housed here, along with Independence Hall, where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were drafted.

More chapters that help tell the story of the nation's growing industrialization are scattered through these two states. At Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the history of the steam locomotive plays out, while in New Jersey you can visit the Edison National Historical Park that has risen up around the laboratory and estate of Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb, the phonograph, and so much more.

History aside, these two states are rich with natural resources. That's evident at places such as Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, where you can float 40 miles down the Delaware River or walk along a section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Not quite so obvious is the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River in south New Jersey. Fed by 17 tributaries, the river runs nearly 130 miles before flowing into the Atlantic Ocean at Great Egg Harbor.

Independence Hall National Historical Park



what not to miss

PENNSYLVANIA (cont.)

Johnstown Flood N MEM

Hike the grounds and tour the visitor center which tells the story of the flood.

Steamtown NHS

Ride the steam railroad train; tour the museum, train and locomotive.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko N MEM

The site commemorates the house where the Polish-born hero rented a room.

Upper Delaware SRR

Great for eagle watching, fishing, kayaking and boating on the 73 mi. stretch of open river.

Valley Forge NHP

Don't miss Washington Chapel Memorial, special programs on Washington's birthday.

NEW JERSEY

Gateway NRA

(See New York City)

Great Egg Harbor SRR

Hawks "funnel" into Cape May each fall, making this the best spot on the East Coast for raptors.

Morristown NHP

Displays at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center and Washington's Headquarters recreate settings from the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Edison NHP

Tour the lab complex and 16 acre Glenmont Estate.

what will you see?

Railroad buffs won't be disappointed in visiting this region of the National Park System. Steamtown National Historic Site in northeastern Pennsylvania traces the history of the big, powerful steam locomotives that helped move people and freight across the country. Here, in addition to locomotives, you can check

out a variety of passenger coach cars, a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad business car complete with kitchen and sleeping quarters, even a Louisville and Nashville Railroad post office car. There's also part of an historic roundhouse you can explore.

Some of the earliest days of train travel in the United States are explained at Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site in southwestern Pennsylvania. Built in the 1830s, this intriguing portage system was designed to couple canal boat travel with short-haul trains to negotiate the steep Allegheny Mountains. The track involved 10 separate inclines that were utilized to move passengers, freight, even canal boats, up, and then down, the mountains.



Steamtown National Historic Site

Ponies that gained literary fame. A signer of the Declaration of Independence. The battleground that inspired the Star-Spangled Banner. Travel to Maryland and you can find the stories behind each of these, as well as glimpse the setting of the presidential retreat known as Camp David at Catoctin Mountain Park, walk along the C&O Canal, and tour a seacoast fort that long has stood in defense of the nation's capital.



IN THE AREA For many children growing up in the Mid-Atlantic States, *Misty of Chincoteague* was a well-thumbed book. Written by Marguerite Henry, the story revolves around a horse born in the wild on Chincoteague Island off the coast of Maryland. Though Chincoteague is not technically part of Assateague Island National Seashore, the story brought fame to the ponies that live on both Chincoteague and Assateague islands.

Today these ponies still gallop about the sand dunes and along the surf lines, much to the delight of seashore visitors. Those well-familiar with the horses often plan to visit in July when, on the last Wednesday of the month, some of the horses are rounded up and swum from Assateague Island to

Chincoteague Island for an auction held the next day.

While the horses are a big draw for the seashore, they're not the only one. Surf-fishing in the Atlantic has a faithful following, as do summer beach outings, shell-fishing, off-road vehicle touring, and canoeing and kayaking along the coastline.

Maryland also is home to the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Here you can trace the origin of the national anthem of the United States, the Star-Spangled Banner. Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the lyrics while observing the Battle of Baltimore in September 1814 from aboard a British flagship.

what not to miss

MARYLAND

Antietam NB

Take advantage of the auto touring cassettes or horseback riding groups.

Appalachian NST

(See West Virginia)

Assateague Island NS

See Assateague Island's wild ponies; travel the beach near Chincoteague and Ocean City

Catoctin Mountain Park

Campfire programs available weekends, May-Sept., hiking etc. through eastern hardwood forests.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP

Great trails for biking and hiking, also great opportunity for canoeing or kayaking.

Clara Barton NHS

Picnicking and touring Barton's home, which was also the original Red Cross headquarters.

Fort McHenry NM and Historic Shrine

Watch a flag-change ceremony (weather permitting) where the "Star Spangled Banner" was written.

Fort Washington Park

Bird-watching, hiking and touring are the main activities at the only permanent fort protecting the Nation's Capital.

Greenbelt Park

A favorite spot for hiking and camping between DC and Baltimore.

Hampton NHS

Guided mansion tours are available daily; guided grounds tours available from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Monocacy NB

The Battle of Monocacy is known as the "Battle that saved Washington" - during the Civil War.

Piscataway Park

The park stretches 6 miles along the Potomac, and offers hiking and a beautiful view of Mount Vernon.

Thomas Stone NHS

Visit Haberdventure, ("dwelling place in the winds,") the home of Declaration of Independence signer.

Another coastal fortress managed by the National Park Service is Fort Washington Park, which you can find just outside Washington, D.C., along the Potomac River. Though initially constructed in 1809, it was destroyed during the War of 1812 only to be rebuilt to serve as a line of defense for the nation's capital. Today you can tour the grounds and observe Civil War-era artillery demonstrations during the summer months.

Though the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal runs 185 miles from Washington, D.C., to western Pennsylvania, you don't have to travel the entire length to sample this segment of U.S. history. At the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park you can study portions of the canal, including the bridges that rise over it and the locks used to move boats up and down steep gradients.



Assateague Island National Seashore



Antietam National Battlefield

what will you see?

George Washington is often quoted as saying of his home in Mount Vernon, "No estate in the United America is more pleasantly situated than this." He may have thought differently if the National Park Service and the Accokeek Foundation hadn't acted to

protect the fields and hillsides that lay across the Potomac River in Maryland. Piscataway Park is a picturesque outdoor space covering nearly 5,000 acres on the Potomac River from Piscataway Creek to Marshall Hall.



Preserved much as it was in Washington's time, Piscataway Park is an oasis of natural beauty offering a thriving ecosystem to explore. Wildlife is abundant from bald eagles, to beaver and from deer to beautiful bluebirds that can be seen from February through November. You can borrow discovery packs and birding kits from the visitor center to enhance your trip. The park is very family friendly with a variety of trails for hikers of all levels, scenic vistas and up-close views of the diverse ecological features, and even a public

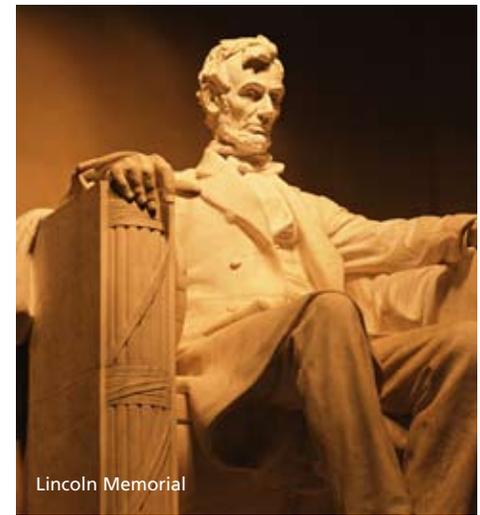
Piscataway Park

Many of the greatest monuments in the United States are located within walking distance of one another in Washington, D.C. Here you'll find the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Monument, and memorials to the sailors and soldiers who died in foreign conflicts. You'll also find an incredible mall – the people's gathering place – where you can relax with a book, fly a kite, or, on special occasions, enjoy a concert.

IN THE AREA Most strolls through downtown Washington, D.C., usually include stops at the White House, which is part of the National Park System, and the U.S. Capitol Building, where you can watch Congress in action. But so much more lies beyond those two buildings that a weekend is not enough time to appreciate all the possibilities.

Walk from the Capitol down across the National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial and along the way you'll be able to visit the Washington Monument as well as the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and even the Jefferson Memorial.

The war memorials as well as the FDR memorial are unique, open-air monuments where you can walk next to life-sized bronze soldiers or stand next to a bronze of FDR. At the Vietnam Memorial you can take note of the nearly 60,000 Americans who gave their lives in the conflict, their names etched into the sides of the coal-black memorial. The Lincoln Memorial lets you not only gaze at the greater-than-life-size image of President



Lincoln Memorial

Lincoln, but sit on the memorial's steps and look back across the Reflecting Pool, past the Washington Monument, to the U.S. Capitol Building.

Since the Jefferson Memorial is located alongside the Tidal Basin, if you arrive in late March or early April you might see the thousands of cherry trees that line the basin in bloom.



what not to miss

WASHINGTON, DC

Carter G. Woodson NHS

Woodson Home is closed until 2013 for renovations.

Constitution Gardens

Come on Constitution Day, Sept. 17, for a Naturalization Ceremony.

Ford's Theatre NHS

Fifteen minute narratives available daily at 9:15, 10:15, 11:15, 2:15, 3:14 and 4:15).

Franklin Delano Roosevelt MEM

A mixture of sculpture and waterfalls, this is one of the most striking memorials in Washington DC.

Frederick Douglass NHS

Tour the house, and view a film about his life every half hour.

Korean War Veterans MEM

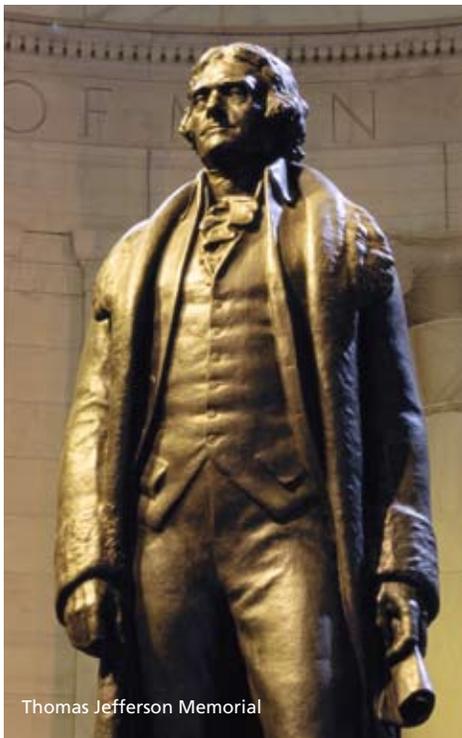
An information kiosk is available at the memorial to find the names of soldiers killed or missing in action.

Lincoln Memorial

Carved from 28 blocks of white Georgia marble, this is a must-see on the National Mall.

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS

Tour the council house and participate.



Thomas Jefferson Memorial

The Civil Rights movement had a determined ally in Washington, D.C., by the name of Mary McLeod Bethune. Born the 15th of 17 children to parents who were former slaves, Mary McLeod Bethune was raised in poverty and suffered through the oppression of the Reconstruction South. But she overcame that start in life to become an advisor to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and a political activist.

Among the many organizations she helped champion civil rights with were the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, and the League of Women Voters. You can learn more about Mrs. Bethune at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site.

what not to miss

WASHINGTON, DC (cont.)

National Capital Parks - East

Take Tourmobile to visit 20 of the more than 300 parks in the DC area.

National Mall

If you can make a trip in the spring the cherry blossoms are a must see.

Pennsylvania Avenue NHS

Visit the sky deck of the Old Post Office Tower for one of the best views in DC.

Rock Creek Park

In addition to the hiking and jogging, check out the Nature Center and Planetarium.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

(See Virginia)

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

The Memorial is a must-see in DC, and overlooks the tidal basin complete with paddle boats in-season.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The memorial also includes the Statue of Three Servicemen and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

Washington Monument

Get there early in the day if you want tickets to ride the elevator to the top.

White House/President's Park

Stop at the information booth for a free map and list of the area's popular attractions.

World War II Memorial

Search the registry honoring Americans who helped win the war - both overseas and in the US.

what will you see?

There's a place in Washington, D.C., that might seem entirely out of place to most visitors. It's a place where you can lose yourself in the woods, hike along a beautiful, rippling creek, ride 13 miles along a bridle trail, paddle a canoe, or even play a round of golf. All of these activities and more can be found at Rock Creek Park, an outdoor playground that covers more than 2,000 acres.

There are tennis courts associated with the park, fitness courses, picnic grounds, an amphitheater that offers outdoor concerts and theater in summer, a planetarium, play areas large enough for soccer and touch football, and places to roller blade free of traffic.

Dating to 1890, when it became one of the first national parks, Rock Creek Park is a place of natural beauty and great public opportunities. We're just the latest to use this area, as archaeological surveys have traced human use of Rock Creek to as long ago as 2,500 B.C.



Rock Creek Park



Washington Monument

Battlefields that were among the bloodiest of the Civil War. The Appomattox Courthouse where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant. A shrine to Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. These are some of the most reverent spots not just in the National Park System, but in the United States. Contained within the birthplace – Virginia – of this nation's greatest crisis, they share the state with the birthplace of the country's first president, with a rumpled stretch of Appalachian Mountains that hold incredible beauty, with a unit of the National Park System dedicated to the performing arts.



what not to miss

VIRGINIA

Appalachian NST

(See West Virginia)

Appomattox Court House NHP
Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army to Ulysses S. Grant at this historic battlefield

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Nested in Arlington National Cemetery, Robert E. Lee lived here for 30 years

Blue Ridge PKWY
(See North Carolina)

Booker T. Washington NM
This educator, orator and presidential advisor was born into slavery and emancipated at this former plantation

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP
Home to Belle Grove Plantation and the Civil War's Cedar Creek battlefield

Colonial NHP
Historic Jamestowne to Yorktown Battlefield, the bookends of America's colonial period, are preserved in southeast Virginia.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP
100,000 men became Civil War casualties in the vicinity of Fredericksburg

George Washington Birthplace NM
This 18th century tobacco farm was the backdrop for the earliest scenes of Washington's life.

George Washington MEM PKWY
The scenic parkway connects Mount Vernon to the Great Falls of the Potomac

LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac
Formerly known as Columbia island, the Johnson family often visited this park to admire Washington D.C.

Maggie L. Walker NHS
Walker was a prominent African American civic and fraternal leader in post-Civil War Richmond

Manassas NBP
Commemorates two pivotal battles between Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War

IN THE AREA

Walk the Sunken Road on the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park and you'll tread upon hallowed ground consecrated by the blood of Civil War soldiers from the North and South. You'll pass the Innis House, which still bears the bullet holes that poured into it during the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, and come upon the Kirkland Monument that honors a 19-year-old Confederate soldier who cast care aside and took water and warm clothing to fallen Union soldiers.

Standing on this battlefield, and at the nearby battlefields of Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania it is hard to fully comprehend the forces that split this nation in half and, in some cases, turned brother against brother. Virginia was a boiling point for the Civil War. That's evident in the Manassas National Battlefield Park, the



Arlington House,
The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Petersburg National Battlefield, and the Richmond National Battlefield Park also found in Virginia.

And then there's the Appomattox Court-house, where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant.

But Virginia's national park sites are equally uplifting. There's the George Washington Birthplace National Monument where the country's first president was born, and the Booker T. Washington National Monument, which honors an American who was born into slavery but rose to become one of the country's most influential and eloquent African-Americans.

And, of course, there's the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, a center dedicated to the arts, whether they focus on jazz, swing, musicals or opera. Located on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., Wolf Trap offers performances throughout the summer and even a place for sledding come winter. Any trip to Virginia, though, must include a drive through Shenandoah National Park. Draped along the ragged backbone of the Appalachian Mountains and providing a corridor traversed by the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the national park offers a welcome measure of nature's tranquility in the hectic mid-Atlantic. Come to Shenando-

ah in summer and you'll find brooks rushing downhill, in fall spectacular displays of color, in winter a landscape both stark and evocative, in spring a land of rebirth.

what not to miss

VIRGINIA (cont.)

Petersburg NB

Site of a 10 month siege of Petersburg during the Civil War

Prince William Forest Park

Largest Piedmont forest in the national park system is a sanctuary for native plants and animals

Richmond NBP

Richmond, the Confederate Capital, was repeatedly targeted for capture by the Union Army

Shenandoah NP

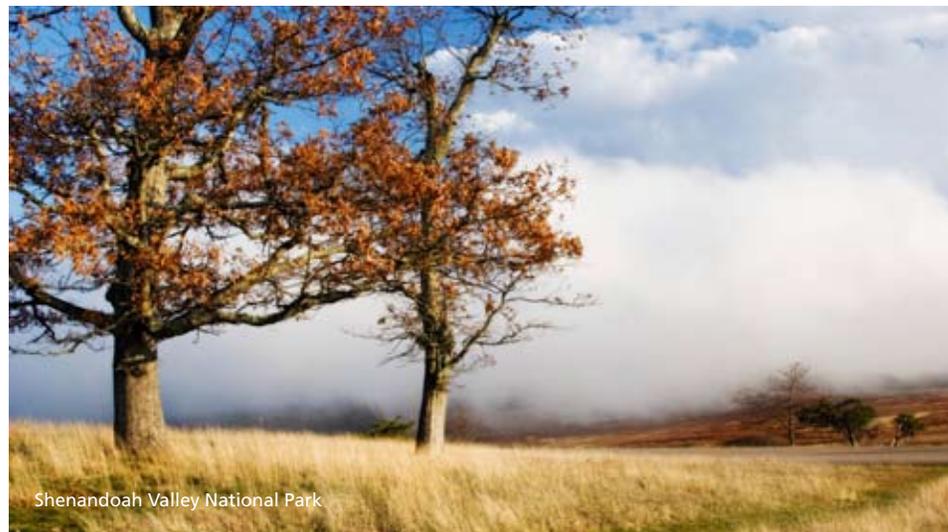
Follow Skyline Drive for 105 miles along the spine of this national park

Theodore Roosevelt Island

A memorial to the outdoorsman, naturalist and visionary who was our 26th President

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

The Filene Center, is an open air performing arts pavilion accomodates 7,000 from May to September.



what will you see?

Ronald Reagan had his Western White House and George W. Bush his retreat along the rugged coastline of Maine. For President Herbert Hoover, his escape from Washington, D.C., went no farther than the mountains of Virginia.

The pressures of the presidency led Hoover in the summer of 1929 to establish his retreat in a shady dell of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains that proved to be the forerunner to today's Camp David. The country's 31st

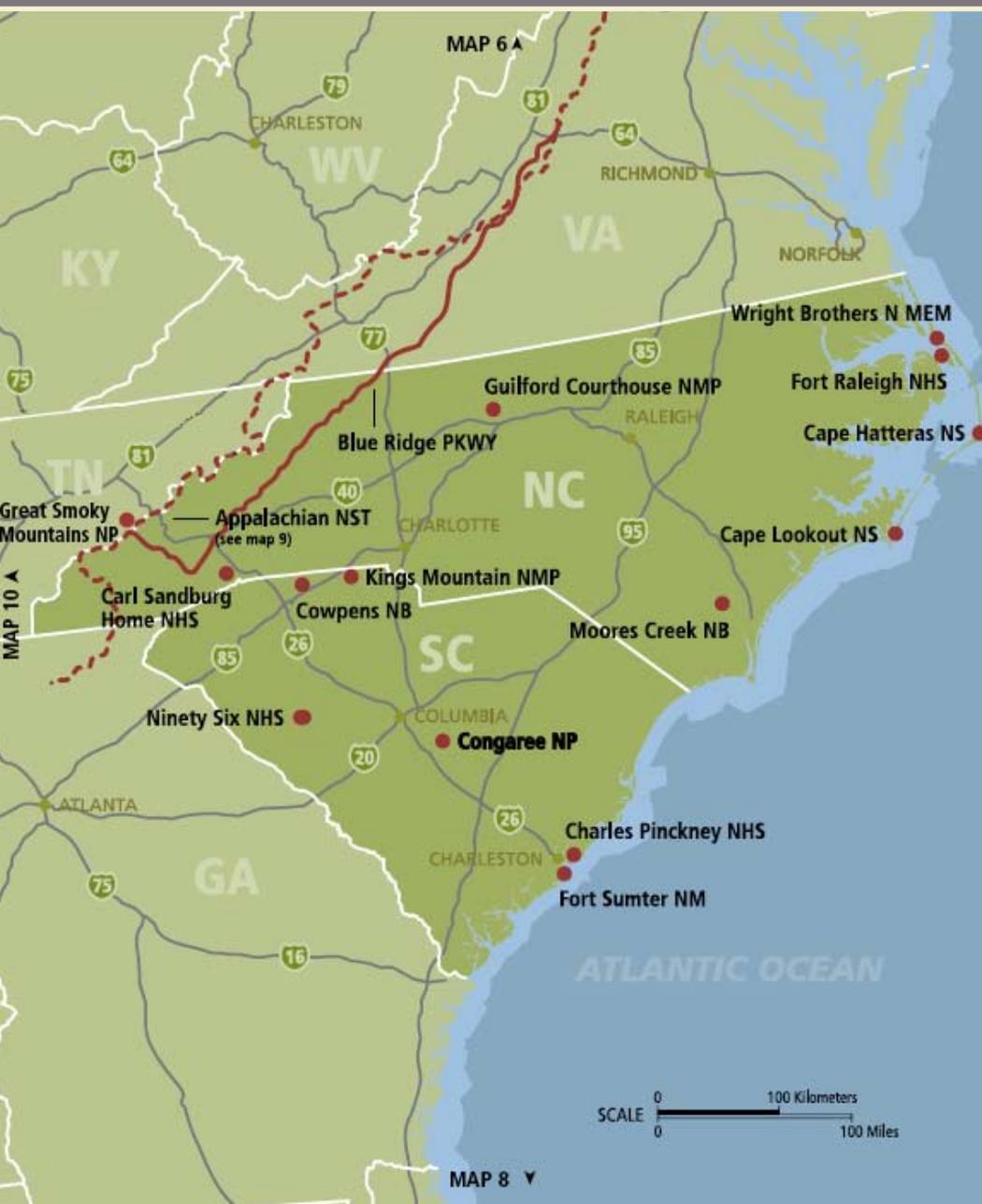
president had three requisites for what became the first official summer White House: it must be within 100 miles of Washington, stand at least 2,500 feet above sea level, and be on the banks of a trout stream. After all, President Hoover told Americans on August 17, 1929, when he announced the decision to head to the Appalachian highlands, fishing is "an excuse for return to the woods and streams with their retouch of the simpler life of the frontier from which every American springs."

The 164-acre setting beneath shady hemlocks, oaks and tulip poplars certainly allowed for privacy and solitude. Mrs. Lou Henry Hoover referred to Camp Rapidan, which Hoover built with \$120,000 of his own money, as being "at the end of nowhere, with a road that in wet weather lets you sink to your hubs in slushy mush and while there bump over the most amazing bounders."

In 2007 the National Park Service completed seven years of restoration work that today shows visitors how the camp appeared during Hoover's administration.



Mile upon mile of wild beaches, some with wild horses, can be found in national seashores that line the North Carolina coastline, while in South Carolina you'll find a national park that preserves some of the nation's tallest trees in a setting of old-growth forest. Together these two states offer well-tended pockets of American history stretching back to the Revolutionary War, as well as a site that honors one of America's most-respected poets and another that marks the place where man first accomplished powered flight.



IN THE AREA Who doesn't like to spend a day or more at a beach? At Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Cape Lookout National Seashore along the North Carolina coast there are miles and miles of beach perfect for combing, pitching your tent or parking your RV, surf fishing, or looking for some of the wild ponies that call parts of the two seashores home.

For many within reach of the Atlantic coastline, a seashore vacation is part of growing up. Roaming dunes that the wind has swept into intriguing patterns, playing "catch" with waves, or building castles in the sand create memories that stay for life.

Not only does the National Park System create memories, but it helps preserve them in places such as the Carl Sandberg Home, a national historic site where visitors can tour the poet's home and imagine where he might have found his inspiration. Dreams were answered at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where Wilbur and Orville Wright managed to unlock the key to the skies



Great Smoky Mountains National Park

what not to miss

NORTH CAROLINA

Appalachian NST

(See West Virginia)

Blue Ridge PKWY

Biking, driving, hiking, canoeing -- the park offers 469 mi. of land and nature to explore.

Cape Hatteras NS

In addition to beach-going, check out the tallest brick lighthouse in the world.

Cape Lookout NS

Take a lighthouse walk, enjoy beachcombing on the wide, bare beaches and low dunes.

Carl Sandburg Home NHS

Tour the house and grounds - which include woods, trails, a working dairy farm and two small lakes.

Fort Raleigh NHS

Plan to spend two hours viewing exhibits and video, tour the grounds, or attend an evening production.

Great Smoky Mountains NP

Visit 28 monuments, including the grave sites of two signers of the Declaration of Independence; hike or autotour.

Guilford Courthouse NMP

World renowned for its plant and animal life, its ancient mountains, and its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture.

Moores Creek NB

Plan to spend an hour touring the visitor center, exhibits and trails.

Wright Brothers N MEM

The site includes a 60 foot tall granite monument, and reproductions of the Wright flyer and glider.

when they successfully launched, if only for a few precious moments, their flying machine from Kill Devil Hills.

Revolutionary War history also can be found in the Carolinas, at a national historic site with an unusual name, "Ninety Six." Named by a surveyor who measured the location as being 96 miles from a location known today as Clemson, South Carolina, this site commemorates two Revolutionary War battles.

Long before the Revolutionary War – nearly 200 years earlier, in fact – the English came to the "new world" and landed at today's Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Fort Raleigh examines the "Lost Colony" of 116

settlers who seemingly vanished without a trace shortly after they arrived on the coast in 1587, as well as the resident Native Americans who greeted the colonists.

At Congaree National Park, not far south of Columbia, South Carolina, you can paddle through a swampy landscape that's officially protected as wilderness to help preserve the way much of this region once looked. While touring Congaree, which is a relatively young park, having been designated as such in 2003, don't be surprised if you get a sore neck from gazing up at the trees. The nation's tallest Loblolly Pine, which has grown to a height of 167 feet, can be found within Congaree.

what not to miss

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charles Pinckney NHS

Walk the grounds in late March or early April to see the azalea and camellia blooms.

Congaree NP

Enjoy a leisurely paddle down Cedar Creek on a free ranger-guided canoe tour.

Cowpens NB

Don't miss the 3-pounder cannon and other Revolutionary War weapons in the Visitor Center.

Fort Sumter NM

Explore this fort in Charleston Harbor and hear the story of how the Civil War began.

Kings Mountain NMP

Sleep under the stars at the Garner Creek Backcountry Campsite.

Ninety Six NHS

Visit the original 1781 Star Fort and then cast a line in the Star Fort Pond.

what will you see?

To some, they are horses, to others, nothing but ponies. But anyone who has caught a glimpse of the galloping horses at either Cape Lookout National Seashore or Cape Hatteras National Seashore has a hard time suppressing a look of wonderment as they pound through the surf. These horses are

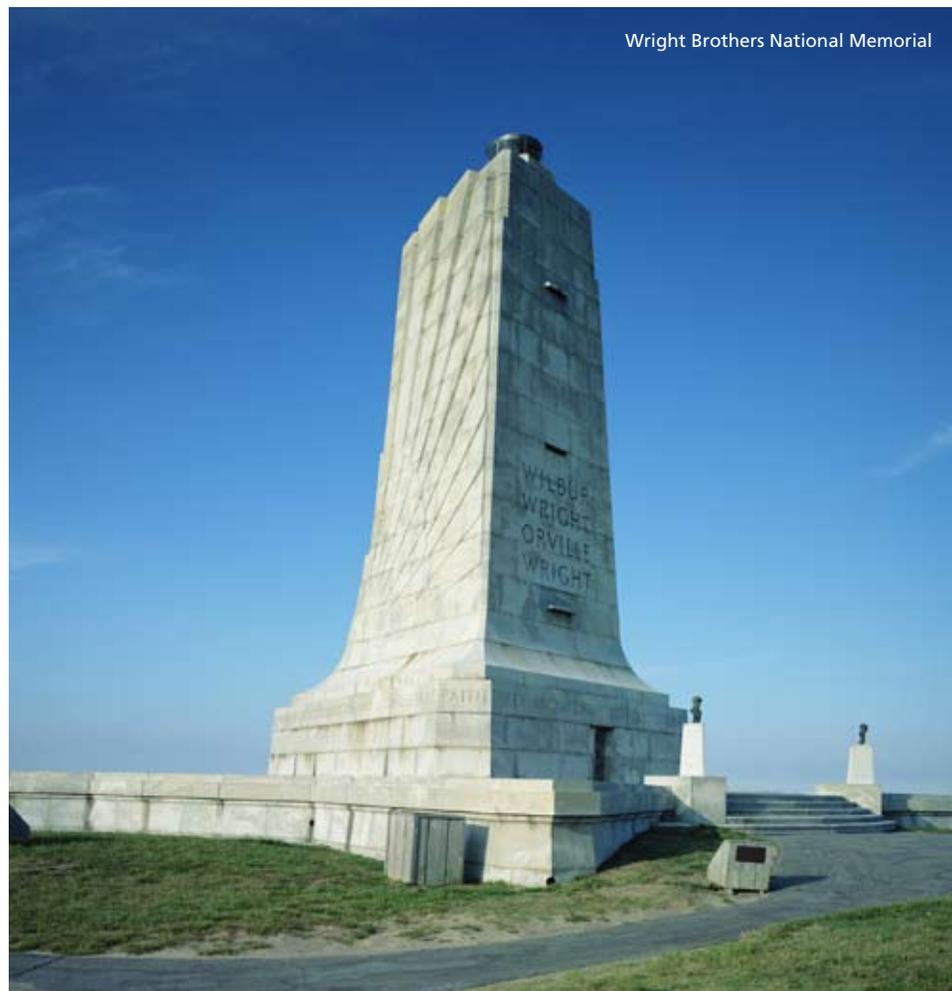


not giants, measuring only about 11 to 13 hands, or roughly 3-and-a-half feet to just more than 4 feet tall at the shoulder, but they are a treasured piece of the seascape. How either herd came to be on these sandy spits is the stuff of legend, but the legends run the same: the horses descended from stock that came ashore in the 16th or 17th centuries when the ships of European explorers wrecked just off shore. At Cape Lookout the horses came to be on today's Shackleford Banks, while at Cape Hatteras the horses are on Ocracoke Island. Both herds are known as "Bankers," for they roam the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Not only can you glimpse some of these ponies running wild, but each spring the two seashores offer some for adoption, allowing you to take part of history home.

Cape Lookout National Seashore

Wright Brothers National Memorial



Seascapes that offer not only recreation but also crucial protection for marine-life. Forts dating back not just 145 years to the Civil War, but all the way back to the Spanish conquest of the “new world” during the 16th century and the inroads the French tried to assert during that period. Coastal playgrounds that draw millions in search of surf, sun, and great fishing. From north Georgia to the Florida Keys, the history and natural resources that are preserved and explained in nearly two dozen units of the National Park System track critical segments in the evolution of the United States and present unique landscapes.



IN THE AREA Mention of Everglades National Park often conjures images of mangrove swamps, horizons flowing with waving sawgrass, and clouds of birds. And all those images exist in a landscape that contains the largest swath of subtropical wilderness in the United States. Anchoring Florida’s southern tip, the national park conserves a place that once was reviled as nothing more than a bug-infested swamp but which in reality contains a rich biodiversity of life across a landscape ripe for exploring by kayak, canoe, or powerboat.

But Everglades doesn’t hold a monopoly on subtropical delights in Florida. Biscayne National Park preserves an underwater world of colorful fishes and reefs teeming with marine-life, while Dry Tortugas National Park contains a 46-square-mile marine sanctuary intended to help species facing loss of habitat. At Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve near Jacksonville you not only can trace 6,000 years of human history, but also go birding or launch a kayak into the surrounding waters.



Everglades National Park

what not to miss

FLORIDA

Big Cypress N PRES

Allow at least two hours to drive the Loop Rd.; an hour for the Turner River-Birdon Rd. Loop.

Biscayne NP

95% of the park is underwater, glass bottom boats or snorkeling offer some of the best views.

Canaveral NS

Visit Oct.-Mar. for the best island camping.

Castillo de San Marcos NM

Check out a cannon firing demonstration Fri., Sat., or Sun. year-round.

De Soto N MEM

Watch the 20 minute visitor film, and then take a self-guided tour through the Mangrove

Dry Tortugas NP

Take a boat or air taxi to these islands, 70 miles west of Key West.

Everglades NP

Go Dec.-Apr. for best wildlife viewing and guided tours, walks and talks.

Fort Caroline N MEM

Plan a picnic and then hike or walk to the Fort Caroline exhibit. Bring insect repellent.

Fort Matanzas NM

Take a ferry to the Fort, and then stroll on the boardwalk trails or enjoy a ranger presentation.

Gulf Islands NS

Sparkling white-sand beaches, historic forts, nature trails and adjacent open waters.

Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

Visit the Theodore Roosevelt area and enjoy the view of the hammock forest from the observation tower.

To delve back into American history long before the United States was even envisioned, stop at either Fort Matanzas National Monument or Fort Caroline National Memorial in Florida. At Fort Matanzas you can tour coastal fortifications that the Spanish built in the 1500s to guard approaches to Saint Augustine. Fort Caroline, the first “new world” foothold by the French, interprets their short-lived presence in Florida, one the French had hoped would enable them to challenge the Spanish occupation.

Farther north in Georgia you also can get wet, at the Chatahoochee River National Recreation Area, though history is more on display in the national park units here. You won’t find much French or Spanish history here, as many National Park Service sites in Georgia focus on Civil War battles and prisons. At Andersonville National Historic



Site you not only can learn about one of the largest prison camps established by the Confederate Army, but also tour the National Prisoner of War Museum that is dedicated to all Americans who were prisoners of war.

Georgia does have its own national seashore, Cumberland Island, which protects maritime forests and offers undeveloped beaches for your enjoyment.

what not to miss

GEORGIA

Andersonville NHS

Visit the National Prisoner of War Museum; take a ranger guided cemetery tour.

Chattahoochee Rievr NRA

Features more than 60 mi. of hiking trails along the Chattahoochee River.

Chicamauga and Chattanooga NMP

Explore trails and walk through Chicamauga Battlefield and Lookout Mountain Battlefield.

Cumberland Island NS

One of the largest undeveloped barrier islands in the world - great for nature walks and swimming.

Fort Frederica NM

The park is known for its exceptional beauty and the antiquity of the tabby sugar-mill ruins.

Fort Pulaski NM

Take a self guided tour of the fort and nature trails; enjoy bird & wildlife watching.

Jimmy Carter NHS

Visit the 1976 Campaign Headquarters and Carter’s childhood home.

Kennesaw Mountain NBP

Take an auto tour to mountaintop or Cheatham Hill (main battlefield), save time for hiking.

Martin Luther King, Jr. NHS

Explore the Freedom Hall exhibits, visit King’s birthplace and gravesite.

Ocmulgee NM

Walk out to the earth lodge and mounds, go hiking, bird watching or fishing.

what will you see?

It’s hard to imagine a national park in which 95 percent of the acreage is underwater, but that’s the case at Biscayne National Park. Created in part to thwart development of a petrochemical plant on the shores of Biscayne Bay, the national park is much more than a pawn against development. It has evolved into



a destination for snorkelers and scuba divers thanks to the colorful fishes that mill about coral reefs. Its waters also draw paddlers and anglers.

Canoes and kayaks are perfect for exploring the park’s shoreline with its mangrove forests, and those who reach Shallow Jones Lagoon often spot rays, sharks, schooling fish, and such wading shorebirds as Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and White Ibis. Snorkeling is popular in Hurricane Creek, where you can look for sea squirts, crabs, and giant sponges. Look at, but don’t touch, any lobsters you find here, as they’re protected in this area of Biscayne.

Prefer not to get wet? Then sign on for one of the park’s glass-bottom boat tours.



Water-based recreation is well-represented in this region of the National Park System. Choose to relax on a beach at three national lakeshores, try your hand at running white-water rapids, or paddle a canoe or kayak while circumnavigating a national park surrounded by Lake Superior. If you prefer staying on firm ground, visit the site of one of the greatest Colonial victories of the Revolutionary War or enjoy a train trip around Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



what not to miss

INDIANA

George Rogers Clark NHP

Visit the Clark Memorial, on the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Fort Sackville.

Indiana Dunes NL

Play on 180 foot dunes. Explore beaches, bogs, marshes, swamps and prairie remnants.

Lincoln Boyhood N MEM

Tour the living-historical farm, and the site of Lincoln's boyhood cabin.

MICHIGAN

Isle Royale NP

Great backpacking, boating and canoeing. Go June-Aug. for wildflowers; May and Sept. for migrating birds.

Keweenaw NHP

Scenic drives, hiking trails, and ski & snowmobile tracks are great for exploring.

Pictured Rocks NL

Enjoy multicolored sandstone cliffs, rocky beaches, and gently sloping sand dunes.

River Raisin NBP

Learn the story behind The War of 1812 battle cry "Remember the Raisin!"

Sleeping Bear Dunes NL

Go apple and mushroom picking. Grassy bluffs rise up to 400 feet and give sweeping views of two off shore islands.



IN THE AREA While white-water raft trips in the West often are multi-day adventures, in West Virginia you can get just as many thrills in one day by running either the Gauley or the New Rivers, two streams that represent the aquatic side of the National Park System. While the Gauley River is labeled a National Recreation Area and the New River is considered a National River, they both revolve around sparkling mountain waters rushing downhill, leaping over boulder gardens that generate the boiling rapids that rafters and kayakers yearn for.

There are no such rapids at the region's three lakeshores – Pictured Rocks, Sleeping Bear Dunes, or Indiana Dunes -- but the waters of lakes Superior and Michigan are no less inviting or challenging for paddlers when the winds rise. Picturesque cliffs and sweeping dunes fields complement the lakes and provide a spectacular backdrop for hiking or simply enjoying nature.

Isle Royale National Park is surrounded by water – Lake Superior. The park's remote location means only the truly determined, and fortunate, enjoy the beauty that flows

throughout this wilderness setting. Waterways cut into the island, inviting exploration by canoe and kayak. Some of the park's adventurous visitors paddle entirely around the island or explore some of its 400 outlying isles, while others head out with pack on back to hike through the forests with hopes of catching sight of the resident moose or wolves.

You can travel by train through the scenery of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, a bucolic slice of northeastern Ohio that seems a world away from nearby Cleveland and Akron. The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad offers excursions that wind through the 33,000-acre park. Off the train the park offers opportunities for birding, canoeing

and kayaking, cycling, even testing your GPS (Global Positioning System) skills at Earthcaching™.

Far from most of the Revolutionary War battlegrounds off to the East, British Fort Sackville nonetheless represented a critical holding due to its frontier location west of the Appalachian Mountains. Colonials captured the fort in a surprising mid-winter 1779 attack under the guidance of Lt. Col. George Rogers Clark and in doing so prevented the British from driving Americans out of the frontier. While the fort's actual location is unknown, at George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes, Indiana, you can learn more about Clark's campaign as well as about 18th century life on the frontier.

what not to miss

OHIO

Cuyahoga Valley NP

Hike, bike or cross country ski through 33,000 acres of pastoral valley.

Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP

Preserving sites associated with the Wright Brothers and the development of aviation, tour the visitor centers and museums.

First Ladies NHS

Tour the home of First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley and the City National Bank Building which have been converted to a museum honoring all first ladies.

Hopewell Culture NHP

Explore archeological remnants of earthwork and mound complexes built between 200 and 500 BC.

James A. Garfield NHS

Tour the home of President James A Garfield, along with the visitor center and grounds.

Perry's Victory and Int'l Peace Memorial

The memorial features a column that rises 352 feet above Lake Erie commemorating war and peace.

William Howard Taft NHS

Taft is the only person in US history to serve as both president and chief justice. Tour his home and education center.

WEST VIRGINIA

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

This 2,176 mile trail protects the habitats of hundreds of endangered species and rare wildlands.

Bluestone National Scenic River

With excellent warm-water fishing, hiking and boating, the river preserves unspoiled scenery.

Gauley River NRA

Class V+ rapids here are some of the most challenging white-water boating sites in the Eastern U.S.

Harpers Ferry NHP

John Brown's raid in 1859 thrust this small town into national prominence.

New River Gorge National River

One of the oldest rivers in North America, it is renowned for its fishing streams and white-water boating.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Extends from the Allegeny Highlands to the mouth of the Potomac River near Washington D.C.

what will you see?

Lore and legend often can be found that tell stories behind the landscapes we enjoy in national parks. One such legend contributed its name to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan.

As the Native American legend goes, three bears – a sow and her two cubs – headed into the waters of Lake Michigan to flee

a forest fire raging along the Wisconsin shoreline. After swimming for hours, the mother bear reached the distant shore and headed to the top of a bluff where she laid down to wait for her cubs.

Unfortunately, the cubs were overcome by the swim and drowned in the lake. To mark their watery graves, the Great Spirit Manitou created two islands – today's North and South Manitou Islands – in honor of the cubs. On shore where their mother waited the Great Spirit Manitou formed a towering dune to mark her vigil.

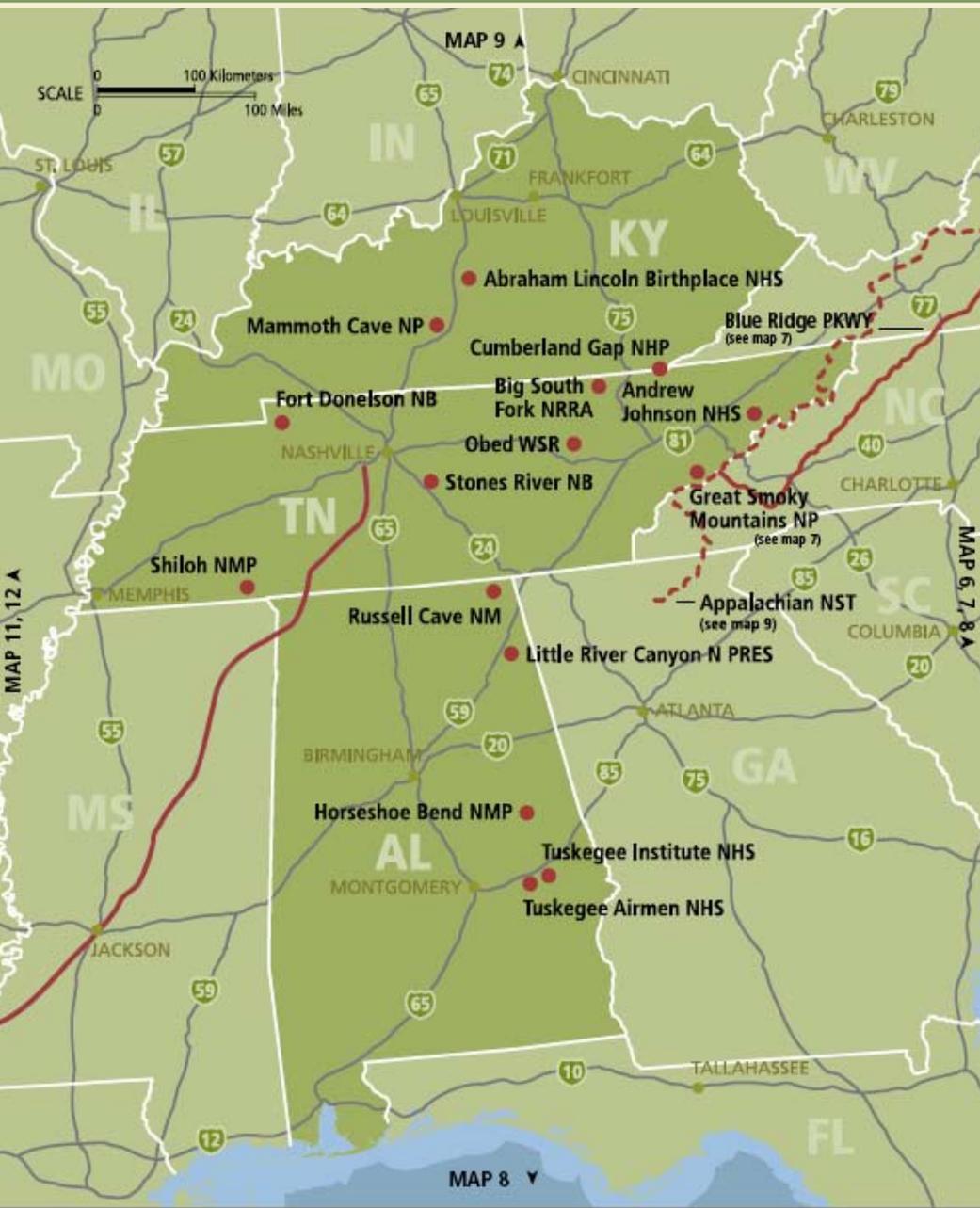


Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The world's largest cave, one of the most biologically diverse places in America, and Civil War history all can be found among the national park sites spread across Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. Tourists have been heading to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky since 1816 – a century before the National Park Service was formed – and while spelunkers have been crawling around the passages all these years, they still haven't found the end. While Great Smoky Mountains National Park also has caves, its main attractions are misty mountains, cascading creeks, and everything that lives within that landscape.



IN THE AREA There are so many twists, turns, and drops in the cave, no one is quite sure how long Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky really is. At last count nearly 370 miles of passages had been measured, and the end still isn't in sight. How "mammoth" is this national park? The world's second longest cave, Jewel Cave National Monument in South Dakota, is fewer than 145 miles in length.

Across the Kentucky state line in Tennessee, Great Smoky Mountains National Park has proven to be a biological treasure-trove ever since researchers started tallying all the plant, animal, fish, bug, reptile, amphibian, and bird species they could spot. At last count, nearly 900 species new to science had been discovered in the park. But the main draw for Great Smoky are its namesake mountains, the cool streams and waterfalls, and the homesteads that can be found in Cades Cove and Cataloochee Valley.

Rushing waters also can be found in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, a sprawling landscape that straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee line, with a river that lures paddlers and a backcountry that contains a surprising number of sandstone arches and mile-after-mile of hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking trails.



Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

what not to miss

ALABAMA

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

Summer living history programs includes evening campfire and lantern events - contact park for schedule.

Little River Canyon

Go late October to early November for fall colors, or March through June for wildflowers.

Russell Cave NM

Be sure to take an hour and tour the museum and cave mouth.

Tuskegee Airmen NHS

Don't miss the annual Memorial Day fly-in.

Tuskegee Institute NHS

Plan to spend a couple of hours in the Carver Museum.

KENTUCKY

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHP

Tour the grounds and the symbolic birthplace cabin.

Cumberland Gap NHP

Explore the natural passageway through the Appalachian Mountains by auto tour or hike.

Mammoth Cave NP

Daily ranger-led cave tours; Go in spring for dogwood blooms; August for wildflower peak.

Battlefields – most tied to the Civil War, but one linked to the Battle of 1812 – are sprinkled across these states, with most in Tennessee. You have to travel to Alabama to find Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, which preserves a site that, during the War of 1812, witnessed the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The victory achieved here by forces under General Andrew Jackson would later help Jackson ascend to the U.S. presidency in 1829.

Alabama also is home to the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, both of which mark significant milestones for African-Americans in the United States. While the first honors the World War II training ground of African-American pilots, the second marks a school established to educate former slaves.

what not to miss

TENNESSEE

Andrew Johnson NHS

Try out a tailor's "goose" at the Tailor Shop.

Big South Fork NRR

Take the Big South Fork Scenic Railway to Blue Heron, an abandoned coal mining town.

Blue Ridge PKWY

(See North Carolina)

Fort Donelson NB

(See North Carolina)

Great Smoky Mountains NP

(See North Carolina)

Fort Donelson NB

Explore at your own pace with a six-mile, self-guided tour.

Obed WSR

Raft or kayak on one of the best whitewater rivers in the eastern US.

Shiloh NMP

Visit in early spring to see the historic Peach Orchard in bloom.

Stones River NB

Bike the battlefield with a ranger every Saturday during the summer.



Little River Canyon



Shiloh National Military Park

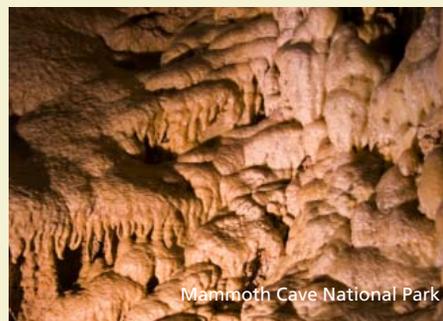
what will you see?

Going underground on a guided tour is one thing at Mammoth Cave National Park. Going underground on a "wild cave tour" is something entirely different. It's not something for everyone, as it measures you against claustrophobia, against shimmying around on your belly in the dark, and against being in complete, and total darkness and silence at times.

But for those who head down this trail, most wouldn't skip a second chance at exploring Mammoth Cave by headlamp.

The rangers who lead these tours leave staircases and electricity far behind, taking you down seemingly unmarked passageways and through openings that make you wonder if you've followed Alice down the rabbit hole. They guide you through the Mole Hole and the Key Hole, and past the Rocky Mountains and even Mary's Vineyard before the trek is complete.

And when you ascend to daylight after six or so hours underground, you proudly wear the grit and grime on your coveralls with pride.



Mammoth Cave National Park

Water and exploration often go hand-in-hand. That is highly evident in the units of the National Park System that dot Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. Across this broad region you can find waters to float, follow in the paddle strokes of 17th century couriers de bois, and learn about the Lewis and Clark expedition that chartered a path across the Northwest for a young, growing country.

IN THE AREA What is it about water? Why does it fascinate us so? For the 17th century couriers de bois, the lakes and rivers of the upper Midwest provided fur-bearing animals for their traps and travel routes for their birch-bark canoes. Voyageurs National Park on the northern border of Minnesota not only tracks the history of these trappers, but also preserves some of the settings where they lived and worked, settings that you can explore today.

There's more than a history of exploration to be found in the parks in this region. At Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa you can marvel at more than 200 earthen mounds that Native Americans formed over 1,000 years ago not as housing but to express sacred beliefs and honor their dead. At George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri you can study the boyhood of George Washington Carver, who went on to become a highly respected botanist.

Similar history is told nearby at Grand Portage National Monument that captures a landscape once the domain of the Anishinabe and Ojibwe tribes, a place where the Northwest Company established a depot to resupply trappers who would convene on the site every summer to rendezvous.

Also in this region you can find the Illinois home where Abraham Lincoln lived, a national historic site dedicated to Ulysses S. Grant, the simple cottage where President Herbert Hoover was born, and a national monument – Pipestone – that preserves a patch of tall-grass prairie and a quarry used by Native Americans to carve pipes.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore on Lake Superior is one of the country's four national lakeshores. While 17th century trappers more than likely passed by this area, today the Apostle Islands draw kayakers, beach-goers, and scuba divers who explore wrecks pulled to the bottom by Superior's notorious storms. The lakeshore, which embraces an archipelago of 22 islands, also preserves six historic "light stations."

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are famous for their early 19th century trailblazing across the Northwest, and at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis you can tour the Museum of Westward Expansion to understand the challenges the expedition faced.



what not to miss

IOWA

Effigy Mounds NM

Explore 206 prehistoric burial and ceremonial mounds, some in the shapes of bears and birds.

Herbert Hoover NHS

Visit the Hoover Presidential Museum, as well as President and Mrs. Hoover's gravesites.

ILLINOIS

Lincoln Home NHS

Tour the recently restored Lincoln home and neighborhood.

MINNESOTA

Grand Portage NM

Take one of the daily boat trips to Isle Royale National Park mid-June through Labor Day.

Mississippi NRR

The park stretches along 72 miles of the Mississippi River Corridor and is great for hiking, biking, boating and more.

Pipestone NM

Hike through prairies and quarries; buy Native American crafts. Watch pipe-making demonstrations.

Voyageurs NP

Water dominates the landscape of this 218,000-acre park; great for canoeing, hiking, cross country skiing.

what not to miss

MISSOURI

George Washington Carver NM

Kids have fun at the hands-on Discovery Center. Enjoy hiking and touring the home.

Harry S Truman NHS

Tour the Truman family home, and surrounding National Historic Landmark District.

Jefferson National Expansion MEM

Ride to the top of the Arch, tour the museum and courthouse.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Enjoy boating, canoeing, tubing and more around 134 mi. of waterways along the Current and Jacks Fork rivers.

Ulysses S. Grant NHS

Take a ranger or self-led tour of the house and grounds; Visit in Aug. for the Night Walk into the Past program.

Wilson's Creek NB

Go hiking, tour the battlefield and enjoy Ray House.

WISCONSIN

Apostle Islands NL

21 islands in the world's largest freshwater lake showcase pristine beaches, sea caves and sadstone cliffs.

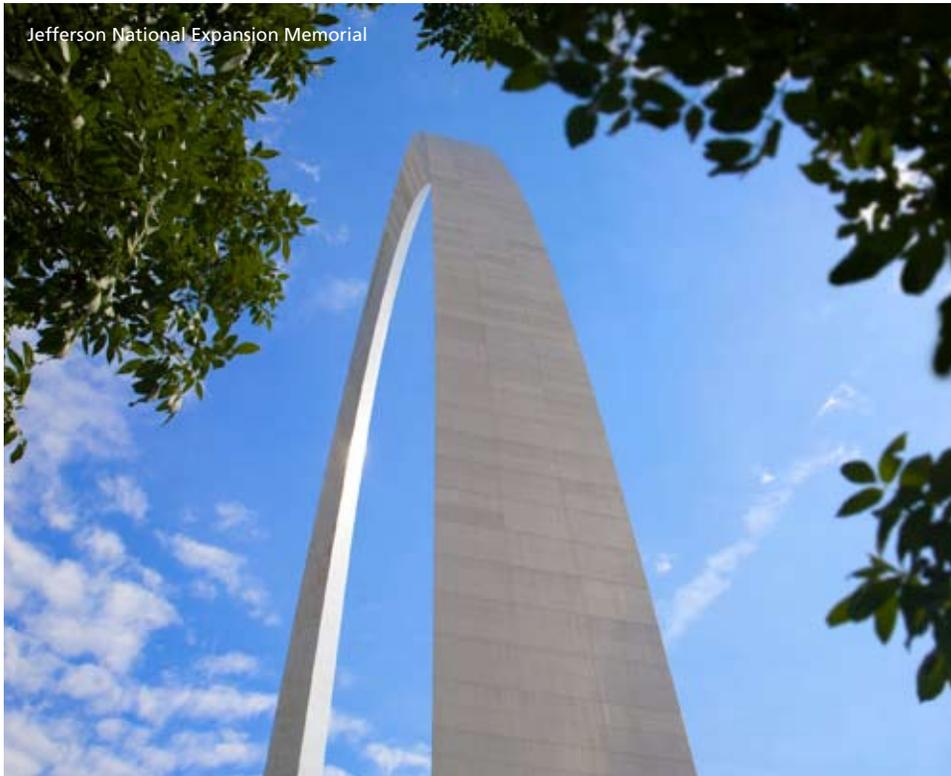
St. Croix NSR

Flows through some of the most scenic and undeveloped country in the upper Midwest.



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

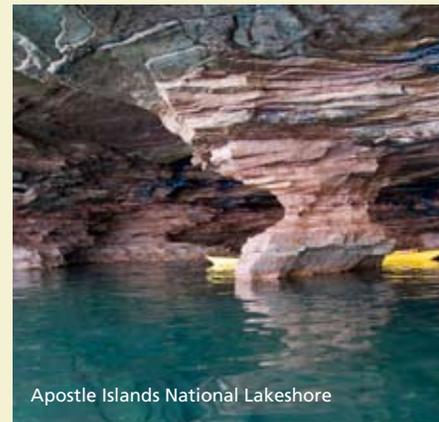
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial



what will you see?

One of only four national lakeshores in the entire National Park System, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore on the southern sweep of Lake Superior boasts 22 picturesque islands and an 11-mile strip of the adjacent Bayfield Peninsula.

While visitors focus mostly on water-based recreation, the lakeshore does include 33,000 acres of officially designated wilderness. That said, few parks in the system are better suited to sea kayaking and island hiking than Apostle Islands. The brownstone cliffs, sea caves that the lake's wave action has carved into the mainland, thickly wooded shores, lighthouses, wildlife, and other scenic delights are remarkably picturesque.



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Many visitors are surprised to learn that this park has the country's finest collection of historic light stations, or lighthouses. One, Raspberry Island Light Station, recently was restored to its "1920s splendor."

During the summer months rangers lead regular tours of the lighthouse.

One of the country's finest rivers for canoeing, a nearly 450-mile parkway that follows ancestral trails, and a stretch of Gulf of Mexico beach that lures both sunbathers and sea turtles are reason enough to visit the National Park System sites that dot Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. But you can also choose to explore Civil War history or soak in hot springs that have been luring bathers for more than two centuries.



what not to miss

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Post N MEM

Fishing, hiking, picnicking, tour the museum; watch for alligators.

Buffalo NR

Canoe or hike along one of the few remaining unpolluted, free-flowing rivers in the U.S.

Fort Smith NHS

(See Oklahoma)

Hot Springs NP

The park's 47 hot springs lack the sulfur odor that accompany most hot springs.

Little Rock Central High School NHS

Tour the school, exhibits and watch videos about the struggle over desegregation.

Pea Ridge NMP

One of the best-preserved Civil War battlefields in the country. Take auto tour, hike or horseback ride.

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS*

See where President Clinton lived for the first four years of his life!

LOUISIANA

Cane River Creole NHP and Heritage Area

Tour Oakland and Magnolia plantations - call 24 hours ahead for guided ranger tours.

Jean Lafitte NHP and PRES

Attend cultural events at the visitor center, hike the grounds or go canoeing.

New Orleans Jazz NHP

Attend a concert or other cultural event.

Poverty Point NM

Explore the culture of peoples who lived on the land from 1700-700 BC.

MISSISSIPPI

Brices Cross Road NBS

Civil War buffs will enjoy exploring the battlefield, cannons, and viewing the granite marker.

Natchez NHP

Tour historic buildings and explore an exhibit on slavery.

Natchez Trace NST

Great for hiking or horseback riding.

Natchez Trace Parkway

Go Mar. and Apr. for wildflowers, Oct. and Nov. for fall colors.

Tupelo NB

Explore an acre of Civil War battlefield marked with cannons and interpretive placards.

Vicksburg NMP

Located on high bluffs, hike through the civil war battlefield, see reconstructed trenches and 1,300 monuments throughout the park.

IN THE AREA America gave the world jazz, and the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park helps trace its roots and upbringing. From the Original Dixieland Band and Charles 'Buddy' Bolden, one of the first horn men of the genre, to Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong and beyond, the park explains the evolution of jazz. The lessons are not only written; if you're in town on Wednesdays or Saturdays you'll be able to take in a live performance.

Just as soothing as soft jazz, but in an entirely different context, is the Buffalo National River. Meandering through Arkansas for 135 miles, the river's currents are some of the last in the country not impeded by a dam. The

Little Rock Central High School National Historical Site



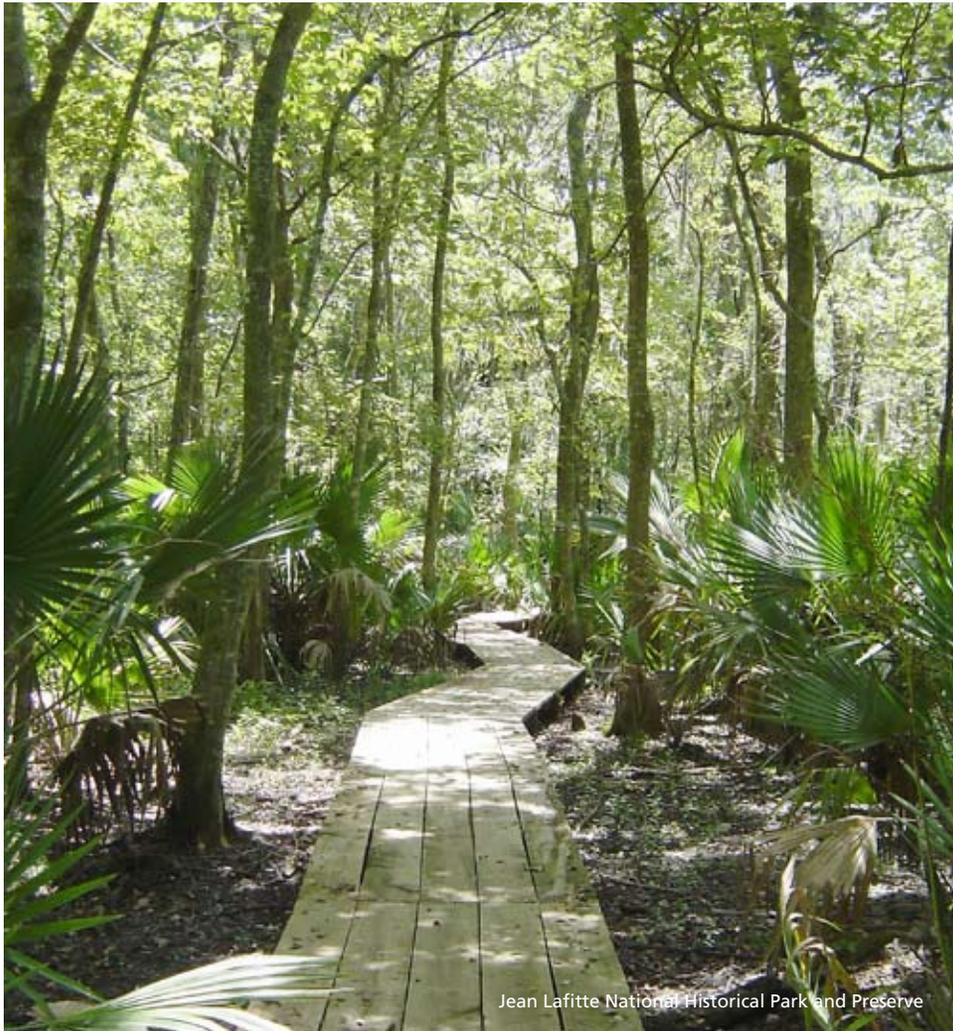
Buffalo River mixes mellow pools with swift rapids. It flows through a landscape of limestone bluffs that are undercut by roughly 350 caves. Among those is Fitton Cave, the longest in Arkansas with 17 miles mapped so far

Another path to follow through this region of the National Park System is the Natchez Trace Parkway. Cruising for 444 miles from Tennessee, through a sliver of Alabama, and on down the length of Mississippi, the route retraces a corridor long traveled by Native Americans as well as wildlife. Not just for automobiles, the parkway offers trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

Another unit of the park system with history decidedly on its side is Hot Springs National

Park and its simmering waters. For more than two centuries people have been coming to this corner of Arkansas to soak in the mineral-rich waters, which come out of the ground at a temperature of about 143 degrees Fahrenheit but are cooled to around 100-108 degrees for bathers.

No cooling is necessary with the Gulf of Mexico, which laps the shorelines of Gulf Islands National Seashore that is split between Mississippi and Florida. Whether you enjoy swimming, camping on barrier islands, studying military history that spans Spanish, British, and U.S. forts and batteries, or simply enjoying sunsets, the national seashore offers plenty of adventures.



Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve



Natchez Trace Parkway and National Scenic Trail

what will you see?

It's been quite a while since any visitors to Hot Springs, Arkansas, headed into the woods to find a hot spring to soak in. Bathing long has been done in greater style. The Fordyce Bathhouse, which operated from 1915-1962, greeted bathers with amble displays of marble

and stained glass, cherubs gracing fountains, and massage rooms. That wasn't all. There also was a gymnasium, a Music Room, even a two-lane bowling alley in the basement. Those certainly were the days.



These days baths are taken in either the Buckstaff Baths or Quapaw Baths and Spa. Once you've purchased your ticket and received your bath sheet you can relax in private in an over-sized tub, enjoy a steam bath to clear the sinuses, or ease lower-back pains with a short Sitz bath in 108-degree waters. And, if any kinks remain after those treatments, you can relax further with a massage.

Hot Springs National Park

A mountain turned into a monument. A landscape that honed Theodore Roosevelt's love for the land and his conservationist ethic. Deep, rambling caves and surviving relics of the Cold War. These are just some of the Jigsaw puzzle pieces that help form a diverse portrait of America that the National Park Service presides over in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas.



what not to miss

KANSAS

Brown v. Board of Education NHS

Tour the historic school building, museum and watch the video.

Fort Larned NHS

Fort Larned is one of the best examples of an Indian Wars-era Fort.

Fort Scott NHS

Tour historic buildings and enjoy the walking trail. Seasonal activities include Civil War reenactments.

Nicodemus NHS

Ranger-led tours go year round - don't miss Emancipation Day celebrations the last weekend of July.

Tallgrass Prairie N PRES

Explore 17 mi. of the vast tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once covered much of North America.

NORTH DAKOTA

Fort Union Trading Post NHS

Tour a reconstruction of the most significant fur-trading post on the upper Missouri River.

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

Enjoy bird-watching, canoeing, hiking, cross country skiing. Be sure to see the full-scale furnished earth lodge.

Theodore Roosevelt NP

The 70,447 acre park is set against the backdrop of the Badlands. Great driving or hiking tours.

IN THE AREA Diversity is a hallmark of the National Park System, and that is certainly evident in the many units that can be found in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas. From North Dakota south to Kansas these states present both rough-hewn parks as well as insights into the evolution of American civics. You can't find a more roughly hewn park unit than Mountain Rushmore National Memorial, which was literally carved from a South Dakota mountain in honor of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln. Sculptor Gutzon Borglum said his decision to focus on those four men stemmed from his desire "to communicate the founding, expansion, preservation, and unification of the United States..."

It was upon the rugged landscape of North Dakota that Teddy Roosevelt developed his deep love and appreciation for nature. While he came to the state to hunt, by the time he arrived in the late 1800s the massive herds of bison were gone and he soon witnessed the extreme toll being taken on wildlife as well as the grasslands. It was these experiences that nurtured the conservationist in the future president who played a substantial role in setting aside roughly 230 millions of acres of forest lands, wildlife refuges, and national parks.

At Theodore Roosevelt National Park you can look across the landscape that so affected the president and visit the "Maltese Cross Cabin" that he called home.

The National Park System contains four of the five longest caves in the world, and two of them are in South Dakota – one protected in Jewel Cave National Monument, the other at Wind Cave National Park. Jewel Cave is the second longest, measuring just shy of 145 miles, while Wind Cave is the fourth longest, at 132 miles. (Mammoth Cave National Park holds the world's longest cave, at nearly 367 miles and no end in sight, while a cave within Carlsbad Caverns National Park runs 126.5 miles to stand fifth in the rankings).

America's military and civics struggles also are represented in this region, at Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota, and Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Kansas. While the first site displays a replica of the nuclear rockets that helped deter a nuclear holocaust for three decades, the second commemorates the landmark lawsuit that brought an end to segregation in public schools.

what not to miss

NEBRASKA

Agate Fossil Beds NM

Attend ranger talks; go hiking or fishing; tour historic quarries; May-Sept. for wildflowers.

Homestead NM of America

Enjoy crosscountry skiing, hiking and touring the facilities. The annual Heartland Storytelling Festival is a favorite (2nd Fri. in May).

Missouri NRR

The recreational waterway is great for boating or canoeing; enjoy the high chalk bluffs and wide plains.

Niobrara NSR

Canoeing and tubing (rentals in Valentine); Free-grazing cattle, windmills and abandoned historic barns dot the landscape.

Scotts Bluff NM

Drive or hike to the 800 foot Scotts Bluff Summit; hike to the remnants of the Oregon - Calif. Trail.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Badlands NP

Discover the world's richest Oligocene epoch fossil beds, dating 37-28 million years old.

Jewel Cave NM

Step back in time with one of Jewel Cave's historic, lantern-led cave tours.

Minuteman Missile NHS

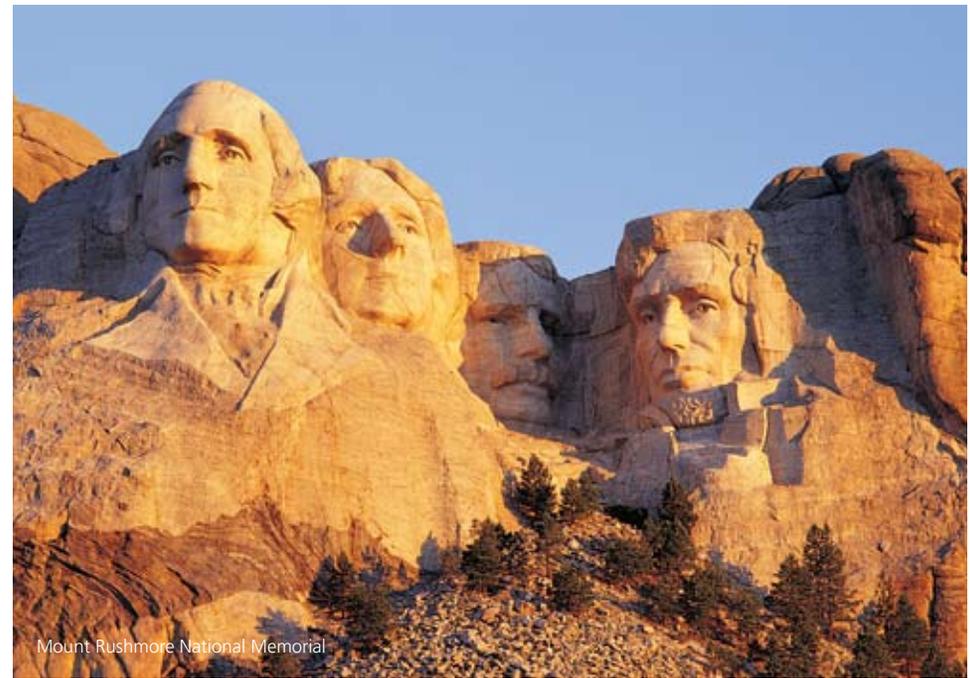
Get an up-close look at a Cold War-era missile.

Mount Rushmore N MEM

Discover the traditions of local American Indian communities at the Heritage Village.

Wind Cave NP

Explore the cave away from the developed trails on a Wild Cave Tour.



Mount Rushmore National Memorial



Jewel Cave National Monument

what will you see?

Because we can think and develop opinions, we are at times a contradictory species. With that accepted, it should come as no surprise that on occasion some seeming contradictions arise in the National Park System. After all, the system exists in part to preserve the country's cultural heritage, warts and all as they say.

How else to explain why there is a unit of the park system, Nicodemus National Historical Site, in one part of Kansas that pays tribute to an all-black town formed by slaves who fled the South after the Civil War in search of freedom and self-determination, while cross-state stands a unit focused on a lawsuit over the segregation of public schools?

Nicodemus National Historic Site



The contradiction? That former slaves found a small patch of land in Kansas – a state that struggled to join the Union's side in the Civil War -- where they could leave free, while a community in that same state years later would insist on segregating white and black students, a move overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Today you can come to understand and appreciate that decision at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas.

A park so big it swallows an entire mountain range. A national seashore that contains the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world. A biological crossroads that makes neighbors out of swamplands, towering forests, sand hills, and plains. All these places can be found in Texas, which prides itself on doing things larger and grander than most other places, so perhaps we should not be surprised. This region of the National Park System also chronicles a tragic battleground of the 19th century Indian wars.



IN THE AREA Of five species of sea turtles that swim the Gulf of Mexico, the Kemp's ridley turtle is considered the most endangered. For it, places such as Padre Island National Seashore are invaluable, as the seashore provides much-needed nesting habitat for the species. Since 1996 the number of Kemp's ridley turtle nests on the seashore has grown from just six with 590 total eggs to 195 in 2008 with nearly 18,000 eggs. Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that the seashore offers such good habitat, for it contains the longest undeveloped barrier island in the world, a place with plenty of seaside room for the turtles.

Farther inland stands Big Bend National Park, a park with more than 800,000 acres, a place big enough that it embraces the entire Chisos Mountain Range. From the mountains that rise to 7,825-feet at Emory Peak to deserts, Big Bend contains an amazing diversity of landscape. There are hot springs to soak in, a deep river canyon cut by the Rio Grande that lures paddlers, forests of aspen, Douglas fir, and Ponderosa pine, as well as Chihuahuan desert with their grasslands.

Though Big Bend is decidedly big and diverse, Big Thicket National Preserve takes diversity a bit further. A quirk of geography has brought together in Big Thicket's embrace a slew of habitats not normally considered neighbors. There are deep, murky swamps, central plains, thick forests, and arid sandhills all within the park's boundaries. Spend enough time here and you'll be able to count 85 tree species and nearly 1,000 other flowering plants, 20 of which are orchids. What can you do here? Take a hike, put a pack on your back and disappear into the landscape for days, ride a horse, paddle a canoe or kayak, even hunt in season. Birding is superb from mid-April to mid-May thanks to Big Thicket's presence along two flyways – the Central and Mississippi.

If you find yourself in Oklahoma or northern Texas during the high heat of summer, a great place to find relief is Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Located in a transition zone of Eastern deciduous forest and Western prairie and blessed with a geologic foundation rife with both freshwater and mineral springs, this National Recreation Area offers a cool respite from hot weather.

what not to miss

OKLAHOMA

Chickasaw NRA

Explore 20 mi. of trails and scenic roads. Nature center features live exhibits.

Fort Smith NHS

Walk where soldiers drilled, pause along the Trail of Tears, and stand where justice was served.

Washita Battlefield NHS

View the battlefield from the overlook, and make time for the 26 minute "Destiny at Dawn" video about the attack.



Big Bend National Park



Guadalupe Mountains National Park

what not to miss

TEXAS

Alibates Flint Quarries NM

Go early or late to see one of the best sunrises or sunsets in the state.

Amistad NRA

Don't miss the dramatic 4,000 year-old rock art in the upper reaches of the reservoir.

Big Bend NP

Float the Rio Grande and explore the park's majestic canyons.

Big Thicket N PRES

Paddle through Bald cypress and tupelo trees on the Cook's Lake Canoe Trail.

Chamizal N MEM

View some of the best borderland art in the memorial's three art galleries.

Fort Davis NHS

Take one of the hiking trails to a spectacular overlook of the fort.

Guadalupe Mountains NP

Go after dark to gaze at 11,000 stars and the Milky Way.

Lake Meredith NRA

Camp at Fritch Fortress and get beautiful views from this bluff location.

Lyndon B Johnson NHP

Visit longhorn cattle at the Johnson Settlement

Padre Island NSW

Attend a sea turtle release and watch hatchlings take their first steps into the Gulf of Mexico.

Palo Alto Battlefield NHP

See the battlefield aglow during Palo Alto's annual candlelight memorial.

Rio Grande WSR

Journey to Mariscal Canyon to see stunning limestone cliffs rising up to 1,400 feet.

San Antonio Missions NHP

Don't miss Mission San José, known as the "Queen of the Missions."

what will you see?

Details of history often are colored by who tells the story. In the case of the battle at Washita River in 1868, while the U.S. military and many settlers in the Oklahoma Territory viewed it as a great military victory, Indians and some whites considered it a terrible massacre.

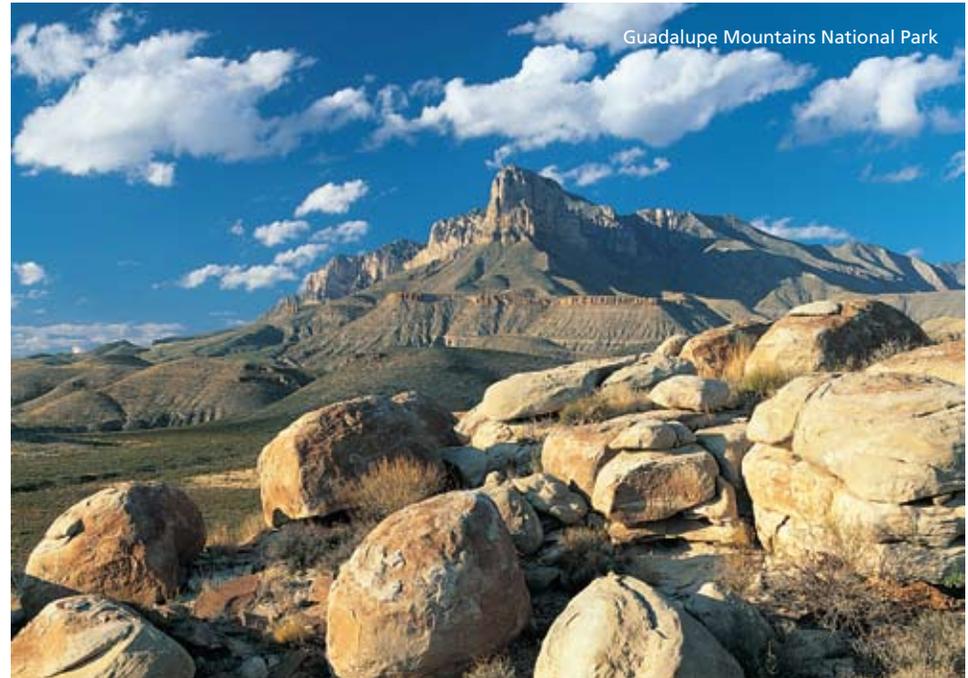
Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer led the 7th Cavalry down upon a sleeping Southern Cheyenne village

in the predawn hours of November 27, 1868, and killed more than 100 Indians, including Peace Chief Black Kettle. Just 21 soldiers died in the battle.

Today at the 315-acre Washita Battlefield National Historic Site along the river you can learn about the events that preceded the battle and see the lay of the land to get a feel of how the battle played out. One of the lasting mysteries of the battle was where Chief Black Kettle and his wife were buried afterwards.



Washita Battlefield National Historic Site



Guadalupe Mountains National Park

The world's most famous geyser. Rivers of ice that, having sculpted a dramatic landscape, are now in retreat. Annals of ancient life frozen in rock. Poignant battlefields that tell stories of clashing cultures, and national monuments to both human persecutions at times of war as well as determined resilience in a demanding landscape. These stories and more of our national heritage are told in the 16 units of the National Park System found in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.



what not to miss

IDAHO

City of Rocks NR

"City of Rocks" refers to massive granite rock formations up to 600 feet tall.

Craters of the Moon NM and PRES

The park contains one of the largest basaltic cinder cones in the world - Big Cinder Butte.

Hagerman Fossil Beds NM

The collection includes the largest concentration of fossil horses in North America.

Minidoka NHS

The monument commemorates the hardships and sacrifices of Japanese-Americans interned here during WW II.

Nez Perce NHP

This park's 38 sites span four different states.

MONTANA

Big Hole National Battlefield

Enjoy cross-country skiing, fishing, picnicking, snowshoeing and touring the battlefield.

Glacier NP

Explore 700 mi. of hiking trails, with nearly 50 glaciers and endless 10,000 foot peaks.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

Tour the ranch, see cattle, poultry and horses; enjoy bird watching.

Little Bighorn Battlefield NM

Tour the battlefield by car; visit the park on the battle anniversary, June 25.

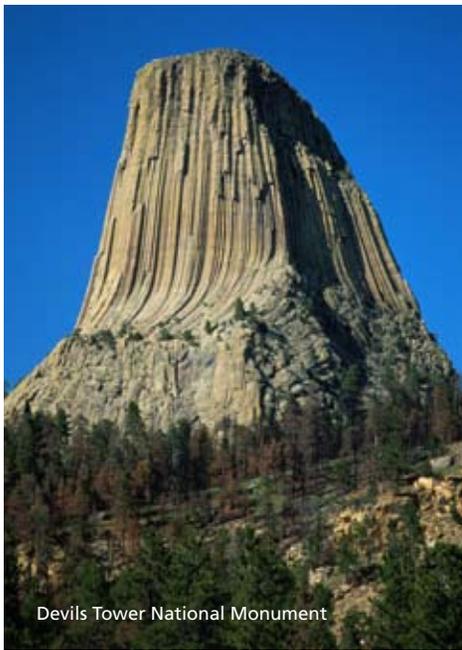
IN THE AREA The "Yellowstone Creation Myth" continues to this day. Some say the idea of a 'national park' protecting Yellowstone was conjured during an 1870 campfire discussion at the confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon rivers by members of an expedition exploring what then was territory uncharted but not without fabulous stories of hot springs and geysers.

While the myth largely has been debunked, the fabulous stories continue thanks to the Old Faithful Geyser, places like Mud Volcano and Black Dragon's Cauldron, hot springs the color of robin's eggs and ripe limes, and expansive valleys dotted with bison and prowled by wolf packs.

Yellowstone National Park did jumpstart the national park movement throughout the United States and across the rest of the world, but it is not the only national park gem to be found in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Far from it. Just south of Yellowstone rises Grand Teton National Park with its cloud-snagging crags, idyllic lakes, and blue-ribbon trout streams. Cross-state there's Devils Tower National Monument with its Native American lore, and Fort Laramie, an outpost born during the 1830s fur-trading days that later played a role in protecting emigrants during the Indian Wars.



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument



Devils Tower National Monument

Travel north to Montana and Glacier National Park is a magnificent work courtesy of rivers of ice that helped mold the mountains and which continue to nourish the landscape with their icy melt. Grizzly bears still roam these mountains, as do wolves, wolverines, elk, and mountain goats. Farther south, the Indian Wars gave rise to the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, which recounts the story of General George Armstrong Custer's fatal encounter with Lakota Sioux and Cheyenne warriors who were fighting for their very existence. Montana also is where you'll find the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and the heart of a cattle empire that once covered 10 million acres.

Venture into Idaho and you'll discover an out-of-this-world landscape in the lava beds of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, the prehistoric habitat of Sabertooth Cats at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, and the somber remains of what once was one of the largest Japanese internment camps during World War II. Spectacular natural beauty, poignant history, and rich culture. It all exists here.



Grand Teton National Park

what not to miss

WYOMING

Bighorn Canyon NRA

Filled with Bighorn sheep, the park houses the nation's first wild horse range

Devils Tower NM

America's first national monument is a magnet for rock climbers

Fort Laramie NHS

19th century fur-trading center and military post showcases 12 restored historic buildings

Fossil Butte NM

One of the best-preserved paleoecosystems of fossilized plants, fish, mammals and reptiles

Grand Teton NP

Towering above Jackson Hole, 12 Teton peaks support a dozen mountain glaciers

John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial PKWY

Scenic 82-mile corridor connects Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks

Yellowstone NP

The world's first national park is home to Old Faithful, bison herds and the grand canyon of the Yellowstone River



Yellowstone National Park

what will you see?

Got goats? Glacier National Park does. Mountain goats, that is, and lots of them. Here in this landscape defined by glaciers, mountain goats rule. Nimble, decked out with curved black horns, professorial goatees and thick, woolly coats, these all-terrain animals must also be a tad egotistical. Why else would they congregate along the Hidden Lake Trail within sight of the Logan Pass Visitor Center and pose for Glacier National Park visitors?



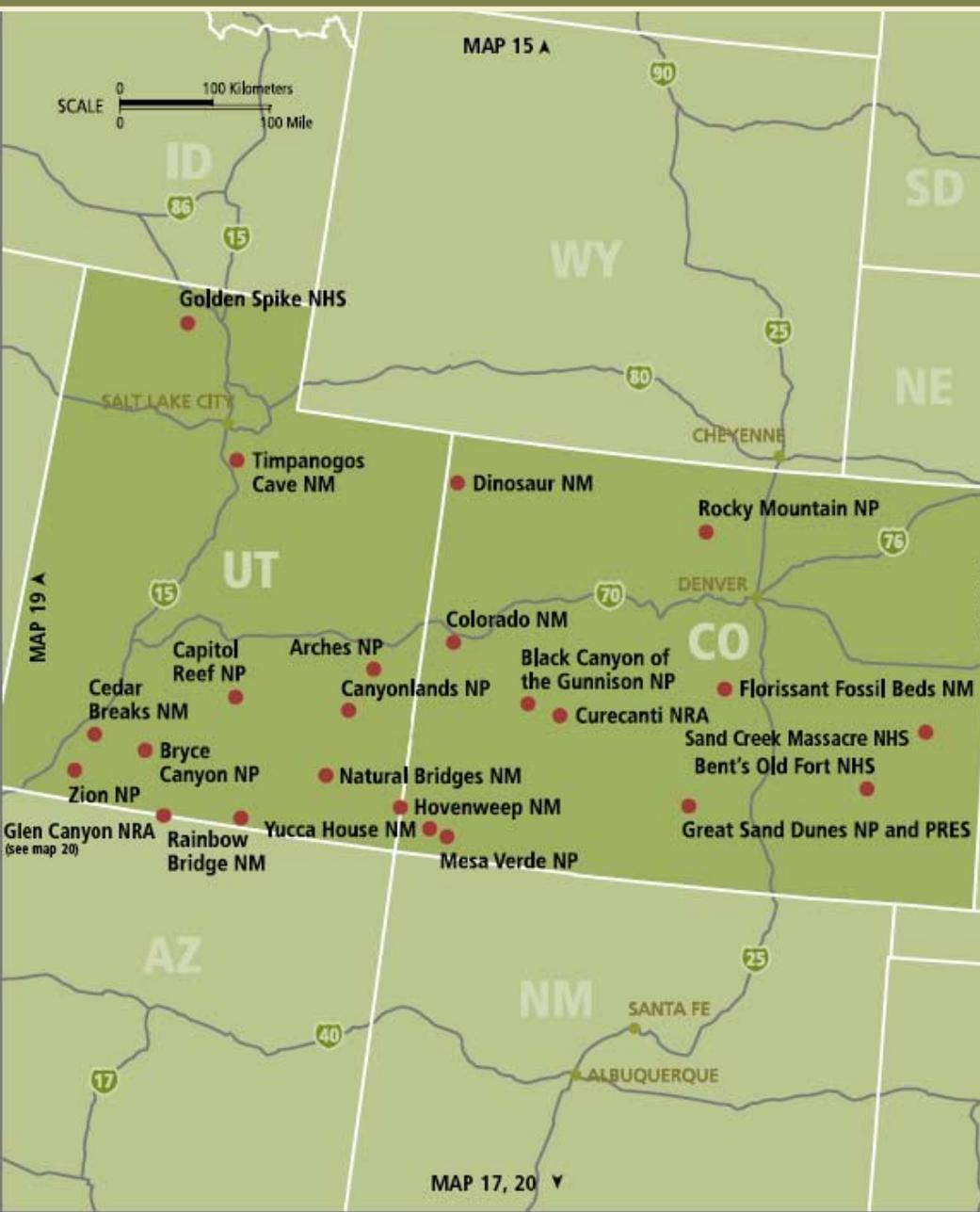
Glacier National Park

Head off along the trail that meanders across alpine slopes strewn with wildflowers in early summer and you soon find yourself surrounded goats. Don't worry about scaring them off with any sudden movements as you grab your camera, as these herbivores are most content grazing on the pass's emerald slopes.

Of course, keeping your focus on mountain goats on Logan Pass can be difficult, as in just about every direction you're surrounded by ramparts of rock, some cupping cirques, others capped by glacial horns or covered with snowfields that most often come to mind when Glacier is mentioned.

Indeed, there's no loss in trading scenery for goats or vice versa in Glacier, a million-acre-plus park in northwestern Montana nudged up against the Canadian border.

Scrambling through rooms of stone in search of lost cultures is just one of the adventures awaiting you in national parks in Colorado and Utah. There also are towering sand dunes, white-water adventures, and colorful hoodoos and goblins lurking in the landscape. A setting that would make the Flintstones at home showcases nature's serendipity, while iron laid down more than a century ago traces the nation's Western growth.



what not to miss

COLORADO

Bent's Old Fort NHS

Reconstructed adobe trading post along the old Santa Fe Trail

Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP

Stunning and imposing walls of schist and gneiss were carved by the Gunnison River

Colorado NM

Bighorn sheep, golden eagles and mountain lions inhabit this colorful sandstone country

Curecanti NRA

Blue Mesa Reservoir is a mecca for anglers and water-sports enthusiasts

Dinosaur NM

The only park that protects a dinosaur quarry, a window into the Jurassic world

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

6,000 acre monument preserves fossils of a 35 million year old redwood forest

Great Sand Dunes NP & Preserve

The tallest sand dunes in North America offers hiking, wilderness camping and exploring

Mesa Verde NP

Tour the largest cliff dwelling in North America, Cliff Palace, home to the Ancestors of the Puebloan People

Rocky Mountain NP

Snow-mantled peaks overlooking subalpine valleys and pristine lakes are draws

Sand Creek Massacre NHS

Honors the Cheyenne and Arapaho victims massacred by U.S. soldiers in 1864

Yucca House NM

These 800 year old Puebloan homes are largely unexcavated

IN THE AREA Rare is the national park that doesn't hold some mystery, and those in Colorado and Utah abound with mysteries. Stand at the rim of Sunset Point in Bryce Canyon National Park and try to figure out not just how Thor's Hammer was carved from the park's stony underpinnings, but also why gravity hasn't toppled it. Visit nearby Zion National Park and try to calculate how long it took the Virgin River to carve the mighty slot canyon known simply as "The Narrows" through rock. Or head cross-state to Arches National Park and ask yourself why gravity has allowed Landscape Arch, the world's longest span of stone, and Balanced Rock to remain above the landscape.

These and other geologic, and even human, mysteries pin their existence to the Colorado Plateau. Spanning 130,000 square miles in southwestern Colorado and much of eastern Utah, the plateau's colorful sandstones lend whimsy to erosion and shelter for humans.

The human mysteries can be found throughout the Colorado Plateau and its national parks. At Mesa Verde National Park you'll likely be confounded by the skills the ancestral Puebloans displayed in wedging their homes into cliffsides. Similar architecture can

be found at Natural Bridges National Monument and deep in the backcountry of Canyonlands National Park. Just as puzzling as these dwellings is what happened to this culture? Why did it vanish from the landscape approximately 1,300 A.D.?

Farther north in Utah it was the arrival of cultures, in this case brought by the first trans-continental railroad, that the National Park Service preserves at Golden Spike National Historic Site.

While such geology and history fascinates the mind, the recreational offerings of national parks exercise the body and fuel the spirit. Rocky Mountain National Park offers hiking through both deep forests of pine, spruce, and fir as well as on tundra you'd normally associate with the far north. Dinosaur National Monument, though largely known for its dinosaur fossils, offers white-water thrills as does Canyonlands. Great Sand Dunes National Park offers a backpacking cornucopia in both a desertscape of towering sand dunes and dazzling alpine backcountry.

Mysteries? There are plenty to go around. And just as many thrills to be had.

what will you see?

Hand over hand, step by step up the ladder's wooden rungs, the climb into Balcony House at Mesa Verde National Park takes you back into the past, to the early 12th and 13th centuries when alcoves in the sandstone ridges of southwestern Colorado housed an amazing culture.

You easily can walk past the imposing Cliff Palace and other cliff dwellings the ancestral Puebloans built here. But climbing up into Balcony House, peering into the kivas sunk into the stone floors, and scooting on hands and knees through



passageways thought to have been used for protection, practically etches their lifestyle and hardships into your brain.

Somehow, without the convenience of levels, tape measures, or bags of cement, the Native American masons wielded river-rock hatches to cleave bread-loaf-sized sandstone blocks that they then stacked to create elaborate shelters. Roof beams of juniper logs not only supported ceilings, but at the same time held up floors for a second, or third, story of dwellings. As clans grew, the men would slowly expand an outcrop of a few connected rooms into sprawling villages. Once their work was done, the women would plaster and decorate the interior walls.

Here at Mesa Verde the National Park Service preserves a cultural landscape we still don't fully comprehend. Where a society once flourished, there now is only evidence of a vanished people.

Mesa Verde National Park

Zion National Park



Arches National Park



what not to miss

UTAH

Arches NP

One of the largest concentrations of natural sandstone arches in the world

Bryce Canyon NP

Named for a series of horseshoe shape amphitheaters carved into Paunsaugunt Plateau

Canyonlands NP

Colorful canyons, mesas, buttes, fins, arches and spires fill the red-rock landscape

Capitol Reef NP

Visit the Waterpocket Fold, a 65 million year old wrinkle in the Earth's crust

Cedar Breaks NM

Multicolored geologic amphitheater is 2,500 ft deep and 3 mi across

Golden Spike NHS

Commemorates the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869

Glen Canyon

(See Arizona)

Hovenweep NM

Inhabitants of Hovenweep were part of a large farming culture dating back to 500 A.D.

Natural Bridges NM

Three bridges depict how running water forms and ultimately destroys perforated rock walls

Rainbow Bridge

Small, wonderfully decorated limestone caves have helictites and anthodies in a variety of shapes

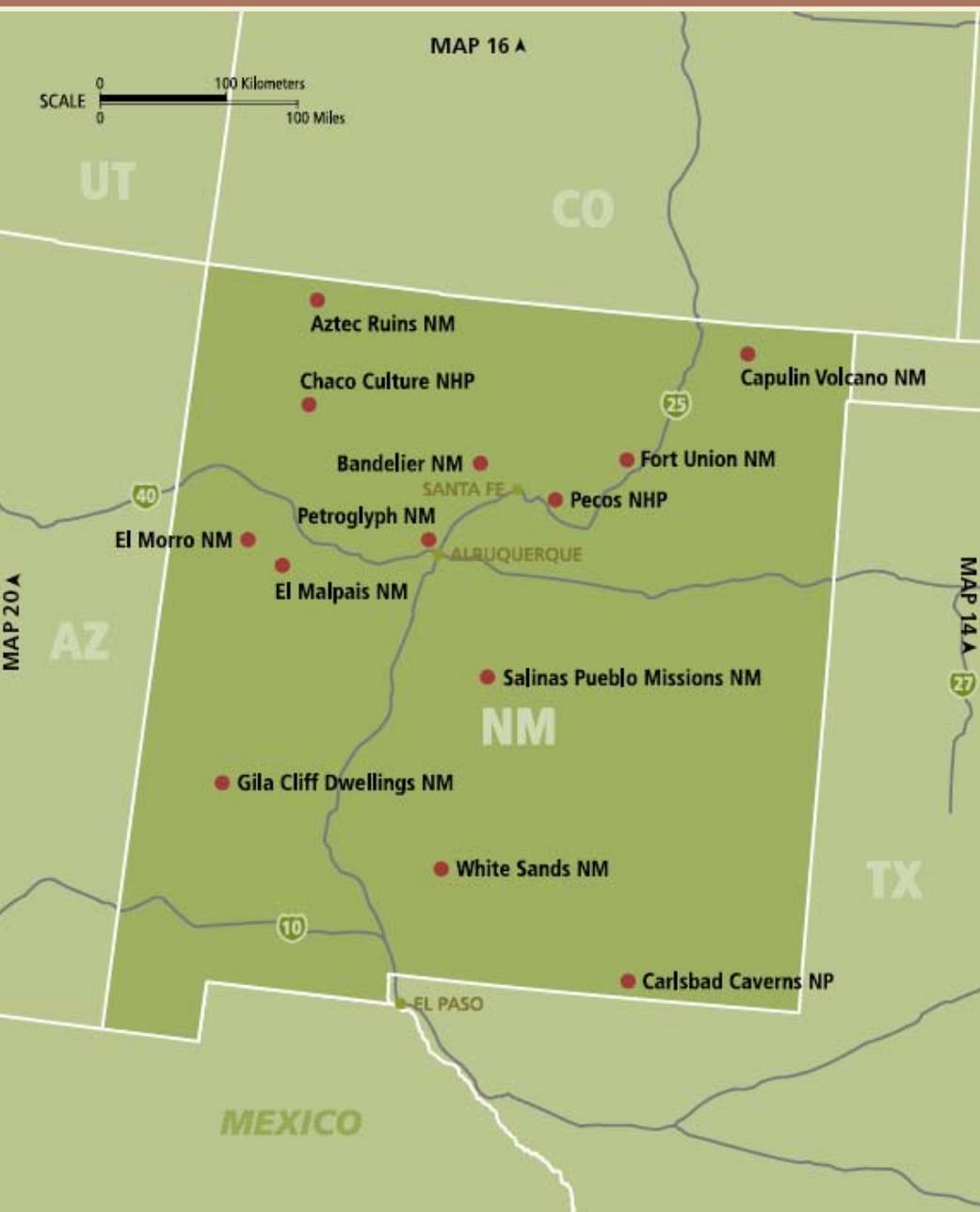
Timpanogos Cave NM

Small, wonderfully decorated limestone caves have helictites and anthodies in a variety of shapes

Zion NP

Spectacular landscape of cliffs and canyons and a wilderness full of the unexpected

As the sun circles the Earth, shadows of ancient cultures rise and fall on steep sandstone walls in New Mexico that clutch dwellings from the past. Ancient artworks signifying what – messages for fellow travelers? shamanistic beliefs? prehistoric doodling? – are communications we still don't fully understand. Then, too, the state boasts incredible geology you can trace to a volcanic past, and one of the deepest caverns to be found. All these places are protected by the National Park Service for our enjoyment and fascination.



what not to miss

NEW MEXICO

Aztec Ruins NM

Visit the reconstructed Grand Kiva, a large ceremonial chamber for Pueblo people

Bandelier NM

Climb tall ladders to explore ancient cliff dwellings on the Pajarito Plateau

Capulin Volcano NM

Named for the capulin (chokecherry) plants that grow on this cinder cone formed by a volcano

Carlsbad Caverns NP

Houses the nation's deepest limestone cave (1,597ft) and thousands of Mexican free-tail bats

Chaco Culture NHP

Cultural hub for the Four Corners region from the mid-9th to 13th centuries

El Malpais NM

El Malpais means "the badlands", reflected in the landscape of volcanic lava flows and cinder cones

El Morro NM

This sandstone mesa rises 200 ft above the valley floor houses prehistoric petroglyphs

Fort Union NM

Built in 1851 near the Santa Fe Trail, the fort was headquarters for the New Mexico military

Carlsbad Caverns National Park



IN THE AREA Why did the culture known today as "ancestral Puebloans" vanish from the Southwest around the start of the 14th century? Was it drought? Did invaders push them out? Did they simply relocate to more habitable landscapes? Those are questions we're still trying to firmly answer today. You can contemplate the various theories while exploring the dwellings this culture left behind in places like Chaco Culture National Historical Park and Aztec Ruins National Monument in northwestern New Mexico.

Chaco Canyon, home to today's Chaco Culture National Historical Park, was considered to be a major population center for the ancestral Puebloans from 850 A.D. until 1250 A.D. Here you can view a number of their dwellings, marvel at the architecture, and try to guess what messages their petroglyphs convey. At Aztec Ruins you'll find the remains of nearly 500 stone rooms in the "West Ruin," evidence of the vibrancy this culture once enjoyed.

Artifacts of more recent cultures are on display at El Morro National Monument, which preserves a way station for 17th, 18th and 19th century travelers who found the waterhole there quenching and the sandstone bluff ideal for engraving their names. Some of the engravings, which date

to 1605, are simple, no more than a name and perhaps a date. Others are a bit more elaborate. For instance, one left in 1605 reads, Passed by here the Governor Don Juan de Onate, from the discovery of the Sea of the South on the 16th of April, 1605.

It's hard to imagine mammoths and giant bison roaming parts of New Mexico these days, but they did in fact pass this way long, long ago. While they're no longer part of the landscape, the cylindrical cone of a volcano that erupted in the relatively recent past can be found at Capulin Volcano National Monument. The volcano that erupted about 60,000 years ago is one of many that spewed lava across the landscape. Today you can drive to the top of the cinder cone, park your car, and hike down into the crater.

While you can't drive into the cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, you certainly can explore it on foot. Actually, the national park protects not just one cave, but more than 100. While you can guide yourself along the Big Room Route and the Natural Entrance Route, ranger-led tours will take you deeper into the cavern. Just be sure to reserve a spot ahead of your visit by visiting the park's website, www.nps.gov/cave.

what not to miss

NEW MEXICO (cont.)

Gila Cliff Dwellings NM

A glimpse of 13th century Native American life can be seen in its cliff dwellings

Pecos NHP

Home to the ruins of the 15th-century Pueblo of Pecos and a Civil War battlefield

Petroglyph NM

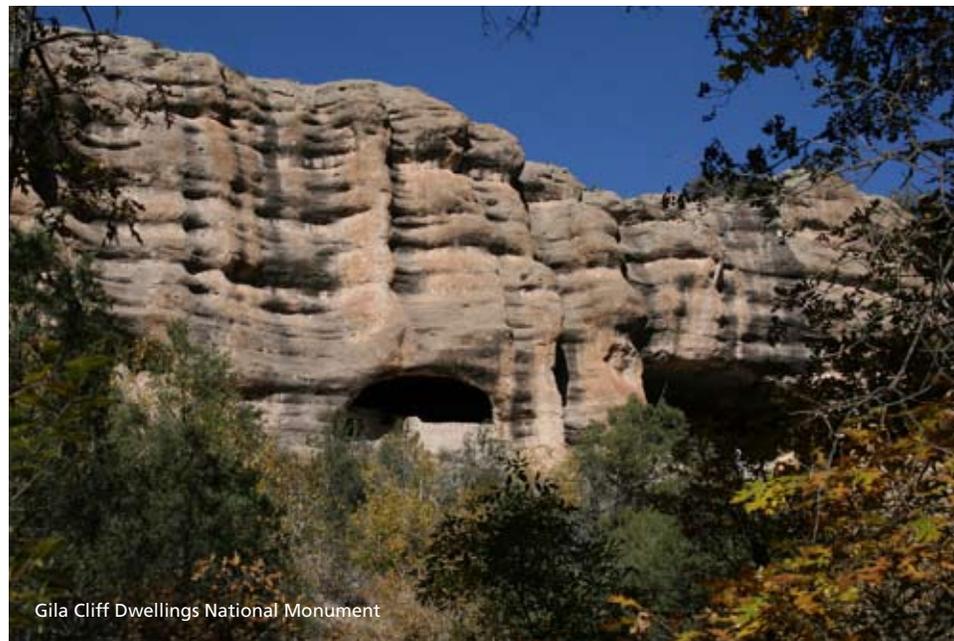
Nearly 20,000 petroglyphs were carved by Puebloans, Hispanic sheepherders and early settlers

Salinas Pueblo Missions NM

Major trade center for the Pueblo people in the 17th century

White Sands NM

Glistening white sands of the world's largest gypsum dunefield are protected



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument



White Sands National Monument

what will you see?

Caves are to bats as rivers are to fish. And Carlsbad Caverns National Park has more than a few bats. Indeed, there are so many bats that use the cave that the National Park Service offers interpretive programs to help you understand their habitat and even catch a glimpse of these flying mammals.

These programs can offer quite the show, as during the summer months roughly 400,000 Mexican free-tail bats stream out of the cavern come evening as they go in search of a meal of insects. The ranger programs tied to these nightly flights are held from Memorial Day into mid-October and begin right around sunset.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park



If your goal is to see the greatest number of bats take off, then plan a visit to the national park in July or August. If you're an early riser, head to the park before dawn to watch the bats head back to their roosts.

National Parks in the Pacific Northwest offer more than just spectacular scenery. Some, such as Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, preserve a living slice of rural life, not in a snapshot but rather as an evolving production. In contrast, the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park tells the story of a young country's westward expansion two centuries ago. And any trip to the Northwest can't be complete without standing on the glaciers of Mount Rainier National Park, watching the surf crash ashore at Olympic National Park, or gazing into the deep blue waters at Crater Lake National Park.



what not to miss

OREGON

Crater Lake National Park

Crater Lake is known for its unusual mountain location and distinct blue color. It is also the deepest lake in the US.

Fort Vancouver NHS

Explore the world-class archeology collection.

John Day Fossil Beds NM

Visit the Paleontology Center with fossil museum, enjoy ranger-led talks and hiking.

Lewis and Clark NHP

A new replica of the original fort opened in 2007, also explore the canoe landing and salt-works.

Oregon Caves NM

Entrance to caves is by guided tour only - no reservations, so come early!

WASHINGTON

Ebey's Landing NHR

Protects a rural working landscape and community on Central Whidbey Island

Klondike Gold Rush NHP

(see Alaska)

Lake Chelan NRA

At a depth of 1,500 ft, Lake Chelan is the third deepest lake in our nation

IN THE AREA

It took Meriwether Lewis and William Clark 18 months – from November 1805 until September 1806 -- to lead their small expedition, the Corps of Discovery, from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River. During that time they explored a sprawling and rugged landscape that was unknown to the young United States. Their efforts not only revealed Native American cultures, deep forests, wild rivers, expansive plains, and jagged mountains, but spurred westward expansion for the country. A replica of their Fort Clatsop, which was quickly raised near the mouth of the Columbia to offer the corps some comfort during the winter of 1805-06, today hints at the hardships the explorers endured.

Farther north in Puget Sound, Whidbey Island harbors Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, the nation's first historical reserve. Established in 1978, the 17,500-acre-reserve portrays rural life in the Northwest. Today there are 18 working farms on this landscape, along with two state parks, miles of shoreline, and native prairies that help recall how the landscape appeared before settlement.



Mount Rainier National Park

For sheer beauty, it's tough to match what the Pacific Northwest's national parks offer visitors. The demanding landscape of North Cascades National Park shelters nearly half of the 700 glaciers that exist in the Cascade Range. Mount Rainier National Park, meanwhile, revolves around a dormant, snow-and-ice capped volcano. Venture to that mountain and you'll find Paradise, a place as well as an inn, on Rainier's flanks, as well as the lowest-elevation glacier in the Lower 48, the Carbon Glacier, whose snout stands at just about 3,500 feet above sea level.

Verdant rain forests tangled with vegetation, surf-pounded beaches, and more glaciers in alpine high country can be found at Olympic National Park. Taking up much of Washington State's Olympic Peninsula, this national park offers a trio of unique experiences, all for the price of one.

Down in Oregon, Crater Lake National Park, like Mount Rainier, occupies a volcanic landscape, but this one is long extinct. When the cone of a volcano collapsed nearly 8,000 years ago, it left a stunning basin that today holds the deepest lake in the United States.

With so many options in the Pacific Northwest, it's certainly hard to plan an itinerary, but you're not likely to make a mistake with any of these offerings.



North Cascades National Park

what will you see?

One national park, three vastly different experiences. That's what you get when you enter Olympic National Park. Here the Pacific Ocean pounds the Olympic Peninsula, sculpting 'sea stacks' that battle erosion. At low tide come and explore the marine life that resides in tide pools, or search among the cobbled beaches for treasures the waves might have tossed ashore. Around the clock you can listen to the steady rolling ashore of the waves and, in summer, enjoy the cooling breezes.

Not too far inland is the Hoh Rain Forest, a verdant temperate rain forest nourished by more than 200 inches of rain each year. Paths that roam through the dense undergrowth reveal colorful banana slugs (a peculiar, shell-less snail-like creature that grows to 6 inches and more in length), crystal-clear streams, towering Sitka spruce and Western Hemlock trees draped with mosses and epiphytes – plants rooted not in soils but which cling to the trees and draw some of their nutrients from the moist breezes.



Olympic National Park

Higher up in the interior of Olympic National Park stands a range of mountains that, despite its close proximity to the coast, is coated in places with glaciers. Stand atop Hurricane Ridge and not only can you spy some of these rivers of ice, but also the shimmering waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and, off to the north, Vancouver, British Columbia.

what not to miss

WASHINGTON (cont.)

Lake Roosevelt NRA

The 1941 damming of the Columbia River created this boating and fishing favorite named for FDR

Mount Rainier NP

The glacier capped, 14,410 foot volcanic mountain sports rain forests with 1,000 year old trees

North Cascades NP

"America's Alps" provide some of the most breathtaking scenery including more than 300 glaciers

Olympic NP

From the Pacific coast to glacier capped mountains and rain forest, Olympic is a natural wonderland

Ross Lake NRA

Auto touring, boating, hiking, canoeing and river rafting are only a few of the opportunities here

San Juan Island NHP

Commemorates the settlement of the Oregon Boundary dispute between the U.S. and Canada

Whitman Mission NHS

The Whitman's founded a Protestant mission in 1836 to convert the Cayuse people along the Oregon Trail



Crater Lake National Park

Is there a more diverse array of the National Park System than those units found in California and Nevada? From the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere to the highest point in the contiguous 48 states, from the waters and shores of the Pacific Ocean to majestic Sequoia trees and perhaps the most iconic granite monolith in the United States, and from oddly appearing Joshua trees to some of the oldest trees on the planet, these two states offer national park visitors some incredible options when it comes time to decide where to vacation.

IN THE AREA Geology on a tortured scale, botany run wild, and record-setting heat all are on display in the units of the National Park System found in California and Nevada. These are places where Mother Nature seemingly went a little overboard.

At Devils Postpile National Monument on the western flanks of the Sierra Nevada you can find angular columns of basalt 60 feet high that went through a volcanic cookie press, while in Sequoia and Redwood national parks their namesake trees rise hundreds of feet above their anchoring roots. Death Valley National Park, of course, captures the hottest temperatures in the Western Hemisphere come July and August, when the mercury easily rises to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. One July day back in 1913 the mercury didn't stop until it reached 134 degrees!

The dilemma facing park visitors – and it's a delicious one – is where to head in this incredible landscape? Do you take off for Yosemite National Park to gaze at Half Dome and then decide to climb atop its rounded dome? Or do you head to eastern Nevada

what not to miss

CALIFORNIA

Cabrillo NM

Bring binoculars Dec.-Feb. for whale watching.

Channel Islands NP

Visit one of the largest known sea caves, named Painted Cave for its colorful lichen and algae.

Death Valley NP

See the beautiful sand dunes, snow-covered peaks and rugged canyons.

Devils Postpile NM

See columns of hardened lava tower 40-60 feet in the air; Also make time to visit Rainbow Falls and Soda Springs - the parks carbonated mineral springs.

Joshua Tree NP

A prime spot for hiking and rock climbing.

Kings Canyon NP

Plan 2-3 hours for a drive from Grant Grove into Kings Canyon while visiting Sequoia National Park.

Lassen Volcanic NP

See all four types of volcanoes in the world in one park.

Lava Beds NM

Explore cinder cones, spatter cones, lava flows and more than 600 lava-tube caves.

Manzanar NHS

The Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage is the last Sat. in April, when former internees and others gather together.

Mojave N PRES

Hole in the Wall is an aptly named geographic formation, be ready for a steep climb down a vertical chute.

Pinnacles NM

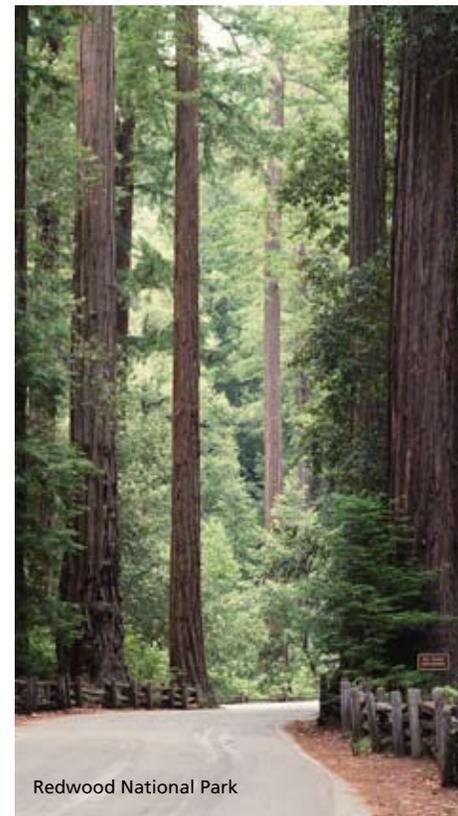
Night hikes and bat viewings are available in spring, summer and fall.

Point Reyes NS

Go Feb.-May for flowers, Dec.-Apr. for migrating gray whales, Nov.-Apr. for breeding elephant seals.

Redwood NP

Redwoods can live more than 2,000 years, and grow to over 300 feet tall.



Redwood National Park

and Great Basin National Park, an agreeably remote park but one that rewards visitors with 'Methuselah' trees, better known as bristlecone pines that can live thousands of years, along with a cave system into which rangers will guide you? Maybe volcanism is your interest, in which case Lassen Volcanic National Park would be the perfect destination. This park lies nestled within a slumbering volcanic landscape, one covered with forests in many places, while in others you can find fuming fumaroles and plopping mud pots more commonly expected to be found at Yellowstone National Park.

California's coast is also a powerful, and diverse, draw. From the fog-shrouded forests of Redwood National Park you can head south to explore Point Reyes National Seashore, a wild slice of coastline that lures massive elephant seals in spring for breeding rituals. Tomales Bay, on the eastern side of the seashore, is a popular destination with sea kayakers, while the Drakes Bay area and the Phillip Burton Wilderness draw backpackers.

With so many choices, it's a good thing parks are open every day of the year.

what will you see?

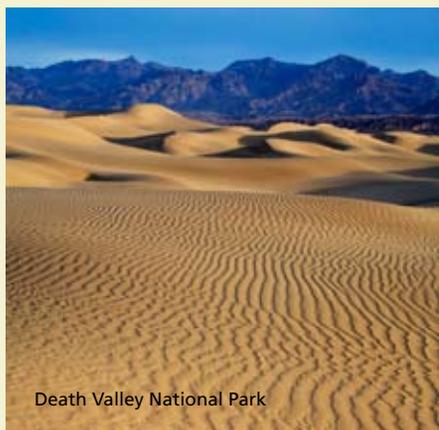
By various accounts, Walter Scott was a prospector, a rascal, scoundrel, and raconteur. But in the end, he was Death Valley Scotty, a prodigious story teller and schemer who had the last laugh after first swindling, and then befriending, a Chicago insurance tycoon who wound up building a palatial home in Death Valley that Scott called his own.

"Scotty's Castle," as it quickly became known, is a magnificent mansion in Grapevine Canyon in the northern end of the national park. Built back in 1922 by Albert Johnson, the castle-like structure started out to be a winter retreat for

Johnson, who found Death Valley's arid climate good for his health. But it soon turned into a year-round home for Johnson and his wife, one that generated many stories over the years.

Scotty's Castle also seemed ahead of its day in many respects. Not only did Albert Johnson see that there was a solar heating system at work, but he also had a Pelton water wheel turbine installed to generate electricity for the place. Too, an evaporative cooling system employed indoor waterfalls and even wet burlap to keep things inside the castle relatively cool on those 100-degree summer days.

Today Scotty's Castle and its surrounding grounds, which include a never-finished swimming pool, offer a fascinating look back into Death Valley's past.



Death Valley National Park

what not to miss

CALIFORNIA (cont.)

Santa Monica Mountains NRA

For sensational views, drive along Mullholland Drive; also great for biking & hiking.

Sequoia NP

Be sure to see the General Sherman Tree, the world's largest living tree.

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA

Go in spring for wildflowers and hiking; Summer for water sports & camping; Fall for foliage.

Yosemite NP

Plan at least four hours for Yosemite Valley, and two days for the entire park.

NEVADA

Great Basin NP

Take the scenic drive to Wheeler Peak; go cave touring, caving (permit required), fishing and hiking.

Lake Mead NRA

Boating, fishing and swimming are available on the two huge lakes.



Yosemite National Park

John Muir is a conservation legend in the United States. In this region of the National Park System you'll find two sites in his honor. Plus there's one of the most diverse national recreation areas in the system, Golden Gate, as well as a site where you can soak up rich maritime history and another that tells the story of Rosie the Riveter.



Golden Gate
National Recreation Area

what not to miss

SAN FRANCISCO

Eugene O'Neill NHS

Reservations are required for park visits, which include a free guided tour.

Fort Point NHS

Attend the daily cannon drill demonstrations, or plan a candlelight tour Oct.-Feb.

Golden Gate NRA

Alcatraz, the Presidio, and 5 other visitor centers along with stunning hiking and more.

John Muir NHS

Full moon walks June-Aug., bird-watching and wildflower walks.

Muir Woods NM

Wander through the redwood forest, Redwood Creek, and wildflowers.

Port Chicago Naval Magazine NM

Reservations are required and must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit to the Memorial.

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front NHP

Take an auto tour of a World War II cargo ship.

San Francisco Maritime NHP

The Maritime Library houses historic documents including 120,000 sheets of ships' plans.

IN THE AREA John Muir's name is synonymous with the national parks movement. Though foreign born and slight of frame, he was undying in his determination to see many of the American West's most iconic landscapes protected. His conservation work, lobbying, and friendship with President Theodore Roosevelt helped lead to the creation of a handful of national parks, among them Yosemite and Sequoia.

At John Muir National Historic Site you can tour his home and its surrounding 9 acres with their orchards and wildflowers. Across San Francisco Bay you'll find Muir Woods National Monument, a preserve of giant redwoods surrounded by urban growth. The land was given to the federal government by philanthropist William Kent, who insisted the monument be named in Muir's honor.



Muir Woods National Monument

what will you see?

To John Muir nature was something to rejoice in and draw inspiration from. Whether it was walking among the granite towers of Yosemite National



John Muir National Historic Site

Park, the tall forests in Sequoia National Park, or the glaciers in Alaska, the conservationist found that nature gave him more than he could ever possibly return.

“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin,” he wrote in *Our National Parks*. In the pages of *My First Summer in the Sierra* Muir noted that, “One is constantly reminded of the infinite lavishness and fertility of Nature inexhaustible abundance amid what seem enormous waste. And yet when we look into any of her operations that lie within reach of our minds, we learn that no particle of her material is wasted or worn out....”

Muir’s work was far-reaching. Not only was he instrumental in gaining national park status for Yosemite, Sequoia, Mount Rainier and the Grand Canyon, but he also influenced Enos Mills, the driving force behind the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, though considered to be one of the world’s largest urban parks, offers a rich potpourri of national park settings. Against the backdrop of San Francisco you can explore U.S. military history at The Presidio, tour the country’s most infamous prison, Alcatraz, or enjoy a walk through sand dunes found within coastal wetlands. There are abundant birding opportunities, places to go wind-surfing and great beachfronts for picnicking.

U.S. military history can be found not only at the Nike Missile Site at Golden Gate, but at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California. At the associated Rosie the Riveter Memorial you can study a sculpture that resembles a ship’s hull and imagine the female riveters at work, or head over to the Richmond Museum of History to watch the restoration of the Red Oak Victory Ship, a World War II ship built in Richmond.

Literary history also is tracked in the National Park System, and at the Eugene O’Neill

National Historic Site you can see where the Nobel Prize-winning playwright – who also won four Pulitzer Prizes! - wrote *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day’s Journey Into Night*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*.

The O’Neill home, called the Tao House by the writer and his wife, is a fusion of Spanish and Oriental architecture. Twice a year some of the playwright’s works are performed in the old barn on his property.



Fort Point National Historic Site

Perhaps nowhere in the National Park System can you find a better display of geology than in Arizona. The Grand Canyon with its long and deep erosional wonder. Volcanic remnants to be found at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. Trees of stone that litter the ground at Petrified Forest National Park. But human existence is captured within the park system as well at places such as Casa Grande Ruins National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument.



IN THE AREA Is there a landscape in the United States as demanding as that found in the Southwest? Arid year-round, with scant moisture either in the form of precipitation or flowing streams, and poor soils that are difficult to coax life from. And yet, the erosional and geologic forces that have been at work in Arizona for millions of years have created a beautifully dramatic landscape that begs exploration.

Who can stand at either rim of Grand Canyon National Park and not want to head down a trail to reach the Colorado River a mile below? Even if you don't hike into the inner canyon to sip some lemonade at Phantom Ranch, comparing the North and the South rims leaves you wondering why one is so heavily forested while the other is not.

While the Grand Canyon is the best-known geologic feature in the state, it has some pretty good company. Petrified Forest National Park greets visitors with colorfully striped badlands studded with trees turned to stone by the ages. Groundwater that soaked into downed and dead trees funneled mineral deposits in solution into the trees' cells. When the trees dried out, the deposits turned to stone, mostly quartz, and in the process locked the cellular patterns in place for the ages.

At Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument you can stand atop the remains of a volcano whose eruptions reverberated across the surrounding landscape about 1,000 years ago. Inspect the lava flows that coated the ground during a hike along the Lava Flow Trail. To help you examine this curious landscape, borrow one of the "Discovery Packs" from the park. It comes complete with binoculars, magnifying glass, field guides, and sketch pad.

Human history is recorded in this landscape as well, at places such as Tuzigoot National Monument with its hilltop pueblo that once held more than 100 rooms. Raised more recently was the Hubbell Trading Post, a late-19th century outpost that catered largely to Navajo tribal members. While the trading post became a national historic site in 1965, it never went out of business. Today you can still shop there, a practice that began when John Lorenzo Hubbell first opened for business in 1878.

what not to miss

ARIZONA

Canyon De Chelly NM

Take an auto tour or hike (permits required). Horseback riding (rentals) also available.

Casa Grande Ruins NM

Casa Grande, the four-story caliche building erected 650 years ago, is the most prominent structure.

Chiricahua NM

See huge balanced rocks, towering structures, and massive stone columns.

Coronado N MEM

Scenic overlook at Montezuma Pass offers sweeping views of the San Pedro River Valley.

Fort Bowie NHS

Plan at least a two hour hike to the fort and back.

Glen Canyon NRA

Some of the most scenic backpacking country on the Colorado Plateau.

Grand Canyon NP

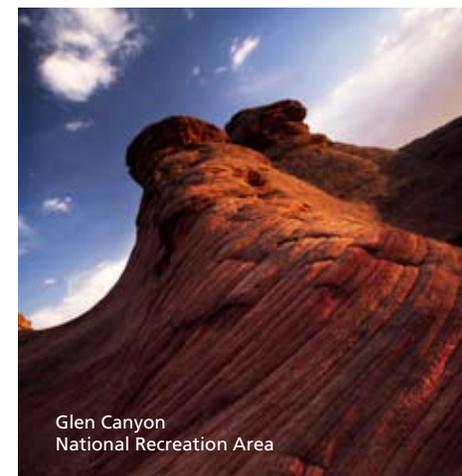
Plan several months ahead for lodging, back-country permits, rafting trips and mule trips.

Hohokam Pima NM

The site is closed to the public.

Hubbell Trading Post NHS

Visitor center features trading post, Navajo weavers and other arts and crafts.



Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

what not to miss

ARIZONA (cont.)

Montezuma Castle NM

Montezuma Well is a blue-green, limestone sink that measures more than 400 feet across.

Navajo NM

Visit the well-preserved ruins of villages abandoned around 1300 AD by Pueblo peoples.

Organ Pipe Cactus NM

See the organ-pipe cactus, and other rare plants & animals that live in the extreme temps of the desert.

Petrified Forest NP

Explore one of the world's largest and most colorful concentrations of petrified wood.

Pipe Spring NM

Tour Winsow Castle, a fort built by Mormon pioneers; hike the half mile trail.

Saguaro NP

Saguaro National Park Visit late Mar.-early Apr. to see the desert plant blooms; Mar.-May for saguaro plant blooms.

Sunset Crater Volcano NM

Follow a trail around the base of the crater or climb another smaller nearby volcano.

Tonto NM

Make advance reservations for Upper Cliff dwelling tour.

Tumacacori NHP

Allow two hours for the hiking trail and visitor center.

Tuzigoot NM

Designated hiking trails get you very close to the ruins of a Sinaguan village.

Walnut Canyon NM

Hike the Island Trail, which descends 240 steps at an elevation of 6,800 feet.

Wupatki NM

Take a 3-4 hour Discovery Hike Nov-Mar.



Petrified Forest National Park

what will you see?

Reaching the bottom of the Grand Canyon can be achieved in a number of ways, none of them particularly easy, but all fun. If you like your independence, there's nothing quite like hoisting a pack onto your back and simply walking to the bottom. The South Kaibab and Bright

Angel trails descend from the South Rim to the Colorado River, while from the North Rim the North Kaibab Trail is the only route to the bottom.

Others who prefer what many view as a more traditional mode of travel sign on for one of the mule rides heading to the bottom. Granted, the mule is doing the hard work, but these can be demanding rides if you're not accustomed to a hard leather saddle.

For those with time, say two weeks or more, there's nothing quite like running the length of the Colorado River through the canyon on a raft. Numerous commercial trips leave regularly from Lee's Ferry. About the toughest decision you have to make is whether you want to join a motorized raft trip or one that uses paddle boats for a more active adventure.

No matter which mode of travel you choose, don't forget water, lots of water.



Grand Canyon National Park



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Word of gold strikes in the Yukon brought a flood of prospectors to Alaska early in the 20th century. Nearly a century later, the state was in the news again as the Cold War focused attention on the islands that comprise the Bering Strait. Stories of these events, along with some of the most rugged and remote, as well as beautiful, landscapes in the United States, are told and captured by the National Park System in a wide array of parks, monuments, and rivers.

SCALE 0 200 Kilometers 0 200 Miles



what not to miss

ALASKA

Alagnak WR
The headwaters of the Alagnak Wild River lie within the rugged Aleutian Range of neighboring Katmai National Park & Preserve. Meandering west towards Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea, the Alagnak traverses the beautiful Alaska Peninsula, providing an unparalleled opportunity to experience the unique wilderness, wildlife, and cultural heritage of southwest Alaska.

Aniakchak NM and PRES
Surprise Lake, the source of the Aniakchak River, flows through a 1,500 foot gash inside the crater wall.

Bering Land Brdige N PRES
Go May-June for rare miagratory bird viewing.

Cape Krusenstern NM
Interpretive talks and demonstrations available June-August at the Kotzebue Headquarters.

Denali NP and PRES
Plan at least one day to tour the park road by shuttle or tour bus, and several days for hiking.

Gates of the Arctic NP and PRES
Experience the undeveloped, wild character of the NPS's Northern most park, were there are no roads, trails or visitor centers.

Glacier Bay NP and PRES
Ranger-guided hikes walks and evening programs mid-May to mid-Sept.

Katmai NP and PRES
Go July-Sept. for best bear viewing; be prepared for waits and time limits on bear-viewing platforms.

Klondike Gold Rush NHP
Shares Seattle's role in the 1897-98 stampede to the Yukon gold fields



Katmai National Park and Preserve

IN THE AREA It was viewed by many as the "last grand adventure." The Klondike Gold Rush of the early 20th century brought thousands of men hoping to strike it rich in the Canadian Yukon, a remote land with unimaginable challenges for those coming from the Lower 48 states. Their first challenge was simply reaching Alaska. Their second was scaling Chilkoot Pass with all their food and gear. Their final challenge was staying alive in the wilds.

Today you can visit Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and retrace the prospectors' initial footsteps on the Chilkoot Trail or stand at the bar in the Mascot Saloon as they did more than a century ago and imagine the challenges they endured.

But the Klondike historical park is just one of more than a dozen National Park System units in Alaska, and deciding whether to focus on history or adventure can create its own challenges. Should you head to the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, where you'll find yourself closer to Russia than to Anchorage? Or, perhaps would Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve with its rivers of ice, coastal waters for kayaking or fishing, and thick spruce and hemlock forests be more enticing?

Then there are places such as Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve with its two wilderness rivers for paddlers, and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve where a man named Dick Proenneke literally carved a homestead out of the rugged wilderness in the years before it was a national park. Dick's log cabin is still there, and so is the landscape and wildlife that he embraced.

Alaska's national parks might aptly be called the "last best places" by those who favor the

out-of-doors. Massive herds of caribou still migrate across the landscapes of Kobuk Valley National Park and Noatak National Preserve, while brown bears are one of the main tourist draws at Katmai National Park and Preserve. Climbers looking to challenge themselves with one of the toughest climbs on the planet head to Denali National Park with hopes of scaling Mount McKinley.

Alaska's parks as a whole offer more challenges than those in the Lower 48, but the rewards can be greater as well.

what not to miss

ALASKA (cont.)

Kenai Fjords NP

Commercial boat tours and other charters available in season for camping, sight seeing, fishing and more.

Kobuk Valley NP

Backpacking, boating, canoeing, hiking, kayaking, rafting and wildlife watching.

Lake Clark NP and PRES

Lake Clark is a vital salmon habitat; hikers explore high tundra slopes.

Noatak N PRES

One of the nation's largest mountain-ringed river basins with an unaltered ecosystem.

Sitka NHP

Bird and wildlife watching, and tour the restored living quarters of the Russian Bishop.

Wrangell-St. Elias NP and PRES

The continent's greatest assemblage of glaciers & peaks above 16,000 feet. Mt. Elias is the second highest peak in the U.S.

Yukon-Charley Rivers N PRES

The Charley, an 88-mi wide river, is considered the most spectacular in Alaska.



what will you see?

Are you confident enough in your own skills to turn your back on society and head into the wilderness to make your home and live off the land? Dick Proenneke was and he did more than four decades ago when he headed off to a place in Alaska now known as Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.



Dick built his cabin on Upper Twin Lake, using his own two hands to both fell the trees that went into the walls but even creating some of his own tools on-site to craft the doors and windows. Oh, and Dick also was a pretty good filmmaker, using a handheld camera to capture himself either hauling logs for his cabin, cutting the windows, making door hinges, or fishing for dinner.

For 30 years Dick, who passed away in 2003 at the age of 87, lived at Lake Clark. Today his cabin is used by the park as an outdoor museum of sorts. No overnight stays are permitted, but you are encouraged to draw inspiration from Dick and his wilderness ethic.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Sun-splashed beaches, active volcanoes, amazing tropical forests, and some of America's most hallowed ground can be found in the islands that host National Park System sites. From parks on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean to Hawaii's rich cluster of national parks and historic sites and Guam's World War II reminders, the ocean-bound parks offer rich getaways for birding, snorkeling and scuba diving as well as for geological and historical lessons.

AMERICAN SAMOA



GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS



HAWAI'IAN ISLANDS



PUERTO RICO VIRGIN ISLANDS



what not to miss

AMERICAN SAMOA

National Park of American Samoa
Enjoy rugged cliffs, glistening beaches, and biologically rich coral reefs.

GUAM

War in the Pacific NHP
In addition to the historical resources, enjoy the warm climate, sandy beaches, and turquoise waters.

HAWAII

Haleakala NP
Hike through rain forests, a cinder forest, or picnic at the base of a 400-foot waterfall.

Hawai'i Volcanoes NP
Hike or drive to see the world's most active volcano, Kilauea, or the world's largest, Mauna Loa.

Kalaupapa NHP
See the spectacular sea cliffs, a volcanic crater, a rain forest and more. Go Nov.-Mar. to whale watch.

Kaloko-Honokohau NHP
Preserving native Hawaiian culture, tour an ancient settlement and four different sea-to-mountain land divisions.

Pu'uhonua o Honaunau NHP
Explore the restored Temple, enjoy fishing and hiking.

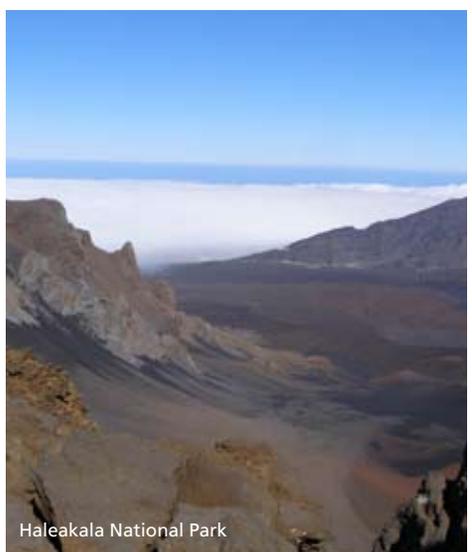
Puukohola Heiau NHS
Shark and Whale watching in season, guided and self guided tours of historical sites.

World War II Valor in the Pacific NM
Plan at least 3 hours for the shuttle boat to the memorial and time to explore the museum.

IN THE AREA There are a number of certainties that come with choosing a national park vacation that involves islands in the Caribbean or the Pacific Ocean. The water will be warm, the sands often dazzling white, and the wildlife spectacular. The problem, though, is deciding whether to head east or west?

Fortunately, you won't go wrong no matter which direction you head.

The Caribbean parks in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands feature bright turquoise waters that harbor coral reefs daubed with the vibrant hues of blue tangs, black-and-yellow striped sergeant majors, neon-green parrotfish, and the occasional silver torpedoes known as the Great Barracuda. History resides in these islands, too. It can be found in the 18th century ruins of the many sugar and rum plantations that once hugged the hillsides on the island of St. John where you can find Virgin Islands National Park. Across the Caribbean at San Juan National Historic Site on Puerto Rico you can explore fortifications the Spanish explorers started to build in 1539.



On the other side of the world, the Hawaiian Islands present opportunities to watch spectacular lava displays at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and brilliant sunrises from the summit of Haleakala National Park. Then, too, there is the somber setting of the USS Arizona Memorial dedicated to the more than 1,000 of sailors who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942.

Travel to Puuhohua o Honaunau National Historical Park on the Big Island and you can trace the Hawaiian culture back in time and find a place of sanctuary, a refuge where statues carved centuries ago still stand and temples beckon.

At the National Park of American Samoa on the chain of islands known as American Samoa there are brilliant coral reefs shimmering with the colors of schooling fish and thick tropical rainforests where you can search for Collared kingfishers, honeyeaters, tropical doves, and parrots such as the blue-crowned lory.

Head to the western rim of the Pacific Ocean and you'll find War in the Pacific National Historical Park, where World War II gun emplacements still stand guard, though rusty and overgrown with vegetation, on an island that traded hands between the Japanese and U.S. forces during the war.

From spectacular land- and seascapes to reverent settings, the units of the National Park System on these islands offer a rich tableau.

what not to miss

PUERTO RICO

San Juan NHS

These magnificent fortifications were built by the Spanish beginning in 1539 with a tower at El Morro and La Fortaleza and took more than 250 years.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Buck Island Reef NM

Uninhabited 180-acre tropical dry-forest island surrounded by an elkhorn coral barrier reef

Christiansted NHS

Historic attractions include museums at Fort Christiansvaern and the Steepe Building

Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve

Only known site where Columbus' expedition set foot on U.S. soil

Virgin Islands Coral Reef NM

Migrating whales, dolphins and sea turtles inhabit this underwater landscape

Virgin Islands NP

Covers about one half of St. John Island and includes quiet coves, white-sand beaches and tropical forests



what will you see?

You have to get wet to view most of Buck Island Reef National Monument, a 176-acre unit of the National Park System that lies in the Caribbean on -- and off -- Buck Island in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The monument protects

what the National Park Service calls "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea."

Visit the monument and you'll find coral reef ecosystems that lure a variety of marine-life, including the hawksbill turtle, as well as more than a few snorkelers and scuba divers. There are marked underwater trails that feature plaques that explain some of the sea-life -- such as gorgonians, better known as sea fans -- that you're viewing.

On shore you'll find a hiking trail that leads you across the island in just 45 minutes. Keep watch on the skies and you just might spy a brown pelican, an endangered species, while along the beaches you might encounter least terns, a threatened species that comes to Buck Island to nest.



PARK DIRECTORY



	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
1	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park Hodgenville, KY 270-358-3137 www.nps.gov/abli		●	
2	Acadia National Park Bar Harbor, ME 207-288-3338 www.nps.gov/acad	●	●	●
3	Adams National Historical Park Quincy, MA 617-770-1175 www.nps.gov/adam	●	●	
4	African Burial Ground National Monument New York, NY 212-637-2019 www.nps.gov/afbg		●	
5	Agate Fossil Beds National Monument Harrison, NE 308-668-2211 www.nps.gov/agfo	●		
6	Alagnak Wild River King Salmon, AK 907-246-3305 www.nps.gov/alag			●
7	Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument Fritch, TX 806-857-3151 www.nps.gov/alfl		●	
8	Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site Gallitzin, PA 814-886-6150 www.nps.gov/alpo	●		
9	Amistad National Recreation Area Del Rio, TX 830-775-7491 www.nps.gov/amis			●
10	Andersonville National Historic Site Andersonville, GA 229-924-0343 www.nps.gov/ande		●	

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
11	Andrew Johnson National Historic Site Greeneville, TN 423-639-3711 www.nps.gov/anjo		●	
12	Aniakchak National Monument King Salmon, AK 907-246-3305 www.nps.gov/ania			
13	Aniakchak National Preserve King Salmon, AK 907-246-3305 www.nps.gov/ania			●
14	Antietam National Battlefield Sharpsburg, MD 301-432-5124 www.nps.gov/anti	●	●	
15	Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Bayfield, WI 715-779-3397 www.nps.gov/apis	●	●	●
16	Appalachian National Scenic Trail Harper's Ferry, WV 304-535-6278 www.nps.gov/appa			●
17	Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Appomattox, VA 434-352-8987 x26 www.nps.gov/apco	●	●	
18	Arches National Park Moab, UT 435-719-2299 www.nps.gov/arch	●	●	●
19	Arkansas Post National Memorial Gillett, AR 870-548-2207 www.nps.gov/arpo		●	
20	Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial McLean, VA 703-235-1530 www.nps.gov/arho		●	

PARK DIRECTORY



	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
21	Assateague Island National Seashore Berlin, MD 410-641-1441 www.nps.gov/asis	●	●	●
22	Aztec Ruins National Monument Aztec, NM 505-334-6174 www.nps.gov/azru	●	●	
23	Badlands National Park Interior, SD 605-433-5361 www.nps.gov/badl	●	●	●
24	Bandelier National Monument Los Alamos, NM 505-672-0343 www.nps.gov/band	●	●	●
25	Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site La Junta, CO 719-383-5010 www.nps.gov/beol	●	●	
26	Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Nome, AK 907-443-2522 www.nps.gov/bela		●	●
27	Big Bend National Park Big Bend National Park, TX 432-477-2251 www.nps.gov/bibe	●	●	●
28	Big Cypress National Preserve East Ochopee, FL 239-695-1201 www.nps.gov/bicy		●	●
29	Big Hole National Battlefield Wisdom, MT 406-689-3155 www.nps.gov/biho			
30	Big South Fork National River And Recreation Area Oneida, TN 423-286-7275 www.nps.gov/biso	●	●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
31	Big Thicket National Preserve Kountze, TX 409-951-6700 www.nps.gov/bith		●	●
32	Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Lovell, WY 307-548-2251 www.nps.gov/bica	●	●	●
33	Biscayne National Park Homestead, FL 305-230-7275 www.nps.gov/bisc		●	●
34	Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park Gunnison, CO 970-641-2337 www.nps.gov/blca	●	●	●
35	Blue Ridge Parkway Asheville, NC 828-271-4779 www.nps.gov/blri		●	●
36	Bluestone National Scenic River Glen Jean, WV 304-465-0508 www.nps.gov/blue			
37	Booker T. Washington National Monument Hardy, VA 540-721-2094 www.nps.gov/bowa		●	
38	Boston African American National Historic Site Boston, MA 617-742-5415 www.nps.gov/boaf		●	
39	Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Boston, MA 617-223-8666 www.nps.gov/boha		●	●
40	Boston National Historical Park Boston, MA 617-242-5601 www.nps.gov/bost	●	●	

PARK DIRECTORY



	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
41	Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site Tupelo, MS 662-680-4025 www.nps.gov/brcr			
42	Brown V. Board Of Education National Historic Site Topeka, KS 785-354-4273 www.nps.gov/brvb		●	
43	Bryce Canyon National Park Bryce Canyon, UT 435-834-5322 www.nps.gov/brca	●	●	●
44	Buck Island Reef National Monument Christiansted, VI 340-773-1460 www.nps.gov/buis			
45	Buffalo National River Harrison, AR 870-365-2700 www.nps.gov/buff	●		●
46	Cabrillo National Monument San Diego, CA 619-557-5450 www.nps.gov/cabr	●	●	
47	Canaveral National Seashore Titusville, FL 321-267-1110 www.nps.gov/cana	●	●	
48	Cane River Creole Nat'l Historical Park & Heritage Area Natchitoches, LA 318-356-5555 www.nps.gov/crha		●	
49	Canyon De Chelly National Monument Chinle, AZ 928-674-5500 www.nps.gov/cach		●	
50	Canyonlands National Park Moab, UT 435-719-2313 www.nps.gov/cany	●	●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
51	Cape Cod National Seashore Wellfleet, MA 508-771-2144 www.nps.gov/caco	●	●	
52	Cape Hatteras National Seashore Manteo, NC 252-473-2111 www.nps.gov/caha	●	●	●
53	Cape Krusenstern National Monument Kotzebue, AK 907-442-3890 www.nps.gov/cakr			●
54	Cape Lookout National Seashore Harkers Island, NC 252-728-2250 www.nps.gov/caloc	●	●	●
55	Capitol Reef National Park Torrey, UT 435-425-3791 www.nps.gov/care	●	●	●
56	Capulin Volcano National Monument Capulin, NM 575-278-2201 www.nps.gov/cavo	●	●	
57	Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Flat Rock, NC 828-693-4178 www.nps.gov/carl	●	●	
58	Carlsbad Caverns National Park Carlsbad, NM 575-785-2232 www.nps.gov/cave	●	●	
59	Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Washington, DC 202-673-2402 www.nps.gov/cawo			
60	Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Coolidge, AZ 520-723-3172 www.nps.gov/cagr	●	●	

PARK DIRECTORY



	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
61	Castillo De San Marcos National Monument St. Augustine, FL 904-829-6506 X227 www.nps.gov/casa	●	●	
62	Castle Clinton National Monument Battery Park, NY 212-344-7220 www.nps.gov/cacl			
63	Catoctin Mountain Park Thurmont, MD 301-663-9388 www.nps.gov/cato		●	●
64	Cedar Breaks National Monument Cedar City, UT 435-586-9451 www.nps.gov/cebr	●	●	●
65	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Middletown, VA 540-868-9176 www.nps.gov/cebe	●		
66	Chaco Culture National Historical Park Nageezi, NM 505-786-7014 www.nps.gov/chcu	●	●	●
67	Chamizal National Memorial El Paso, TX 915-532-7273 www.nps.gov/cham		●	
68	Channel Islands National Park Ventura, CA 805-658-5730 www.nps.gov/chis		●	●
69	Charles Pinckney National Historic Site Sullivans Island, SC 843-881-5516 www.nps.gov/chpi		●	
70	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Sandy Spring, GA 678-538-1200 www.nps.gov/chat	●	●	

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
71	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Hagerstown, MD 301-739-4200 www.nps.gov/choh	●	●	●
72	Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Fort Oglethorpe, GA 706-866-9241 www.nps.gov/chch	●		
73	Chickasaw National Recreation Area Sulphur, OK 580-622-7234 www.nps.gov/chic		●	●
74	Chiricahua National Monument Willcox, AZ 520-824-3560 www.nps.gov/chir	●		●
75	Christiansted National Historic Site Christiansted, VI 340-773-1460 www.nps.gov/chri	●		
76	City Of Rocks National Reserve Almo, ID 208-824-5519 www.nps.gov/ciro			●
77	Clara Barton National Historic Site Glen Echo, MD 301-320-1410 www.nps.gov/clba		●	
78	Colonial National Historical Park Yorktown, VA 757-898-2410 www.nps.gov/colo	●		
79	Colorado National Monument Fruita, CO 970-858-3617 www.nps.gov/colm	●	●	●
80	Congaree National Park Hopkins, SC 803-776-4396 www.nps.gov/cong		●	●

PARK DIRECTORY



	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
81	Constitution Gardens Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/coga			
82	Coronado National Memorial Hereford, AZ 520-366-5515 www.nps.gov/coro		●	
83	Cowpens National Battlefield Chesnee, SC 864-461-2828 www.nps.gov/cowp		●	
84	Crater Lake National Park Crater Lake, OR 541-594-3000 www.nps.gov/crla	●	●	●
85	Craters Of The Moon National Monument Shoshone, ID 208-527-1300 www.nps.gov/crmo	●	●	●
86	Craters Of The Moon National Preserve Arco, ID 208-527-1300 www.nps.gov/crmo	●	●	
87	Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Middlesboro, KY 606-248-2817 www.nps.gov/cuga		●	
88	Cumberland Island National Seashore St Marys, GA 912-882-4336 www.nps.gov/cuis	●	●	●
89	Curecanti National Recreation Area Gunnison, CO 970-641-2337 www.nps.gov/cure	●	●	●
90	Cuyahoga Valley National Park Brecksville, OH 330-657-2752 www.nps.gov/cuva		●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
91	Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park Dayton, OH 937-225-7705 www.nps.gov/daav	●	●	
92	De Soto National Memorial Bradenton, FL 941-792-0458 www.nps.gov/deso		●	
93	Death Valley National Park Death Valley Junction, CA 760-786-3200 www.nps.gov/deva	●	●	●
94	Delaware National Scenic River Easton, PA 610-923-3548 www.nps.gov/dewa		●	●
95	Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Bushkill, PA 570-828-2452 www.nps.gov/dewa		●	●
96	Denali National Park Denali Park, AK 907-683-2294 www.nps.gov/dena	●	●	●
97	Denali National Preserve Denali Park, AK 907-683-2294 www.nps.gov/dena	●	●	●
98	Devils Postpile National Monument Mammoth Lakes, CA 760-934-2289 www.nps.gov/depo	●	●	
99	Devils Tower National Monument Devils Tower, WY 307-467-5283 www.nps.gov/deto	●	●	●
100	Dinosaur National Monument Dinosaur, CO 970-374-3000 www.nps.gov/dino		●	●

PARK DIRECTORY



	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
101	Dry Tortugas National Park Homestead, FL 305-242-7700 www.nps.gov.drto	●	●	●
102	Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Coupeville, WA 360-678-6084 www.nps.gov/ebla		●	
103	Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site Philadelphia, PA 215-597-8780 www.nps.gov/edal		●	
104	Effigy Mounds National Monument Harpers Ferry, IA 563-873-3491 www.nps.gov/efmo	●	●	
105	Eisenhower National Historic Site Gettysburg, PA 717-338-9114 www.nps.gov/eise	●	●	
106	El Malpais National Monument Grants, NM 505-285-4641 www.nps.gov/elma			
107	El Morro National Monument Ramah, NM 505-783-4226 www.nps.gov/elmo	●	●	
108	Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site Hyde Park, NY 845-229-9422 www.nps.gov/elro	●		
109	Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Danville, CA 925-838-0249 www.nps.gov/euon			
110	Everglades National Park Homestead, FL 305-242-7700 www.nps.gov/ever	●	●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
111	Federal Hall National Memorial New York, NY 212-825-6990 www.nps.gov/feha		●	
112	Fire Island National Seashore Patchogue, NY 631-687-4750 www.nps.gov/fiis		●	●
113	First Ladies National Historic Site Canton, OH 330-452-0876 www.nps.gov/fila	●		
114	Flight 93 National Memorial Somerset, PA 814-443-4557 www.nps.gov/flni		●	
115	Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Florissant, CO 719-748-3253 www.nps.gov/flfo	●	●	
116	Ford's Theatre National Historic Site Washington, DC 202-426-6924 www.nps.gov/foth		●	
117	Fort Bowie National Historic Site Bowie, AZ 520-847-2500 www.nps.gov/fobo			
118	Fort Caroline National Memorial Jacksonville, FL 904-641-7155 www.nps.gov/foca		●	●
119	Fort Davis National Historic Site Fort Davis, TX 432-426-3224 www.nps.gov/foda	●	●	
120	Fort Donelson National Battlefield Dover, TN 931-232-5706 www.nps.gov/fodo		●	

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
121	Fort Frederica National Monument St. Simons Island, GA 912-638-3639 www.nps.gov/fofr	●	●	
122	Fort Laramie National Historic Site Ft. Laramie, WY 307-837-2221 www.nps.gov/fofa	●	●	
123	Fort Larned National Historic Site Larned, KS 620-285-6911 www.nps.gov/fols			
124	Fort Matanzas National Monument St. Augustine, FL 904-471-0116 www.nps.gov/foma		●	
125	Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Baltimore, MD 410-962-4290 www.nps.gov/fomc	●	●	
126	Fort Necessity National Battlefield Farmington, PA 724-329-5512 www.nps.gov/fone	●	●	
127	Fort Point National Historic Site San Francisco, CA 415-556-1693 www.nps.gov/fopo			
128	Fort Pulaski National Monument Savannah, GA 912-786-5787 www.nps.gov/fopu	●	●	
129	Fort Raleigh National Historic Site Manteo, NC 252-473-5772 www.nps.gov/fora		●	
130	Fort Scott National Historic Site Fort Scott, KS 620-223-0310 www.nps.gov/fosc	●	●	

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
131	Fort Smith National Historic Site Fort Smith, AR 479-783-3961 www.nps.gov/fosm	●	●	
132	Fort Stanwix National Monument Rome, NY 315-338-7730 www.nps.gov/fost		●	
133	Fort Sumter National Monument Sullivans Island, SC 843-883-3123 www.nps.gov/fosu		●	
134	Fort Union National Monument Watrous, NM 505-425-8025 www.nps.gov/foun	●	●	
135	Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site Williston, ND 701-572-9083 www.nps.gov/fous			
136	Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Vancouver, OR 360-816-6230 www.nps.gov/fova	●	●	
137	Fort Washington Park Ft. Washington, MD 301-763-4600 www.nps.gov/fowa	●		
138	Fossil Butte National Monument Kemmerer, WY 307-877-4455 www.nps.gov/fobu		●	
139	Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Washington, DC 202-462-6841 www.nps.gov/frde		●	
140	Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Washington, DC 202-426-5961 www.nps.gov/frdo	●		

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
141	Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Brookline, MA 617-566-1689 www.nps.gov/frla			
142	Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania Co. National Military Park Fredericksburg, VA 540-371-0802 www.nps.gov/frsp		●	
143	Friendship Hill National Historic Site Farmington, PA 724-725-9190 www.nps.gov/frhi			
144	Gates Of The Arctic National Park Betties, AK 907-692-5494 www.nps.gov/gaar			●
145	Gates Of The Arctic National Preserve Betties, AK 907-692-5494 www.nps.gov/gaar			●
146	Gateway National Recreation Area Staten Island, NY 718-354-4606 www.nps.gov/gate	●	●	●
147	Gauley River National Recreation Area Glen Jean, WV 304-465-0508 www.nps.gov/gari			●
148	General Grant National Memorial New York, NY 212-666-1640 www.nps.gov/gegr		●	
149	George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Vincennes, IN 812-882-1776 www.nps.gov/gero		●	
150	George Washington Birthplace National Monument Washington's Birthplace, VA 804-224-1732 www.nps.gov/gewa	●	●	

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
151	George Washington Carver National Monument Diamond, MO 417-325-4151 www.nps.gov/gwca		●	
152	George Washington Memorial Parkway McLean, VA 703-289-2500 www.nps.gov/gwmp		●	
153	Gettysburg National Military Park Gettysburg, PA 717-334-1124 www.nps.gov/gett		●	
154	Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument Silver City, NM 574-536-9461 www.nps.gov/gicl	●	●	●
155	Glacier Bay National Park Gustavus, AK 907-697-2230 www.nps.gov/glba		●	●
156	Glacier Bay National Preserve Gustavus, AK 907-697-2230 www.nps.gov/glba		●	●
157	Glacier National Park West Glacier, MT 406-888-7800 www.nps.gov/glac	●	●	●
158	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Page, AZ 928-608-6200 www.nps.gov/glca	●	●	●
159	Golden Gate National Recreation Area San Francisco, CA 415-561-4700 www.nps.gov/goga	●	●	●
160	Golden Spike National Historic Site Brigham City, UT 435-471-2209 www.nps.gov/gosp	●	●	

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
161	Governors Island National Monument New York, NY 212-825-3045 www.nps.gov/gois		●	
162	Grand Canyon National Park Grand Canyon, AZ 928-638-7888 www.nps.gov/grca	●	●	●
163	Grand Portage National Monument Grand Portage, MN 218-475-0123 www.nps.gov/grpo		●	●
164	Grand Teton National Park Moose, WY 307-739-3300 www.nps.gov/grte	●	●	●
165	Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Deer Lodge, MT 406-846-2070 www.nps.gov/grko		●	
166	Great Basin National Park Baker, NV 775-234-7331 www.nps.gov/grba		●	●
167	Great Egg Harbor National Scenic & Recreational River Philadelphia, PA 215-597-5823 www.nps.gov/greg			●
168	Great Sand Dunes National Park Mosca, CO 719-378-6300 www.nps.gov/grsa	●	●	●
169	Great Sand Dunes National Preserve Mosca, CO 719-378-6300 www.nps.gov/grsa	●	●	●
170	Great Smoky Mountains National Park Gatlinburg, TN 865-436-1200 www.nps.gov/grsm		●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
171	Greenbelt Park Greenbelt, MD 301-344-3948 www.nps.gov/gree		●	●
172	Guadalupe Mountains National Park Salt Flat, TX 915-828-3251 www.nps.gov/gumo	●	●	●
173	Guilford Courthouse National Military Park Greensboro, NC 336-288-1776 www.nps.gov/guco		●	
174	Gulf Islands National Seashore Gulf Breeze, FL 850-934-2600 www.nps.gov/guis	●	●	●
175	Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument Hagerman, ID 208-933-4100 www.nps.gov/hafo		●	●
176	Haleakalā National Park Makawao, HI 808-572-4400 www.nps.gov/hale	●	●	●
177	Hamilton Grange National Memorial New York, NY 212-666-1640 www.nps.gov/hagr			
178	Hampton National Historic Site Towson, MD 410-823-1309 www.nps.gov/hamp		●	
179	Harpers Ferry National Historic Park Harpers Ferry, WV 304-535-6223 www.nps.gov/hafe	●	●	
180	Harry S Truman National Historic Site Independence, MO 816-254-9929 www.nps.gov/hstr	●	●	

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
181	Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Hawaii National Park, HI 808-985-6000 www.nps.gov/havo	●	●	●
182	Herbert Hoover National Historic Site West Branch, IA 319-643-2541 www.nps.gov/heho		●	
183	Hohokam Pima National Monument Coolidge, AZ 520-723-3172 www.nps.gov/pima			
184	Home Of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site Hyde Park, NY 845-229-9115 www.nps.gov/hofr	●	●	
185	Homestead National Monument Of America Beatrice, NE 402-223-3514 www.nps.gov/home		●	
186	Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Chillicothe, OH 740-774-1126 www.nps.gov/hocu		●	
187	Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site Elverson, PA 610-582-8773 www.nps.gov/hofu		●	
188	Horseshoe Bend National Military Park Daviston, AL 256-234-7111 www.nps.gov/hobe		●	
189	Hot Springs National Park Hot Springs, AR 501-620-6715 www.nps.gov/hosp		●	●
190	Hovenweep National Monument Cortez, CO 970-562-4282 www.nps.gov/hove	●	●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
191	Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site Ganado, AZ 928-755-3475 www.nps.gov/hutr	●	●	
192	Independence National Historical Park Philadelphia, PA 215-965-2305 www.nps.gov/inde		●	
193	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Porter, IN 219-926-7561 www.nps.gov/indu	●		●
194	Isle Royale National Park Houghton, MI 906-482-0984 www.nps.gov/isro	●		●
195	James A. Garfield National Historic Site Mentor, OH 440-255-8722 www.nps.gov/jaga	●		
196	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve New Orleans, LA 504-589-3882 www.nps.gov/jela		●	
197	Jefferson National Expansion Memorial St. Louis, MO 314-655-1700 www.nps.gov/jeff	●	●	
198	Jewel Cave National Monument Custer, SD 605-673-8300 www.nps.gov/jeca		●	
199	Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Plains, GA 229-824-4104 www.nps.gov/jica		●	
200	John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway Moose, WY 307-739-3300 www.nps.gov/jodr	●	●	

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
201	John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Kimberly, OR 541-987-2333 www.nps.gov/joda		●	
202	John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site Brookline, MA 617-566-7937 www.nps.gov/jofi		●	
203	John Muir National Historic Site Martinez, CA 925-228-8860 www.nps.gov/jomu	●	●	
204	Johnstown Flood National Memorial South Fork, PA 814-495-4643 www.nps.gov/jofl	●		
205	Joshua Tree National Park Twentynine Palms, CA 760-367-5500 www.nps.gov/jotr	●	●	●
206	Kalaupapa National Historical Park Kalaupapa, HI 808-567-6802 www.nps.gov/kala			
207	Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park Kailua-Kona, HI 808-326-9057 www.nps.gov/kaho			
208	Katmai National Park King Salmon, AK 907-246-3305 www.nps.gov/katm			●
209	Katmai National Preserve King Salmon, AK 907-246-3305 www.nps.gov/katm			●
210	Kenai Fjords National Park Seward, AK 907-422-0500 www.nps.gov/kefj		●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
211	Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Kennesaw, GA 770-427-4686 www.nps.gov/kemo		●	
212	Keweenaw National Historical Park Calumet, MI 906-337-3168 www.nps.gov/kewe		●	
213	Kings Canyon National Park Three Rivers, CA 559-565-3341 www.nps.gov/seki	●	●	●
214	Kings Mountain National Military Park Blacksburg, SC 864-936-7921 www.nps.gov/kimo		●	●
215	Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Skagway, AK 907-983-2921 www.nps.gov/klgo		●	
216	Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Stanton, ND 701-745-3300 www.nps.gov/knri		●	
217	Kobuk Valley National Park Kotzebue, AK 907-442-3890 www.nps.gov/kova			●
218	Korean War Veterans National Memorial Washington, DC www.nps.gov/kowa 202-426-6841		●	
219	Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Sedro-Woolley, WA 360-854-7200 www.nps.gov/noca		●	●
220	Lake Clark National Park Alsworth, AK 907-781-2218 www.nps.gov/lacl			●

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
221	Lake Clark National Preserve Alsworth, AK 907-781-2218 www.nps.gov/lacl			●
222	Lake Mead National Recreation Area Boulder City, NV 702-293-8990 www.nps.gov/lame	●	●	●
223	Lake Meredith National Recreation Area Fritch, TX 806-857-3151 www.nps.gov/lamr		●	●
224	Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area Coulee Dam, WA 509-633-9441 www.nps.gov/laro			●
225	Lassen Volcanic National Park Mineral, CA 530-595-4480 www.nps.gov/lavo	●	●	●
226	Lava Beds National Monument Tulelake, CA 530-667-8100 www.nps.gov/labe	●	●	●
227	Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Astoria, OR 503-861-2471 www.nps.gov/lewi	●	●	
228	Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Lincoln City, IN 812-937-4541 www.nps.gov/libo	●	●	
229	Lincoln Home National Historic Site Springfield, IL 217-391-3226 www.nps.gov/liho		●	
230	Lincoln Memorial Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/linc		●	

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
231	Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Crow Agency, MT 406-638-3217 www.nps.gov/libi	●	●	
232	Little River Canyon National Preserve Fort Payne, AL 256-845-9605 www.nps.gov/liri			
233	Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Little Rock, AR 501-374-1957 www.nps.gov/chsc		●	
234	Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Cambridge, MA 617-876-4491 www.nps.gov/long	●	●	
235	Lowell National Historical Park Lowell, MA 978-970-5000 www.nps.gov/lowe	●		
236	Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park Johnson City, TX 830-868-7128 www.nps.gov/lyjo		●	
237	LBJ Memorial Grove On The Potomac McLean, VA 703-289-2500 www.nps.gov/lyba			
238	Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site Richmond, VA 804-771-2017 www.nps.gov/mawa		●	
239	Mammoth Cave National Park Mammoth Cave, KY 270-758-2180 www.nps.gov/macava		●	●
240	Manassas National Battlefield Park Manassas, VA 703-361-1339 www.nps.gov/mana	●	●	

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CONTACT INFORMATION FEE JR. RANGER LODGING

241	Manzanar National Historic Site Independence, CA 760-878- 2194 www.nps.gov/manz		●	
242	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Woodstock, VT 802-457-3368 www.nps.gov/mabi	●		
243	Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Atlanta, GA 404-331-5190 www.nps.gov/malu		●	
244	Martin Van Buren National Historic Site Kinderhook, NY 518-758-9689 www.nps.gov/mava	●		
245	Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site Washington, DC 202-673-2402 www.nps.gov/mamc		●	
246	Mesa Verde National Park Cortez, CO 970-529-4465 www.nps.gov/meve	●	●	●
247	Minidoka National Historic Site Hagerman, ID 208-933-4100 www.nps.gov/miin			
248	Minute Man National Historical Park Concord, MA 978-369-6993 www.nps.gov/mima	●	●	
249	Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Philip, SD 605-433-5552 www.nps.gov/mimi		●	
250	Mississippi National River And Recreation Areas St. Paul, MN 651-293-0200 www.nps.gov/miss		●	●

CONTACT INFORMATION FEE JR. RANGER LODGING

251	Missouri National Recreational River O'Neill, NE 605-665-0209 www.nps.gov/mnrr		●	●
252	Mojave National Preserve Barstow, CA 760-252-6100 www.nps.gov/moja			●
253	Monocacy National Battlefield Frederick, MD 301-662-3515 www.nps.gov/mono		●	
254	Montezuma Castle National Monument Camp Verde, AZ 928-567-3322 www.nps.gov/moca	●	●	
255	Moore's Creek National Battlefield Currie, NC 910-283-5591 www.nps.gov/mocr			
256	Morristown National Historical Park Morristown, NJ 973-539-2016 www.nps.gov/morr	●	●	
257	Mount Rainier National Park Ashford, WA 360-569-2211 www.nps.gov/mora	●	●	●
258	Mount Rushmore National Memorial Keystone, SD 605-574-2523 www.nps.gov/moru	●	●	
259	Muir Woods National Monument Mill Valley, CA 415-388-2596 www.nps.gov/muwo	●	●	
260	Natchez National Historical Park Natchez, MS 601-446-5790 www.nps.gov/natc	●	●	

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
261	Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail Tupelo, MS 800-305-7417 www.nps.gov/natt			
262	Natchez Trace Parkway Tupelo, MS 800-305-7417 www.nps.gov/natr		●	●
263	National Capital Parks - East Washington, DC 202-690-5185 www.nps.gov/nace			
264	National Mall Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/nama		●	
265	National Park of American Samoa Pago Pago, AS 011-684-633-7082 www.nps.gov/npsa		●	
266	Natural Bridges National Monument Lake Powell, UT 435-692-1234 www.nps.gov/nabr	●	●	●
267	Navajo National Monument Tonalea, AZ 928-672-2700 www.nps.gov/nava		●	●
268	New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park New Bedford, MA 508-996-4095 www.nps.gov/nebe	●	●	
269	New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park New Orleans, LA 504-589-4841 www.nps.gov/jazz		●	
270	New River Gorge National River Glen Jean, WV 304-465-0508 www.nps.gov/neri		●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
271	Nez Perce National Historical Park Spalding, ID 208-843-7001 www.nps.gov/nepe		●	
272	Nicomodemus National Historic Site Nicomodemus, KS 785-839-4233 www.nps.gov/nico		●	
273	Ninety Six Historic Site Ninety Six, SC 864-543-4063 www.nps.gov/nisi		●	
274	Niobrara National Scenic River Valentine, NE 402-376-1901 www.nps.gov/niob		●	●
275	Noatak National Preserve Kotzebue, AK 907-442-3890 www.nps.gov/noat			●
276	North Cascades National Park Sedro-Woolley, WA 360-854-7200 www.nps.gov/noca		●	●
277	Obed Wild And Scenic River Wartnurg, TN 423-346-6294 www.nps.gov/obed		●	●
278	Ocmulgee National Monument Macon, GA 478-752-8257 www.nps.gov/ocmu			
279	Olympic National Park Port Angeles, WA 360-565-3130 www.nps.gov/olym	●	●	●
280	Oregon Caves National Monument Cave Junction, OR 541-592-2100 www.nps.gov/orca		●	●

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
281	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Ajo, AZ 520-387-6849 www.nps.gov/orpi		●	●
282	Ozark National Scenic Riverways Van Buren, MO 573-323-4236 www.nps.gov/ozar		●	●
283	Padre Island National Seashore Corpus Christi, TX 361-949-8068 www.nps.gov/pais	●	●	●
284	Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Brownsville, TX 956-541-2785 www.nps.gov/paal		●	
285	Pea Ridge National Military Park Garfield, AR 479-451-8122 www.nps.gov/peri	●	●	
286	Pecos National Historical Park Pecos, NM 505-757-7200 www.nps.gov/peco	●	●	
287	Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site Washington, DC 202-606-9686 www.nps.gov/paav			
288	Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial Put-In-Bay, OH 419-285-2184 www.nps.gov/pevi	●		
289	Petersburg National Battlefield Petersburg, VA 804-732-3531 www.nps.gov/pete	●	●	
290	Petrified Forest National Park Petrified Forest, AZ 928-524-6228 www.nps.gov/pefo	●	●	●

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
291	Petroglyph National Monument Albuquerque, NM 505-899-0205 www.nps.gov/petr	●	●	
292	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Munising, MI 906-387-3700 www.nps.gov/piro		●	●
293	Pinnacles National Monument Paicines, CA 831-389-4485 www.nps.gov/pinn	●	●	●
294	Pipe Spring National Monument Fredonia, AZ 928-643-7105 www.nps.gov/pisp	●	●	
295	Pipestone National Monument Pipestone, MN 507-825-5464 www.nps.gov/pipe	●	●	
296	Piscataway Park Fort Washington, MD 301-763-4600 www.nps.gov/pisc	●		
297	Point Reyes National Seashore Point Reyes Station, CA 415-464-5100 www.nps.gov/pore		●	●
298	Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Danville, CA (925) 228-8860 www.nps.gov/poch			
299	Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Harpers Ferry, WV (304) 535-4014 www.nps.gov/pohe			
300	Poverty Point National Monument Epps, LA 318-926-5492 www.nps.gov/popop	●		

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
301	President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site* Hope, AR www.nps.gov <i>*Newly established National Park</i>			
302	Prince William Forest Park Triangle, VA 703-221-7181 www.nsp.gov/prwi	●	●	●
303	Pu'uhonua O H naunau National Historical Park Hanaunau, HI 808-328-2326 www.nps.gov/puho	●		
304	Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site Kawaihae, HI 808-882-7218 www.nps.gov/puhe		●	
305	Rainbow Bridge National Monument Page, AZ 928-608-6200 www.nps.gov/rabr		●	
306	Redwood National Park Crescent City, CA 707-465-7335 www.nps.gov/redw		●	●
307	Richmond National Battlefield Park Richmond, VA 804-226-1981 www.nps.gov/rich		●	
308	Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River Big Bend National Park, TX 432-477-2251 www.nps.gov/rigr			
309	River Raisin National Battlefield Park* Monroe, MI www.nps.gov <i>*Newly established National Park</i>			
310	Rock Creek Park Washington, DC 202-895-6000 www.nps.gov/rocr		●	

	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
311	Rocky Mountain National Park Estes Park & Grand Lake, CO 970-586-1206 www.nps.gov/romo	●	●	●
312	Roger Williams National Memorial Providence, RI 401-521-7266 www.nps.gov/rowi		●	
313	Rosie The Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park Richmond, CA 510-232-5050 www.nps.gov/rori	●		
314	Ross Lake National Recreation Area Sedro-Woolley, WA 360-854-7200 www.nps.gov/rola		●	●
315	Russell Cave National Monument Bridgeport, AL 256-495-2672 www.nps.gov/ruca		●	
316	Sagamore Hill National Historic Site Oyster Bay, NY 516-922-4788 www.nps.gov/sahi	●	●	
317	Saguaro National Park Tucson, AZ 520-733-5153 www.nps.gov/sagu	●	●	
318	Saint Croix Island International Historic Site Bar Harbor, ME 207-454-3871 www.nps.gov/sacr		●	
319	Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway Saint Croix Falls, WI 715-483-2274 www.nps.gov/sacn		●	●
320	Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site Mt. Vernon, NY 914-667-4116 www.nps.gov/sapa			

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	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE	JR. RANGER	LODGING
321	Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site Cornish, NH 603-675-2175 www.nps.gov/saga	●	●	
322	Salem Maritime National Historic Site Salem, MA 978-740-1650 www.nps.gov/sama	●	●	
323	Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument Mountainair, NM 505-847-2585 www.nps.gov/sapu		●	
324	Salt River Bay NHP and Ecological Preserve Christiansted, VI 340-773-1460 www.nps.gov/sari			
325	San Antonio Missions National Historical Park San Antonio, TX 210-932-1001 www.nps.gov/saan		●	
326	San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park San Francisco, CA 415-447-5000 www.nps.gov/safr	●	●	
327	San Juan National Historic Site San Juan, PU (787) 729-6777 www.nps.gov/saju	●		
328	San Juan Island National Historical Park Friday Harbor, WA (360) 378-2902 www.nps.gov/sajh		●	
329	Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Eads, CO 719-729-3003 www.nps.gov/sand	●		
330	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Thousand Oaks, CA 805-370-2301 www.nps.gov/samo		●	●

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331	Saratoga National Historical Park Stillwater, NY 518-664-9821 ext. 224 www.nps.gov/sara	●	●	
332	Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site Saugus, MA 781-233-0050 www.nps.gov/sair		●	
333	Scotts Bluff National Monument Gering, NE 308-436-9700 www.nps.gov/scbl	●	●	
334	Sequoia National Park Three Rivers, CA 559-565-3341 www.nps.gov/seki	●	●	●
335	Shenandoah National Park Luray, VA 540-999-3500 www.nps.gov/shen	●	●	●
336	Shiloh National Military Park Shiloh, TN 731-689-5696 www.nps.gov/shil	●	●	
337	Sitka National Historical Park Sitka, AK 907-747-0110 www.nps.gov/sitk	●	●	●
338	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Empire, MI 231-326-5134 ext. 328 www.nps.gov/slbe	●	●	●
339	Springfield Armory National Historic Site Springfield, MA 413-734-8551 ext. 235 www.nps.gov/spar		●	
340	Statue Of Liberty National Monument New York, NY 212-363-3200 www.nps.gov/stli		●	

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341	Steamtown National Historic Site Scranton, PA 570-340-5200 www.nps.gov/stea	●	●	
342	Stones River National Battlefield Murfreesboro, TN 615-893-9501 www.nps.gov/stri		●	
343	Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument Flagstaff, AZ 928-526-0502 www.nps.gov/sucr	●	●	
344	Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Cottonwood Falls, KS 620-273-8494 www.nps.gov/tapr		●	
345	Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial Philadelphia, PA 215-597-7130 www.nps.gov/thko		●	
346	Theodore Roosevelt National Park Medora, ND 701-623-4730 ext. 3417 www.nps.gov/thro	●	●	●
347	Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site New York, NY 212-260-1616 www.nps.gov/thrb		●	
348	Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site Buffalo, NY 716-884-0095 www.nps.gov/thri	●		●
349	Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial McLean, VA 703-289-2500 www.nps.gov/this			
350	Thomas Edison National Historical Park West Orange, NJ 973-736-0550 www.nps.gov/edis	●	●	●

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351	Thomas Jefferson Memorial Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/thje		●	
352	Thomas Stone National Historic Site Port Tobacco, MD 301-392-1776 www.nps.gov/thst		●	
353	Timpanogos Cave National Monument American Fork, UT 801-756-5238 www.nps.gov/tica	●	●	
354	Timucuan Ecological And Historic Preserve Jacksonville, FL 904-641-7155 www.nps.gov/timu		●	●
355	Tonto National Monument Roosevelt, AZ 928-467-2241 www.nps.gov/tont	●	●	
356	Tumacacori National Historical Park Tumacacori, AZ 520-398-2341 www.nps.gov/tuma	●	●	
357	Tupelo National Battlefield Tupelo, MS 662-680-4025 www.nps.gov/tupe			
358	Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site Tuskegee, AL 334-724-0922 www.nps.gov/tuai			
359	Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site Tuskegee, AL 334-727-3200 www.nps.gov/tuin			
360	Tuzigoot National Monument Camp Verde, AZ 928-634-5564 www.nps.gov/tuzi	●	●	

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361	Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site St. Louis, MO 314-842-3298 ext. 245 www.nps.gov/ulsg		●	
362	Upper Delaware Scenic And Recreation River Beach Lake, PA 570-729-7134 www.nps.gov/upde			
363	Valley Forge National Historical Park King of Prussia, PA 610-783-1077 www.nps.gov/vafo		●	
364	Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site Hyde Park, NY 845-229-9115 www.nps.gov/vama	●		
365	Vicksburg National Military Park Vicksburg, MI 601-636-0583 www.nps.gov/vick	●	●	
366	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/vive		●	
367	Virgin Islands National Park St. John, VI 340-776-6201 www.nps.gov/viis		●	●
368	Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument St. John, VI 340-776-6201 www.nps.gov/vicr			
369	Voyageurs National Park International Falls, MN 218-283-6600 www.nps.gov/voya		●	●
370	Walnut Canyon National Monument Flagstaff, AZ 928-526-1157 www.nps.gov/waca	●	●	

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371	War In The Pacific National Historical Park Hagåtña, Guam 671-477-7278 www.nps.gov/wapa		●	
372	Washington Monument Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/wamo		●	
373	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Cheyenne, OK 580-497-2742 www.nps.gov/waba		●	●
374	Weir Farm National Historic Site Wilton, CT 203-834-1896 www.nps.gov/wefa		●	
375	Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area Whiskeytown, CA 530-246-1225 www.nps.gov/whis	●		●
376	White House Washington, DC 202-208-1631 www.nps.gov/whho		●	
377	White Sands National Monument Holloman AFB,, NM 575-679-2599 www.nps.gov/whsa	●	●	
378	Whitman Mission National Historic Site Walla Walla, WA 509-529-2761 www.nps.gov/whmi	●	●	●
379	William Howard Taft National Historic Site Cincinnati, OH 513-684-3262 ext. 201 www.nps.gov/wiho		●	
380	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, MO 417-732-2662 ext. 227 www.nps.gov/wicr		●	●

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381	Wind Cave National Park Hot Springs, SD 605-745-4600 www.nps.gov/wica		●	●
382	Wolf Trap National Park For The Performing Arts Vienna, VA 703-255-1800 www.nps.gov/wotr		●	
383	Women's Rights National Historical Park Seneca Falls, NY 315-568-2991 www.nps.gov/wori		●	
384	World War II Memorial Washington, DC 202-426-6841 www.nps.gov/wwii		●	
385	WWII Valor In The Pacific National Monument Honolulu, HI 808-422-3300 www.nps.gov/valr		●	
386	Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Copper Center, AK 907-822-5234 www.nps.gov/wrst		●	●
387	Wrangell-St. Elias N PRES Copper Center Copper Center, AK 907-822-5234 www.nps.gov/wrst		●	●
388	Wright Brothers National Memorial Manteo, NC 252-441-2111 www.nps.gov/wrbr	●	●	
389	Wupatki National Monument Flagstaff, AZ 928-679-2365 www.nps.gov/wupa	●	●	
390	Yellowstone National Park Yellowstone NP, WY 307-344-7381 www.nps.gov/yell	●	●	●

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391	Yosemite National Park Yosemite NP, CA 209-372-0200 www.nps.gov/yose	●	●	●
392	Yucca House National Monument Mesa Verde, CO 970-529-4465 www.nps.gov/yuho			
393	Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Eagle, AK 907-547-2233 www.nps.gov/yuch			●
394	Zion National Park Springdale, UT 435-772-3256 www.nps.gov/zion	●	●	●

ABBREVIATIONS KEY

IHS—International Historic Site

NB—National Battlefield

NBP—National Battlefield Park

NBS—National Battlefield Site

NHP—National Historical Park

NHP and PRES—National Historical Park and Preserve

NH RES—National Historical Reserve

NHS—National Historic Site

NL—National Lakeshore

NM—National Monument

NM and PRES—National Monument and Preserve

NMP—National Military Park

NP—National Park

N and SP—National and State Parks

NP and PRES—National Park and Preserve

N PRES—National Preserve

NR—National River

NRA—National Recreation Area

NRR—National Recreation River

NRRA—National River and Recreation Area

N RES—National Reserve

NS—National Seashore

NSR—National Scenic River/Riverway

NST—National Scenic Trail

PKWY—Parkway

SRR—Scenic and Recreational River

WR—Wild River

WSR—Wild and Scenic River

LODGING, CAMPGROUND & TOUR RESERVATIONS

For more information on national park camping, lodging and tour reservations please visit <http://www.recreation.gov/> for details.