

The National Park System

Whether you are here to view the wonders of nature, to tread in the footsteps of history, or simply to get out and have fun, the National Park System is intended for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of generations to come.

The Department of the Interior

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Take a minute to read these simple but important safety rules.
Then go on to a pleasant park experience.

danger

in the National Park System

Your visit to one of America's natural, historical, or recreational areas can be a most pleasurable and rewarding experience—or it can be a time of vexation, distress . . . or even tragedy. Much depends on how you and your family observe these simple rules and avoid designated hazards.

Protect Your Park and Yourself

Park regulations are designed to protect the natural beauty of the area and to provide for your safety, comfort, and convenience. Park rangers are here to help and advise you as well as to enforce regulations. If you need information or are in difficulty, see a park ranger. Complete regulations can be read in the superintendent's office.

Never Swim Alone

Stay within rescue distance of another person and within protected or guarded areas. Know your capabilities and stay within them. Don't take chances.

Register Your Boat

Your boat must be registered and you must meet certain safety standards. You may save a life by complying with these safety requirements.

Heed Fishing Regulations

Follow posted signs and warnings and obey park fishing regulations.

Be Cautious of Thermal Pools

Stay on the trails or boardwalks at all times. The boiling heat is deadly. Keep children under restraint. Don't take pets in these areas.

Drive Carefully

Stop at overlooks; don't try to see everything from behind the wheel. Be a considerate driver and watch out for those who are not.

Dress Properly

If you are hiking on rough terrain, be sure to wear sturdy shoes or boots. An advance check with park employees about protective clothing and repellents will help prevent problems.

Watch Your Children

Don't let children stray. Your knowledge, experience, and wisdom cannot help a child who is beyond your protective reach and warning voice.

Respect Wildlife

Most parks are the natural home of numerous wild animals. *You* are the intruder. As a rule, wild animals need only to be left alone. Bears are dangerous—particularly when accompanied by young. It is reckless to approach bears closely. Do not feed, tease, frighten, or molest them in any way. If one approaches your car, stay inside with the windows closed. In a park inhabited by grizzlies, read the warnings carefully. Observe all precautions recommended for back-country travel and camping. *Poisonous snakes* are found in all States but Alaska, Hawaii, and Maine. Generally it is a matter of knowing what habitat they occupy, and then keeping alert. Seldom does a snake bite unless disturbed or molested.

Don't Travel Alone

A companion may save your life in an emergency.

Protect Natural, Historical Features

While "preserving" yourself, help preserve the park's natural life and historical properties. Permits are required to collect specimens.

Keep the NPS Informed

Notify park headquarters of your plans to explore. If park rangers know your plans, they can alert you to hazards. Telling them your plans could save your life.