Welcome to National Park country!

There are 18 National Park System areas in California—all are unique, each preserves a significant part of our natural, historical or recreational heritage.

In addition to such famous national parks as Yosemite, Sequoia and Death Valley, you'll find caves formed by boulders from an extinct volcano at Pinnacles, a Miwok Indian Village at Point Reyes, whale watching at Cabrillo, sea lions at Channel Islands, soldiers in Civil War dress at Fort Point, and much more. They are here for you to enjoy—but also to help preserve and protect—as a future legacy for all Americans.

In 1975, there were over 12 million visits to these 18 areas. You'll enjoy them more during the week and in the off-season when they are less crowded. When planning your next park trip, consider some you haven't seen before. You may well enjoy them as much as your favorites.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodations, meals and miscellaneous services are provided within many NPS areas by concessioners. Demand often exceeds availability during the heaviest months of travel. During these busy periods it is advisable to make reservations well in advance. Where accommodations are not provided within the park, they usually are available in nearby communities.

Campgrounds are maintained in many areas of the National Park System in California. They have special recreation use fees ranging from $1 to $4 per night per site. Individual automobile campsites are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Entrance Fees: Single visit entrance fees, where charged, range from $1 to $3 per private passenger vehicle. No additional entry fee is charged during your stay in a particular park; a second fee is charged if you leave and re-enter the park after the first day of your visit.

The Golden Eagle Passport—a $10 annual entrance permit—admits you and occupants of the car to unlimited entry to all National Park System fee areas for a calendar year.

The Golden Age Passport—a lifetime permit available free to all citizens 62 years or older—admits you and others in your car to unlimited entry to all National Park System fee areas and a 50 percent reduction in all Federal campground fees.

The National Park Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior. It is the principal conservation agency and has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. Its responsibilities include fostering the wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities, Title II2 health and education programs for American Indian students, and the protection of those lands that have been held by Indians since time immemorial—under U.S. administration.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities, Title II2 health and education programs for American Indian students, and the protection of those lands that have been held by Indians since time immemorial—under U.S. administration.
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Breeding grounds for sea lions, nestling sea birds and a multitude of unique and local plants. The monument includes Santa Barbara and Anacapa islands and a mainland visitor center at Ventura.

Transportation: Parking is allowed on both islands; however, you must provide your own transportation.

Activities: Self-guiding tours and guided packers are available for only a few miles from the beach. Information centers and visitor contact stations on both sides of the monument. No through road.

Address: Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT

Colorful and unusual desert scenery on a plaza scale. Includes extensive salt beds, borax formations, and the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere (282 feet below sea level). Famous in the history of the West and an obstacle to the 49ers during the California Gold Rush.

Season: Open all year. Main season November to April.

Facilities: Campgrounds. Lodging available all year at Furnace Creek (write to Fred Harvey Co., Death Valley, CA 92328); swimming pool, general store, service station, cafeteria, coffee shop; facilities limited in summer. Stove Pipe Wells Village, resort, meals, swimming pool, general store, service station, tours (write to Stove Pipe Wells Village, Death Valley, CA 92328); limited facilities during the summer.

Activities: Films and slide programs, self-guiding auto tours, tours of Scotty's Castle, and hiking. Winter only: illustrated evening nature talks; horseback riding and golf at Furnace Creek.

Address: Death Valley National Monument, CA 92328.

DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Formation of columnar basalt with blue-gray basaltic columnarums rising as high as 60 feet, fitting together like a great jigsaw puzzle.

Season: July to October. Close in winter.

Facilities: Campground. Located about 2 miles from the campground are cabins, meals, groceries, gasoline and oil, and post pack. For reservations write Reds Meadow Lodge, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Activities: Hiking, fishing, pack and saddle trips. Address: Devils Postpile National Monument, Sequoia National Park, Three Rivers, CA 93262.

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

Preserves Lassen Peak, largest plug dome volcano in the world, active from 1914-1917, now dormant; also contains Cinder cone, stratovolcanic, and shield-type volcanism. Fumaroles, boiling mud pools, hot springs, lava flows, forests, streams and lakes.

Season: April 15 to October 30; limited day use in winter.

Facilities: American Plan lodgings are available at Drakesbad June to Labor Day; contact Drakesbad Guest Ranch, Chester, CA 95973; phone (916) 966-3306 (off season). Ski area operates mid-December through Easter Sunday.

Activities: Naturalist-conducted walks and talks, evening camping programs, self-guiding nature walks, picnicking, camping, swimming, fishing, saddle horses and mules, backpacking, Wilderness permits available at park headquarters and all ranger stations. They may be requested by telephone or mail at least two weeks in advance.

Transportation: No public transportation to the park; rental cars available in Redding or Bluff.

Address: Mineral, CA 96063.

LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Comprises the largest lava flows, lava tubes or caves, including ice caves; cinder cones, spatter cones; fumaroles and other related volcanic features. Colorful plantlife; abundant wildlife including recently re-introduced California black bear. Petroglyphs, petroglyphs, and artifacts of prehistoric Indians. Principal scene of the Modern Indian War, 1872-73.

Season: Open all year. Relatively warm in summer with cooler evenings.

Facilities: Self-guiding trails, 19 caves open for visits and exploration; camping programs and illustrated talks in summer.

Address: Box 887, Tulelake, CA 96134.

MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Great groves of giant sequoias, world's largest and among the oldest living things; magnificent High Sierra scene, including Mount Whitney (14,495 feet), the highest point in the contiguous United States.

Season: Open all year. Main season January to Mid-September.

Facilities: Sequoia: Visitor center and campgrounds at Lodgepole open all year. Giant Forest Lodge, coffee shop, gift shop, open all year (services limited in winter). Write Government Campgrounds, Box 31, Three Rivers, CA 93262; phone (209) 567-3331.

Kings Canyon: Visitor center and campgrounds at Lodgepole open all year. Giant Forest Lodge, coffee shop, gift shop, open all year (services limited in winter). Write Government Campgrounds, Box 31, Three Rivers, CA 93262; phone (209) 567-3331.

Activities: Enjoy the wild natural scenery of mountains and forests, lakes and streams; quiet walks; horseback riding; nature walks, camping, campfire programs, and high-country park trips. Requests for wilderness permits may be obtained by mail from Feb. 1 to May 31. Certain permits only are given based on a lottery at the park. Daily entries to trailheads limited in summer. Point Reyes, CA 94956.

Transportation: Yosemite and Wawona, open all year. Glacier Point and all points north of Yosemite Valley — summer only.

Facilities: Campgrounds, lodges, cabins, dining, Grapevine Hot Springs, and other services. Campgrounds in near State Parks are operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and reservations can be made through the national recreation reservations system.

Activities: Scenic drives, hiking, fishing, wildlife photography, guided beach and evening nature tours.

Address: Point Reyes, CA 94956.

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA: Great groves of giant sequoia, world's largest and among the oldest living things; magnificent High Sierra scene, including Mount Whitney (14,495 feet), the highest point in the contiguous United States.

Kings Canyon: Sierra Nevada wilderness dominated by two enormous canyons, of the Kings River; vast, mountainous, primitive areas; deep canyons, polished granite domes, jeweled lakes, tumbling waterfalls, giant sequoias.

Transportation: Daily bus from Fresno to Sequoia, mid-May through Mid-September. Sequoia Hospitality Service. Sightseeing tours in Sequoia and to Kings Canyon National Parks about mid-May to mid-September.

Facilities: Sequoia: Visitor center and campgrounds at Lodgepole open all year. Giant Forest Lodge, coffee shop, gift shop, open all year (services limited in winter). Write Government Campgrounds, Box 31, Three Rivers, CA 93262; phone (209) 567-3331.

Kings Canyon: Visitor center at Grant Grove open all year. Lodge, cabins, housekeeping cabins, coffee shop, grocery store and gift shop open all year (mid-October to mid-April). Write Government Campgrounds, Box 31, Three Rivers, CA 93262; phone (209) 335-2314. Service station open all year. Cedar Grove facilities, gift shop, service station, snack bar, grocery store and bicycle rentals open early June to Labor Day.

Activities: Enjoy the wild natural scenery of mountains and forests, lakes and streams; quiet walks; horseback riding; nature walks, camping, campfire programs, and high-country park trips. Requests for wilderness permits may be issued by mail February 1 through May 31; thereafter on a first-come, first-served basis at the park. Daily entries to trailheads limited in summer. Points Reyes, CA 94956.

PROTECT YOUR PARK AND YOURSELF

Your visit to one of the National Park Service areas can be a 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 the rules and avoid hazardous situations. Each park has been designed to protect the natural beauty of the area and to provide for your safety, comfort, and convenience. The use of fires, and the participation in such hazardous activities as swimming, fishing, and rock climbing are governed by regulations that take into account local conditions and problems. Park rangers will help and advise you as well as enforce regulations. If you need information or are in difficulty, see a park ranger. Complete regulations are available at park headquarters.