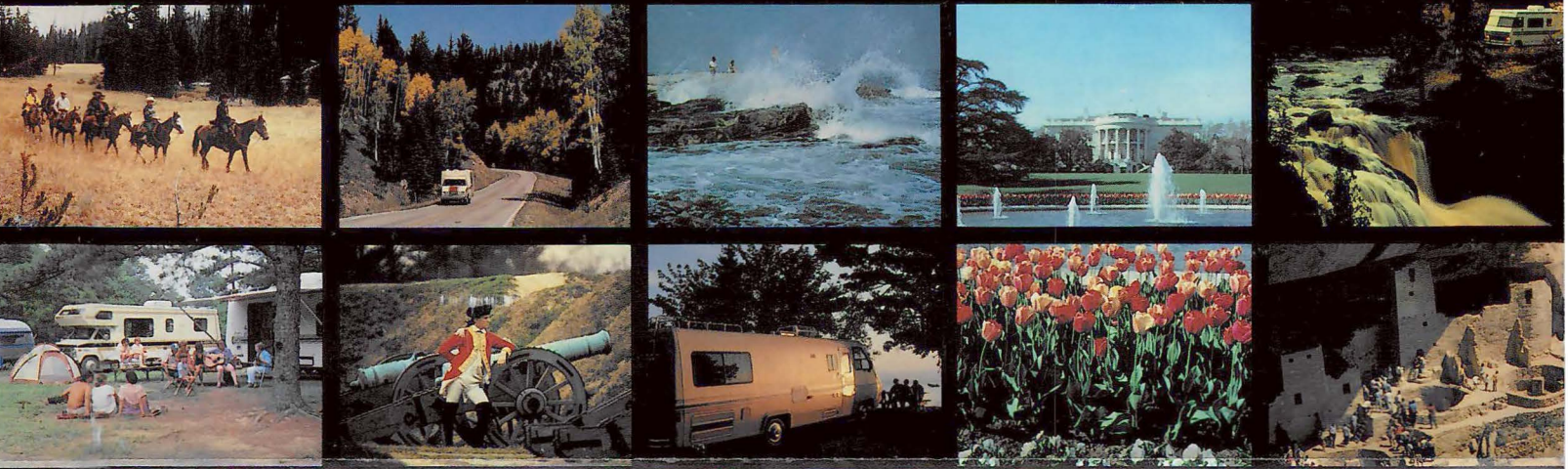


National Park Service

Travel Tips



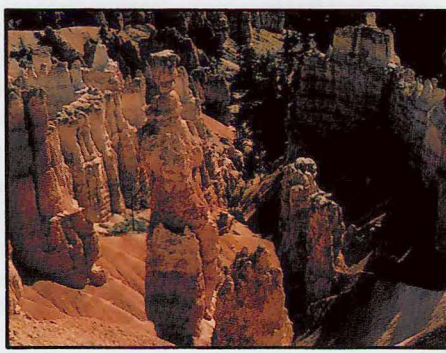
A World of Wonder

The romance and allure of travel are never more rewarding than with a visit to one or more of the scenic and historic park areas that are spread across the vast reaches of the USA and are a part of the U.S. national park system. And, lucky for the visitor from other countries, these parks and historic sites can be found in almost every region of the country, near every port of entry.

Every turn of the trail provides the visitor with the joy of discovery. The sparkling blue of a hidden lake, the mysterious walls of Indian settlements, the towering strength and awesome silence of a grove of mighty sequoia trees, the contrasting cactus forests with wonderfully different forms, and the glorious colors and eerie mystery of rocky canyons, deep chasms, and rushing waterfalls are all part of the extraordinary adventure that awaits the national park visitor.

Prepare to be charmed by the quiet dignity of both wild and domestic birds and animals as they go about their daily tasks in their natural habitats, unfettered by the bonds of bars or cages. Watch them in the clock-like precision of their daily routines as—ever wary of the intruder—they drink of cool, refreshing waters, graze in deep meadows or on craggy hillsides, build their homes, and feed their young.

But natural beauty and the intrigue of history are only part of the thrill of dis-



covery. You will *rediscover you and your family* as you relax and share in this world of wonder.

If recreational and sporting activities are your lure, there are endless opportunities for boating, horseback riding, mountain climbing, fishing and swimming. There are inviting trails for rugged hiking, a leisurely stroll, or a brisk bicycle ride. And if photography is your hobby, prepare to be enchanted!

While comfortable lodges and stately old hotels are available in some parks, almost all national park areas provide opportunities for camping. Campground facilities are available in 104 of the more than 300 parks in the system and, in addition, commercial campgrounds are located near the entrances of almost every one of them.

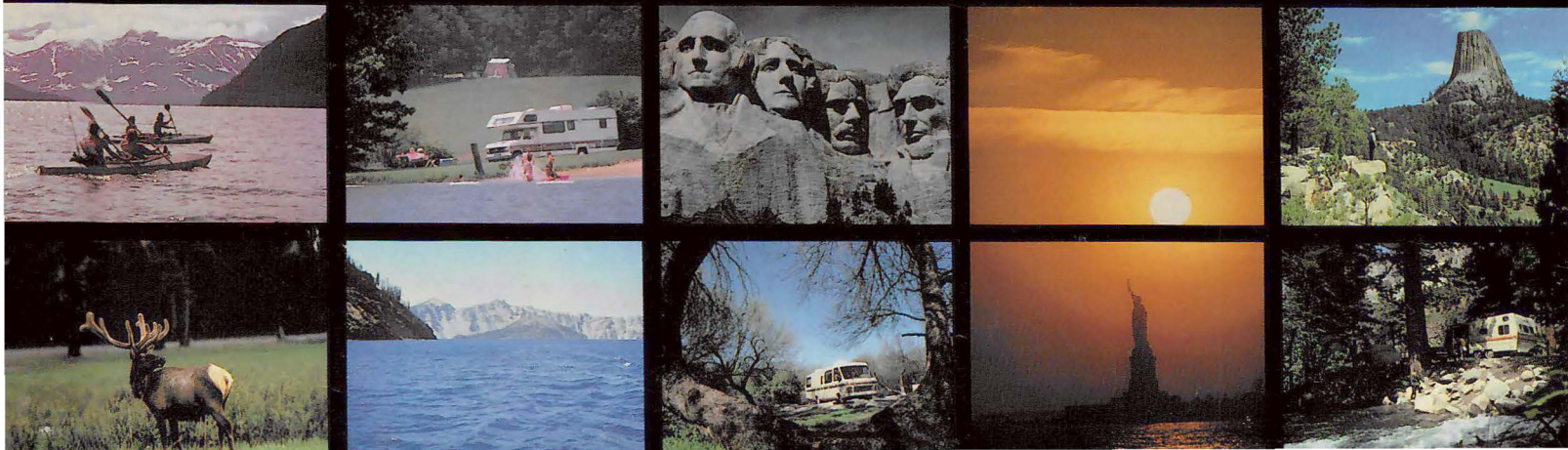
National park campgrounds offer accommodations from tent sites to full facilities for travelers in camping vehicles such as motorhomes and travel trailers. For families who don't own a camping vehicle, rentals are widely available from private firms in many parts of the country, including all major port cities.

But whether you are camping in the parks, sightseeing for a day or two, or on a photographic safari, the best advice is to plan your trip in advance—and make your reservations as far ahead as possible.

Continued



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Selecting Park Areas to Visit

A map showing the locations of all U.S. national parks and including addresses and other useful information for every park can be found in a fold-out brochure titled "Guide and Map—National Parks of the United States." Individual copies of this brochure are available at no cost from the Office of Public Inquiries, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

There are national park areas in almost every part of the country. The park system is especially famous for its large, natural resource-based parks such as the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone, but there are dozens of other equally interesting natural areas, historic sites and parks devoted to Native American Indian culture and military history available for public enjoyment. All national park areas are maintained at the same high standards of quality, cleanliness and service.

The National Park Service recommends the newer, lesser-known park areas as travel destinations during the peak summer season months of June, July and August when American schools are closed and families are often on vacation. For more solitude and service in the better-known areas, it is best to plan a visit during the adjoining months of April and May or September and October.

Even the winter months can be a delightful time for a park visit. Parks in the northern United States offer outstanding winter sports opportunities, while many in the South provide sun, sand and surf.

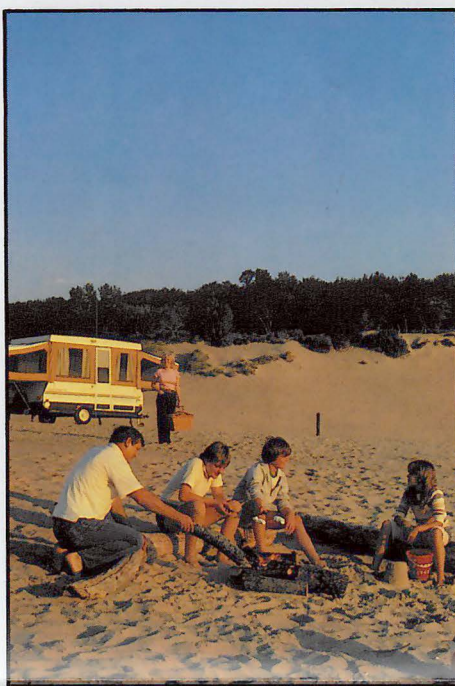
Preparing for the Weather

Temperature and other climatic conditions depend on both the season and the park's geographical location and will vary even within the boundaries of some of the larger parks. To assure that you bring appropriate clothing for the parks you intend to visit, write directly to the superintendents of individual parks for specific weather information. Addresses can be found in the aforementioned free "Guide and Map."

Making Your Reservations

Most in-park accommodations are operated by private companies, under contract to the National Park Service. Called concessioners, these companies accept reservations directly from travellers or their travel agents.

The Conference of National Park Concessioners publishes a book titled "National Park Visitor Facilities and Services" which provides detailed information about accommodations and services available from companies operating within national park areas, including rates and phone numbers. To



purchase a copy, send \$4.05 to Conference of National Park Concessioners, c/o Mr. G. B. Hanson, National Park Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave, Kentucky 42259. From abroad, send a bank draft of \$6.05 in U.S. funds.

It is important to make reservations for hotels, lodges, cabins, other in-park lodging, raft trips, ferry transportation and other specialized activities several months in advance of a peak season visit. Contact individual parks for reservation information.

Camping enthusiasts should request a copy of the booklet "Camping in the National Park System" from the National Park Service, Office of Public Inquiries, Washington, D.C. 20240. In addition, Recreation Vehicle Industry Association offers a free catalog that describes more than 50 camping publications available by mail, including several national campground directories that list both national park camping areas and commercial campgrounds. From within the U.S., send only a long, stamped self-addressed envelope to RVIA, P.O. Box 2999, Dept. PB, Reston, Virginia 22090. Orders from outside the U.S. should include a bank draft in U.S. funds in the amount of \$1 to cover air mail return postage.

Travelling to the Parks

Many United States national park areas are located in remote or rural locations. Group tour operators frequently transport visitors to these parks by motorcoach. For information about group tours to the parks, contact the National Tour Association's News Bureau at 120 Kentucky Ave., Lexington, Kentucky 40502. Telephone: 606-253-1036.

For campers and anyone seeking more flexible travel arrangements, a direc-

tory of companies that rent vans, motorhomes and other types of recreation vehicles is available from the Recreation Vehicle Rental Association, 3251 Old Lee Highway, Suite 500, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. To purchase a copy from within the U.S., send \$3.50. From abroad, send a bank draft in U.S. funds in the amount of \$8.60.

Only 65 of the more than 300 park areas charge entrance fees. These vary from \$1-\$3 per vehicle. Campsite fees range from \$4 to \$10 per night, per site. Specialized services such as ferry transportation to certain island and seashore parks, river raft trips, horseback riding and park concessioner-run recreational activities involve fees of varying amounts. Contact individual parks for details.

Each park conducts interpretive programs that are available to visitors at no cost.

Currency Exchange for International Visitors

Visitors from outside the U.S. should plan to carry internationally recognized travellers checks and credit cards. Few national park areas contain foreign currency exchange desks. Currencies can be exchanged, however, in the commercial banks and largest hotels of America's gateway cities.

An Experience to Remember

Vacations are always an educational and enriching experience...and all the more so when one has made the effort to plan for them in order to take advantage of the many opportunities that they offer.

So it is with a vacation that includes a visit to one or more of the parks in the U.S. national park system. We hope that the information given here will enable you to enjoy your vacation and visit to the fullest.

North, south, east, or west—wherever your travels take you—there is a park in every region of the country that offers you the chance to experience the riches and wonder of nature in all its glory that stretch across this great land from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south.

Enjoy...enjoy, and after you have seen one park, come again to see another!

This publication provided as a public service by Recreation Vehicle Industry Association.

