

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
RAY LYMAN WILBUR, SECRETARY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HORACE M. ALBRIGHT, DIRECTOR



CIRCULAR OF GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING

# WIND CAVE

## NATIONAL PARK

### SOUTH DAKOTA



ELK IN THE PARK GAME PRESERVE



OPEN ALL THE YEAR  
TOURIST SEASON FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30



1931

# THE NATIONAL PARKS AT A GLANCE

[Number, 23; total area, 12,431 square miles]

Name of park	Location	Area in square miles	Distinctive characteristics
Acadia..... 1919	Maine coast.....	17	The group of granite mountains upon Mount Desert Island and also bold point on opposite mainland across Frenchmans Bay—Formerly called the Lafayette National Park.
Bryce Canyon..... 1923	Southwestern Utah.....	23	Box canyon filled with countless array of fantastically eroded pinnacles—Best exhibit of vivid coloring of earth's materials.
Carlsbad Caverns... 1930	Southeastern New Mexico.....	1	Beautifully decorated limestone caverns, believed to be largest yet discovered.
Crater Lake..... 1902	Southwestern Oregon.....	249	Lake of extraordinary blue in crater of extinct volcano—Sides 1,000 feet high—Interesting lava formations—Fine fishing.
General Grant..... 1890	Middle eastern California.....	4	Created to preserve the celebrated General Grant Tree, 40.3 feet in diameter—31 miles by trail from Sequoia National Park.
Glacier..... 1910	Northwestern Montana.....	1,534	Rugged mountain region of unsurpassed alpine character—250 glacier-fed lakes of romantic beauty—60 small glaciers—Precipices thousands of feet deep—Almost sensational scenery of marked individuality—Fine trout fishing.
Grand Canyon..... 1919	North central Arizona.....	1,009	The greatest example of erosion and the most sublime spectacle in the world.
Grand Teton..... 1929	Northwestern Wyoming.....	150	Includes most spectacular portion of Teton Mountains, an uplift of unusual grandeur.
Great Smoky Mountains (proposed). 1930	North Carolina and Tennessee.....	248	This area is not to be developed as a national park until at least 427,000 acres have been donated to the United States, as specified in the organic act. Meanwhile the park area of 158,876.50 acres already in Federal ownership is being protected by the National Park Service.
Hawaii..... 1916	Hawaii.....	245	Interesting volcanic areas—Kilauea and Mauna Loa, active volcanoes on the island of Hawaii; Haleakala, a huge extinct volcano on the island of Maui.
Hot Springs..... 1921	Middle Arkansas.....	2	46 hot springs said to possess healing properties—Many hotels and boarding houses—19 bath-houses under Government supervision. Reserved by Congress in 1832 as the Hot Springs Reservation to prevent exploitation of hot waters.
Lassen Volcanic.... 1916	Northern California.....	163	Only active volcano in United States proper—Lassen Peak, 10,453 feet—Cinder cone 6,913 feet—Hot springs—Mud geysers.
Mesa Verde..... 1906	Southwestern Colorado.....	80	Most notable and best preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in United States, if not in the world.
Mount McKinley... 1917	South central Alaska.....	2,645	Highest mountain in North America—Rises higher above surrounding country than any other mountain in the world.
Mount Rainier..... 1899	West central Washington.....	325	Largest accessible single peak glacier system; 28 glaciers, some of large size; 48 square miles of glacier, 50 to 500 feet thick—Wonderful subalpine wild-flower fields.
Platt..... 1902	Southern Oklahoma.....	1	Sulphur and other springs possessing medicinal value.
Rocky Mountain... 1915	North middle Colorado.....	400	Heart of the Rockies—Snowy range, peaks 11,000 to 14,255 feet altitude—Remarkable records of glacial period.
Sequoia..... 1890	Middle eastern California.....	604	The Big Tree National Park—Scores of sequoias 20 to 30 feet in diameter, thousands over 10 feet in diameter, General Sherman Tree, 37.3 feet in diameter and 273.9 feet high—Towering mountain ranges—Startling precipices—Mount Whitney and Kern River country.
Sullys Hill..... 1904	North Dakota.....	1	Small park with woods, streams, and a lake—Is a wild-animal preserve.
Wind Cave..... 1903	South Dakota.....	17	Cavern having several miles of galleries and numerous chambers containing peculiar formations.
Yellowstone..... 1872	Northwestern Wyoming, southwestern Montana, and northeastern Idaho.....	3,426	More geysers than in all rest of world together—Boiling springs—Mud volcanoes—Petrified forests—Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, remarkable for gorgeous coloring—Large lakes—Many large streams and waterfalls—Vast wilderness, one of the greatest wild bird and animal preserves in the world—Exceptional trout fishing.
Yosemite..... 1890	Middle eastern California.....	1,139	Valley of world-famed beauty—Lofty cliffs—Romantic vistas—Many waterfalls of extraordinary height—3 groves of Big Trees—High Sierra—Waterwheel Falls—Good trout fishing.
Zion..... 1919	Southwestern Utah.....	148	Magnificent gorge (Zion Canyon), depth from 1,500 to 2,500 feet, with precipitous walls—Of great beauty and scenic interest.

# WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Wind Cave National Park was created by act of Congress dated January 9, 1903, and with subsequent additions now embraces 10,899 acres. Its topography is peculiar to that of the lower elevations of the Black Hills of South Dakota in which it is located, and its climate is a happy medium between that of the plains and the mountains. In a general way the park might be said to be arid; that is, it has no rivers, lakes, or big streams, and therefore no fishing. The main feature of the park is a limestone cavern of enormous size and rare beauty which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

## WIND CAVE

The early history of Wind Cave is veiled in more or less obscurity. No authentic records are available and our present deductions are based almost entirely upon old traditions. It is believed that a Black Hills pioneer by the name of Tom Bingham discovered the cave in 1881. While hunting deer he was attracted to a small hole in the rocks by a weird whistling. He found upon investigation that the whistling noise was caused by wind escaping through the hole. This small hole, scarcely 10 inches in diameter, is the only natural opening to the cavern. Fortunately it is well preserved and may be seen just behind the present cave entrance building.

The McDonalds and the Stablers deserve mention in the cavern's early development and exploitation. Through their efforts the trails which are now used were laid out and partly constructed. Alva McDonald, whose grave and statue may be seen just east of the cave entrance, was one of the early explorers. Far from the beaten trails his name or his initials have been found carved in the rocks.

The present entrance was effected by piercing about 6 feet of the earth's crust, the opening thus made leading into a long, winding fissure or tunnel. At the bottom of this tunnel the visitor is ushered into rooms and corridors of amazing variety, an underworld of spongelike aspect. The crystal forms are too varied and too numerous to permit description here. Boxwork and frostwork are among

the more common forms. The boxwork is composed of crystal fins arranged in structure to resemble a bee's honeycomb. The frostwork is formed of tiny needlelike crystals that hang in clusters from ledges and ceilings. It is usually pure white, and in some places it is superimposed on a delicate pink background.



--- Location of Fence - Wind Cave National Bison Range  
 ■ Area purchased for addition to Bison Range

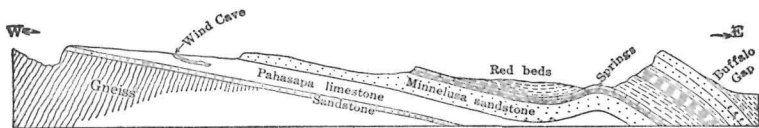
MAP OF WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK.

The cavern is outlined in Pahasapa limestone (a local variety of the Mississippian limerock) which is readily susceptible to the action of cave-forming forces. Cracks and seams in an immense bed of this limestone were gradually enlarged through the action of water. The process must have covered thousands of years, and whether the water was hot or cold is more or less open to debate. White encrustations on the walls, resembling the scale that forms inside of tea-kettles, lead to the belief that hot water must have played an im-

portant part. The water receded and disappeared long ago, for now nearly all parts of the cave are dry and dusty. There are a few places where surface water seeps through, but not enough in quantity to cause a river or a stream.

Wind Cave harbors practically no animal life, even insects being seldom found. Although windy at and in the immediate vicinity of the entrance, the more inner portions of the cavern are calm and still, and the temperature of between 45 and 47 degrees is just comfortable for walking.

By the course of devious twisting and intersecting trails either of three routes may be taken. The general direction of all three routes is southeast from the entrance, and a number of depths or levels are reached on each one. The Pearly Gates route is the longest and the deepest and requires about three hours for traversing. The Fair Grounds route offers a medium length trip of about two and one-half hours and lies in part in the comparatively upper regions



SECTION ACROSS THE EAST SLOPE OF THE BLACK HILLS UPLIFT, THROUGH WIND CAVE LOOKING NORTH.

of the cavern. The Garden of Eden or the short route is a 2-hour trip. Stairs and bridges have been built at all unusually rough or precipitous points, and the ceilings, which occasionally attain a height of over 100 feet, are in all places high enough so that crawling is unnecessary.

The wind at the entrance is the cavern's strangest phenomenon. It is believed to be caused by changes in the atmospheric pressure outside. A falling barometer usually causes the wind to blow into the entrance, and a rising barometer causes it to blow out. The velocity of the wind is quite variable. Sometimes it is very violent, at other times only moderately strong, and on some occasions there is practically a dead calm.

There are caves having much larger rooms than Wind Cave, but there are few that have a greater number. Stalactites and stalagmites, which grace the interiors of nearly all of the world's great caverns, are almost entirely lacking in this cave. But the absence of these familiar depositions is more than replaced by the great variety of other and unique crystal forms, some of which are not known to be found elsewhere in the world.

A part of the park area (about 4,000 acres) is occupied by a national game preserve administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. It contains bison, elk, deer, and antelope.

#### **RAILROAD INFORMATION**

The park is readily accessible from the following railroad stations: Hot Springs, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Chicago & North Western Railroads; Pringle and Custer, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; and Buffalo Gap, on the Chicago & North Western Railway.

Hot Springs is an overnight ride from Sioux City, Omaha, Denver, or Billings. During the summer season round-trip excursion tickets are sold at reduced fares from the Middle West, East, and South to Hot Springs as destination. Choice of routes in each direction is generally offered. Return routes are available, enabling passengers to make circuit trips with stop-over privileges.

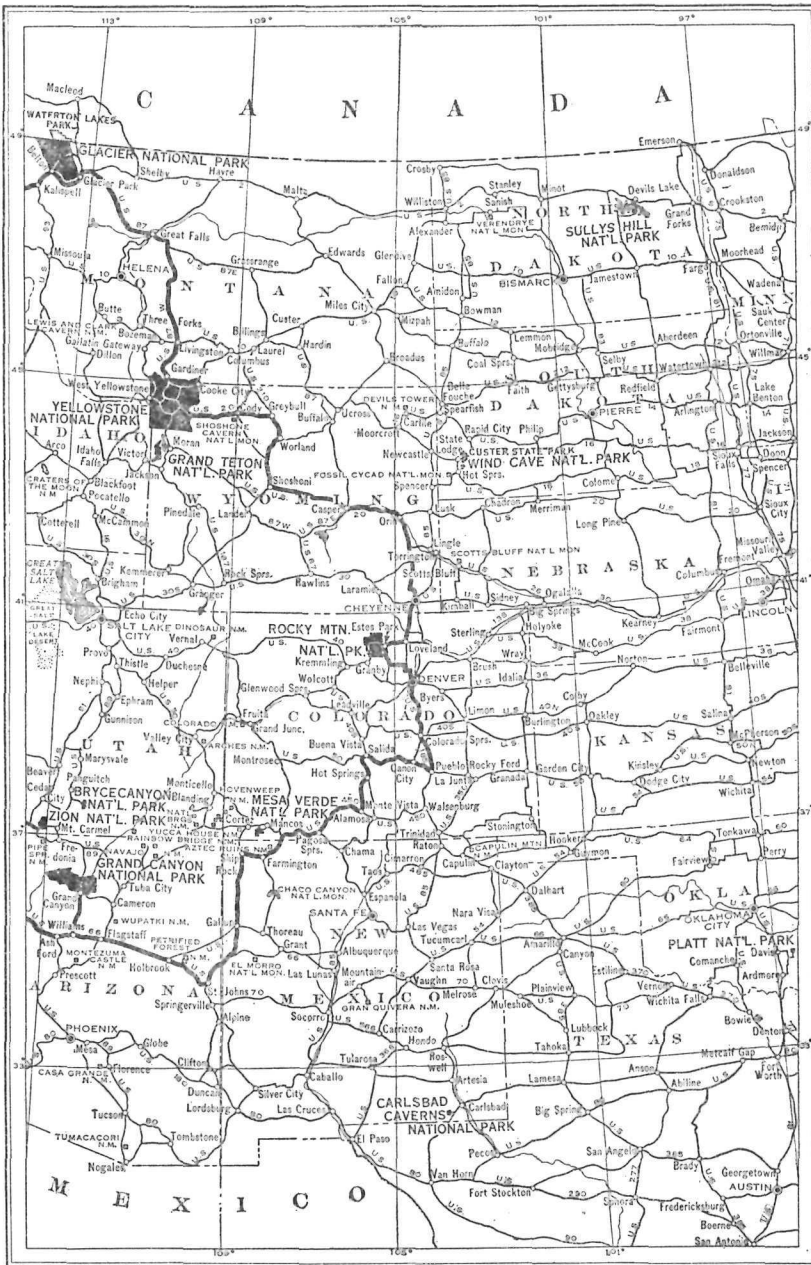
Passengers wishing to visit Wind Cave National Park as a side trip from Edgemont or Buffalo Gap (28 and 14 miles, respectively, from Hot Springs) may stop over on excursion tickets. From many sections transcontinental, Yellowstone, or Glacier National Park passengers may buy tickets good for passage through Edgemont.

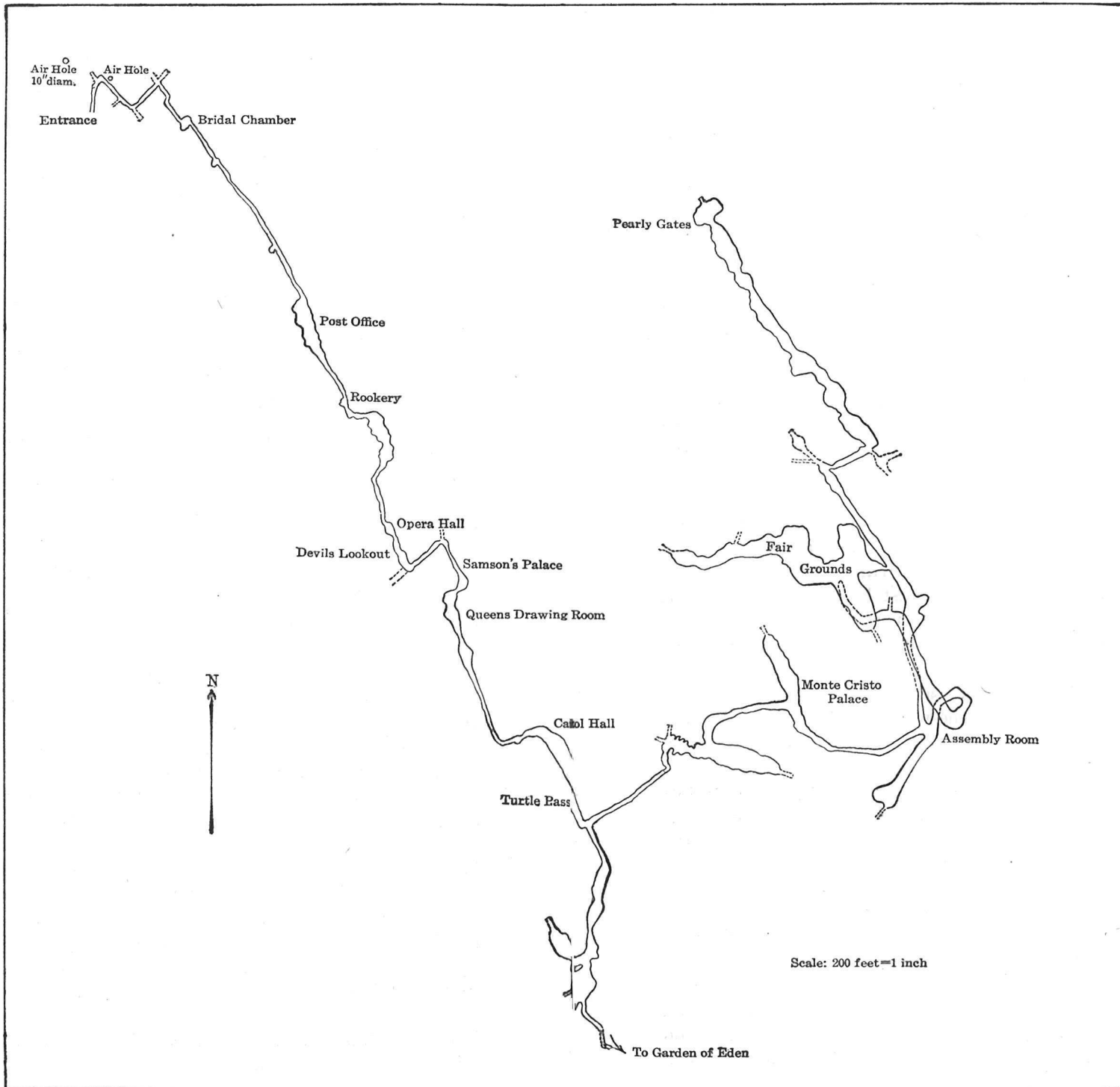
#### **AUTOMOBILE HIGHWAY INFORMATION**

Wind Cave Park is on the Atlantic-Yellowstone-Pacific Highway, and can be reached by side trip from either the Custer Battle Field Hiway or the Black and Yellow Trail at Rapid City. This side trip also takes the motorist through the magnificent Custer State Park, as well as through the Deadwood region. Information concerning the Wind Cave Park, Custer State Park, and the highways of the State can be obtained from the State industrial commissioner, Pierre, S. Dak. Wind Cave Park can also be reached from the National Park-to-Park Highway by side trip from Cheyenne or Orin, Wyo.

#### **SIDE TRIPS TO THE NATIONAL AND STATE RESERVATIONS IN VICINITY OF WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK**

Visitors to Wind Cave National Park should take advantage of the opportunity to visit some of the other National and State reservations in the Black Hills region, all of which contain scenery of interest and beauty. In a trip of about 300 miles 8 interesting reservations, including 2 national monuments, 2 national forests, a fish hatchery, a bird refuge, a reclamation project, and a State park and game preserve, may be inspected. The Jewel Cave National Monument, administered by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, is located near Custer and contains another interesting cave recently opened to the public.





UNDERGROUND SURVEY OF CAVE IN WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH DAKOTA.



**POST OFFICE**

The post office is Hot Springs, S. Dak.

**ADMINISTRATION**

The representative of the National Park Service in charge of Wind Cave National Park is the superintendent, Anton J. Snyder. His address is Hot Springs, S. Dak.

The reservation is open the entire year, but the tourist season extends from June 1 to September 30. From May 1 to September 30 visitors are permitted to enter the cave at the hours of 9 a. m. and 2 p. m., except during the months of July and August when extra trips at 10.15 a. m., 3.15 p. m., and 7 p. m. are made daily. From October 1 to April 30 trips in the cave are made at 2 p. m. only. All cave tours are made under the supervision of competent guides provided by the Government. For this guide service a fee of 50 cents is exacted from each adult entering the cave. No charge is made for children 16 years of age, or under, when accompanied by adults. Because of the many stairs and the rocky trails, women should wear knickers or other suitable hiking clothes, and low-heeled boots or shoes.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

(Approved December 2, 1930, to continue in force and effect until otherwise directed by the Secretary of the Interior.)

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

The following rules and regulations for the government of the Wind Cave National Park are hereby established and made public pursuant to authority conferred by the acts of Congress approved January 9, 1903 (39 Stat. 765), and August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended June 2, 1920 (41 Stat. 732):

1. *Preservation of natural features and curiosities.*—The destruction, injury, defacement, or disturbance in any way of the public buildings, signs, equipment, or other property, or the trees, flowers, vegetation, rocks, minerals, animal, or bird, or other life is prohibited: *Provided*, That flowers may be gathered in small quantities when, in the judgment of the superintendent, their removal will not impair the beauty of the park.

No person shall be permitted to enter the cave unless accompanied by the superintendent or other park employees or by a competent

guide. Competent guide service is provided for the public by the Government, for which a fee of 50 cents shall be charged each person entering the cave. No charge shall be made for children 16 years of age, or under, when accompanied by adults taking responsibility for their safety and orderly conduct while in the cave.

2. *Camping.*—No camp shall be made along roads except at designated localities. Blankets, clothing, hammocks, or any other article likely to frighten teams shall not be hung near the road.

Many successive parties camp on the same sites during the season; therefore camp grounds shall be thoroughly cleaned before they are abandoned. Tin cans, bottles, cast-off clothing, and all other débris shall be placed in garbage cans or pits provided for the purpose. When camps are made in unfrequented localities where pits or cans may not be provided, all refuse shall be burned or hidden where it will not be offensive to the eye.

Campers may use dead or fallen timber only for fuel.

3. *Fires.*—Fires constitute one of the greatest perils to the park; they shall not be kindled near trees, dead wood, moss, dry leaves, forest mold, or other vegetable refuse, but in some open space on rocks or earth. Should camp be made in a locality where no such open space exists or is provided, the dead wood, moss, dry leaves, etc., shall be scraped away to the rock or earth over an area considerably larger than that required for the fire.

Fires shall be lighted only when necessary and when no longer needed shall be completely extinguished and all embers and bed smothered with earth or water so that there remains no possibility of reignition.

*Especial care shall be taken that no lighted match, cigar, or cigarette is dropped in any grass, twigs, leaves, or tree mold.*

4. *Hunting.*—The park is a sanctuary for wild life of every sort, and hunting, killing, wounding, capturing, or frightening any bird or wild animal in the park, except dangerous animals when it is necessary to prevent them from destroying life or inflicting injury, is prohibited.

The outfits, including guns, traps, teams, horses, or means of transportation used by persons engaged in hunting, killing, trapping, ensnaring, or capturing birds or wild animals, or in possession of game killed on the park lands under circumstances other than prescribed above, shall be taken up by the superintendent and held subject to the order of the Director of the National Park Service, except in cases where it is shown by satisfactory evidence that the outfit is not the property of the person or persons violating this regulation, and the actual owner was not a party to such violation.

Firearms are prohibited in the park except on written permission of the superintendent. Visitors entering or traveling through the park to places beyond shall, at entrance, report and surrender all firearms, traps, nets, seines, or explosives in their possession to the first park officer, and in proper cases may obtain his written leave to carry them through the park sealed.

The Government assumes no responsibilities for loss or damage to any firearms, traps, nets, seines, or other property so surrendered to any park officer, nor are park officers authorized to accept the responsibility of custody of any property for the convenience of visitors.

5. *Fishing*.—Fishing with nets, seines, traps, or by the use of drugs or explosives, or in any other way than with hook and line, or for merchandise or profit, is prohibited. Fishing in particular water may be suspended, or the number of fish that may be taken by one person in any one day from the various streams or lakes may be regulated by the superintendent. All fish hooked less than 6 inches long shall be carefully handled with moist hands and returned at once to the water if not seriously injured. Fish retained shall be killed. Twenty fish shall constitute the limit for a day's catch.

6. *Private operations*.—No person, firm, or corporation shall reside permanently, engage in any business, or erect buildings in the park without permission in writing from the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D. C. Applications for such permission may be addressed to the director or to the superintendent of the park.

7. *Cameras*.—Still and motion-picture cameras may be freely used in the park for general scenic purposes. For the filming of motion pictures requiring the use of artificial or special settings, or involving the performance of a professional cast, permission must first be obtained from the superintendent of the park.

8. *Gambling*.—Gambling in any form, or the operation of gambling devices, whether for merchandise or otherwise, is prohibited.

9. *Advertisements*.—Private notices or advertisements shall not be posted or displayed within the park, excepting such as the park superintendent deems necessary for the convenience and guidance of the public.

10. *Mining claims*.—The location of mining claims is prohibited within the park.

11. *Grazing*.—The running at large, herding, or grazing of livestock of any kind on the Government lands in the park, as well as the driving of livestock over same, is prohibited, except where authority therefor has been granted by the superintendent. Livestock found improperly on the park lands may be impounded and held until claimed by the owner and the trespass adjusted.

12. *Authorized operators.*—All persons, firms, or corporations holding franchises in the park shall keep the grounds used by them properly policed and shall maintain the premises in a sanitary condition to the satisfaction of the superintendent. No operator shall retain in his employment a person whose presence in the park may be deemed by the superintendent subversive of good order and management of the park.

All operators shall require each of their employees to wear a metal badge with a number thereon or other mark of identification, the name and number corresponding therewith or the identification mark being registered in the superintendent's office. These badges must be worn in plain sight.

13. *Dogs and cats.*—Cats are not permitted in the park, and dogs only to those persons passing through the park to the territory beyond, in which instances they must be kept tied while crossing the park.

14. *Dead animals.*—All domestic or grazed animals that may die in the park at any tourist camp, or along any of the public thoroughfares, shall be buried immediately by the owner or person having charge of such animals at least 2 feet beneath the ground and in no case less than one-fourth mile from any camp or thoroughfare.

15. *Travel.*—(a) On sidehill grades throughout the park motor-driven vehicles shall take the outer side of the road when meeting or passing vehicles of any kind drawn by animals; likewise, freight, baggage, and heavy camping outfits shall take the outer side of the road on sidehill grades when meeting or passing passenger vehicles drawn by animals.

(b) Load and vehicle weight limitations shall be those prescribed from time to time by the Director of the National Park Service and shall be complied with by the operators of all vehicles using the park roads. Schedules showing weight limitations for different roads in the park may be seen at the office of the superintendent.

(c) All vehicles shall be equipped with lights for night travel. At least one light shall be carried on the left front side of horse-drawn vehicles in a position such as to be visible from both front and rear.

(d) Automobiles and other vehicles shall be so operated as to be under safe control of the driver at all times. The speed shall be kept within such limits as may be necessary to avoid accident. Speed is limited to 30 miles per hour, except that on the section of the road passing through the park headquarters the speed shall not exceed 20 miles per hour. The speed of motor trucks over 1½ tons capacity shall not exceed 20 miles per hour on all park roads.

16. *Miscellaneous.*—(a) Campers and others shall not wash clothing or cooking utensils in the waters of the park or in any way pollute them, or bathe in any of the streams near the regularly traveled thoroughfares in the park without suitable bathing clothes.

(b) Stock shall not be tied so as to permit their entering or polluting any of the streams of the park. All animals shall be kept a sufficient distance from camping ground in order not to litter the ground and make unfit for use the area which may be used later as tent sites.

(c) Campers and all others, save those holding licenses from the Director of the National Park Service, are prohibited from hiring their horses, trappings, or vehicles to tourists or visitors in the park. No pack trains shall be allowed in the park unless in charge of a duly registered guide.

(d) All complaints by tourists and others as to service, etc., rendered in the park should be made to the superintendent, in writing, before the complainant leaves the park. Oral complaints will be heard daily during office hours.

17. *Fines and penalties.*—Persons who render themselves obnoxious by disorderly conduct or bad behavior shall be subjected to the punishment hereinafter prescribed for violation of the foregoing regulations, or they may be summarily removed from the park by the superintendent.

Any person who violates any of the foregoing regulations shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, and be adjudged to pay all costs of the proceedings.

Note. *Lost and found articles.*—Persons finding lost articles should deposit them at the nearest ranger station, leaving their own names and addresses, so that if not claimed by owners within 60 days, articles may be turned over to those who found them.

**FREE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS ON NATIONAL PARKS AND  
MONUMENTS**

DISTRIBUTED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The following publications may be obtained free on written application to the Director of the National Park Service, or by personal application to the office of the superintendent of the park:

**Glimpses of our National Parks.** 65 pages, including illustrations.

Contains descriptions of the most important features of the national parks.

**Glimpses of our National Monuments.** 74 pages, including illustrations.

Contains brief descriptions of all the national monuments administered by the Department of the Interior.

**Map of National Parks and Monuments.**

Shows location of all the national parks and monuments administered by the National Park Service and all railroad routes to these reservations.

**Map of western United States.**

Shows location of the national parks and national monuments, Indian reservations, and national forests in the western United States, the National Park-to-Park Highway and other connecting automobile roads.

Circulars of general information for the following parks:

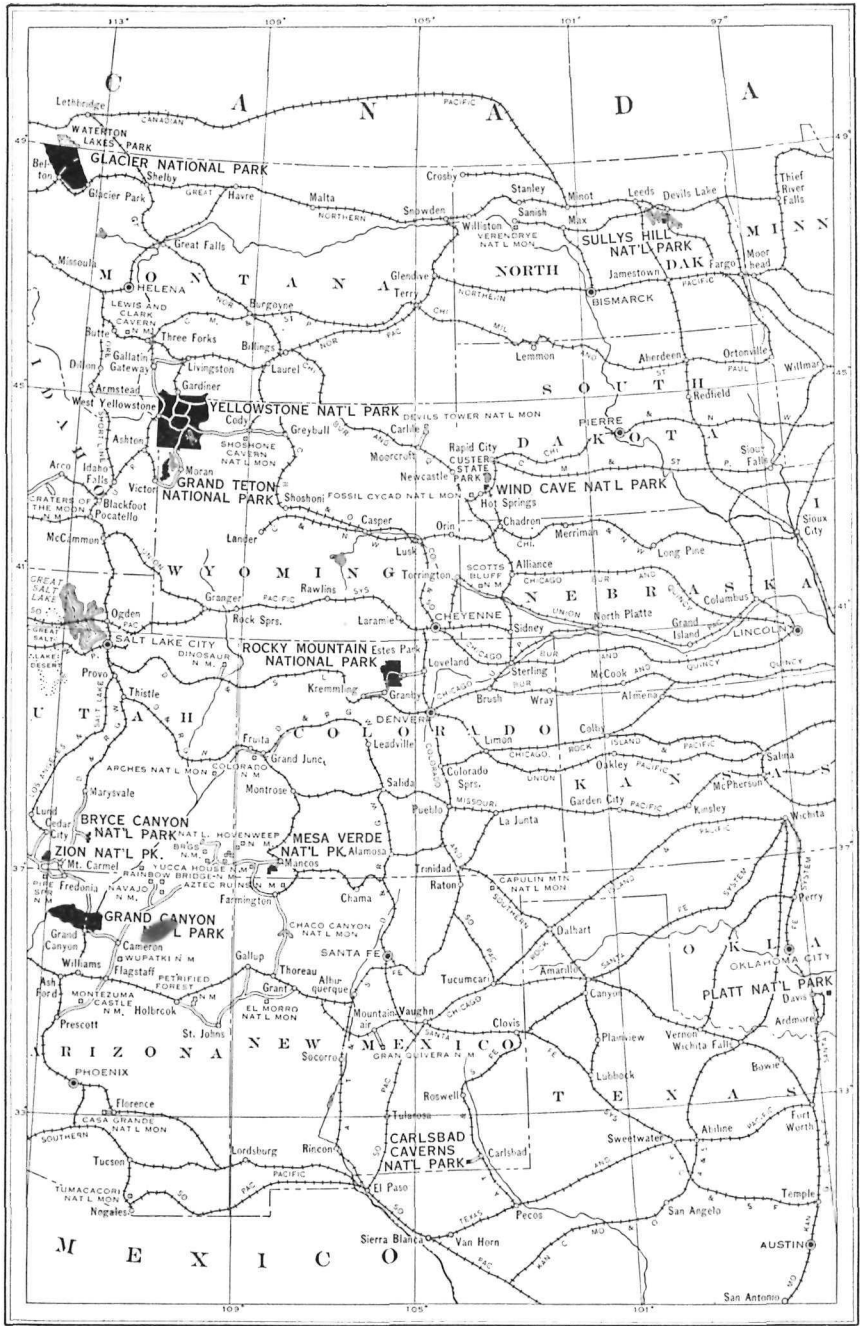
Acadia National Park.	Mount McKinley National Park.
Crater Lake National Park.	Mount Rainier National Park.
Glacier National Park.	Rocky Mountain National Park.
Grand Canyon National Park.	Sequoia and General Grant National Parks.
Grand Teton National Park.	Yellowstone National Park.
Hawaii National Park.	Yosemite National Park.
Hot Springs National Park.	Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks.
Lassen Volcanic National Park.	
Mesa Verde National Park.	

**NATIONAL PARKS PORTFOLIO<sup>1</sup>**

An interesting publication on the National Parks and National Monuments, the National Parks Portfolio, 1928 edition, contains nine chapters, each descriptive of a national park, and one larger chapter devoted to parks and monuments. This publication, which contains 270 pages, including 310 illustrations, is bound securely in cloth. It is sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for \$1 a copy.

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<sup>1</sup> May be purchased also by personal application at the office of the superintendent of the park, but that office can not fill mail orders.



Scale of Miles  
 0 25 50 100 150 200 250 300  
 RAILROAD ROUTES