

A Geological Marvel: The Wave [B1]

Le spettacolari strisce che sembrano scorrere fluide sulla sua superficie contraddistinguono questa formazione rocciosa, una delle meraviglie più incredibili dell'Arizona. L'accesso ai visitatori è limitato, visto che può risultare rischioso.



The Wave in Arizona is one of the world's oldest geological formations and one of the most photographed landscapes in the United States. Located in the heart of the Colorado [Plateau](#) near the Arizona-Utah [border](#), a maximum of just sixty-four people a day are [allowed](#) to explore this fragile natural [marvel](#), and only by entering a lottery months in advance. COLOUR AND SHAPE Situated on the slopes of the Coyote Buttes, this [sandstone rock](#) formation [dates back](#) to the Jurassic Period, some 150 to 200 million years ago. It consists of [U-shaped](#) depressions that were sculpted by erosion and that [resemble](#) an ocean wave ([hence](#) the name). Incredibly, most people didn't know about The Wave until the 1990s, when it began to appear on travel [brochures](#). Today, photographers from all over the world try to gain access to it and capture its colourful, undulating beauty. **TEST YOUR LUCK** The Wave is part of the Paria Canyon-Vermilion [Cliffs](#) Wilderness Area, managed by the [Bureau](#) of Land Management.

Because of its fragility and the numbers of people wanting to visit it, the [Bureau](#) has set limits on public access to the site. If you want to visit The Wave, you have to enter a lottery for one of the day permits. According to the [Bureau](#), 200,589 people applied for permits to The Wave in 2019. Of those, only 7,300 (around 3.5 per cent) of the applicants received one. The most popular seasons to visit The Wave are spring and autumn. **SAFETY FIRST** To preserve its natural integrity, there are no formal [trails](#) or [signposts](#) to The Wave. In the summer of 2013, three [hikers](#) died trying to cross the open desert to [reach](#) it. Since then, the site has been made safer for [permit-holders](#), who are provided with a map and information. However, visitors must still find their own route to The Wave across the desert — so be prepared and follow all safety [guidelines](#).

Glossary

- **trails** = sentieri
- **border** = frontiera
- **sandstone rock** = roccia arenaria
- **U-shaped** = a forma di U
- **hence** = da qui
- **Cliffs** = strapiombi
- **hikers** = escursionisti
- **guidelines** = linee guida
- **Plateau** = altopiano
- **allowed** = permettere
- **marvel** = meraviglia
- **signposts** = indicazioni, segnali
- **reach** = raggiungere
- **dates back** = risalire
- **resemble** = assomigliare
- **Bureau** = ufficio
- **brochures** = opuscoli
- **permit-holders** = titolari di permesso