



# TRAVEL GUIDE NATIONAL PARKS



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# Arizona - The Grand Canyon

There aren't too many people in the world who haven't heard of the Grand Canyon. Ask most people you meet to describe the national park in 3 words and regardless of whether they have visited or not, the likely response is "big", "beautiful", and well, "BIG".



**The Grand Canyon** is a steep-sided gorge that has been carved out by the Colorado River over the course of millions of years.

The canyon spans an impressive 277 miles long and ranges in width from 4 to 18 miles. Its most impressive feature though is its dramatic depth of one mile. All of these measurements, along with the sheer aesthetic beauty of it have contributed to its status as one of the world's greatest natural wonders.

Situated within the Grand Canyon National Park, this is one destination everyone should see at least once in a lifetime.

## *The South Rim*

Easily the most famous part of the Grand Canyon, the South Rim attracts the most visitors and is also perhaps the most photographed section. The South Rim is the most accessible and provides the most amenities in the park.

Averaging 7000 feet above sea level and overlooking some of the canyon's most spectacular sights, the south rim is best visited from November to February in order to avoid the crowds.



## *The North Rim*

The three developed viewpoints from the North Rim offer a sense of looking across the great expanse of the canyon, tending to minimize the effect of its depth.

The highest point of the **North Rim** is Point Imperial, which stands at 8,803 feet above sea level. This easily accessible lookout offers fantastic views of the Painted Desert and the eastern end of the canyon and is one not to miss.

## The Wildlife

**The Grand Canyon National Park** is home to a diverse and interesting range of wildlife. In fact there are approximately 355 bird, 89 mammal, 47 reptile, 9 amphibian, 17 fish and thousands of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate species within the park.

The park is also known to a number of threatened and endangered species, making it an important player in the protection of these animals.

Care should be taken around wildlife in the park as some of the animals can be dangerous.

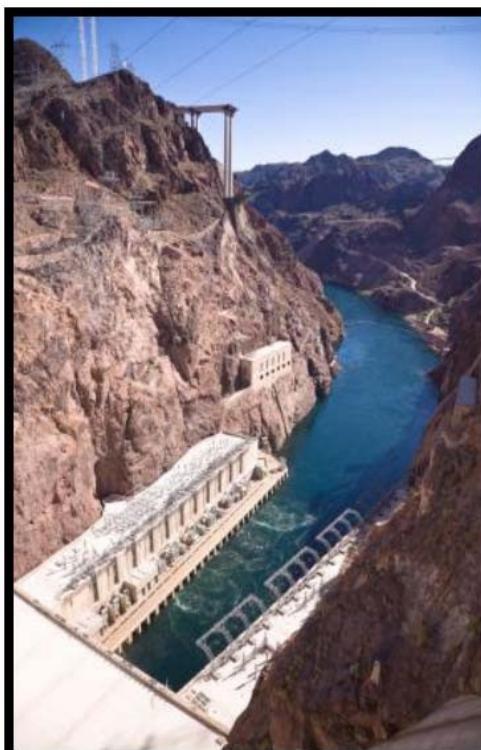


## The Seasons

Summer is the most popular time to visit as the climate is very pleasant. The North Rim is a little cooler due to its higher elevation, while the inner canyon temperatures can be extremely hot.

Thunderstorms are particularly prevalent from July through to early September.

Winter in the Grand Canyon gets extremely cold, and most of the roads that lead to the North Rim remain closed during these months, due to heavy snowfall.



## Camping

There are two campgrounds in the **Grand Canyon National Park** that accept reservations; the Mather Campground on the South Rim and the North Rim campground.

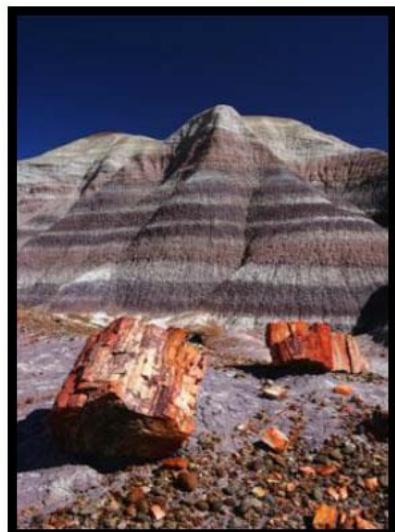
The Mather Campground is located within the Grand Canyon Village and is suitable for RVs up to 30-foot in length, but does not offer hook ups.

The North Rim Campground does not offer hook ups either, but does however provide a dump station on site. The grounds are within a close proximity to the wonder of the North Rim, and also offer all the suitable amenities you could possibly need.

# Arizona - Petrified Forest National Park

The **Petrified Forest National Park** is an intriguing land of scenic wonders and highlights, and a fascinating insight into the science of this incredible natural wood.

This park is home to one of the world's largest and most colorful concentrations of petrified wood. It also boasts multi-hued badlands of the Painted Desert, along with protected historic and archeological sites. Displays of 200-million year old fossils can also be found within the park, making it a playground of fascinating, scientific history.



Petrified Forest National Park is located along Interstate 40 in the state of Arizona. It is divided into two sections, which are connected by the north-south corridor.

The northern area encompasses sections of the Painted Desert, while the southern section is home to high concentrations of petrified wood.



## Climate

The weather in this National Park varies all year round. Summers are generally hot, with frequent thunderstorms from July through September. Winters are quite cold due to the high elevation, and snow is a possibility.

Conditions can change without notice so always be prepared.

## Things to Do and See

### The Chinle Formation

The Chinle is a geologic formation that is spread across Arizona, Nevada, Utah and western New Mexico. A spectacular section of it can be found within the Petrified Forest National Park, and this simply cannot be missed while visiting.

The sand formations are spectacular and you don't have to be a geology fanatic to appreciate them. So be sure to bring your camera along, because this is one sight you will not want to miss.

### The Agate House

The Agate House is made almost entirely of petrified wood, making it a sight to remember. It is hundreds of years old and features 8 rooms, some of which have been rebuilt over the years.

Definitely one not to miss!

### Fossils

This National Park is a playground for those seeking fossils of both the plant and animal variety. These fossils tell the stories of ancient ecosystems, allowing you to travel back in time to millions of years ago.

The petrified wood fossils represent trees that were alive over 200 million years ago. Some of these measure over 190 feet, making them masterpieces that simply cannot be surpassed.



### Camping

Unfortunately there are no campgrounds in the **Petrified Forest National Park**, making it only accessible during the day.

However, wilderness backpack camping is allowed and a free permit is required.

## Arizona – Saguaro National Park

**Saguaro National Park** is located in the US state of Arizona and boasts some truly beautiful settings. Positioned around the city of Tucson, this National Park is popular with those wishing to explore the Sonoran Desert, the Tucson Mountains and the Rincon Mountains.



The park spans a total area of 91,440 acres, a majority of which is designated wilderness. Famous for its cactus, the park derives its name from the saguaro cactus, which is of course, native to the region.

For many, the Giant Saguaro is the universal symbol of the American West. Experience these glorious plants, silhouetted by the setting sun and you will discover just how magical this part of the country really is.

Saguaro National Park also protects some of the most impressive forests of these sub-tropical giants, in the world. The wilderness area is equally as impressive and is home to endless acres of untouched backcountry



### Climate

Unlike most National Parks in the United States, the best time to visit Saguaro is in winter. The days are mildly warm, with cool nights that average 40 Degrees Fahrenheit.

Summers get extremely hot, with daytime temperatures exceeding 105 Degrees Fahrenheit. It is important to always wear a hat and sunscreen when out hiking during summer, and be sure to keep plenty of water on person.

### Things to See and Do

#### Rincon Mountain District

The Rincon Mountain District is situated on the east side of the park and offers a scenic driving tour, hiking trails, picnic areas and wilderness camping.

The visitor center in this district offers exhibits that focus on the natural and cultural history of the Sonoran Desert. This is the perfect place to visit to gain a sense of the importance of the desert to the wildlife that calls it home.

#### Tucson Mountain District

The Tucson Mountain District is located on the west side of the park and also offers scenic driving tours, fantastic walking tracks, picnic areas and interpretive programs.

Much like the Rincon Mountain District, this section of the park also boasts a visitor center that focuses on the cultural and natural history of the park. "Voices of the Desert" is a fifteen-minute program that explores the Native American perspective of the **Sonoran Desert**, and is an interesting watch to uncover the many fascinating aspects of the park.

## Hiking

Hiking in **Saguaro National Park** is the perfect activity for those seeking adventure. Trekking into the rugged wilderness will bring with it challenges that even experienced hikers can find difficult. The terrain here is very rough, but the scenery is untouched and creates a peaceful ambience that is unlike anywhere else in the world.

There are more than 165 miles of hiking trails on offer that range from light strolls to day-long wilderness treks.

## Wildlife

Saguaro cacti are host to a great variety of animals, making this National Park one that is home to a unique array of wildlife. Saguars attract woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks and white-winged doves.

The drier areas of the park are frequented by pack rats, jackrabbits, mule deer and bighorn sheep, while sex species of rattlesnakes also call the area home.

## RV Camping

Unfortunately there is no drive-in camping available within Saguaro National Park. Backcountry camping is permitted in the wilderness area, but does require a permit fee of \$6/night, which can be purchased from the Rincon Mountain District visitor center.

RV camping is available in nearby county and state parks in the Coronado National Forest.

# California – Yosemite National Park

## Biking Around Yosemite

An RV vacation in California simply wouldn't be complete without visiting the extremely popular, Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite is internationally recognized for its spectacular granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant Sequoia groves and impressive biological diversity.



Yosemite is situated in Central California's Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and spans for an impressive 1,170 square miles. However most of the 3.7 million annual visitors flock to the Yosemite Valley area of the park.

This glacial valley is carved out by the Merced River and boasts spectacular natural attractions like the Half Dome, El Capitan and the gorgeous Yosemite Falls.

The majestic sights of Yosemite have been attracting visitors for generations. With so much natural scenic beauty, it is no wonder it is one of the country's most visited natural attractions.

## **Why Bike?**

Cycling is a fantastic way to see the **Yosemite Valley** as it allows you to explore parts of it that simply aren't accessible by car.

Over 12 miles of paved bike paths make their way through the valley, while cyclists can also ride on the regular roads if they obey the traffic laws.

Unfortunately, cycling is not permitted off the trail, meaning mountain biking is not an option. However, the paths will take you past some stunning scenery so you won't miss out on the good bits.

The terrain is relatively flat ensuring all levels of cyclists can enjoy easy cruising, while soaking up the idyllic surrounds.

Bikes can be rented from early Spring to late Fall, and are available at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls and Curry Village recreation area.

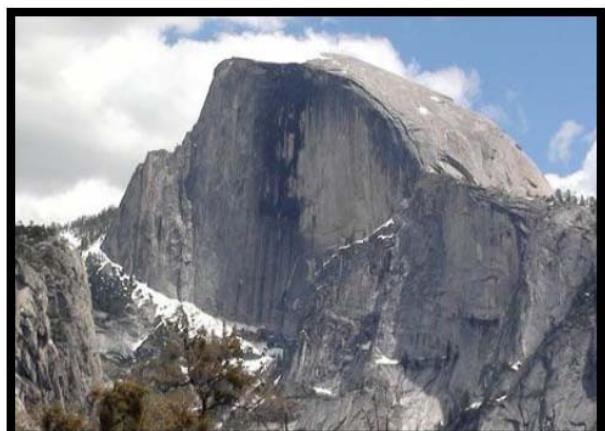
## **Operating Hours and Seasons**

The park is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, with no reservations required to visit. The Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station is only open during daylight hours, with some roads closed due to snow around November through May or June.

## **What to expect in...**

### **Summer**

Summer is a fantastic time to visit Yosemite as it is easily accessible and the climate is warm to hot. Since most of the water flowing here comes from snowmelt, the waterfalls tend to dry up this time of year; however the wildflowers tend to be in full bloom.



### Fall

The park generally remains open through the months of fall, unless it snows heavy enough to cause a closure. The climate varies from hot to cold and water levels tend to remain very low.

### Winter

During the winter months, the snow falls heavily in Yosemite, creating a place of peace and solitude. During this time, the Tioga Road is closed, with restrictions also placed on the roads between Crane Flat and Tioga Pass, and Glacier Point. Most of the park is covered in snow and water levels are low until the ice begins to melt.

### Spring

The waterfalls are at their best during the months of Spring, making this the perfect time to visit Yosemite. Togra and Glacier Point roads can remain closed until late May, and tire chains are still recommended. Exploring the rushing creeks, majestic cascades and pumping waterfalls can be enjoyed in warm weather, with winter storms making an appearance only occasionally.

## California – Sequoia National Park

Pleasantly positioned in the Southern Nevada of California, Sequoia National Park is a must-see while in this part of the US.



Famous for its namesake, this National Park is home to one of the world's most impressive collections of Sequoia trees. It is also home to the largest tree on earth, the General Sherman tree.

Spanning an impressive 404,051 acres, the park boasts giant forests that are the resting place of many of the world's largest trees.

The vast majority of the park is roadless wilderness, with its back country boasting a vast expanse of high-alpine wonders. This stunning scenery will continue to amaze you for the duration of your visit here, and makes for a dramatic backdrop whilst camping in your RV.

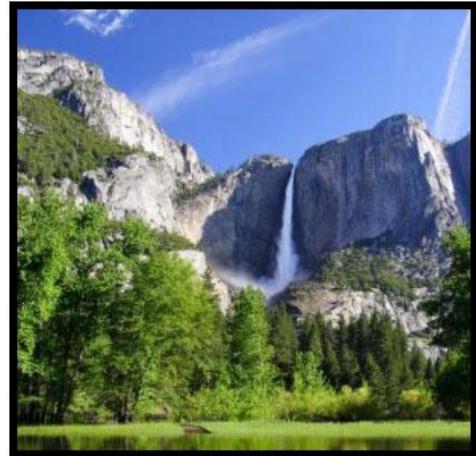
## Park Attractions

### Tunnel Log

This popular attraction is a tunnel that has been cut through a fallen giant sequoia. The hole that was cut in it in 1938 measures 8-feet tall and 17-feet wide. However, these measurements give you only just an idea of how big this tree actually is.

### Moro Rock

Located right in the centre of the park, this granite dome stands at the head of Moro Creek and boasts a 400-step stairway to its peak.



### Weather

Temperatures vary by elevation within **Sequoia National Park**, so be prepared for conditions to change drastically and unexpectedly. In general the winters are mild and wet, while the summer is hot and dry.

### What to Do

There is a lot to see and do in Sequoia National Park, and this extends to much further than the giant Sequoia trees. The Crystal Cave Tour will allow you to explore the underground wonderland of the park, while also marveling at the gorgeous waterfalls that are sprinkled throughout it. Ash Mountain is also well worth a visit and the Giant Forest Museum never fails to please!

### Wildlife

The foothills region of the park is abundant with wildlife, with bobcats, foxes, ground squirrels, rattlesnakes and mule deer commonly frequenting the area. Bears and mountain lions have been known to wander these parts so make sure you keep an eye out and cover your food at all times.

### Camping

The park offers 14 campgrounds, which mostly work on a first-come, first-served basis. Group campgrounds are popular for RV travelers, and popular grounds include the Sunset Campground, Canyon View Campground, and Dorst Campground.

# California – Death Valley National Park

Famous for being the hottest, driest and lowest place in North America, Death Valley National Park is an intriguing place to visit all year round.

Death Valley is located east of the Sierra Nevada in the arid Great Basin and covers a total area of 5,262 square miles. The park is richly steeped in a strong mining history



This desert park is home to streams of sand dunes, spectacular snow-capped mountains, multicolored rock layers, water-fluted canyons and 3 million acres of wilderness. It may be the harshest desert in the United States, but it is also one of its most beautiful. While visiting spend some time exploring historic mining sites, discovering shadowy canyons and absorbing the beauty of the sun-drenched salt flats.

**Death Valley** is visited by more than 770,000 visitors each year, who are all seeking to discover the striking geological features, diverse desert wildlife, richly history sites and the majesty of the clear night sky's stars.

## Climate

**Death Valley National Park** is known for its dry, sunny weather all year round. Summers are extremely hot and dry, while winters are mild with occasional storms.

The best time to visit is undoubtedly in winter, as the days are cool and the mountains are usually snow-capped. Spring is also a popular time to visit. The days are warm and sunny and there are gorgeous spring wildflowers out in full bloom.



## Things to See and Do

Death Valley is an impressively vast stretch of land that boasts over 3 million acres of designated wilderness. The park boasts an unsurpassed terrain, unique historic sites, incredible plants and amazing animals. In fact, there is no other place on earth quite like it.

## *Scotty's Castle*

**Death Valley Ranch** or, more lovingly referred to as Scotty's Castle, can be found in the far northern end of the park. Step back in time as you uncover a mystery hideout and getaway that was built with money from rich secret mines in the area.

The building itself is truly remarkable, and a tour is a must!

## *Sand Dunes*

The sand dunes that rise above Mesquite Flat are an impressive 100 feet tall and are particularly beautiful in the early morning and late afternoon. However, at moonlight they are at their most beautiful, and simply cannot be missed.

Sliding down the dunes is a particularly popular past time, purely because it is just so much fun!



## *Hiking*

There are literally thousands of hiking possibilities in **Death Valley National Park**. However, due to the harsh and dry conditions, it is best just to stick to some of the shorter walks. Some of the easy trails will lead you around Grand Canyon, Salt Creek, Titus Canyon Narrows and Badwater Salt Flats.

For those seeking something a little harder, but not too strenuous, popular trails include the Darwin Falls, Gower Gulch Loop and Mosaic Canyon trails.

## *Wildlife*

Despite the extremes in climate, Death Valley National Park is home to a truly diverse range of wildlife including 56 mammals, 36 reptiles, 5 amphibians, 6 fish and nearly 400 bird species.

Animals you may come across during your exploration include the bighorn sheep, kit fox, antelope ground squirrel, desert woodrat, black-tailed jackrabbit and kangaroo rat.

## *RV Camping*

There are 9 designated campgrounds within Death Valley National Park. The grounds most suitable for RVs include Furnace Creek, Mesquite Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Sunset and Texas Spring Campgrounds.

## California – Mojave National Preserve

The Mojave National Preserve is characterized by its remarkable sand dunes, its volcanic cinder cones, its untouched Joshua Tree forests and its endless fields of gorgeous wildflowers.

The park spans an impressive 1.6 million acres, with much of this considered wilderness area. The landscape is interrupted by canyons, mountains and mesas, along with the occasional abandoned mine, homestead and rock-walled military outposts.



Mojave is perfect for RV travelers wishing to escape the hustle and bustle of the city, and discover peace and solitude that is so often hard to come by in the United States.

Experience desert life at its best and uncover hidden civilizations, resting by stunning volcanic ranges and jagged terrain. The awe-inspiring beauty and intrigue of this park is sure to have you coming back for more, time and time again.

### **Climate**

As Mojave is a desert area, visitors to the park should expect bright, clear skies and seasonally strong winds. The temperature varies greatly between the night and day, with the weather at night quite cool, compared to the usual heat during the day.

At areas of low elevation, the temperatures can soar above 100 degrees F. and this typically begins in May and can last all the way through to October. Therefore it is wise to pack the appropriate clothing to prevent unwanted sunburn.

### **Things to See and Do**

#### **Cinder Cones and Lava Flows**

RV travelers can venture down Kelbaker Road, which will take you across the rugged terrain of lava flows and volcanic cinder cones, natural wonders that are thought to date back over 7 million years ago.

The Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark is a beautiful sight, set amongst a rugged landscape that delights the senses and will leave you breathless.

## Kelso Dunes

These massive dunes are an extremely popular attraction within the park, and it's not just their size that draws the tourists in. The dunes boast strange phenomena that are known as "singing" or "booming". When the moisture content is right they emit a low thrumming sound as sand slides down the slopes, providing an interesting attraction and a somewhat eerie atmosphere for tourists.



## Hiking

**Mojave National Preserve** offers a wealth of walking opportunities for avid hikers and those just wanting to see a bit of the park up close. Some of the developed trails include the Lake Tuendae Nature Trail, Teutonia Peak Trail and Rock Spring Loop Trail. Each of these trails is relatively short and easy and ideal if you have a spare morning or afternoon.

However, if you wish to see a little more of the park in its untouched form, there are several recommended routes that aren't established trails but are highly suitable for experienced hikers.

Explore Keystone Canyon and experience spectacular views, while spotting the odd pinyon pine, juniper and turbinella oak. Piute Creek is another popular area to explore and will expose you to the ruins of Fort Piute, which was built and manned in the 1880's to protect mail and travelers on the Mojave Road.

## Wildlife



Contrary to the common belief that deserts have little in the way of wildlife, the Mojave Desert is actually home to a vast diversity of wildlife that continues to amaze visitors time and time again.

Coyotes, snakes, lizards and lots of rats like to wander the desert sands of the Mojave. Mule deer are also important to the Mojave Desert, and is home to one of the most significant habitats for these creatures in the country.

## RV Camping

Mojave is known as camper's paradise, with most camping facilities operating on a first-come, first-served basis.

The most suitable campground for RVs is the Hole-in-the-Wall campground. Surrounded by sculptured volcanic rock walls, this is a great base camp for those wishing to explore the nearby Mitchell Caverns in the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area.

Facilities include vault toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire rings, picnic tables and a dump station. Unfortunately no hook-ups are available.

## California – Joshua Tree National Park

Joshua Tree National Park is nestled on 800,000 acres of immense, virtually untouched land, and is home to a rugged terrain and unforgiving landscapes.

This land is delicate and very fragile, and is a special habitat for some of the country's most unique flora and fauna. Two very different kinds of desert come together here; one dominated by the abundant creosote bush, the other, extensively habituated by the Joshua Tree.

The park also boasts an impressive array of geological features. Twisted rocks and exposed granite structures frequent the landscape, interrupting the otherwise flat terrain. The beauty lies in the uniqueness of this setting and is at its most awe inspiring at sunrise and sunset.



The solitude of this park really is what makes it so special and the perfect destination for an RV holiday. **Joshua Tree National Park** is perfect for those who know what nature is truly all about and will continue to delight those people for years to come.

## Climate

The best time to visit the park falls within the months of Spring and Fall. The temperatures during these times are very pleasant and the days are typically very clear.

Summers can get very hot and winters see the occasional snow. Come prepared for changes in weather and temperature, as these can often change without notice.

## Things to See and Do

### Wildflower Viewing

The wildflowers that bloom in Joshua Tree National Park are beautiful and offer a delightful array of color and vibrancy to the park.

Wildflower season usually begins with the large cream-colored blooms of the Joshua trees in late February. This is followed by a vast array of colorful annuals which bloom at lower elevations within the park. The cacti usually start flowering in April or May, making this an ideal time to visit.

### Hiking

The park offers a total of 12 self-guiding nature trails that range in length and difficulty. If you are after a short trail that still offers exposure to the fantastic natural highlights of the park, some of the best short tracks includes the Arch Rock trail, Cap Rock trail and Cottonwood Spring trail.

For those seeking something a little more extreme, great options include the Lost Palms Oasis, Mastodon Peak and Ryan Mountain trails.

### Wildlife

During the day, don't be surprised to come across a wide array of birds, lizards and ground squirrels. However, it is at night that the real desert animals come out to play. Snakes, bighorn sheep, kangaroo rats, coyotes and black-tailed jack rabbits frequent these parts, with dusk and dawn the best times to spot them.

While camping in the park it is important to keep food covered at all times, to prevent these wildlife from wandering into your camp.



### RV Camping

**Joshua Tree National Park** does not offer hook ups for RVs, however some sites do offer dump stations. Black Rock and Cottonwood campgrounds both offer water, a large number of sites and are extremely affordable.

Backcountry camping is also permitted for those wishing to escape to the true wilderness. Discover interesting rock formations, plants and wildlife as you venture right into the heart of this incredible park.

## Idaho/Montana/Wyoming - Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, making it America's first National Park. Its entirety spans across the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, making it easily accessible and a fantastic place to spend some time while visiting either of these states.

Highlights of the park include the famous **Old Faithful Geyser**, along with a stunning collection of the world's most extraordinary geysers and hot springs.

Another natural feature the park is known for is its Grand Canyon, which although not as impressive as its bigger sister in Arizona, is still a dramatic landscape that can't be missed.

The park is comprised of an unsurpassed array of lakes, canyons, rivers and mountain ranges, making it a scenic delight for the eyes.

However, it's the geothermal activity that occurs here that draws in the tourists. In fact, half of the world's geothermal features are in Yellowstone, with lava flows and rocks from volcanic eruptions covering a majority of the land area of the park.

Yellowstone is the ideal destination to take an RV vacation because with so much to see and do it is almost impossible to get bored here. There is also the fact that there is no better vacation than one surrounded by true natural beauty and picturesque settings.

### *The Seasons*

#### *Summer*

The days of summer are very pleasant in Yellowstone, but be aware that temperatures can drop below freezing during the night. Thunderstorms are also common in the afternoons.

#### *Winter*

Yellowstone is incredibly cold during the winter months, with temperatures well below 20F during the day. Sub-zero temperatures are common during the night so be sure to stay rugged up.



## Spring and Fall

Spring and Fall in Yellowstone offers a combination between summer and winter temperatures. However, these do tend to be seasons that bring about sudden changes so be prepared and make sure to bring along a wide range of clothing options.

## Things to Do

**Yellowstone** is overflowing with things for the avid adventurer to take part in. Hiking is by far one of the most popular past times, and wish so much so see and do you could spend days at a time doing this.

The Park is also deeply steeped in a rich history, with many historic viewing points on offer. The Old Faithful area is particularly interesting, with several historic sites on offer.



Other fantastic natural highlights of the park include Mammoth, Norris, Madison, West Thumb and Grant Village, and of course, the canyon.

## The Wildlife

If there is one thing Yellowstone is known for, besides the wonderful geothermal features, it's the wildlife.

Yellowstone National Park is widely considered to be the finest mega fauna wildlife habitat in the lower 48 state. The park is home to 60 species of mammals and this includes the gray wolf, the threatened lynx, and of course the grizzly bears.

The grizzly bears are by far the most exciting animal in the park, but keep in mind that they are also the most dangerous. Always remember to cover your food at night and during the day to prevent the bears from wondering into your RV camp.



## Camping

When it comes to places to camp in Yellowstone, visitors really are spoilt for choice. However, if you are after somewhere to stay that offers water and sewer facilities, your best bet is the Fishing Bridge RV Park.

Reservations will need to be made in advance as this is a popular place for RVers to camp.



## **Idaho/ Montana/ Wyoming – Glacier National Park**

**Glacier National Park** is situated in the state of Montana and is America's 10th oldest National Park. The story of Glacier National Park's past, present and future is one shared by many diverse cultures and people. And this is clearly evident from the moment you enter the park.

Stunning mountain ranges are the most prominent feature of the park and paint remarkable landscapes of ever green, snow-capped peaks.

The valleys are just as beautiful, with crystal clear lakes and pristine creeks running plentifully throughout the land.

### **Climate**

Glacier National Park is known for its high rainfall, and daytime temperatures can often exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year. Overnight lows throughout the park can drop to near 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and snow has been known to fall at any time.

Conditions are constantly changing within this National Park so be sure to come prepared.



### **Things to See and Do**

From boating to biking, there is something for everyone in Glacier National Park. During the winter months, skiing is a popular option, with the landscape transforming into a white wonderland.

Hiking is extremely popular in the warmer months and there is the option to tough it in your own group or take a guided tour. If you are looking for a scenic drive to undertake in your RV, you really can't go past the Going-to-the-Sun-Road, which is undoubtedly one of the most amazing highlights of the park. This road will take you through the park's wildest interior and through the gorgeous mountain scenery that this park is famous for.

## Hiking



**Glacier National Park** boasts over 730 miles of walking tracks and these trails offer the perfect way to see the untouched wilderness of the park. The trails range from short to long, with many suitable for beginners, all the way through to experienced hikers.

Some of the more popular hiking areas include Lake McDonald, Many Glacier, St Mary/Logan Pass and Two Medicine. Many of these areas offer pumping creeks and waterfalls, magnificent lakes and stunning examples of nature.

## Wildlife

Both black bears and grizzly bears are common in this National Park, so safety precautions should be enforced at all times. The most important thing is to keep your food covered at all times, to reduce food odors and therefore decrease the likelihood of bears wandering into your camp.

Mountain Lions have also been known to hang around the campgrounds, so it is important to keep small children close by at all times.



## RV Camping

RV camping within **Glacier National Park** is Rocky Mountain camping at its finest. The Stanton Creek RV Park is ideal for RV travelers and offers the most convenient location for access to the park and the Great Bear Wilderness.

The park offers full service RV sites with 30 amp service, with established fire pits, public restrooms and showers, along with the luxuries of a bar, lounge and casino. The park is also located within close proximity to some fantastic hiking trails that will easily allow you to explore the highlights of the park.

## Idaho/Montana/Wyoming – Grand Teton National Park

Located in north-western Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park is home to some of the most spectacular mountain ranges in the country.

Spanning an area of 484 square miles, **Grand Teton National Park** boasts parts of the Rocky Mountains and a large portion of the Teton Range. The area is extremely biologically diverse, hosting over 1000 species of vascular plants and an impressive array of wildlife.

The landscape here is dominated by majestic mountains, pristine lakes and stunning scenery. The jagged peaks of the Teton Range create a looming presence, and their reflections in the glacial lakes add to the picturesque nature of this amazing place.

The park attracts more than four million visitors per year and is the ideal destination for RV travelers. With so much to see and do you may never wish to leave.



### Climate

**Grand Teton National Park** usually experience heavy snowfall from November through to March, so if you are traveling during these times, make sure to come prepared for cold weather.

Summer temperatures are pleasant and range in the 70s and 80s, with temperatures at night generally dropping to a cool 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Raingear is recommended during spring, summer and fall, with afternoon showers occurring frequently in the park during these months.

### Things to See and Do

#### Oxbow Bend

Located within the wonderful Jackson Hole area, Oxbow Bend is a fantastic place to spot wildlife like moose, elk, pelicans, sand hill cranes and bald eagles. This area also offers unsurpassed views of the Snake River, which flows freely through the park and offers a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere to the already beautiful surroundings.

## Grand Teton

Grand Teton is the highest mountain in the park and is essentially what gave it its name. It stands at an impressive 13,775 feet and is the most significant mountain within the range. The peak can be climbed via the Owen-Spalding Route, however should only be attempted by highly experienced climbers.

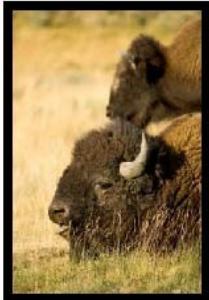
## Hiking

Grand Teton National Park is a hiker's paradise, with over 200 miles of trails on offer. Visitors can spend time exploring the magnificent mountain terrain, with trails that delve into sunken valleys and canyons.

Experienced climbers can also tackle the mountain ranges, with several great hiking trails on these available.

The Teton Crest Trail is a popular walk and will take you into the depths of Paintbrush Canyon. The views you will experience on this hike will simply blow you away, so be sure to take the camera along.

## Wildlife



The park is home to an impressive array of wildlife, many of which frequent this park and the nearby Yellowstone National Park. Dangerous animals to watch out for include the grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, wolves and coyotes. It is important to keep food covered at all times while camping in the park to prevent these animals from entering the park.

Grand Teton also boasts a spectacular amount of bird varieties, with over 300 species known to habituate these areas. This makes Grand Teton a popular destination for bird watching so make sure to bring along some binoculars.

## RV Camping

Grand Teton National Park offers numerous campgrounds however only two are suitable for RV camping. The Flagg Ranch campground is suitable for both RVs and tents, while Colter Bay Trailer Village only offers facilities for RV camping. Full hook-ups are available at both sites.

Colter Bay campground is a popular place to stay because of its easy access to the lake. Places fill up quick so be sure to get in early.

## Nevada - Great Basin National Park



**The Great Basin** is a diverse region of the United States that should be visited at least once in a lifetime. This is the place to come to experience the solitude of the desert, the smell of the sagebrush after a thunderstorm and the shining stars in all their glory.

This dry and mountainous range is located between the Sierra Nevada and the Wasatch Mountains and is basically a 200,000 square mile area that drains internally. The Great

Basin impressively includes most of Nevada, half of Utah, and sections of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and California.

**The Basin and Range** region is the product of geological forces that have, over the years, stretched the earth's crust and created many north-south trending mountain ranges. During the last 5000 years, bristlecone pine trees have grown on the rocky glacial moraines that have formed, creating a desert setting like no other.

The Great Basin Desert is defined by its plant and animal communities. The diversity of plant and wildlife here makes it an intriguing place to visit and a fantastic place to relax in peace and serenity.

### Climate

Weather conditions within the park vary according to the differences in elevation. However, since the Great Basin is a desert, expect low relative humidity and sharp drops in temperature at night.

During the summer months, thunderstorms are common so be sure to pack for dramatic changes in the weather.

### Things to Do

#### Lehman Caves

The Lehman Caves are made of marble and have been beautifully decorated with stalactites, stalagmites, helictite, flowstone, popcorn and over 300 rare shield formations.

Take a guided tour of these remarkable caves and discover a whole new world of wonder and beauty.

## Lexington Arch

Lexington Arch is one of the largest limestone arches in the western United States. This stunning natural feature can only be accessed from a dirt road, along Utah State Route 21, which may prove difficult in your RV. However, the drive is well worth it because the arch is visually stunning.

## Hiking

The best way to explore the Great Basin National Park is by hiking in it. There are 12 trails that range in both length and difficulty, ensuring there are walks suitable for everyone.



For those searching for a bit of a challenge, the Wheeler Summit Trail will be the perfect option. The high altitudes of this walk can make it very strenuous and it is therefore only recommended for experienced hikers.

## The Wildlife

For a desert National Park, there is actually a high diversity of wildlife on offer. In total, there are 73 species of mammals, 18 species of reptiles, 238 species of birds, 2 species of amphibians and 8 species of fish.

Wildlife to keep an eye out for includes the mountain lions and bob cats, which can be very dangerous if provoked.

## RV Camping

The Great Basin National Park offers four developed campsites that each offer vault toilets, picnic tables and campfire grills. These include the Lower Lehman Creek Campground, Upper Lehman Creek Campground, the Wheeler Peak Campground and the Baker Creek Campground.

An RV Sanitary Station is located just half a mile inside the park on the main entrance road, for your convenience.

## Oregon - Crater Lake National Park

Crater Lake National Park is like no other place on earth and has been inspiring visitors with its sheer natural beauty for years.



The park is characterized by its deep, pure blue lake and the sheer, high-reaching cliffs that surround it. The park is also home to two picturesque islands and a violent volcanic past.

**Crater Lake National Park** is situated in Southern Oregon and was established in 1902, making it the sixth oldest National Park in the United States.

The Lake itself is one of the deepest in the world, and the second deepest in North America. It is undoubtedly the highlight of the park and its sheer beauty simply cannot be missed.

Other highlights of the park include the Pumice Desert and the Pinnacles,

### *Climate*

#### *Winter*

The climate in winter is dramatic and this is equally matched by the awe-inspiring landscape. From October to June, the National Park is a snow-covered wilderness, making it the perfect destination for skiing and snowshoeing opportunities.

Everything is blanketed with snow, which makes access to the park difficult (particularly in an RV). Make sure you check ahead for snow fall to avoid disappointment on arrival.



#### *Summer*

The weather in May and June can vary from warm and sunny to snowy and foggy, with temperatures ranging from below freezing to 65 degree Fahrenheit.

If you wish to travel in the park during warm and dry weather, the best time to head of is in July, August or September. However keep in mind that temperatures are still low during the night, so be sure to pack for varying temperatures.

## Hiking

Hiking is a fantastic way to see the wonder and beauty of Crater Lake National Park. The park offers more than 90 miles of hiking trails that range in both length and difficulty.

Many of the trails offer unsurpassed views of the lake so be sure to take the camera along!

## Things to Do

### Volcano Boat Cruises

The Volcano Boat Cruises offer a fantastic perspective of the lake as they take you around the perimeter of the lake. Discover the history and cultural significance of the lake on this 1 hour and 45 minute tour.

Stops on the tour include Wizard Island and Phantom Ship, which are both equally fascinating.

### Fishing

Keen fishing enthusiasts come to **Crater Lake** for the Kokanee Salmon and Rainbow Trout that frequent its waters. The best place for fishing on the lake is off Cleetwood Cove which provides about a quarter mile of rocky shoreline for angling.

A fishing license is not required, which means beginners are welcome to cast a line and try their luck.

### Snow Activities

During the winter season, the park comes alive with visitors seeking the ultimate in skiing and snowshoeing. There are 9 different ski trails on offer that range in length and difficulty.

The weather and dramatic snowfall in this park makes it the perfect location for avid skiers.

## RV Camping

Mazama Village Campground is the only place within the park to camp with an RV. Mazama Village is located 7 miles from the rim of **Crater Lake**, just inside the south entrance gate to the park.

The park accommodates RVs up to 50 feet in length and is open from mid-June to late September/early October.

## Washington – Mount Rainier National Park

Mount Rainier National Park is one of Washington State's three National Parks and is by far it's most beautiful. Established in 1899, this is America's fifth oldest National Park.

The park covers a total area of 386 square miles and is home to the entirety of Mount Rainier. The mountain rises majestically over an impressive array of valleys, waterfalls, forests and breathtaking glaciers.

Mount Rainier is also circled by the Wonderland Trail, which offers unsurpassed access to spectacular glaciers and snow fields. The trail spans an impressive 35 square miles though so it is only best undertaken if you have plenty of time to explore it.

**Mount Rainier National Park** truly is a source of inspiration and is the perfect way to learn about glaciers, discover life within the rainforest and see the tip of a mountain disappear in the shroud of clouds.



### Climate

The climate in **Mount Rainier National Park** is generally cool and rainy. The sunniest months of the year are July and August, making them the best times to visit. However, keep in mind that snow remains at 5000 to 8000 feet elevation well into mid-July, so be sure to pack for unexpected cold temperatures.

Mountain weather changes all the time so be prepared for showers at any point in the day or night, year round.

## Places to Visit

### Paradise

Similar to its name, the area of Paradise is like a heaven on earth and simply cannot be missed while in the park. Located on the southern slope of Mount Rainier, Paradise is the most popular destination for visitors and is home to the Paradise Inn and Visitor Center.

Paradise is well known as "the snowiest place on earth" so be prepared to experience some chilly weather while in the area.



### Longmire

Longmire is the second most popular destination in the park and is home to a visitor center, Wilderness Information Centre an Inn and the Longmire Museum.

Longmire is one of the starting points for the Wonderland Trail, so if you are thinking of embarking on this adventure, this will be your perfect base.

### Hiking

Hiking is a fantastic way to see the highlights of **Mount Rainier National Park**, and the great news is that day hikers do not require a permit.

The National Park offers over 260 miles of maintained tracks that lead through ancient forests, past picturesque lakes and through endless fields of wildflowers.

Popular short trails in the park include the Trail of Shadows, Nisqually Vista Trail, Bench & Snow Lakes Trail and the Silver Falls Trail, just to name a few.

However the trekking highlight of the park is without a doubt the Wonderland Trail. Spanning an impressive 93 miles, this trail encircles Mt Rainier, while also taking you through lowland forests and valleys and into high alpine and sub-alpine regions.

## Wildlife



**Mount Rainier National Park** is home to an amazing diversity of wildlife and the protected nature of the park makes it a safe environment in which these precious creatures can flourish and live in peace.

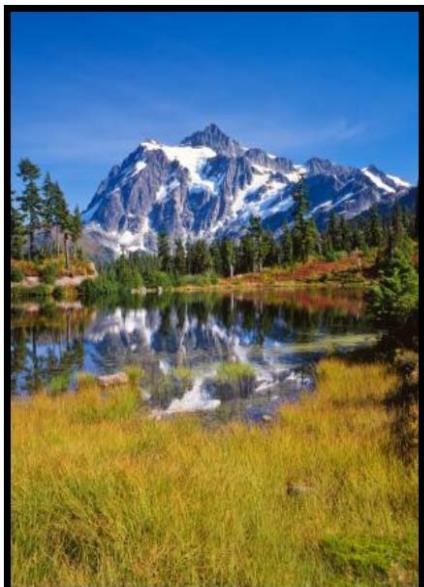
Mount Rainier is home to 54 species of mammals, 126 species of birds and 17 species of amphibians and reptiles. You are likely to encounter many of these in the park, with some of the most visible including the Douglas Squirrel, the porcupine, elk and the Townsend's Chipmunk.

Keep an eye out for mountain lions and coyotes as these are dangerous animals and should be avoided if possible.

## RV Camping

**Mount Rainier National Park** offers 5 campgrounds, each at different levels of elevation. The two most suitable for RV camping are the Cougar Rock campground, which is located in the south-western section of the park, and Ohanapecosh, which is situated in the south-east corner of the park.

Both offer a large number of sites and are open from late May to early October. Each also offers water, flush toilets and a dump station. Reservations are a must!



## Washington – North Cascades National Park

Encompassing jagged mountain peaks, plunging valleys, plummeting waterfalls and a glorious array of glaciers, North Cascades National Park simply must be visited at least once in a lifetime.

The park is located in the state of Washington and spans an impressive 684,000 acres. This area also includes the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation areas.

The park was named after the abundance waterfalls that lace the mountains. These cascades are stunning and are essentially what draws the tourists in, besides the gorgeous mountain ranges. The best known waterfalls are Gorge Falls and Rainbow Falls; both of these warrant a visit.

## Climate

The best time to visit the park is from mid-June to late-September, as this is about the only time in the year the park is not completely blanketed in snow. However, regardless of what time of year you are visiting, you should always remember that mountain weather is unpredictable and prone to sudden changes so come prepared.

## Things to See and Do

### Cascade Pass

**The Cascade Pass** can be found within the Northern Cascade Range in the park, and provides the easiest connection from the Cascade River to the head of Lake Chelam. This pass was originally a major route for Native Americans, and today, the hiking trail that passes over it is popular with explorers and adventurers from all walks of life.

Mount Shuksan

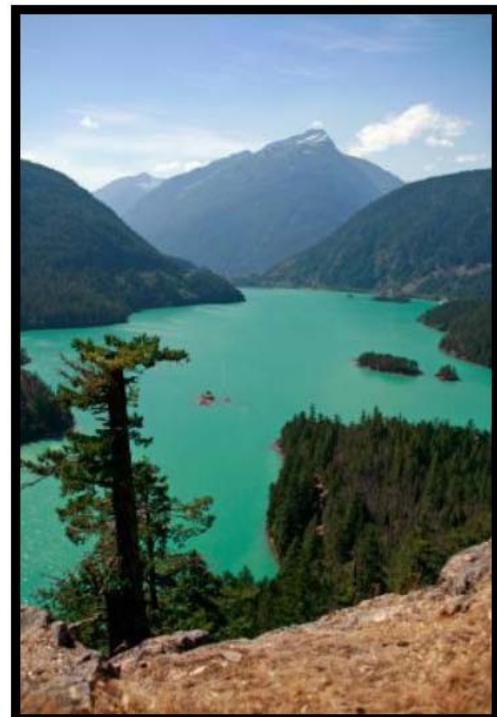
This glaciated peak lies in the northwest corner of the park and is one of the most photographed mountains in the country. The mountain itself is composed of Shuksan greenchist, which is oceanic basalt that was metamorphosed more than 120 million years ago.

### Outdoor Activities

**North Cascades National Park** offers a wealth of activities for outdoor adventurers or those simply wishing to get a taste of being out in nature. The park is renowned for its varied and rugged climbing terrain, making it a popular destination for rock climbers and mountaineers.

Boating and fishing are also extremely popular here, whether it be getting out on a lake in a tinny, or hiring a kayak to take a cruise down a river or stream, there is something on offer for everyone.

Bird watching is a popular option for those hoping to take a more laid back approach to their vacation here. With over 200 species that call this park home, it's a safe bet that you will spot at least a few.



## Hiking

The park boasts some of the finest mountain terrain in the country, making it an oasis of walks for hikers of all ages and descriptions.

The trails in the park range from short and scenic strolls to steep and grueling hikes, that although are painful, will lead you to some of the most beautiful destinations in the country.

Experience unsurpassed and uninterrupted views from mountain tops, the glorious untouched settings of flowing streams and pristine glaciers that are simply begging to be explored.

## Wildlife

The park is actually highly renowned for its wildlife, largely owing to its "wilderness area" status. Creatures that call **North Cascades** home include wolves, lynx, moose and wolverines, along with many other species of endangered animals.



## RV Camping

There are several campgrounds located in the park, however only some will be suitable for RV camping. A popular campground for small RVs is located at Goodell Creek and is positioned in lush, old growth forest, right on the banks of the Skagit River.



Campgrounds that offer appropriate facilities for RV camping, including dump stations, can be found at Newhalem Creek and Colonial Creek. Both of these campgrounds offer easy access to a wide range of recreational activities like boating, fishing and hiking, making them ideal places to base your RV on your vacation.

## Washington - Olympic National Park

**Olympic National Park** is known as a land of contrasts and variety and is a truly remarkable place to visit. It is here that the ocean meets the rainforest, along with some of the country's most beautiful snow-capped mountains and diverse ranges of wildlife.



*Located in Washington State, in the Olympic Peninsula, this National Park can be divided into three regions; the Pacific coastline, the Olympic Mountains and the temperate rainforest.*

The coastline is characterized by its rugged sandy beaches and prominent adjacent forests. Head a little further inland and you will uncover uplifting mountains that are topped with ancient glaciers. These changes in landscape vary dramatically but pleasantly blend in with each other and create unforgettable scenic sights.

### Climate

The climate within **Olympic National Park** is greatly influenced by the Pacific Ocean, which means that the weather is extremely varying from season to season.

Summers are generally fair and warm, while winters are mild at lower elevation, heavy snowfall occurring at levels of high elevation.

Throughout the year visitors should come prepared for sudden changes in the weather, as these changes can occur rapidly and without warning.



### Things to See and Do

#### Hurricane Ridge

Hurricane Ridge is one of the park's many mountainous areas and it a hotspot for hiking, skiing and snowboarding. The area is named for its strong gales and winds, and the weather is fairly unpredictable so it is best to come prepared.

## Fishing

This park is a fisherman's paradise thanks to the 3,000 miles of streams, rivers, lakes and beaches that can be found here. However, some restrictions are in place so make sure to check these out before travel.

## Hiking

The diversity of landscapes within Olympic National Park makes for a unique collection of walking trails that are suitable for all levels of fitness.

The coastline is a popular part of the park to discover through hiking, with both the north and south regions offering an impressive array of hiking trails.

The valleys of the park are also a fantastic place for hikers, with remarkable creeks, rivers and waterfalls waiting to be discovered.

Mountain climbing is another option, but this should only be attempted by experienced hikers and climbers.



## Wildlife

A great diversity of wildlife call Olympic National Park home. The coastline is home to maine animals such as whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals and sea otters and countless invertebrates.

Head inland and you are likely to come across deer, elk, cougars and bears, along with over 300 species of birds.



## RV Camping

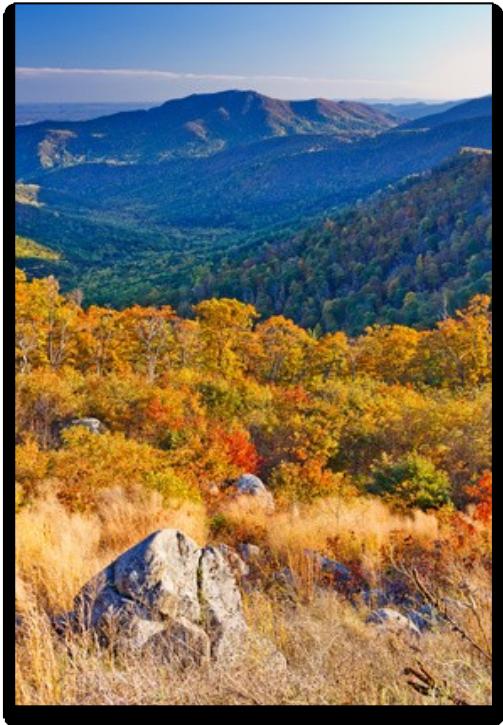
Olympic National Park offers a wide range of campgrounds, and while hook ups are not available, there are several campgrounds that are otherwise suitable for RVs. Elwha, Fairholme, Graves Creek, Heart O'the Hills, Hoh, Kalaloch, Mora, Ozette, Sol Duc, South Beach and Staircase campgrounds offer RV sites, with some length restrictions in place.

Staying in Olympic National Park in an RV will allow you to discover all the wonder, intrigue and beauty this incredible park has to offer and will open your eyes to the true wonder of nature.

# Washington – Shenandoah National Park

Situated just 75 miles outside **Washington DC**, **Shenandoah National Park** is a stunning wilderness oasis with an ideal geographical position. Encompassing part of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the state of Virginia, this National Park is a must-visit while in this part of the country.

The park itself is relatively long and narrow and straddles the Shenandoah River and the rolling hills of the Virginia Piedmont. The most prominent feature of the park is without a doubt the Skyline Drive, which is a perfect feat in an RV rental. This beautiful drive will take you along the crest of the mountains, through the woods and past spectacular outlooks of the dramatic landscapes here.



Two of the most prominent features of the park are the Stony Man and Hawksbill peaks, which both exceed 4,000 feet. Perfect for mountain climbing or simply sightseeing, these remarkable geological masterpieces create an impressive mix of habitats for the wide variety of flora and fauna that call this park home.

Parts of the Appalachian Trail also call this National Park home and they are perfect for discovering the secrets of the past and getting in touch with the incredible wild and plant life here.

## *The Seasons*

**Shenandoah National Park** boasts 4 distinct seasons, making it an exciting park to visit all year round. Spring would have to be the best time to visit as this is when the wildflowers come into bloom and the mountains are draped with a beautiful green carpet. Summer is equally as beautiful but has been known to bring with it sudden showers and the occasional thunderstorm.

Winters in the park can be severe, with snow and ice causing road restrictions and very chilly temperatures.

## *Things to Do*

There are many fantastic things to do within the park and not surprisingly, many of these revolve around the outdoors. Cycling is just one of these things and is permitted along Skyline Drive and on paved areas in the park.

Fishing is also popular with visitors of all ages, with the mountain streams of Shenandoah packed to the brim with native eastern brook trout. Restrictions apply so it is advised to check regulations before fishing in the park.

*Viewing the park by horseback* is another great option and there are several guided trail rides available here.

## Hiking

Over 500 miles of trails can be found within the Shenandoah National Park, making hiking an extremely popular past time here. 101 miles of these are part of the Appalachian Trail, and many of these walks will take you past some truly incredible scenery.

Some of the trails can easily be accessed from the Skyline Drive, with several of the shorter hikes leading to gorgeous waterfalls and outstanding viewing points.

Old Rag Mountain is one of the most frequented hikes in the park, and is recommended for people with moderate to high levels of fitness. The scramble to the top will reward you with awe-inspiring views over the vistas of the park. However, this walk can be very dangerous so it is important to attempt it with caution.



## The Wildlife

Shenandoah National Park is a hive of activity when it comes to the animal species that call it home. In fact, there are over 200 transient bird species here, over 50 kinds of mammals, reptiles and amphibians and an impressive 30 species of fish.

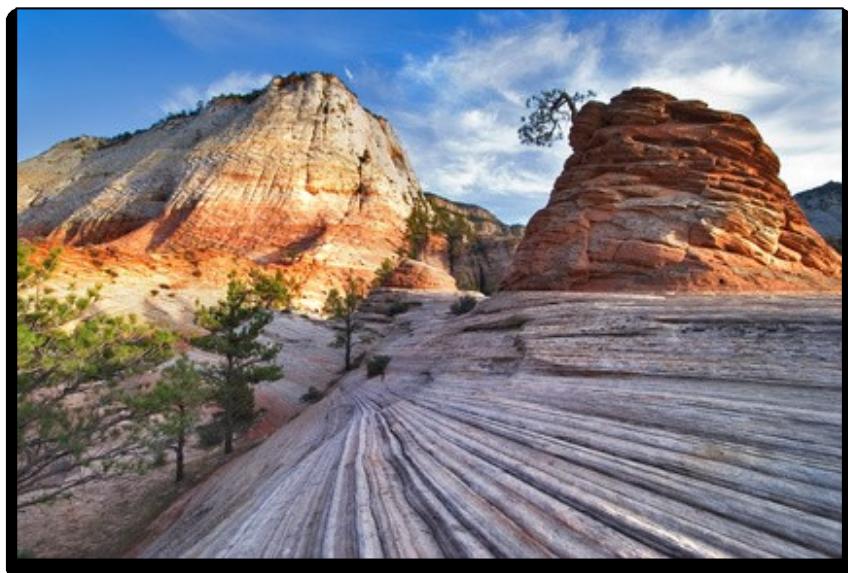
Animals you are most likely to encounter in the park include deer, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, opossums, groundhogs, gray foxes and eastern cottontails. However, it is important to keep your distance from them as they are wild and many of them can be dangerous.



## RV Camping

There are three campgrounds in Shenandoah National Park that are suitable for RVs. These include Matthews Arm, Big Meadows and Loft Mountain campgrounds. All of these have pull-through and deep back-in sites, and although there are no hook-ups, there is potable water and dump stations.

## South Dakota - Badlands National Park



Located in southwest South Dakota, **Badlands National Park** is positioned on 244,000 acres of unique geological features and vast landscapes. Boasting deep canyons, towering spires and flat-topped tables, the complexity of the landscapes here is guaranteed to take your breath away.

An RV truly is the best way to experience everything on offer in the Badlands.

People have been fascinated by the park for years and a lot of this owes to its unique history and awe-inspiring landscapes.

The park may be divided into two sections: the North Unit and the South Unit. The South Unit contains many sites sacred to the Oglala Lakota and other American Indian cultures, and this is evident through many of the objects and artifacts that can be found within the park.

An entrance fee is permitted for vehicles and comes at a cost of \$15 per vehicle for 7 days.

## The Seasons/Climate

The weather in Badlands National Park is extremely unpredictable, with heavy rain and hail frequently occurring throughout the year. Summer temperatures are extremely high so it is important to wear a hat and sunscreen at all times. Winter brings with it heavy snow and restricted road conditions due to slippery, icy roads.

## Things to Do

There are several ranger-guided programs available for visitors to the National Park, which are sure to keep tourists happy. Many of these programs include informative talks, guided walks, and nights around the campfire with the rangers.

There is also a program specifically tailored to meet the interests of young children aged from six to eleven. Kids are sure to love the opportunities these programs present, with a Junior Ranger patch at the end of the program, sure to bring smiles to their faces.

Horseback riding is a popular activity in the park and is permitted anywhere within the park except the marked trails, roads and developed areas. An area has been specifically designated for horses and can be found at the Sage Creek Campground.

Picnicking is another great way to experience the natural beauty that is present within the park. Picnic areas that offer tables include the Bigfoot and Conata Picnic Areas.

## Hiking

Hiking is a great way to see the many aspects of the park up-close and personal. Some of the best trails here include the Fossil Exhibit Trail, the Medicine Root Loop, and the Castle Trail, which is the park's longest and possibly most strenuous route.

It is important to take plenty of water when attempting these hikes, and wear safe and appropriate clothing and shoes.

## The Wildlife

The coyote, porcupine, American bison, prairie rattlesnake, big-horn sheep, bobcat and black-tailed prairie dog are just some of the creatures you will find in Badlands National Park.

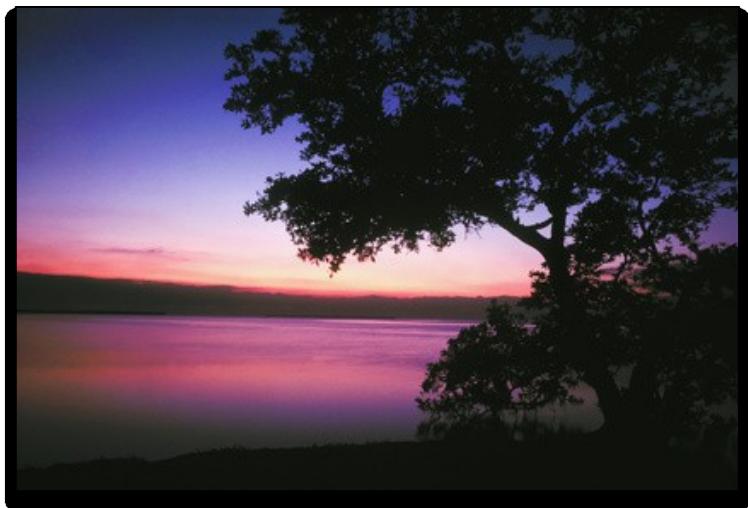
It is important not to feed any of these wildlife as this can lead to dependency on human contact. You should also aim not to get within 100 meters of the wildlife as this can be extremely dangerous for tourists.



## RV Camping

There are two campgrounds within the Badland's National Park: Cedar Pass and Sage Creek Primitive Campgrounds. Both of these campgrounds are open year round and operate on a first-in-first-served basis.

## Florida - Everglades National Park



Located in the US state of Florida, Everglades National Park is visited by around 1 million people each year and is the third-largest park in the country.

The park protects a fragile ecosystem of wetlands, protecting an interconnected network of marshland and forest ecosystems that are maintained by natural forces. This area is regarded as the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River and is an impressive habitat for

wetland birds.

Covering a total area of approximately 1.5 million acres, the possibilities in this park are seemingly endless. Spend hours on end watching the abundance of birds, hiking along the park's many trails or simply enjoying the warmth of a campfire at night. New adventures beckon from every corner of the park!

### *The Seasons/Climate*

The best time of year to visit the Everglades National Park is without a doubt from December through to April, when the climate is mild and pleasant. During winter, the temperatures reach freezing point, while all this melts away when summer rolls around, with hot and humid weather and thunderstorms a common occurrence.

The seasons here fall into either the wet or dry category, with the dry season lasting from December to April and the dry season occurring between May and November.

## Things to Do

When it comes to outdoor activities, Everglades National Park has it covered. Hiking trails are sprinkled across the park and offer endless enjoyment for hiking enthusiasts.

The diversity of habitats here means that visitors can enjoy activities like canoeing, kayaking and biking; all of which allow you to soak up the beautiful landscapes that this park boasts. Since one third of the National Park is covered in water, it is no surprise that fishing is such a popular past time here. Snapper, sea trout, red fish, bass and bluegill are plentiful in these waters; however keep in mind that fishing from the shore is limited, making a boat a must.

## Hiking

An impressive array of hiking trails offer visitors the chance to leisurely explore the park and the many wonderful things it has to offer. In fact, there are a total of 156 miles of hiking trails on offer here.

There are four areas of trails within Everglades: Flamingo Trails, Shark Valley Trails, Gulf Coast Trails and the Anhinga Trails. The landscapes along these trails vary from mangroves, lakes and woodlands, to dense forests and limestone formations, with biking along many of them a popular option.

## The Wildlife

Known as the "king of the Everglades" the American Alligator is essential to the survival of the **Everglades National Park**. These creatures are common throughout the freshwater marshes of the park, with the best time to see them out and about, in winter.

Several species of turtles also call the park home, and these include the striped mud turtle, the Florida red-belly, and the Florida box turtle. There are also quite a few endangered species of turtles, including the Atlantic hawksbill, the Atlantic ridley and the Atlantic Loggerhead.



**Everglades National Park** is also home to a unique diversity of some of the world's most beautiful birds. Over 350 different species call this park home, and these range from wading birds to land birds and birds of prey. The wetlands are a perfect nesting ground for birds, and this is essentially what makes the park such a popular bird watching destination.

## RV Camping

There are 2 official campgrounds within the Everglades National Park: The Flamingo Campground and the Long Pine Key Campground. Both of these campgrounds are open all year round, have picnic tables and dump stations and incur a fee of \$14 per night.

## Utah - Zion National Park

Known as Utah's first National Park, Zion is home to massive canyon walls and dramatic sandstone cliffs. Often referred to as sand castles crowning desert canyons, the geological features of this park are remarkable to say the least and will simply take your breath away.

Zion National Park is positioned near the small community of Springdale, an old agricultural town that has been transformed into an ideal base for travelers to the National Park.

There are a total of nine known geologic formations within the park and these are collectively known as the Grand Staircase. These are also part of the sedimentary rock layers that form sections of the Bryce Canyon National Park and the Grand Canyon.

These geological structures combine to make a park that inspires awe and may make you never wish to leave.



## The Seasons/Climate

The temperatures within **Zion National Park** vary due to the varying changes in elevation. Spring weather is generally very unpredictable, with stormy, wet days a common occurrence. However this is the time when the wildflowers come into bloom, making the landscapes truly magnificent.

Summer days are hot, with afternoon thunderstorms also common during these months. Winter brings with it rain and light snow, making the roads icy and restricting driving within the park from November through to March.

## Things to Do

The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive provides access to the beautiful Zion Canyon and is the perfect way to discover the immense beauty of the park. Along the way you will come across the wonders of the Weeping Rock, Emerald Pools, Angels Landing and The Narrows.

Biking and horseback riding are also popular ways to explore the park. The Pa'rus trail spans for 3.5 miles and is perfect for cycling along the beautiful Virgin River. Horseback riding can be arranged for one-hour and half day rides and bookings are recommended.

## Hiking

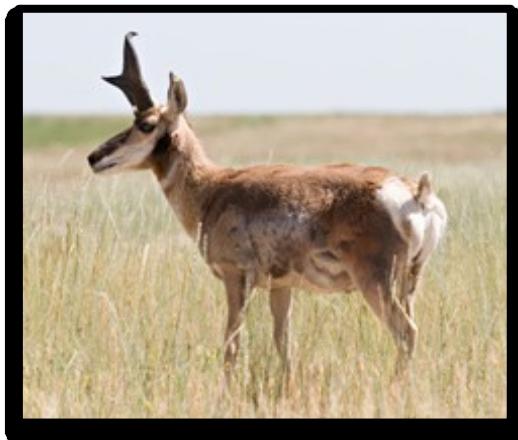
**Zion National Park** offers some truly fantastic hiking opportunities, with unbelievable scenery almost guaranteed. Some of the walks you simply must attempt while in the park include the Angels Landing Hike, which will take you around the West Rim, and the East Rim, Weeping Rock, Emerald Pools and Hidden Canyon hikes, which will expose you to the incredible beauty of the park.

However, the walk most people never pass up is The Narrows Trail. This 12.5 mile trek was carved by the waters of the Virgin River and really is the best way to capture a glance of the dramatic cliff faces that reach as far as the eye can see.

## The Wildlife

The park is home to an impressive 289 species of birds, 75 mammals and 32 reptiles. Mammals that have been known to frequent the park include skunks, ring-tailed cats, kangaroo rats, deer and big-horned sheep.

Bird watchers should keep an eye or two open for Peregrine falcons, eagles and wild turkeys; all of which have been known to call the park home throughout the year.



## RV Camping

There are two campgrounds within the **Zion National Park**: the South Campground and the Watchground Campground. Both of these sites offer close to 200 sites, offer dump stations and are 1 mile from the closest groceries, showers and service stations.

# Utah - Bryce Canyon National Park

**Bryce Canyon National Park** is unlike any other place on earth and is home to some of the most astounding natural wonders the human eye could see in a lifetime. Located in the state of Utah, Bryce Canyon offers the ideal excuse to take an RV vacation.

Bryce Canyon reaches 2000 feet of elevation and is comprised of three distinct zones: spruce/fir forest, Ponderosa Pine forest and Pinyon Pine/juniper forest. These unique zones make the landscapes here so distinctive that it will be hard to tear your eyes away.



Not formed in the way canyons traditionally are, Bryce Canyon is comprised of distinctive geological structures called hoodoos.

These were formed by wind, water and ice erosion and have taken on a dramatic red, orange and white coloring. These formations draw in tourists from across the world and truly are a sight to behold.

## *The Seasons/Climate*

Summer days in Bryce Canyon are pleasant, while the nights are cool. Summer brings with it frequent afternoon thunderstorms, which have been known to occur without warning and at any time.

Spring and fall weather is known to be highly variable, with sunshine and snowing both almost guaranteed. Winter nights get incredibly cold and snowfall can be pretty high.

It is best to pack for both hot and cold weather and to ring ahead for weather conditions before traveling in the park.

## *Things to Do*

There are lots of great things to do within the Bryce Canyon National Park, and many of these activities occur in the outdoors.

Snowshoe hikes are a popular activity and are best to do when the park has experienced a bit of snow. Take a guided walk through the park and learn about its winter ecology and the fascinating stories behind the formation of the hoodoos.

The Rim Walk is another popular way to see the magnificent highlights of the park. Offering magnificent views of the canyon and changes to get up close to the fascinating plant and wildlife, this is one walk you cannot miss.

There are also some great programs on offer that are suitable for the entire family. The Kids Programs are fun for young ones and adults alike, while the evening programs offer an in-depth look at some of the compelling stories and interesting resources Bryce Canyon protects.

## Hiking

Bryce Canyon offers several day-hiking trails, ranging from easy and moderate, to strenuous. Many of these hikes will take you through the beautiful Bryce Amphitheater, with some of the trails actually shared by horse riders.

Hikes suitable for moderate levels of fitness include the Navajo Trail, Tower Bridge, Hat Shop and Swamp Canyon. These walks will expose you to the dramatic geological features of the park and are suitable to complete over a few hours.



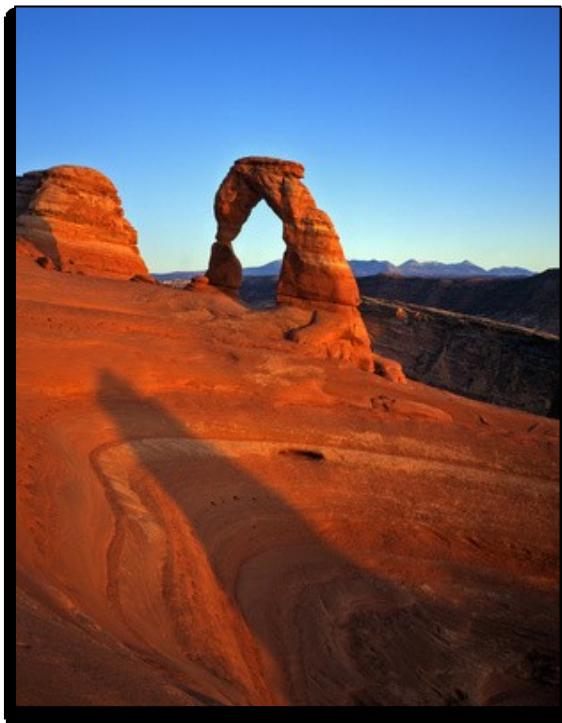
## The Wildlife

Over 150 species of birds and dozens of mammals dominate the landscapes here. This makes bird watching a popular past time, with birds like the California condor, Clark's Nutcracker, Peregrine Falcon and Violet-green swallows often sighted within the park.

Bryce Canyon is home to 59 species of mammals and these range between the Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, the Mountain Lion, the Uintah Chipmunk and the Utah Prairie Dog.

## RV Camping

Bryce Canyon National Park is home to two campgrounds: North and Sunset. Both of these are located within a close proximity to the visitor center and the Bryce Amphitheater, and offer restrooms, toilets, drinking water and shower facilities. Unfortunately there are no hook-ups, but there is a dump station located at the south end of the North Campground.



## Utah – Arches National Park

Located in the **eastern part of the state of Utah**, **Arches National Park** is home to over 2000 natural sandstone arches and unique rock formations. This makes it one of the largest concentrations of natural sandstone arches in the world.

The geological features of the park are truly fascinating and include spires, pinnacles, pedestals and balanced rocks. These are brilliantly contrasted against a background of glorious colors and spectacular landscapes.

The park is also home to the world-famous **Delicate Arch**. This freestanding natural arch measures 52 feet tall and is the park's most widely recognized icon. It can be reached via a short, though relatively strenuous hike, which is definitely well worth it.

Located just outside of Moab and covering a total area of 119 square miles, the park is open year round and can be enjoyed through various activities like hiking, biking, picnicking and camping.

### *The Seasons/Climate*

Due to its position on the Colorado Plateau, this high desert region tends to experience wide temperature fluctuations throughout the year. The most popular times to visit in the year are spring (April to May) and fall (mid-September to October). The climate at these times of the year is temperate, with daytime temperatures relatively mild.

Summer is generally very hot in the park, making activities like hiking and biking extremely strenuous. As this is the monsoon season, be prepared for violent storms and flash floods. Winter in the park is generally very cold, and snow often makes an appearance during the winter months. This can make access to certain parts of the park difficult in an RV so it is important to ring ahead before travel.



## Things to Do

Hiking really is the best way to see Arches National Park and visitors can either choose to take a guided walk or venture on one of the many tracks in their own group.

### Hiking

Hiking within Arches National Park is the perfect way to experience the beautiful landscapes that are on offer here.

For those wishing to take some short and easy walks, trails like Balance Rock, Broken Arch, Double Arch, Sand Dune Arch and the Windows Trail will be perfect.

Some of the more difficult walks include the Devils Garden, Double O Arch, Fiery Furnace, Primitive Loop, Skyline Arch and Tower Arch trails. These treks are the perfect way to discover the magnificent wonders of this unique and intriguing park.

### The Wildlife

Over 200 species of vertebrates and hundreds of species of invertebrates call the Arches National Park home. Mammals you may encounter include squirrels, the mule deer and desert cottontails.

Many of the animals in the park tend to come out at night, including Kangaroo rats, wood rats, skunks, ringtails, foxes, bobcats, mountain lions, bats and owls. Other animals that inhabit the park include coyotes, porcupines and the tiny canyon mouse.

Many of the animals are also active at dawn and dusk, making these perfect times to spot the wildlife.



### RV Camping

There is only one campground in Arches National Park: Devils Garden, making camping within the park extremely limited.

This campground is located 18 miles from the park entrance and is open throughout the entire year. Suitable for groups and individuals, the facilities here include potable water, tables, grills and toilets.

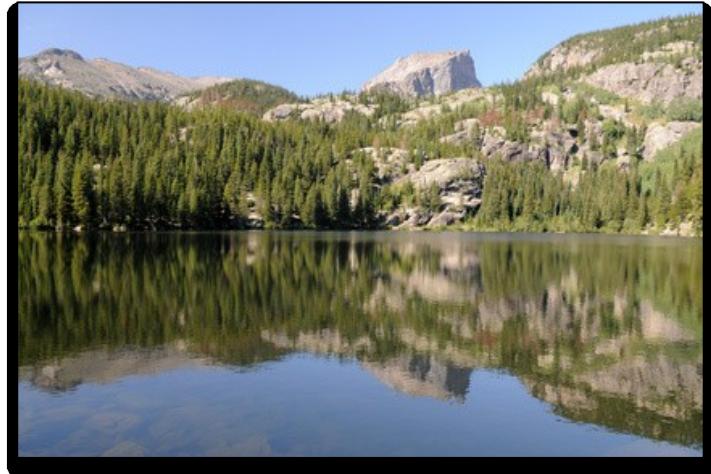
Several of the sites are suitable for RVs up to 30 feet in length, but it is best to ring ahead beforehand to ensure you get a space.

## Colorado - Rocky Mountain National Park

Covering a total area of 416 square miles, the **Rocky Mountain National Park** is a land of dramatic contrasts and stunning landscapes. Located in the state of Colorado, this park is home to majestic mountains, interesting environments and glorious rivers and lakes.

Many of the mountains here exceed 12,000 feet and make up the essence of the park. These peaks are brilliantly contrasted against gorgeous fields of delicate alpine flowers, crystal clear lakes, rushing mountain waters and gloriously dense forests.

Surrounded by natural areas like the Roosevelt National Forest, the Routt National Forest and the Arapaho National Forest, this National Park is a must-visit while in this part of the United States.



### *The Seasons/Climate*

The warmest months in the park are usually July and August, when temperatures during the day are pleasant. These tend to drop at night so it is necessary to take plenty of warm clothing.

Heavy snow begins to fall around mid-October and can last all the way through to May. During spring the weather tends to be wet, with snow still falling at times.

### *Things to Do*

#### *Scenic Drives*

Your RV rental will be perfect for exploring some of the many scenic drives that are on offer in the Rocky Mountain National Park. The road systems here offer visitors access to diverse ecosystems that venture from lowland meadows to flowing rivers and through subalpine forests. Two of the most scenic drives include the Trail Ridge Road and the Old Fall River Road.



## Fishing

Sport fishing is permitted within the National Park and is extremely popular with visitors. There are countless lakes and rivers to fish in the park and trout are the most common fish found in these.

## Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is a fantastic way to see the hidden areas of the Rocky Mountain National Park. There is an impressive 260 miles of trails here that are open to commercial or private horse riding. The stables can be found at Glacier Creek and Moraine Park.

## Biking

Biking is a popular past time within Rocky Mountain National Park, with 60 miles of surfaced road perfect for cycling enthusiasts. There are also hundreds of off-road trails for backcountry cycling, making this a mountain biking paradise.

## Hiking

A total of 355 miles of hiking trails can be found sprinkled throughout the Rocky Mountain National Park. These vary from lakeside strolls to steep mountain climbs.

It is important to plan ahead before you set out on any of these hikes, as the elevations in the park vary and require different levels of fitness. It is important to take plenty of water and plenty of sunscreen and always wear a hat.

## The Wildlife

Elk, mule deer, moose, bighorn sheep, black bears, coyotes, cougars, eagles and hawks all call the Rocky Mountain National Park home. This diversity of wildlife makes this park an absolute must for all those interested in the creatures of Mother Nature, and adds life to the glorious landscapes here.

## RV Camping

There are a total of 5 drive-in campgrounds in Rocky Mountain National Park. Moraine Park, Glacier Basin and Aspenglen all require reservations in advance, while Longs Peak and Timber Creek campgrounds operate on a first-come-first-served basis. All of these campgrounds are suitable for RVs and plenty of sites are on offer.

# Carolina - Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Easily America's most visited National Park; the Great Smoky Mountains straddle the state line between North Carolina and Tennessee and are a truly remarkable place to visit.



Boasting remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, the history in this park is unsurpassed by any other. The Appalachian Trail passes right through the centre of the park and is home to thousands of species of plants and animals. The scenery is just spectacular and makes it the undisputable highlight of the park.

The park itself is home to charming historical attractions, amazing hiking trails and plenty of fishing opportunities. Fly fishing is one of the most popular past times in the park, as the rivers that flow through these mountains have a reputation for trout.

Horseback riding and cycling are other popular ways to get around in the park, but you really can't go past hiring an RV to explore this dramatic part of the country. An RV will give you the freedom to take your time and soak up the awe-inspiring natural wonder of this incredible region.

## ***The Seasons/Climate***

The climate in Rocky Mountains National Park is relatively moderate, with mild winters and hot, humid summers a common occurrence. The weather in spring is generally unpredictable and changes can occur very rapidly. Autumn brings with is clear skies and cooler weather, making it an ideal time to visit the park.

## ***Things to Do***

**The Great Smoky Mountains** offer a myriad of activities for visitors to enjoy, which something exciting available all year round. Experience the panoramic landscapes, flowing mountain streams, intriguing historical buildings and never-ending forests that seem to stretch as far as the eye can see. These are all best explored by simply driving around the park in your RV and stopping wherever catches your eye.

*Bicycling* is another fantastic way to explore the park. Cades Coves is a particularly popular spot and is ideal to experience on a misty morning. Breathe in the fresh mountain air and appreciate the untouched natural beauty as you feel the wind sweep through your hair and enjoy the pleasant weather within the park.

For those seeking sightseeing opportunities, you really can't go past Clingmans Dome and Newfound Gap. These places offer breathtaking views over the mountains, making your camera a must to have on hand. Deep Creek and Roaring Fork are also popular spots in the park and are ideal for cooling off in the heat.

## Hiking

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park** is a hiker's paradise, offering over 800 miles of walking trails. These range from short treks to long strenuous hikes, some of which require backcountry camping.

The 8-mile roundtrip to Charlies Bunion is a popular day hike and can be found on the Appalachian Trail. Aside from this, there are approximately 150 trails to choose from, so it is best to plan in advance the places you wish to explore.

## The Wildlife

Most people come to the Great Smoky Mountains hoping to see a bear in the wild, and chances are, you may just do this. This park is home to over 1,500 bears, who live with the park's many other animals like deer and elk.

In fact, this National Park has the most biologically diverse array of wildlife in the world's temperate zone. However, actually viewing this wildlife can prove to be quite a challenge, owing to the density of the forest here. The open areas of the park are the best spots to catch a glimpse of white-tailed deer, black bears, raccoons, turkeys and woodchucks. Many of the other animals are most active at night, making the mornings and evenings popular wildlife viewing times.



## RV Camping

The National Park Service maintains 10 developed campgrounds within the Rock Mountains National Park. Many of these are suitable for RVs and can be found at Abrams Creek, Balsam Mountain, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, Look Rock and Smokemont. Each campground has restrooms with cold running water and flush toilets; however, there are no shower or electrical or water hookups in the park. Some of these campgrounds require reservations but many work on a first in-first served basis.

# RV Boondocking Tips



Forget your traditional RV parks that will make you park within touching distance of your neighbors. A new craze has taken over the RV world that allows you to venture off the beaten track and discover some of the country's best kept secrets. It's called BOONDOCKING!

Boondocking is defined as camping in remote areas, such as the deep woods or desert locations, without power, sewer or water hook-ups. This of course requires you to have an RV that features a toilet and shower, unless you are particularly keen to rough it. However, if you have any of these features, boondocking could be just the thing you have been searching for in a holiday.

Boondocking gives you the option of venturing off the beaten track and basically going anywhere you like. Ever been to a National Park and wanted to stay forever? Well this will bring you closer to that

dream and make it a reality. There are thousands of hidden campgrounds within the country's National Parks, forests and deserts, and all of them seem to be begging to be explored.

However, while it may sound like all you have to do is find a campground and set up for the night, there are a couple of things to prepare for and keep in mind before you venture too far.

## **Electricity**

This is perhaps the most important thing you will need while you are boondocking. Since you won't have power hookups, there really is only one other option; solar power. Ensure your RV is fitted with solar panels, as these will provide you with all the power you will need.

Your generator will also provide you with some of the power you will need, especially for the air conditioner and microwave. However, these can be rather noisy and will ruin the peace and serenity of your surroundings.

## **Water**

Water always has been and always will be a necessity in life. Carrying water on your RV is a must, because even though it will weigh your RV down, you never know when you are going to need it.

## **Where to Boondock?**

There are a whole bunch of places across the US that are suitable for boondocking. While you are travelling through cities, you have the option of parking in front of a Wal-Mart or K-Mart store or you can pull up at a truck stop for the night. Roadside rest areas are also good places to stop for the night. They usually have clean restrooms and water on site, offering a break from your RV bathroom.

Boondocking out in nature is the preferred option, and there are a vast amount of places to do it in the US. There are many areas in the desert which offer scenic and peaceful surrounds, while national forest lands provide a cooler and shadier area to camp. Some places do require a permit, especially if you are planning on an extended, so it's best to get in contact with the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) before you head off.

If you plan ahead and do it right, boondocking will be an experience that cannot be topped. It gives you more freedom and choice than you could have imagined and will entice you so much you may never want to give it up!

# Best Places to Boondock on the West Coast

Boondocking is a fantastic way to experience the west coast states of the US. While it isn't something you will want to be doing for the entirety of your vacation, it is a great way to see remote parts of the country. And the best part is, is that it is absolutely free.

***Some of the best places to boondock on the West Coast include:***

## Washington

### Highway 24 Rest Area (near Columbia River)

This rest area by "Vernita Bridge" is a popular spot, offering shady trees and more amenities than most boondocking grounds usually do.

**Location:** Desert Aire, Washington  
**Amenities:** Water, Dump Stations, Restrooms

### Clark's Dismal Nitch

Offering a great view of Four Mile Bridge and nestled on the banks of the Columbia River, this camp ground also offers clean facilities and an undisturbed peace that can't help but be appreciated.

**Location:** Megler, Washington  
**Amenities:** Water, Restrooms

### Little Goose Dam

Positioned on the edge of the dam, this campground will give you easy access to toilets, picnic tables, a paved boat launch and a lighted area at night. What more could a boondocker ask for?

**Location:** Starbuck, Washington  
**Amenities:** Restrooms

## Oregon

### Bear Creek Campground

Nestled on the banks of Bear Creek, this campground is lovely and quiet, with access to water sure to be an added bonus.

**Location:** Camias Valley, Oregon  
**Amenities:** Water, Restrooms

### Vincent Creek Campground

Positioned in a beautiful forest setting, with a lovely little creek nearby, this place is

relatively easy to access and offers some amazing scenic views.

**Location:** Gardiner, Oregon  
**Amenities:** Restrooms

## California

### Los Banos Wildlife Area

Home to an immense variety of local wildlife, this lovely camp ground is the perfect spot for water side camping and wildlife exploration.

**Location:** Los Banos, California  
**Amenities:** Restrooms

### Robinson Flat

Located within the remote Tahoe National Forest, this campsite will be a hit with those who love to be right in the thick of nature.

**Location:** Foresthill, California  
**Amenities:** Water, Restrooms

### Stine Cove Recreation Area

Nestled on the banks of the picturesque Lake Isabella, this campsite is ideal for those seeking a quiet place to relax for a night, with fun for the kids right on your doorstep.

**Location:** Lake Isabella, California  
**Amenities:** Restrooms

### Wagon Wheel

An ideal spot for riding dirt bikes, quads and jeeps, this campsite is nestled amongst large boulders and is a great place to stop for a night or two of absolute peace and quiet.

**Location:** Trona, California  
**Amenities:** Restrooms

## West Coast National Park Camping

The west coast of the United States consists of the states of Washington, Oregon and California, all of which are home to some truly unique and interesting National Parks, many of which are suitable for RV camping.

The National Parks of the US are known for their beauty and intrigue and offer a wealth of activities and things to see and do. From glaciers and rainforests, to steep rock escarpments and deep blue lakes, these parks offer something for every kind of nature lover.

There is no better way to experience the National Parks of the West Coast than in an RV and this guide will give you the lowdown on how to make this a possibility.

### Washington

*Named after former President, George Washington, the state of Washington is home to some of the country's most monumental sites and attractions, along with some of the most recognizable National Parks and Forests worldwide.*

#### Mount Rainier National Park

Home to glaciers, pockets of rainforest and the Wonderland Trail, this park is a must-see while in the state of Washington. Entrance fees range from **\$5-\$15**, while camping is permitted at 5 sites, with fees ranging from **\$12-\$15/night**, with some sites even **free**.

#### North Cascades National Park

Characterized by jagged peaks, deep valleys and cascading waterfalls, this park is also famous for being the home of over 300 glaciers. Entrance into the park is free, while camping within the park can incur a fee of up to **\$12/night**.

#### Olympic National Park

Regarded by many as the land of contrasts and variety, this park offers Pacific Ocean beaches, rainforest valleys and glacier-capped peaks. Entrance fees range from **\$5-\$15** and camping is only available at one camp ground (Kalaloch), within the summer months at a cost of **\$10-\$18/night**.

### Oregon

*Oregon is a state of the Pacific Northwest region of the country and is known for its prominent rivers and as the home to Crater Lake National Park.*

#### Crater Lake National Park

Combining a deep, blue lake with sheer surrounding cliffs and two picturesque islands, this park is a must for those who wish to be inspired.

Entry is permitted at a cost of **\$10 (for a 7 day pass)**, however **camping is not available**, with several lodging options a suitable alternative.

### California

*California is a state known for its beachside cities, the home of Hollywood and a playground for the stars. It is also home to some of the country's most remarkable National Parks, several of which are famous worldwide.*

#### Death Valley National Park

Entrance fees into the park are priced per 7 days and range from **\$10 to \$20**, depending on the type of entry. Camping is also permitted within the park, with some grounds offering free camping and others ranging from **\$12 - \$18 per night**.

#### Joshua Tree National Park

An entry permit is required for admission into the Joshua Tree National Park. These can either be for single entry or for vehicle entry and range from **\$5 to \$30** in price. Camping is permitted within the park, with a total of 9 campgrounds to choose from. Fees range from **\$10 - \$15/night**.

#### Sequoia National Park

Camping is permitted within the park, with 14 campgrounds on offer. Fees range from **\$12 - \$20/night**.

#### Yosemite National Park

Boasting the strength of granite, the power of glaciers and the striking presence of the High Sierra, this park is one of the country's first wilderness parks. Entrance comes at a cost of **\$20/car** and camping is an extremely popular option at just **\$10-\$20/night**, depending on the campground site.

## Free Camping Guide



When RVing along the West Coast of the United States you will come across some beautiful sights, some intriguing towns and cities and some of the country's most stunning beaches. Finding a place to stay is usually pretty easy, but to make it just that little bit more simpler, we have put together a Free/ Low Cost Stay's guide that will allow you to park your RV overnight, at certain places, for free or at a low cost.

### **California**

#### **El Litro**

The El Litro campground is a great little Mexican-like campground that is close to the town of Todos Santos, Baja Ca Sur. The sites are less than \$10 a night and with 29 to choose from, you are sure to find something suitable. Amenities include water, electricity, sewer, a dump station and restrooms.

#### **Kayo's RV Park**

Situated just outside the town of Mojave, Kayo's RV Park is a great little place to stay if you are passing through this area. Costing less than \$10 a night, this great little park offers water, electricity, sewer, a dump station and restrooms, ensuring all your RV needs are taken care of.

#### **Lake Piru Recreation Area**

If beauty and serenity, at a low cost, is what you are after, than look no further than the Lake Piru Recreation Area. This campground offers a three night stay for just \$28.50, with full hook-up sites available. The area is also fully equipped with water, electricity, sewer, a dump station and restrooms.

### **Idaho**

#### **Bend River**

Situated close to the city of Twin Falls, the Bend River campground is nestled right near the Gooding Fairground, and although not free, is a great place to stay if you are on a tight budget. Offering all the amenities on site, or very close by, you really can't get better than this.

### **Nevada**

#### **Topaz Lake Park**

Positioned on the border of Nevada and California, the stunning Lake Topaz is truly a sight to behold and is the ideal place to stay for some lakeside recreational activity. Camping is available on the north-east side of the lake and offers a great range of amenities including water, electricity, sewer, a dump station and rest rooms.

### **Oregon**

#### **Valley of the Rogue State Park**

This place may not be free but it is almost sure to be one of the best bargains you will find while RVing in Oregon. This beautiful state park is situated about 10 miles south of Grant's Pass, just off the I-5, near Rogue River, and offers clean amenities that will be ideal for your stay here.

### **Washington**

#### **County Line Park**

Nestled on the banks of the Columbia River, this shady campsite is a great place to camp during the summer months. Situated close to the city of Longview, this camp ground offers water, electricity, a dump station and restrooms, ensuring you a comfortable stay.