National Park Travel Guide

# Biscayne National Park

## Description

Within sight of Miami, yet worlds away, Biscayne protects a rare combination of aquamarine waters, emerald islands, and fish-bejeweled coral reefs. Evidence of 10,000 years of human history is here too; from prehistoric tribes to shipwrecks, and pineapple farmers to presidents. For many, the park is a boating, fishing, and diving destination, while others enjoy a warm breeze and peaceful scenery.

## Weather

The park is situated in a subtropical climate, which ensures sunshine year-round. Winters are normally dry and mild, with occasional fronts bringing wind and little rain. Summer brings hot and humid weather with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoons. The average temperature in January is 68 degrees Fahrenheit and 82 in July. The average rainfall for the area is 2.17 inches in January and 3.95 inches in July. June to November is hurricane season.

## Activities

* Canoeing
* Motorized Boating
* SCUBA Diving
* Sailing
* Saltwater Swimming
* Shopping

## Operating Hours

Park waters are open 24 hours a day, all year.

## Contact Information

### Address

9700 SW 328th Street  
Sir Lancelot Jones Way  
FL  
33033

### Website

https://www.nps.gov/bisc/index.htm

# Carlsbad Caverns National Park

## Description

High ancient sea ledges, deep rocky canyons, flowering cactus, and desert wildlife—treasures above the ground in the Chihuahuan Desert. Hidden beneath the surface are more than 119 caves—formed when sulfuric acid dissolved limestone leaving behind caverns of all sizes.

## Weather

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is located in the Chihuahuan Desert in southeast New Mexico. Summers are hot with temperatures between 90°F (32°C) and low 100s °F (38°C). Windy conditions and mild temperatures are common in early spring (March-May) with frequent rain in early fall (August-September). This part of the country also sees cold temperatures in the winter with occasional snow and icy conditions. Most days, the park is enveloped by a gorgeous blue sky with very few clouds, 278 sunny days a year!

## Activities

* Astronomy
* Camping
* Caving
* Gift Shop and Souvenirs
* Junior Ranger Program
* Picnicking
* Shopping
* Wildlife Watching

## Operating Hours

Last Entrance Ticket Sold: 2:15 pm / Last Cavern Entrance: 2:30 pm

## Contact Information

### Address

727 Carlsbad Caverns Highway  
NM  
88220

### Website

https://www.nps.gov/cave/index.htm

# Zion National Park

## Description

Follow the paths where native people and pioneers walked. Gaze up at massive sandstone cliffs of cream, pink, and red that soar into a brilliant blue sky. Experience wilderness in a narrow slot canyon. Zion’s unique array of plants and animals will enchant you as you absorb the rich history of the past and enjoy the excitement of present day adventures.

## Weather

Zion is known for a wide range of weather conditions. Temperatures vary with changes in elevation and day/night temperatures may differ by over 30°F. In summer, temperatures in Zion National Park often exceed 100°F/38°C. Zion experiences monsoons from mid-July into September that result in an increased risk of flash floods. Always be aware of the threat of storms and lightning and be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions. Winters are generally mild.

## Activities

* Astronomy
* Backcountry Camping
* Camping
* Car or Front Country Camping
* Climbing
* Shopping

## Operating Hours

Zion National Park is open every day of the year.

## Contact Information

### Address

Zion National Park  
1 Zion Park Blvd.  
State Route 9  
UT  
84767

### Website

https://www.nps.gov/zion/index.htm

# Mammoth Cave National Park

## Description

Rolling hills, deep river valleys, and the worlds longest known cave system. Mammoth Cave National Park is home to thousands of years of human history and a rich diversity of plant and animal life, earning it the title of UNESCO World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve.

## Weather

Kentucky has a moderate climate with warm, yet moist conditions. Summers average in the high 80s; winters average in the low 40s. Southern Kentucky, where Mammoth Cave is located, receives the highest average precipitation for the state, about 50 inches per year, mostly in spring. Winter can bring mild to moderate snow and ice. Storms happen year-round, and can include tornadoes and flooding in low-lying areas, but severe weather is infrequent. The temperature deep in the cave is a constant 54°F (12°C).

## Activities

* Backcountry Hiking
* Camping
* Hiking
* Horse Camping (see also camping)
* RV Camping

## Operating Hours

Mammoth Cave National Park is open 24-hours a day, although services such as cave tours and the visitor center are limited after-hours (generally the visitor center closes at 4:30 pm in winter or 6:00 pm in summer). There is no gate at the park entrance. Please note that camping is only possible either in designated campgrounds or backcountry campsites with a valid reservation or permit.

## Contact Information

### Address

1 Visitor Center Parkway  
KY  
42259-0007

### Website

https://www.nps.gov/maca/index.htm

# Mesa Verde National Park

## Description

For over 700 years, the Ancestral Pueblo people built thriving communities on the mesas and in the cliffs of Mesa Verde. Today, the park protects the rich cultural heritage of 26 tribes and offers visitors a spectacular window into the past. This World Heritage Site and International Dark Sky Park is home to over a thousand species, including several that live nowhere else on earth.

## Weather

Spring: Temps range from 40 F to 70 F, but snowstorms can occur as late as May. Summer: Temps can reach well into the 90s F. Thunderstorms are common in July and August. Be prepared to bring and DRINK plenty of water. Fall: Temps can range from 50 F to 75 F. Snowstorms can occur as early as October. Winter: Temps can range from the teens to low 30s F. Icy roads are common. Snow tires, all-wheel drive, or chains, may be required. Be prepared with water, snacks, and layers of warm clothing.

## Activities

* Astronomy
* Auto and ATV
* Guided Tours
* Self-Guided Tours - Auto
* Shopping
* Skiing
* Stargazing
* Wildlife Watching

## Operating Hours

The park is always open, except under emergency conditions. Sites, picnic areas, and most trails are open 8 am to sunset.   
  
Most cliff dwellings can only be visited on a ticketed tour with a ranger. Tours will be offered May 1 to October 22, 2022. Tickets are required and are available online 14 days in advance of tour. Buy tickets on Recreation.gov.

## Contact Information

### Address

Mile .7 Headquarters Loop Road  
CO  
81330

### Website

https://www.nps.gov/meve/index.htm