



collette

UNITED STATES

National Parks

2024 – 2025



“There is nothing so American as our national parks...
The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country
belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the
enrichment of the lives of all of us.”

– FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

📍 Bryce Canyon National Park

America's national parks are a gift to humanity.

They offer a sanctuary of natural beauty, preserve diverse ecosystems, and invite travelers to connect with awe-inspiring landscapes. The national parks hold cultural and historical significance by sharing stories of indigenous communities and events that shaped the land. These are more than protected areas – they're outdoor classrooms teaching us about environmental conservation and showing us what's possible in nature.



Merrin C.

TOUR MANAGER: UNITED STATES

I love the outdoors. When I was 20 years old, I moved to Yellowstone National Park and for seven years, that's where I lived and worked. I fell in love with the parks during those years. I would spend my off-time hiking, camping, fishing, making friends, and talking to the locals about the history of the parks. I quickly realized that the surrounding architecture really fascinates me. Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn and the Zion Lodge are great examples of unique styles that are lovingly referred to as, "parkitecture." The theory behind parkitecture is to build as a compliment to nature, rather than turn something else into the starring show. It's amazing that they were built to last all these years.

The mountain ranges in our parks out west are some of my favorite places on earth. There's a peacefulness and a serenity in the mountains, and I love spending time away from people and the big city. Being able to walk outside and have no light pollution... that's another great part about the national parks. There are those dark skies, and I can see all the stars at night. That's not something everyone gets to experience. I get a lot of comments from travelers on tour who say they haven't seen stars like this in a long time.

It doesn't even have to be a clear day to make the national parks worth a visit. I know people want those crystal clear, blue sky days. But I will mention that sometimes those clouds will give our travelers more depth. I feel like they get more of a real experience by witnessing what different lighting in the canyon can do.

When I sit in Yellowstone next to the lake or next to Old Faithful geyser, I'm enjoying the natural beauty that only we get in our Western national parks.

Why go guided?

Have you been dreaming about seeing more of America's backyard? Break away from your daily routines and go guided through the national parks with us.

Our Tour Managers are the best in the business. They always have answers to your questions in a destination. Drawing on their own rich backgrounds and extensive training, these travel experts are with you every step of the way. Knowledge enriches every experience, and with all the logistics handled, you can just sit back and enjoy the adventure.

Each tour is expertly designed to balance must-sees, local experience, and free time to explore. In the end, you're left with stories to tell and the satisfaction of crossing off another awe-inspiring destination.



📍 Grand Canyon National Park



Get up close and personal with the national parks by surrounding yourself in the heart of it all.

Stay right in the national parks where your rustic accommodations are hugged by a shimmering sky unlike anything you've ever seen. While these accommodations aren't our typical level of quality (which is 4-5 star), the setting can't be beat. That means more time for sightseeing, wildlife watching, and photo opportunities.

📍 Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn

It's Time to Go, Relax, and Worry About Nothing...

You know what you want to see and do – let a team of experts handle all the details.

We design tours that include:

- ✓ Must-sees & hidden gems
- ✓ Centrally-located accommodations
- ✓ Transportation & cool rides
- ✓ Immersive culinary experiences
- ✓ Local lessons
- ✓ In-destination expert Tour Managers & Guides
- ✓ A perfect balance of included activities and free time



Expertly-planned. Expertly-led.

We know you like to explore and keep things fresh – from the food you'll eat to the ways you'll travel around your destination. We get it. We're travelers too. Our team of experts works hard to make sure that no two days on tour are the same.

Get the **must-sees** and the **local culture – not one or the other**. Your time is best spent in destinations, not driving between them.

Choice on Tour allows you to choose between two included excursions to customize your tour.

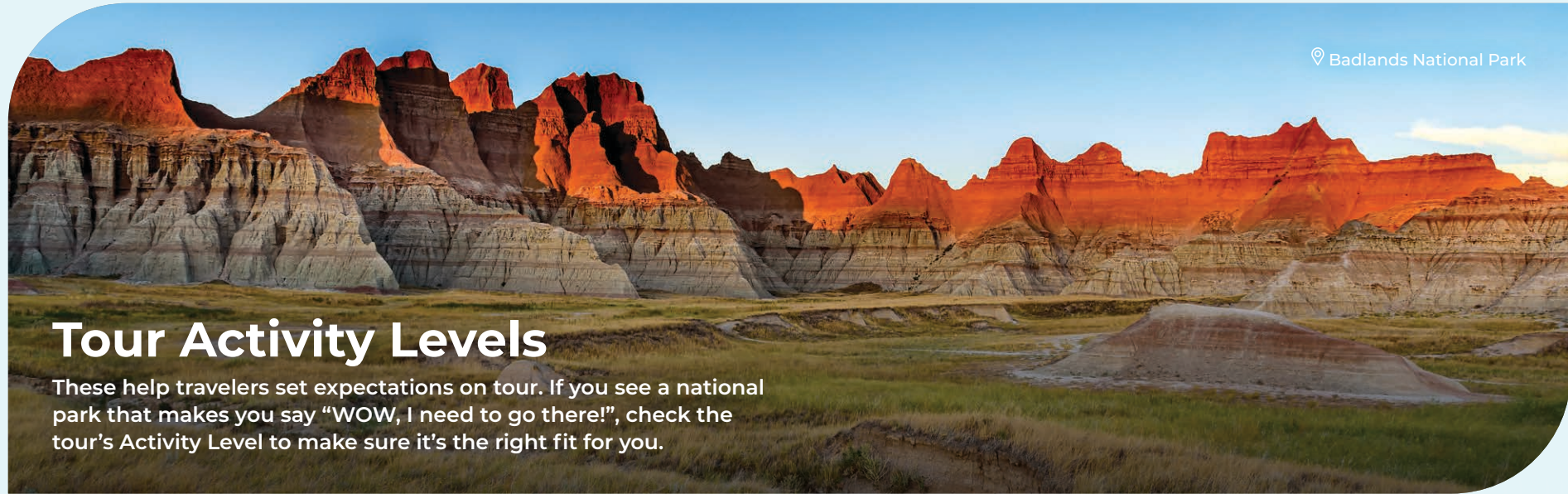
Traveler, your happiness is our roadmap. Rest assured; we design tours with **you** in mind.



Joel on tour in Grand Canyon National Park

“A national park to me is kind of like your children — there is no favorite. They're all unique and amazing in their own ways.”

– Joel H.
Tour Manager, North America



📍 Badlands National Park

Tour Activity Levels

These help travelers set expectations on tour. If you see a national park that makes you say “WOW, I need to go there!”, check the tour’s Activity Level to make sure it’s the right fit for you.

Level ① LIGHT & LEISURELY

You’re a leisurely traveler.

You typically take it easy and discover the energy of a new place by people-watching or soaking in the atmosphere at a local café. You can climb at least one flight of stairs, board a coach, and walk unassisted at a relaxed pace for up to 60 minutes without difficulty. You can easily handle altitudes up to 5,000 feet.

Level ② MODERATE

You like a balanced approach to travel.

Walking two to three miles over the course of a day is no problem. You can partake in a two-hour leisurely walking tour, covering up to two miles (with included breaks). You can handle a variety of terrains, from cobblestone streets to moderate hills with relative ease and without assistance. You can climb two flights of stairs with ease. There may be 1 to 2 days on this tour when walking tours can cover three to four miles over uneven terrain. You can handle altitudes up to 6,000 feet.

Level ③ ACTIVE

You’re an on-the-go traveler.

You don’t want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn’t a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Level ④ VERY ACTIVE

You’re ready to seize the day, whatever it may bring.

You lead an active life at home (walking, biking, and half or full day hikes are things you may enjoy) and 10,000 steps a day is normal. You can handle longer walking tours (more than 3 hours covering three-plus miles at a steady clip) and activities that involve traversing uneven terrain, steep slopes, standing for periods of time, and varying altitudes and temperatures. You don’t mind being on the go with some early starts, late-nights, and full days. You can handle altitudes of 9,000 feet or higher with little to no issue. This level is not appropriate for travelers who use wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility assistance devices.



“But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its wall seems to glow with life.”

– JOHN MUIR

📍 Yosemite National Park

Yellowstone National Park

It's not just a national park. It's *the* national park.

Welcome to Yellowstone. It was established as the world's first national park and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant. This is a place that demands you to put down your smartphone and look around at the unbelievable work of Mother Nature. From geysers like Old Faithful and hot springs to waterfalls and wildlife – there is no place on earth quite like Yellowstone. Keep an eye out for the bison, bears, wolves, and elk that call this wonderland home. Will you see Old Faithful erupt? You might if you go. So what are you waiting for?

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- ▶ In 1902, the park became the first area to implement wildlife protection laws to help save the bison from extinction.
- ▶ Yellowstone is home to over 10,000 geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and fumaroles.
- ▶ The most famous geyser in the park is Old Faithful, which erupts approximately every 90 minutes.
- ▶ In 1978, Yellowstone was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its natural and cultural significance. It is one of the few places in the world to hold this dual designation.



Yellowstone Falls



Old Faithful Geyser



Bison



ESTABLISHED:
1872

SIZE:
2,221,766 acres

LOCATION:
Wyoming, Idaho
& Montana



ESTABLISHED:
1928

SIZE:
35,835 acres

LOCATION:
Utah

Bryce Canyon National Park

Go where the *explorers* blaze trails.

Imagine it: It's 1776 and Spanish explorers, Silvestra Velez de Escalante and Francisco Atanasio Dominguez, find themselves near Bryce Canyon, awed by its magnitude. These explorers were among the first to experience this park's stunning beauty. Travelers often want to know: when is the best time to visit Bryce? The answer: now. In summer, its rocks absorb the warmth and emit a comforting heat. In winter, snow-covered hoodoos create a quiet landscape. This park is where Peregrine falcons, mule deer, and Utah prairie dogs play. Like the explorers before them, travelers who go to Bryce feel as if they've just discovered a well-kept secret.

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- ▶ The Paiute Indians occupied the area around what is now Bryce Canyon starting around 1200 A.D.
- ▶ On June 7, 1924, Congress passed a bill to establish Utah National Park. Once the land was acquired, the name was restored to Bryce Canyon.
- ▶ Bryce Canyon is technically not a canyon. It's a series of about a dozen natural amphitheaters, eroded into an escarpment of the Paunsaugunt Plateau.
- ▶ According to a native superstition, it was believed that if you looked close enough at the hoodoos and rocks you could see the faces of those who turned to stone.



Bryce Canyon National Park



Walking Trails

Zion National Park

Explore nature's sculptural *masterpiece*.

Zion is a masterpiece of art and nature... literally! Did you know that around 1500 B.C., the Anasazi occupied Zion Canyon and left their mark on the park in the form of abandoned cliff houses and rock art? As you climb aboard Zion's open-air tram and wind your way alongside the Virgin River, take it all in. The towering sandstone cliffs, verdant valleys, soaring mountains and cottonwood trees, and the Anasazi's ancient roots. Unravel the secrets hidden within Zion's stone walls for yourself.

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Park Entrance



Zion Canyon



The Narrows

- ▶ Mormon pioneers were the first Anglo-European settlers who arrived in Zion during the late 1800s.
- ▶ The name *Zion* is ancient Hebrew for "sanctuary" or "refuge."
- ▶ The Zion Canyon was carved over millions of years by the Virgin River and is approximately 2,000 feet deep.
- ▶ The California Condor is the largest flying bird in North America and can be found in the wild in Zion National Park.



ESTABLISHED:
1919

SIZE:
148,016 acres

LOCATION:
Utah





ESTABLISHED:
1890

SIZE:
747,956 acres

LOCATION:
California

Yosemite National Park

Unleash *wanderlust* in the wilderness.

Deep in the heart of the Sierra Nevada, travelers find Yosemite National Park with its towering cliffs, waterfalls, granite peaks, and of course those gorgeous ancient sequoias. Now, imagine you're that traveler and you've just set off with an expert guide through Yosemite's unrivaled landscapes. Stand before El Capitan. Take in Half Dome, Tunnel View, and Yosemite Falls. As a pine-scented breeze rustles the leaves along your journey, you'll capture a spirit of wanderlust. Yosemite-style.

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- ▶ Congress passed a bill in 1864, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, that set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove for public use, resort, and recreation.
- ▶ Yosemite National Park was declared a World Heritage Site on October 31, 1984.
- ▶ In 1903, John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt set out to camp at Yosemite. They spent their first night setting up camp at the Mariposa Grove under the Grizzly Giant.
- ▶ Yosemite Falls, North America's tallest waterfall, cascades 2,425 feet below to the Valley floor.



Park Entrance



Yosemite Falls



Merced River

Grand Teton National Park

Where the *wild* things play.

Africa has its Big 5, but did you know that Grand Teton National Park does, too? Moose, grizzly bears, elk, gray wolves, and bison could be playing in this place they call home. This is one park where you'll want to be sure your camera is handy. The youngest peaks in the Rockies call Grand Teton home. The seasons here are truly grand: in the springtime, wildflowers carpet the meadows while the breeze in the air carries the sweet scent of pine into the summer months. As time goes on, alpine meadows inspire exploration. Traveler, will you unravel the secrets hidden within Grand Teton's vast wilderness? We'll see you there.

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- ▶ Grand Teton National Park is only 10 miles from Yellowstone National Park; connected by the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway.
- ▶ It's assumed that the Teton Range is the youngest mountain range in the Rocky Mountains, with its formation beginning between six and nine million years ago.
- ▶ While Grand Teton is the highest peak in the park at 13,770 feet, there are eight more that exceed 12,000 feet in height.
- ▶ Land in Jackson Hole was purchased by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and named Jackson Hole National Monument In 1943. The two areas were soon after combined into the current Grand Teton National Park.



Grand Teton National Park



Grizzly Bears



Jackson Lake



1929
GRAND TETON
NATIONAL PARK

ESTABLISHED:
1929

SIZE:
309,994 acres

LOCATION:
Wyoming



ESTABLISHED:
1919

SIZE:
1,218,375 acres

LOCATION:
Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park

Unlock the secrets of time.

Masterpieces aren't created overnight, and Grand Canyon National Park proves it by getting better with age. Stories from over a thousand lifetimes are held in its towering cliffs and deep crevices. There's a reason that the Grand Canyon is an item on so many travelers' bucket lists; exploring the depths of its wonder is something that never goes out of style. Can you picture yourself winding along the landscape of the East Rim Drive? Or connecting with history at the Cameron Trading Post, a haven for travelers, traders, and explorers for nearly a century? Take in the sandstone and limestone landscapes – and the endless echoes of explorers before.

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- ▶ The average depth of Grand Canyon is about one mile, from rim to river. At its deepest point, it is about 6,000 feet deep.
- ▶ Arizona proclaims itself “The Grand Canyon State” and even makes it known on their license plates.
- ▶ The North and South Rims are only ten miles apart, but a drive of over five hours is required to get between the two locations.
- ▶ The depth of Grand Canyon reveals many rock layers. The youngest layer is thought to be about 240 million years old, while the oldest is 1.7 billion years old.



Horseshoe Bend



South Rim

Badlands National Park

Lakota *legends* of the “mako sica.”

It might make you think of rebellion... or of music or a song. It might make you think of a rugged land for the bravest adventurers. Centuries ago, the Badlands in South Dakota got its name from the Lakota people. They called the area “mako sica,” which translates to “land bad,” because of its difficult terrain, lack of water, and extreme temperatures. The name stuck and today Badlands National Park offers wide-open spaces and rock formations created by mineral deposits. It’s a park of dreams and legends.

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- ▶ Badlands National Park was established as a national monument in 1939 and designated a national park in 1978.
- ▶ The Badlands National Park area is known worldwide for its large number of fossils that have been found.
- ▶ The national park protects the largest intact mixed-grass prairie in the United States.
- ▶ The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, governed by the Oglala Sioux Tribe, is both adjacent to and within Badlands National Park. Part of the park is managed by the tribe.



Badlands Loop Road



Badlands National Park



The Badlands



ESTABLISHED:
1978

SIZE:
244,000 acres

LOCATION:
South Dakota



ESTABLISHED:
1915

SIZE:
265,769 acres

LOCATION:
Colorado

Rocky Mountain National Park

Experience the *majesty*.

Welcome to Rocky Mountain National Park where towering peaks greet crisp alpine air. After all, it might be the greatest purchase of all time. Nothing says adventure like a drive across the country's highest continuous paved road, Trail Ridge Road. Eleven miles of the road is above timberline and climbs to elevations as high as 12,183 feet. In summer, wildflowers paint meadows with colorful bouquets as travelers explore the park's winding trails. Elk roam through the park's lush meadows as marmots play near the rocky outcrops.

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- ▶ In 1803, Rocky Mountain National Park was acquired during the Louisiana Purchase.
- ▶ The park features the country's highest continuous paved road, Trail Ridge Road.
- ▶ Abner Sprague, one of the park's biggest advocates, was the first person to pay the \$3 national park entrance fee back in 1939.
- ▶ In 2000, Rocky Mountain National Park was designated as a Globally Important Bird Area. 280 species have been found here since the park's creation.



Trail Ridge Road



Loch Lake



Elk

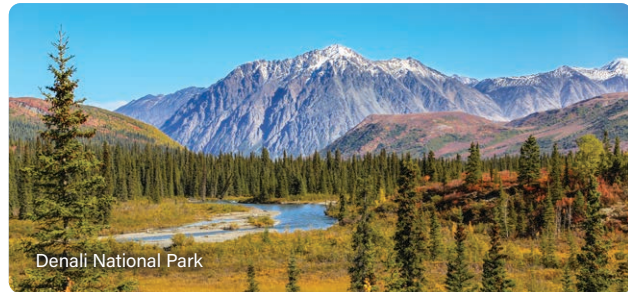
Denali National Park

Wilderness, *wildlife*, wonder.

Denali National Park stands as a testament to the wild and untamed spirit of the Last Frontier. Secrets are uncovered as travelers get a look from the inside out during a wilderness excursion and a scenic boat ride. Dominated by the imposing presence of Denali, standing at an awe-inspiring 20,310 feet, those who wander through the park often feel like they're a part of something much bigger. In 1917, the park was created primarily for Dall sheep protection and is now a home to other wildlife like grizzly bears and caribou. Denali constantly invites travelers to wander through its wilderness.

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- ▶ Denali, formerly known as Mount McKinley, is the highest point on the North American continent with its peak rising to 20,310 feet.
- ▶ In 1917, Mount McKinley National Park was created as a relatively small area set aside primarily for Dall sheep protection.
- ▶ Unlike the other national parks in Alaska, Denali existed in a smaller form before the Alaska Native Interests Land Conservation Act in 1980 created the 8 Alaskan national parks.
- ▶ Denali means "the high one" in the native Athabaskan language. While the park took the Denali name in 1980, the mountain was not renamed officially until 2015.



◀ 1917 ▶
DENALI
NATIONAL PARK

ESTABLISHED:
1917

SIZE:
6,075,030 acres

LOCATION:
Alaska



Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The *favorite* national park.

Tucked away in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains lies America's favorite national park. With over 10 million travelers visiting Great Smoky Mountains National Park in recent years, it's clear to see that this park's got charisma. Beg to differ? We'll let the local guide show you otherwise at Newfound Gap's lookout point. Great Smoky Mountain National Park was authorized in 1926 even though the park wasn't made official until 8 years later in 1934. But just like they say, all good things are worth waiting for. Check off one more park and experience it for yourself.

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- ▶ Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited of the national parks in the United States.
- ▶ Although authorized in 1926, Great Smoky Mountains National Park was officially established on June 15, 1934.
- ▶ Black bears are the park's signature wildlife as you'll find more of them here compared to anywhere else in North America.
- ▶ The park has a habitat of over 1,600 species of flowering plants, including 100 native tree species and over 100 native shrub species.



Arches National Park

A landscape of *delicate* beauty.

Arches National Park stands as a timeless embodiment of the desert's enchanting beauty. Established as a national monument in 1929 and later redesignated as a national park in 1971, it encompasses over 2,000 natural sandstone arches, making it home to the largest concentration of such formations in the world. These iconic arches create a surreal landscape of towering fins, spires, and balanced rocks. Travelers will find that the park's history is deeply intertwined with the ancestral Puebloans and Ute tribes who once inhabited the region. Many who visit Arches National Park feel like each arch unveils a new chapter in a timeless story.

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- ▶ In 1929, President Herbert Hoover signed presidential proclamation No. 1875 reserving land for the purpose of establishing Arches National Monument.
- ▶ The longest arch in Arches National Park, reaching 306 feet, is Landscape Arch.
- ▶ The tallest arch in Arches National Park is the south arch of Double Arch, reaching 144 feet.
- ▶ Arches is in a "high desert" climate, meaning summers get very hot and winters get very cold with very little precipitation.



Canyonlands National Park

Where *earth* meets sky.

Home to Mother Nature's sculpture garden, Canyonlands National Park shows off its towering mesas, whimsical arches, and winding valleys as far as the traveler's eye can see. Carved by the Colorado River, the park is divided into four districts and has history dating back to ancient times when Native American tribes inhabited the area. In the 19th century, European explorers and settlers ventured into the region, drawn by its beauty and natural wonders. Travelers explore the park's diverse landscapes through hiking, backpacking, off-road driving, and photographing its stunning vistas and rich cultural heritage. This rugged playground of the southwest is calling your name.

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- ▶ In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 88-590 establishing 257,640 acres as the beginning of Canyonlands National Park.
- ▶ Two major rivers are responsible for carving the Canyonlands region – the Colorado and the Green.
- ▶ Canyonlands National Park contains some of the most remote land remaining in the continental United States.
- ▶ Island in the Sky can be accessed by a narrow section of rock known as the Neck.



Capitol Reef National Park

A land of hidden *treasures*.

Capitol Reef is a geologic carnival where every sandstone fold is a window to the past. Established in 1971, the park got its name from the white domes resembling the capitol building in Washington D.C. – a familiar sight to many. Native American petroglyphs and remnants of ancient Puebloan settlements reflect an even deeper history dating back thousands of years. More recently, travelers will find orchards left behind from early Mormon pioneers and are invited to pick and eat the fruit when it's in season. Travel along the Million Dollar Road where landscapes unfold like a giant, ancient pop-up book waiting for its pages to be explored.

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- ▶ The Fremont People, who are related to the Ancestral Puebloans, were the first known inhabitants of Capitol Reef around 700 AD.
- ▶ On August 2, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the proclamation creating Capitol Reef National Monument.
- ▶ The remote Waterpocket Fold area was the last land to be mapped and charted in the continental United States.

2025 NEW TOUR

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

featuring San Diego & California's Central Coast

Surround yourself in a land of giants and explore national parks where towering ancient redwoods and the highest peak, Mount Whitney, tower over the lower 48 states. The sandy beaches and laid-back lifestyle of California's sunny coast are waiting for you.

Here's a sneak peek into the action:

- ▶ Departures beginning in May 2025.
- ▶ Experience the West Coast's world-renowned national parks.
- ▶ Discover California's vibrant coastal cities.
- ▶ Tour San Diego's old town and learn about the "birthplace of California".
- ▶ Harbor cruise of San Diego Bay.
- ▶ Explore seaside Carlsbad on a walking food tour.
- ▶ City tour of Los Angeles, the entertainment capital of the world.
- ▶ Seaside hotel stay in Pismo Beach, a true central coast gem.
- ▶ Lunch in the Paso Robles wine region.
- ▶ Join a local guide to explore "The Land of Giants" aka Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks.



ON THE COVER
📍 Bryce Canyon National Park

For reservations, contact your Travel Professional
or call Collette at **800.611.3361**.

[collette.com](https://www.collette.com)

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#gocollette

The Best Travel Protection Plan in Guided Travel! • **Private Chauffeur Service Included** (See website for details.)