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California national parks pass

National Park is a term used to denote a reserved area of government-owned land. Explore all the parks and learn about their natural landscape and historical values. While national parks get all the fanfare (and crowds of tourists), state parks and national monuments offer similar opportunities for travelers looking for outdoor activities, history and relaxation. Whether you're staying close to home with a day trip or a weekend getaway, or venture further, you're sure to find a park or monument that fits your travel style in any of the 50 states. Dave Hartvigsen, vice president of sales and marketing at Xanterra Parks and Resorts, which operates numerous accommodation facilities in several national and state parks, says the biggest difference between national parks, monuments and state parks is scale. State parks are widely dispersed, and slightly smaller in scale than national parks, Hartvigsen says, pointing to Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park outside Zion National Park, and Snow Canyon State Park, both in Utah, as two interesting options. National monuments are even smaller, although there are exceptions, he explains. Here are some more ideas to get you started. National Monuments For other ideas, Wikipedia has a list of national monuments and their locations. State Parks If fern trees and forests come to mind when you think park, you haven't discovered John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo, Florida yet. Swim, dive or take a glass-bottomed boat tour to glimpse the underwater world. Tips for booking If you have the heart at a particular destination, Hartvigsen says: Keep calling. Being persistent can pay off, as rooms open for a variety of reasons and are rebooked daily. Having the slightest flexibility in your schedule, even altering your itinerary for a day, can make all the difference. Last minute rooms are sometimes available for brave travelers who show up on the day they need accommodation. Most areas also have free or inexpensive camping options, some of which are on a first-come, first-served basis rather than booking-based (although it is always advisable to check in advance and make reservations if necessary). Hartvigsen Prices says prices in state parks with accommodation are generally 25 to 40% lower than you would find in national parks, although all concessions in national parks are required to submit a fee proposal to park service, ensuring that prices remain reasonable for both accommodation and Parks typically charge entry fees per vehicle, and travelers can expect to pay around \$10 to \$20. Check with the particular state or national monument for more information. At \$80, annual American The Beautiful—National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is a good choice for frequent park travelers, although it doesn't cover state park entrance fees. When to Go While Parks Are Sure to Stay throughout the summer, there are times when the crowds are a little thinner. Hartvigsen cites Memorial Day until Labor Day as the busiest time, but says mid-August is a good time to visit, as many kids are back at school. Early June is also a less touristy time. For those intending to visit a national park, Hartvigsen recommends looking for less frequent destinations like Capitol Reef in Utah, Voyageurs in Minnesota, St. Elias National Park in Alaska, or Biscayne in Florida. Right now, big name national parks are starting to fill up, Hartvigsen explains, they're not full yet, but they're certainly full in a few days. You can also search for packages that group accommodation with activities. What is your favorite state park or national monument? Do you have tips for potential travelers? Share your thoughts by leaving a comment below! We select everything we recommend by hand and select articles through tests and reviews. Some products are shipped to us for free without any incentive to offer a favorable review. We offer our unbiased opinions and do not accept compensation for reviewing products. All items are in stock and prices are accurate at the time of publication. If you buy something through our links, we can earn a commission. Death Valley National Park is one of the hottest places in the world - lowest - and one of the best places in the United States to contemplate the stars. With little rainfall, it is a naked landscape, full of geological rarities, imposing sand dunes and the houses of some rather extravagant former inhabitants. What can you do in Death Valley? Quite a lot, as it turns out. See the ideas below to find things that appeal to you. Start planning your trip by figuring out why you should go, learn when is the best time to visit, and get some practical tips for your trip. They're all in the Death Valley visitor's guide. 01 of 04 ©2014 Betsy Malloy Photography. Used by Permit. You've probably heard of Death Valley California, but you may not know much about it. The most important thing is that Death Valley earned its name because the pioneers almost died trying to cross it in 1849, but that was in the winter. Sadly, people still die there when they get lost or stranded in the scorching summer heat. In fact, it holds the world record for the highest temperature ever recorded on earth. That was 134 oF, which was measured in Death Valley in July 1913. According to the National Park Service, the highest ground temperature in Death Valley was 201oF in Creek on July 15, 1972. The maximum air temperature for that day was 128 oF. Before visiting, it is useful to find out what the typical death valley weather conditions are like per month. 04 out of 04 In Death Valley, you can stand on the edge of an extinct volcano, see evidence of rocks moving without any human intervention, standing 282 feet (86 meters) below sea level, sea, visit the devil's golf course (or its cornfield), all in one day. Explore all the best things you can do on your visit in this helpful guide. In fact, there's so much to do in Death Valley that you have to make sure you use your time wisely. The Death Valley weekend getaway planner can help you do this. Remember Tatooine's desert landscapes in the Star Wars movies? Many of these famous scenes were filmed in Death Valley, and can be visited using this handy guide. If you want to take a guided tour of Death Valley, or create your own, use these death valley tour ideas. You can also use the Death Valley photo guide to make your way around the park. Even if all you have time for is a quick drive through the park, the drive from Shoshone to Stovepipe Wells is one of California's most scenic trips. Be careful that if you choose the wrong path, this trip will be more disappointing than surprising. Load your motorhome, plan your route and take your park passes in advance to experience the historical and geological wonders offered by our national parks. To make your trip cheaper, look for a discount on a national park pass to see if you're eligible. The National Park and the Federal Series of Recreational Land Passes offers several pass purchase options, while also offering a financial break to older adults and those with disabilities. Maybe an annual America the Beautiful pass or a lifetime pass is the best option for you. Or if you have a fourth grader in your clan, check out the free family-centered entry offered to children this age. For the best trip planning, look at your options and get your pass before you go. Anyone can purchase an annual park pass (which costs about \$90), and lasts a year from the date of purchase, giving you the flexibility to visit several different national parks and recreation sites in a year. Use the pass as a prepaid ticket for all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle in per-vehicle fare areas. You can also use it at the entrance to the per-person rate areas, giving you access to yourself (the passholder) and three adults. Children under the age of 16 accompanying any annual pass holder also have free access. Members of the U.S. Army, including those in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Reserve, and National Guard, can get an annual park pass for free for themselves and their dependents. Similar to a regular annual pass, a military pass allows access to national parks and recreation venues that charge an entrance fee. A military pass must be obtained in person at a federal recreation site showing a common access card (CAC) or military ID (Form 1173). U.S. citizens and permanent residents over the age of 62 can benefit from a discounted fee on an annual pass (\$20) or in a lifetime (\$80). Simply show identification in the form of a U.S. driver's license, U.S. passport, or green card at any park entrance. Or buy your pass online or by mail. An elderly pass works the same way as the regular or lifetime annual pass, but it also offers discounts on some service rates within the parks. In an effort to take children outside to explore the wonders of our nation, the U.S. government launched the Every Kid in a Park program, which allows free entry to all fourth graders and their families. Simply visit your site, complete the adventure journal, print your pass, and then show it to a park ranger at the time of admission. The pass is good for the entire school year, is non-transferable and grants the child and up to three adults free admission to any national park. Teachers can also use this option for guided school tours. People who accumulate 250 hours of volunteer time at one or more of the recreation sites run by a federal agency are granted a voluntary pass as a thank you for their service. This pass is good for one year and offers the same benefits as a regular annual pass. An access pass is a free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with lifetime disabilities. Qualifying individuals can get the pass in person at a federal recreation site or by mail with the required documentation. This pass offers the same benefits as a regular annual pass. Thank you for let us know! Know!

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