

Climates in the United States run the gamut from unforgiving arid to icy, and quite literally everything in between. With this plethora of natural diversity, the preservation of fragile ecosystems and rare species is critical. On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service to do just that. One hundred years later, 59 national parks and hundreds of other protected areas cover over 84 million acres – each one unique and breathtaking.

To celebrate its centennial, the National Parks System has kicked off a number of recreational, conservation, and historic preservation programmes to encourage visitors to 'find your park'.

In 1904, before the parks system was established, the number of visitors to what today is our national parks was 120,690; now it is over 307,000,000. In the 112 years since visitor records began, there have been an incredible 13 billion visitors.

Criteria for the selection of National Parks include natural beauty, unique geology and ecosystems, and recreational opportunities. There are currently 59 national parks, but new parks are always being considered, with the newest additions being California's Pinnacles National Park in California (established in 2013), Great Sand Dunes in Colorado (2004) and Congaree National Park in South Carolina (2003) among others. Choosing which park to visit can be daunting, so we have rounded up the 10 most popular.



大煙山國家公園 GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

橫跨田納西州及北卡羅萊納州的大煙山國家公園，每年吸引約1,100萬名訪客。公園以豐富多樣的動植物品種聞名，同時也保留了南Appalachian山區文化的遺跡。

Straddling the states of Tennessee and North Carolina, the Great Smoky Mountains attract nearly 11 million visitors annually. Renowned for the diversity of its plant and animal species, the park is heralded for its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture.

www.nps.gov/grsm

大煙山國家公園的瀑布、河流（上面）及森林，流經及覆蓋Appalachians山區的廣闊範圍。

One of the many waterfalls, streams (above) and forests spanning the Appalachians of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park





科羅拉多河流過的峽谷範圍，是大峽谷國家公園的中心

The canyon carved by the Colorado River is the centreplace of the Grand Canyon

大峽谷國家公園 GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

大峽谷國家公園遼闊磅礴的氣勢，足以令每年為數約550萬的訪客歎為觀止。科羅拉多河在大峽谷蜿蜒流過365公里，最寬的地方達29公里，水深最高達到1.6公里，適合各種水上活動。石壁則可細意欣賞不同地質年代岩石的色彩及結構變化，見證大自然的鬼斧神工。

The sheer vastness of Grand Canyon National Park is enough to inspire awe in each of the 5.5 million annual visitors. The Colorado River snakes through the canyon's 365 kilometres, which can reach up to 29 kilometres wide and sits 1.6 kilometres deep, offering all kinds of recreational opportunities. Rock buffs will appreciate the dramatic formations of colour and structure highlighting the different geological periods.

www.nps.gov/grca

在洛磯山國家公園，可找到大角羊（右圖）的蹤影及洛磯山的雄偉氣勢

Wild bighorn sheep (right) dot the landscape and the majestic Rockies soar over the Rocky Mountain National Park



洛磯山國家公園 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

位於科羅拉多州的洛磯山國家公園，以豐富多采的景色襯托洛磯山的雄偉，不妨考驗自己的膽色，駕車沿著海拔3,600米高的Trail Ridge路走，觀賞公園內的黑熊、美洲獅、大角羊、紅鹿及土狼，大開眼界。

Located in mountainous Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park's rich scenery highlights the grandeur of the Rockies. Drive along Trail Ridge Road to test out life at 3,600 metres and marvel at the black bears, mountain lions, bighorn sheep, elk and coyotes found in the park.

www.nps.gov/romo



Yosemite國家公園 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

加州Yosemite國家公園的Sierra Nevada山脈腹地一帶是遼闊的大草原，草原上遍佈高聳的花崗岩峰及石丘。公園的主要賣點是全美國最高的Yosemite瀑布，流水從高739米的峭壁傾瀉而下，轟隆的水聲震動附近的參天紅杉。

Granite peaks and domes rise high above broad meadows in the heart of the Sierra Nevada at Yosemite National Park in California. Giant sequoias tower overhead with the country's tallest waterfall, Yosemite Falls, boasting a vertical drop of 739 metres, being a major attraction.

www.nps.gov/yose



花崗岩峰及大型瀑布是 Yosemite國家公園的主要賣點（上圖）

The granite peaks and waterfalls are among Yosemite's most recognisable features (above)



黃石公園是美國第一個國家公園，公園內有的一萬個熱泉（下圖）

The night sky above the US's first national park, Yellowstone; the park's thermal features (below)

黃石國家公園 YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

黃石公園是美國第一個國家公園，位於懷俄明、蒙大拿及愛達荷三州交界，也是全球知名Old Faithful間歇泉的所在地。除此之外，黃石公園內還有約10,000個熱泉，加上湖泊、瀑布、草原和黃石大峽谷，每年吸引逾400萬人到訪。

The nation's first national park, Yellowstone National Park, straddles Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, and features the world-famous geyser, Old Faithful. About 10,000 other thermal features along with lakes, waterfalls, meadows and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone join Old Faithful to attract over four million visitors per year.

www.nps.gov/yell





Zion國家公園 ZION NATIONAL PARK

Zion國家公園位於猶他州西南一隅，色彩繽紛的峽谷和岩石台地，蔚為奇觀。公園高低落差極大，因此擁有極端多元的物種，從仙人掌和土狼，到矮松和金鵟等，應有盡有。

Located in the southwestern state of Utah, Zion National Park features colourful canyons and mesas that showcase phenomenal shapes and landscapes. The elevation differences at Zion provide habitat for extremely diverse life, which includes everything from cactus and coyotes to pinyon pine and golden eagles.

www.nps.gov/zion



位於猶他州西南面的Zion國家公園，以色彩繽紛的峽谷水池、天然石拱（左圖）、岩石台地及地貌

Utah's southwestern Zion National Park boast remarkable coloured canyon pools, natural arches (left) and mountainous mesas and rock formations

奧林匹克國家公園的山峰，數年輪古老冰川覆蓋（下圖左及右）

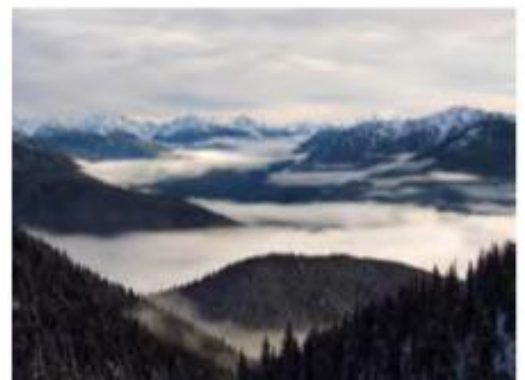
The glaciers that top the mountains in Washington state's Olympic National Park (below left & right) are part of its diverse ecosystem

奧林匹克國家公園 OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

華盛頓州的奧林匹克國家公園位於太平洋岸邊，網羅了從高山地區到熱帶雨林等各具特色的景區，每年迎來接近330萬名訪客。位於公園中心的奧林匹克山，山頂終年被古老冰川覆蓋，公園西側是延綿約100公里的原始海岸線。

Washington state's Olympic National Park welcomes nearly 3.3 million visitors each year and offers a variety of distinct zones spread across the Pacific coastline – alpine areas and temperate rainforest. Ancient glaciers top the Olympic Mountains, which sit at the centre of the park, while its western-most reaches boast nearly 100 kilometres of pristine coastline.

www.nps.gov/olymp



Grand Teton國家公園 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Grand Teton國家公園位於懷俄明州，距離黃石公園只是16公里，山巒崎嶇起伏，在山脊兩旁是壯麗的冰湖，美不勝收，這裡擁有全球最大規模的完好溫帶生態圈，不時可見灰熊、狼、野牛和駝鹿在公園內遊走，公園每年吸引300萬名訪客。

Located just 16 kilometres south of Yellowstone in Wyoming, the rugged Grand Teton National Park features stunning glacial lakes flanking the mountain range, and lies within the world's largest intact temperate ecosystem. Grizzly bears, wolves, bison and moose can be found roaming the park by its three million annual visitors.

www.nps.gov/gtse



懷俄明州Grand Teton國家公園的主要景點包括Jackson Hole谷地
Wyoming's Grand Teton is also home to the historic Jackson Hole valley



Acadia國家公園 ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Acadia國家公園位於緬因州東北部，其岩石嶙峋的海岸線和花崗岩山脈，每年吸引280萬名旅客蜂擁而至，公園的焦點是高465米、美國東岸最高的Cadillac山。

The rocky shorelines and granite mountains of Acadia National Park draw 2.8 million visitors each year to northeastern Maine. Cadillac Mountain, the highest point on the east coast of the US at 465 metres, is a major feature.

www.nps.gov/acad

Acadia國家公園的沿海島嶼及瀟灑湖泊，包圍著東岸的山峰

Northeastern Acadia's coastal islands and freshwater lakes (above) surround the east coast's highest peak





蒙大拿州冰川國家公園周圍有接近30個冰川及超過100個湖泊

Nearly 30 glaciers (above) and over 100 lakes are scattered around Montana's historic Glacier National Park

冰川國家公園 GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

蒙大拿州的冰川國家公園幅員廣達400,000公頃，由冰川雕琢而成的奇美地形和仿如峽灣的湖泊，一直享負盛譽。每年超過200萬名旅客，會沿著將公園中分的Going-to-the-Sun大道，深入探索這片偏遠荒蕪的原始大地。

Renowned for its stunning glacier carved landscapes and sparkling fjord-like lakes, Glacier National Park encompasses over 400,000 hectares in Montana. Going-to-the-Sun Road bisects the park and provides access to this remote, wild land for over two million visitors per year. ➡

www.nps.gov/glac



位於夏威夷大島的Kilauea及Mauna Loa火山，經常可見熔岩湧出（下圖）

Kilauea and Mauna Loa on Hawaii's Big Island often show off lava flows (below)

火山地貌 VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE

一般人出遊，當然會遠離爆發的火山和流溢的熔岩，但來到夏威夷火山國家公園，遊客都踴躍結隊近距離觀看這種自然威力。除了活火山外，公園內還有很多珍貴的瀕危動植物及史前遺跡。

遊客可乘搭直升機，從高空的最佳位置觀看熔岩噴發的壯麗奇景。爬山者亦有機會飽覽熾熱奔流的自然現象及變化不定的地貌。夏威夷火山國家公園擁有長達240公里的遠足徑，別讓如地震徑和毀滅徑等名稱嚇怕，徒步遠足正是欣賞公園美景的最佳方法。

Erupting volcanoes and flowing lava may sound like something to avoid on vacation, but at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park guests visit in droves to marvel at this incredible natural phenomenon up close. Along with the aforementioned volcanoes, rare and endangered plant and animal communities and prehistoric sites are among the park's features.

While helicopter tours offer travellers the perfect vantage point to spot lava flows, lucky hikers may also get a glimpse of the fiery embers and constantly changing landscape. Don't let names like Earthquake Trail and Devastation Trail deter you: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park features over 240 kilometres of paths, and hiking is one of the best ways to explore the park.

www.nps.gov/havo

