

Hit the road this  
summer and  
experience the great  
outdoors

# Summer Vacation

10 Least Visited National Parks to Add to Your Bucket List

# From sea to shining sea

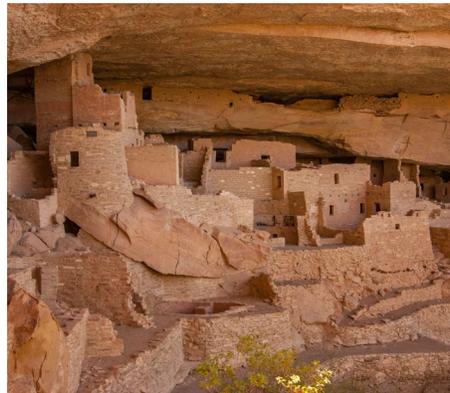
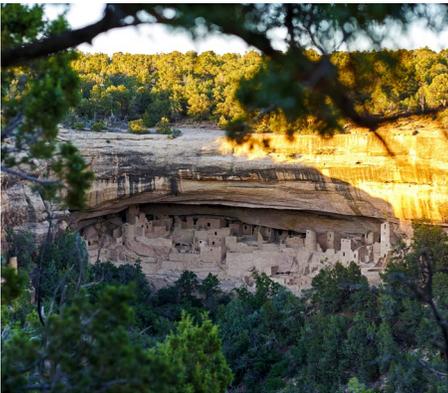
“There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt



## DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK – FLORIDA

Situated in the Gulf of Mexico, 70 miles west of Key West, the [Dry Tortugas](#) is known for its stunning natural beauty, wildlife, beaches, coral reefs, campgrounds & array of activities both in & out of the water. The islands were given the name “Tortugas” because Ponce de León saw so many sea turtles there when he discovered the island in 1513.



## Mesa Verde National Park – Colorado

The southwestern [Colorado national park](#) is known for its extremely well preserved Puebloan cliff dwellings, where the Native Americans that lived there carved their homes into the earth. It’s theorized that these cliff dwellings were built to defend against invading groups.



## GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK - ALASKA

Located in a very remote area of Alaska is this stunning [national park](#) where glaciers cover 27 percent of the park. Though the park makes up less than 1 percent of Alaska’s land mass, it is bigger than the state of Connecticut. The park is also home to the largest marine sanctuary on the planet.

# Spelunking

"I have no special desire to go crawl around in caves, but I really like the word [spelunking] and want to use it in conversation."

— Evan Mandery, First Contact-Or, It's Later Than You Think

**"I think Nature's imagination is so much greater than man's, she's never gonna let us relax!"**

**Richard Phillip Feynman**

## UNDERGROUND NATIONAL PARKS



### MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK – KENTUCKY

Named after the world's largest known cave system with more than 400 miles of passageways, [Mammoth Cave](#) has domes up to 192 feet high and pits as deep as 105 feet. Native Americans were the first to discover this natural beauty about 4,000 years ago.



### GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK – NEVADA

From rugged mountain peaks to vast underground caverns, this [77,100-acre park](#) in Nevada appears barren and desolate at a glance yet supports a vast array of plant and animal life. Some of the most interesting facts about this park have to be seen to be believed such as the oldest trees on earth that survive on the mountain sides.



### WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK – SOUTH DAKOTA

[Wind Cave National Park](#) was established in 1903 as the first national park dedicated to preserving a cave system and was later expanded to preserve the unique and shrinking mixed-grass prairie habitat. Today, it is home to countless prairie plant and animal species, and cave features seldom seen elsewhere in the world. The cave is considered sacred by Native Americans.

**"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."**

**Albert Einstein**

**“Leave the roads;  
take the trails.”**

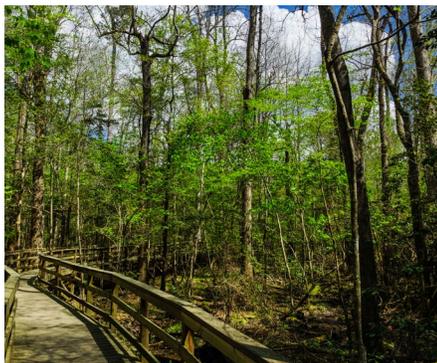
**Pythagoras**

# Take a hike

[The Guadalupe Mountains](#) are the same mountains shared with Carlsbad Caverns National Park. 16 different species of bats call the park home along with many other reptiles and wildlife. Over 80 miles of hiking trails offer easy nature walks through desert flora; more moderate hikes follow canyons and reach riparian oases, and strenuous all day hikes can take you into high country forest or to the “Top of Texas”. Each is unique - the magic of Guadalupe Mountains National Park awaits you.



**Sunrise after a night of camping  
in Guadalupe Mountains National  
Park, Texas**



## **[Congaree National Park, South Carolina](#)**

preserves the largest area of old growth bottom-land hardwood forest left in the United States. Whether you are looking for a short hike on the Boardwalk Trail, or desire to make a longer trek into the backcountry, there are options available for visitors of all skills and abilities.



**[Virgin Islands National Park](#)** is 12,909 acres of land and 5,650 acres of water. Step back in time while experiencing a moist tropical forest as you hike down the verdant Reef Bay Valley or experience the park’s coolest train, a 225 yard underwater trail designed for snorkeling.



Some of the oldest and largest living trees on the face of the earth live in the North Coast region of northern California. **[The Redwood National Park](#)** is also home to the world’s tallest tree, a coast redwood named Hyperion that’s nearly 370 feet tall. There are plenty of scenic trails to enjoy, from one hour to all day, there’s something for everyone.