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# Introduction

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## *The National Park Service*

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson approved legislation creating the National Park Service, a new federal bureau in the Department of Interior. Its responsibility was to protect the 35 national parks and monuments then managed by the department and those yet to be established. Today the National Park Service is made up of 390 units covering more than 84 million acres.

## *About This Book*

America's national parks offer the visitor a variety of camping experiences, whether it's in a tent in the backcountry or in your RV parked at a campsite with electric hookups. This book describes the camping opportunities available at more than one hundred National Park Service areas. It not only includes national parks but national seashores, national monuments, national recreation areas, and much more.

Each state chapter begins with a list of National Park Service areas within that state. Each is numbered and identified on a map.

Details for each park include contact information, a brief description of the park including any entrance fees that may be charged, and the location of visitor centers. Visitor centers have free maps, brochures, and park rangers available to answer your questions.

Campground information for each park includes directions, season, number of campsites, and cost per night. You'll also

find a list of amenities and facilities such as restrooms, dump stations, showers, and more. RV length limits, if known, are provided as are length of stay restrictions. (See Appendix F for more information about RV length limits.)

## *Additional Information*

Be sure to look at the appendices for additional information about the National Park Service. In Appendix A you'll find information about money-saving programs like the National Parks Pass and Golden Age Passport. Appendix B describes the various designations assigned to National Park Service areas such as national parks, national monuments, national recreation areas, etc. In Appendix C you'll find information about visiting parks with your pet. Appendix D is a list of National Park Service areas where camping is free. Appendix E is a convenient list of campgrounds that can accommodate RVs.



## *Canyon de Chelly National Monument*

*PO Box 588*

*Chinle, AZ 86503*

*Phone: 928-674-5500*

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is in the Navajo Reservation three miles east of Chinle and 200 miles northeast of Flagstaff. The nearly 84,000-acre park contains ruins of Indian villages constructed between 350 and 1300 A.D. The park remains open all year. No entrance fee is charged. To drive on the canyon bottom requires a four-wheel drive vehicle, a Park Service permit, and an authorized Navajo guide. The fee is \$15 per hour for one vehicle. Hiking within the canyon requires a permit and an authorized Navajo guide, except along the 2.5-mile White House Ruins Trail.

Information is available from the Canyon de Chelly Visitor Center, located three miles east of US 191 in Chinle. It remains open year-round and has exhibits featuring the cultural history of the area.

There is only one campground within the park. All campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not accepted. Backcountry camping is permitted with an authorized guide.

**Cottonwood:** near visitor center, 95 sites, no fee, five day maximum stay, 35-foot RV length limit, drinking water, flush toilets, dump station, limited facilities in winter.

### **Park Activities**

- ✓ Auto Touring
- Biking
- Boating
- ✓ Camping
- Climbing
- Fishing
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- Snow Skiing
- Swimming
- Wildlife Viewing

## *Chiricahua National Monument*

*13063 E Bonita Canyon Rd  
Willcox, AZ 85643  
Phone: 520-824-3560*

Chiricahua National Monument is in southeast Arizona about 36 miles southeast of Willcox and 120 miles southeast of Tucson. The park preserves 12,000 acres of the Chiricahua Mountains and unusual rock formations. An entrance fee of \$5 per person is charged.

Information is available from the Chiricahua Visitor Center located two miles from the monument entrance. It remains open all year (closed on December 25) and has audiovisual programs, exhibits, and books for sale.

There is only one campground within the monument. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not accepted. Backcountry camping is not permitted. There is no food service, gasoline, or lodging within the monument. Supplies can be obtained from nearby communities.

**Bonita Canyon:** open all year, 22 sites, no hookups, \$12 per night, 29-foot RV length limit, restrooms with flush toilets, water, picnic tables, no showers, 14 day stay limit.

### **Park Activities**

- ✓ Auto Touring
- Biking
- Boating
- ✓ Camping
- Climbing
- Fishing
- ✓ Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- Snow Skiing
- Swimming
- ✓ Wildlife Viewing