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National park guides

The Getaways series highlights top attractions in National Park Service sites across the US. Since its start in '09, over 250 spots have been featured. If you're planning a park visit, check out the latest getaways for inspiration or explore past ones in the archives. Our free national park trip planners are packed with itineraries, photos, and maps to help you plan your dream vacation. To get more travel info, select our trusted partners along your route to the parks, and receive emails or mail from them directly to make your road trip as enjoyable as your final destination. National Park Trip Planners feature various parks like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite. Our curated trip plans include destinations like Utah's national parks (Zion, Bryce Canyon, etc.). The trip planner contents include favorite road trips, park entrances, basic maps, guides to lodging, wildlife-watching field guides, itineraries of top things to do, and more. Most National Park Service sites are free to visit, but some require an entrance pass or reservation due to high traffic. Visitors can save money with the America the Beautiful Pass or interagency pass. When planning a visit, check if you need a reservation through recreation.gov, as some parks use timed entry systems or tour reservations. America the Beautiful Pass Requirements and Details Passholders must present a valid government-issued photo ID with their pass. To receive your pass, you can order online through the USGS Online Store or pick one up in person at an authorized location. Ordering early is recommended to avoid waiting. US citizens and permanent residents over 62 can get an annual pass for \$20, while lifetime passes cost \$80. Pass applicants need proof of age and residency/citizenship. The Senior Pass offers a 50% discount on some fees, but not special recreation permits or concessioner fees. Senior Passes are non-transferable; eligible recipients must show ID to receive one. Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports are no longer sold but are still honored under the original provisions. Eligible individuals can exchange their old pass for a current Senior Lifetime Pass for free. Annual Passes and Park Groups Certain annual passes offer multi-venue access, such as the Hawai'i Tri-Park Pass or Southeast Utah Parks Annual Pass. Other options include park-specific passes like the Northern California/Southern Oregon 4-Park Pass or Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Annual Pass. The annual pass for Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument grants access for a year from purchase, covering private vehicles with all passengers. The Montezuma Castle Annual Pass offers entry to both Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments for \$35, suitable for cardholders plus 3 adult guests. Passes are non-refundable, non-transferable, and must be purchased in person or online at Recreation.gov.

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