

### **If I'm going to begin with a tour of national parks, what preparation should I make before visiting any of them?**

There is no specific universal preparation for visiting parks. I would think through what activities I enjoy doing, what kind of places I might like the most, which parks I can reach (logistics), and available resources (money, transportation). As with any other topic, start reading about the parks and people who visit them.

For specific parks, I read a summary and reviewed a park map well beforehand. I often read some background from more than one source. For instance, I would read the physical official park brochure if I had one, read another online source like Encyclopedia Britannica or Wikipedia, reviewed the park's specific web page and its contents through [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), and reviewed the park information in one or more guidebooks I own. FYI, you can request a specific park's brochure be sent to you in the mail by contacting the park using the Contact Us feature on their website.

### **What provisions are there for physically disadvantaged in the national parks?**

Most parks offer as much practical access to the mobility-limited as is possible. People can still see a great deal of many parks via driving tours. Tours of such park locations as homes vary according to the specific structure. Many paved trails and boardwalks can accommodate wheelchairs.

### **Which parks are the best to visit in summer time? During winter?**

Generally speaking, parks in the northern latitudes and mountains are more accessible in the summer and parks in southern latitudes and deserts are more comfortable to visit in the winter.

### **Which national parks are in environmental danger?**

There are environmental concerns in nearly all our parks. Lengthy books cover limited aspects of this question.

### **Are there new candidates for national parks?**

There are always sites being considered for inclusion into the national park system under one of the 28 different designations. Two candidates for the next NPS unit are Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, CT, a site authorized by Congress to be a park in December 2014, and Amache National Historic Site in southeastern Colorado, the site of a former World War II Japanese internment camps. There are already four internment camp sites in the national park system.

### **Please address the PASSPORT STAMPS. Have you gotten all of them?**

No one has ever gotten all 3-4K passport stamps across the country. Some parks have 20 or more different stamps. Some trails and heritage areas have 50-100 different stamps and stamp locations. They add new ones and revise some of the older ones each month.