



Yosemite National Park © Dan Horner/NPS

FACT SHEET

National Parks in California

Alcatraz Island • Cabrillo National Monument • California National Historic Trail • Channel Islands National Park • Death Valley National Park • Devils Postpile National Monument • Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site • Fort Point National Historic Site • Golden Gate National Recreation Area • John Muir National Historic Site • Joshua Tree National Park • Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail • Lassen Volcanic National Park • Lava Beds National Monument • Manzanar National Historic Site • Mojave National Preserve • Muir Woods National Monument • Old Spanish National Historic Trail • Pinnacles National Monument • Point Reyes National Seashore • Pony Express National Historic Trail • Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial • Presidio of San Francisco • Redwood National and State Parks • Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park • San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park • Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area • Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks • Whiskeytown National Recreation Area • Yosemite National Park

From Lassen Peak in the north to the Channel Islands south, California is the home of some of the nation's most spectacu-

lar natural and manmade wonders. The state's cultural treasures include memorials to the state's early Spanish and Portuguese explorers, as well as the men and women who served their country during World War II. These sites, and many more, are protected by the National Park System and preserve the state's diversity.

Alcatraz Island - Part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, home of a historic and infamous federal prison long off-limits to the public. Visitors can also learn about the Native American occupation of 1969 - 1971, early military fortifications and the West Coast's first lighthouse.

Cabrillo National Monument - Proclaimed in 1913. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, Portuguese explorer who claimed this coast for Spain in 1542, is memorialized here.

California National Historic Trail - Multi-state trail carried over 250,000 gold-seekers and farmers to the gold fields and rich farmlands of California during the 1840s and 1850s.

Channel Islands National Park - Proclaimed a national monument in 1938, redesignated in 1980. Consists of five



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islands off of southern California's coast that are home to nesting sea birds, sea lion rookeries, and endemic plants.

Death Valley National Park - Proclaimed a National Monument in 1933, redesignated in 1994. Contains more than 3.3 million acres of spectacular desert scenery, interesting and rare desert wildlife, complex geology, undisturbed wilderness, and sites of historic and cultural interest.

Devils Postpile National Monument - Proclaimed in 1911. Hot lava cooled and cracked some 900,000 years ago to form basalt columns 40-60 feet high resembling a giant pipe organ.

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site - Authorized in 1976. Some of Eugene O'Neill's best known plays, including "The Iceman Cometh" and "A Long Days Journey Into Night," were written here.

Fort Point National Historic Site - Established in 1970. This classic brick and granite mid-19th century coastal fort is the only one of its style on the west coast of the United States.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area - Established in 1972. Encompasses shoreline areas of San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties, including beaches, redwood forest, lagoons, marshes, military properties, a cultural center at Fort Mason, and Alcatraz Island.

John Muir National Historic Site - Authorized in 1964. The site preserves the 14 room mansion where the naturalist John Muir lived from 1890 to his death in 1914.

Joshua Tree National Park - Proclaimed a national monument in 1936, redesignated in 1994. A representative stand of Joshua trees and a great variety of plants and animals exist in this desert region, where the Colorado Desert and the Mojave Desert ecosystems join together.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail - The national trail commemorates the route followed by a Spanish commander, Juan Bautista de Anza, in 1775-76 when he led a contingent of 30 soldiers and their families to found a presidio and mission near San Francisco Bay. Along the trail route, the visitor can experience the varied landscapes similar to those the expedition saw; learn the stories of the expedition, its members, and descendants; better understand the American Indian role in the expedition and the diversity of their cultures; and appreciate the extent of the effects of Spanish colonial settlement of Arizona and California.

Lassen Volcanic National Park - Proclaimed in 1907. All four types of volcanoes in the world are found in the park. Over 150 miles of trails and a culturally significant scenic highway provide access to volcanic wonders including stream vents, mud pots, boiling pools, volcanic peaks, and sulfurous vents.

Lava Beds National Monument - Proclaimed in 1925. Volcanic activity spewed forth molten rock and lava here, creating an incredibly rugged landscape— a natural fortress used by American Indians in the Modoc Indian War, 1872-73.

Manzanar National Historic Site - Authorized in 1992. Commemorates the World War II interment of Japanese-Americans in the Manzanar War Relocation Center.

Mojave National Preserve - Authorized in 1994. Protects the fragile habitat of the desert tortoise, vast open spaces, and historic mining scenes, such as the Kelso railroad depot.

Muir Woods National Monument - Proclaimed in 1908. This virgin stand of coastal redwoods was named for John Muir, an avid writer and conservationist.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail - Evolved in the early 1800s as a combination of the indigenous footpaths, early trade and exploration routes, and horse and mule routes used by traders between New Mexico and California.

Pinnacles National Monument - Proclaimed in 1908. Spire like rock formations 500-1,200 feet high, with caves and a variety of volcanic features, rise above the smooth contours of the surrounding countryside.

Point Reyes National Seashore - Authorized in 1962. This peninsula near San Francisco is noted for its long beaches backed by tall cliffs, lagoons and esteros, forested ridges, and offshore bird and sea lion colonies.

Pony Express National Historic Trail - Between April 1860 and October 1861, this trail was used by young men on fast paced horses to carry the nation's mail across the country, from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California.

Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial - Port Chicago Naval Magazine was dedicated as a National Memorial to honor the courage and commitment of the Marines, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners, and working civilians killed and injured in the largest homeland disaster during WWII. On July 17, 1944, 320 men, over 200 of which



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were African-Americans, were instantly killed when a loaded munitions ship blew up during loading operations.

Presidio of San Francisco - The Presidio served as a military post under the flags of Spain and Mexico. As a U.S. Army post, the Presidio protected commerce and trade, and played a logistical role in every major U.S. military conflict from 1848 until its closure in 1994. Today, the boundaries of the Presidio contain more than 500 historic buildings, a collection of coastal defense fortifications, a national cemetery, an historic airfield, a saltwater marsh, forests, beaches, native plant habitats, coastal bluffs, miles of hiking and biking, and some of the most spectacular vistas in the world.

Redwood National and State Parks - Established in 1968. Coastal redwood forests with virgin groves of ancient trees, including the world's tallest, thrive in the foggy and temperate climate. The park includes 40 miles of scenic coastline.

Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park - Fully engaged in winning World War II, American women, minorities, and men worked toward a common goal in a manner that has been unequalled since. Women affectionately known as "Rosie's" helped change industry and had sweeping and lasting impacts. Richmond, California played a significant and nationally recognized part in the World War II Home Front. The four Richmond Shipyards, with their combined 27 shipways, produced 747 ships, more than any other shipyard complex in the country. Richmond was home to 56 different war industries, more than any other city of its size in the United States.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park - Established in 1988. Park includes the fleet of historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier, the Maritime Museum, and the Maritime Museum Library.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area - Established in 1978. Offers rugged mountains, a coastline with sandy beaches and rocky shores, canyons covered with chaparral, and abundant wildlife.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks - Established in 1890. Great groves of giant sequoias, Mineral King Valley, and Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the U.S. outside of Alaska, are spectacular attractions here. Two enormous canyons of the Kings River and the summit peaks of the High Sierra dominate this mountain wilderness.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area - Authorized in 1965. Provides a multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities as well as remains of buildings built during the gold rush.

Yosemite National Park - Established in 1890. Granite peaks and domes rise high above broad meadows in the heart of Sierra Nevada; groves of giant sequoias dwarf other trees and Sierra Nevada; groves of giant sequoias dwarf other trees and wildflowers; and mountains, lakes, and waterfalls, including the nation's highest, are found here.

Key Issues Facing National Parks in California

Taking care of America's national parks should be a national priority. With the 100th birthday of the National Park System approaching in 2016, it is more important than ever to address the ongoing problems that our parks are facing. The National Park Service is suffering from an operations funding shortfall now estimated at \$750 million annually. In addition, several billion dollars are needed to protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, and repair the extensive backlog of maintenance projects. Many park friends in Congress have spent years highlighting the fiscal crisis in America's national parks. The Administration and Congress responded in fiscal year 2008 with a \$122 million increase in the budget for park operations. This is a strong first step in our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. The FY 2008 budget also launched the National Park Centennial Challenge, which will help restore the parks for their 100th birthday and for generations to come. In addition to the operational shortfall, the National Park Service has a \$1.9 billion land acquisition backlog consisting of over 11,000 tracts of land and covering more than 1.8 million acres. In many instances, failure to acquire these lands makes operating the parks more complex and costly. Unfortunately, funding for national park federal land acquisition has declined dramatically in recent years, from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

- The endangered Devil's Hole Pupfish, found only in Death Valley National Park, continues to suffer a population decline without funding to conduct groundwater monitoring, protection of rare aquatic habitats and removal of invasive species.
- Less than one percent of Death Valley National Park's 833,000 historic artifacts are on display for visitors to see. Storage conditions for these artifacts are inadequate,



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and may lead to the loss of significant cultural resources. Funding is needed to build storage facilities with proper environmental controls and add museum facilities that offer greater exhibit space.

- Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Mojave National Preserve all need "mine-safing" programs to seal off abandoned mines and reclaim surrounding land. In each park, hundreds of mine shafts and mine adits are accessible, dangerous, and lack warning signs. This threat to visitor safety is especially significant since all three parks lack enough rangers to adequately patrol and respond to emergencies.
- Budget shortfalls have a damaging effect on the maintenance operations at Sequoia National Park. This includes the inability to replace the failing potable water supply system, which is crucial to meeting structural fire suppression requirements and visitor and employee demands. This ancient water supply system is representative of the failing utilities systems throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
- Lack of sufficient annual funding in Yosemite National Park contributes to staffing shortages. As a result, only 25 percent of Yosemite's 800 miles of trails receive trail maintenance each year. Traditionally run by Park Service rangers and employees, visitor centers cannot survive without volunteer help, with two facilities completely

run by volunteers. The park also struggles to keep up with routine maintenance to utility systems, including the cleaning of grease traps and servicing pumps, simple tasks that are essential to preventing breakdowns from affecting the 3.6 million visitors that Yosemite hosts each year, and park resources.

Park Visitation in California

In 2006, the national parks in California welcomed 33 million visitors.

Budget Information

In fiscal year 2008, the operations funding for the national parks in California is \$140 million. For fiscal year 2009, the Administration is proposing a 6 percent increase, which would bring operations funding to \$148 million.

Contact Information

For more information on the national parks in California, please contact NPCA Regional Director Ron Sundergill at 415-989-9921 or NPCA Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.

Last updated April 2008



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NPS Unit	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Re- quested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09
Cabrillo National Monument	\$1,262	\$1,258	\$1,423	\$1,452	\$1,483	\$1,658	\$1,690	12	2
Channel Islands National Park	\$4,964	\$4,934	\$5,833	\$5,909	\$6,028	\$6,767	\$7,001	12	3
Death Valley National Park	\$6,928	\$6,790	\$6,957	\$7,080	\$7,254	\$8,538	\$8,872	18	4
Devil's Postpile National Monument	\$189	\$219	\$326	\$331	\$335	\$409	\$613	22	50
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site	\$361	\$358	\$369	\$375	\$381	\$418	\$426	10	2
Fort Point National Historic Site	\$372	\$370	\$455	\$462	\$473	\$517	\$530	9	3
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	\$13,882	\$13,762	\$14,137	\$14,483	\$14,834	\$15,796	\$16,779	6	6
John Muir National Historic Site	\$639	\$636	\$656	\$671	\$684	\$944	\$1,023	38	8
Joshua Tree National Park	\$4,201	\$4,091	\$4,213	\$4,304	\$4,438	\$5,108	\$5,691	15	11
Lassen Volcanic National Park	\$3,730	\$3,778	\$3,884	\$3,969	\$4,085	\$4,488	\$5,357	10	19
Lava Beds National Monument	\$1,161	\$1,161	\$1,508	\$1,536	\$1,578	\$1,701	\$1,855	8	9
Manzanar National Historic Site	\$925	\$916	\$943	\$1,059	\$1,078	\$1,014	\$1,329	-6	31
Mojave National Preserve	\$3,696	\$3,672	\$3,943	\$4,104	\$4,537	\$5,001	\$5,016	10	0
Muir Woods National Memorial	\$367	\$366	\$378	\$391	\$402	\$437	\$448	9	3
Pinnacles National Monument	\$2,294	\$2,215	\$2,437	\$2,495	\$2,553	\$3,046	\$3,223	19	6
Point Reyes National Seashore	\$4,906	\$4,909	\$5,413	\$5,525	\$5,694	\$6,423	\$7,106	13	11
Presidio of San Francisco (Golden Gate NRA)	\$6,377	\$6,363	\$7,061	\$7,276	\$7,506	\$7,881	\$8,039	5	2
Redwoods National and State Parks	\$7,412	\$7,043	\$7,251	\$7,401	\$7,571	\$8,375	\$8,651	11	3
Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park	\$183	\$182	\$493	\$501	\$508	\$551	\$826	8	50
San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park	\$6,456	\$6,412	\$6,987	\$6,736	\$6,879	\$7,281	\$7,434	6	2
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area	\$5,927	\$5,894	\$6,177	\$6,301	\$6,447	\$7,438	\$8,283	15	11
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	\$13,018	\$12,903	\$13,308	\$14,126	\$14,410	\$15,291	\$16,030	6	5
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	\$2,673	\$2,599	\$2,683	\$3,054	\$3,146	\$3,372	\$3,508	7	4
Yosemite NP	\$23,128	\$28,093	\$23,550	\$24,064	\$24,890	\$27,359	\$28,578	10	4
All California parks					\$127,194	\$139,813	\$148,308	10%	6%

All dollar amounts in thousands



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