



Bryce Canyon National Park © Jim Nations/NPCA

FACT SHEET

National Parks in Utah

Arches National Park • Bryce Canyon National Park • California National Historic Trail • Canyonlands National Park • Capitol Reef National Park • Cedar Breaks National Monument • Dinosaur National Monument • Glen Canyon National Recreation Area • Golden Spike National Historic Site • Hovenweep National Monument • Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail • Natural Bridges National Monument • Old Spanish National Historic Trail • Pony Express National Historic Trail • Rainbow Bridge National Monument • Timpanogos Cave National Monument • Zion National Park

Utah's national parks contain some of the most unique landforms in the world. Visitors are awed and inspired by such sites as Delicate Arch, the Waterpocket Fold, and Rainbow Bridge.

Arches National Park - Proclaimed in 1929. Preserves over two thousand natural sandstone arches, including the world-famous Delicate Arch, in addition to a variety of unique geological resources and formations. In some areas, faulting has exposed millions of years of geologic history.

Bryce Canyon National Park - Proclaimed in 1923. At Bryce

Canyon National Park, erosion has shaped colorful Claron limestone, sandstones, and mudstones into thousands of spires, fins, pinnacles, and mazes. Collectively called "hoodoos," these colorful and whimsical formations stand in horseshoe-shaped amphitheaters along the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in Southern Utah.

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

Canyonlands National Park - Established in 1964. Preserves a colorful landscape of sedimentary sandstones eroded into countless canyons, mesas, and buttes by the Colorado River and its tributaries. Located in southeast Utah, the park sits in the heart of a vast basin bordered by sheer cliffs of Wingate Sandstone.

Capitol Reef National Park - Proclaimed in 1937. The Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile long wrinkle in the earth's crust known as a monocline, extends from nearby Thousand Lakes Mountain to the Colorado River (now Lake Powell). Capitol Reef National Park was established to protect this grand and colorful geologic feature, as well as the unique historical and



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Cedar Breaks National Monument -

formed: Kachina, Owachomo, and Sipapu.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail -

Dinosaur National Monument – Known as Echo Park, it is here that the Yampa River, the last free flowing river in the Colorado River System, joins the Green River. This is home and critical habitat for the endangered peregrine falcon, bald eagle, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker. Indian rock art in Echo Park testifies to the allure these canyons and rivers had for prehistoric people.

Pony Express National Historic Trail -

from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument -

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area - First administered in 1958. This recreation area stretches for hundreds of miles from Lees Ferry in Arizona to the Orange Cliffs of southern Utah, encompassing scenic vistas, geologic wonders, and a panorama of human history. Additionally, the controversy surrounding the construction of Glen Canyon Dam and the creation of Lake Powell contributed to the birth of the modern day environmental movement.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument -

Golden Spike National Historic Site -

Zion National Park -

Hovenweep National Monument -

Key Issues Facing National Parks in Utah

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail -

Natural Bridges National Monument -

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



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from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

- In Arches National Park, the Park Service is so stretched that visitors are likely to only see rangers at the visitor center or on paved roads in the park. The Park Service cannot monitor the effects of backcountry campsites or provide adequate visitor interpretation.
- At current funding levels, the Park Service at Bryce Canyon cannot afford to fill critical staff positions, including a geologist, biological technicians, additional law enforcement rangers, trail crew, custodians, and interpreters. There are no funds to complete a number of resource management plans.
- Canyonlands National Park is short 16 staff to adequately protect the park's natural resources and engage visitors. As a result of insufficient funding, less than three percent of Canyonlands has been surveyed for archaeological sites. Without complete knowledge of the park's archaeological resources, the Park Service cannot prop-

erly protect sites from vandalism, weathering, and looting.

- Staffing shortfalls that result from insufficient funding have forced Zion National Park to cut in half the number of popular guided trail walks and ranger talks given each day. Interpretive rangers are not longer available at trailheads and the Zion Lodge, and the Park Service must deny ranger programs to school groups. Funding shortages allow for only limited control of invasive weeds on 2,700 acres of priority habitat. Weed management treatments require follow-up and maintenance over a period of three to five years to be effective, and funding is often unavailable to complete these projects.

Park Visitation in Utah

Budget Information

Contact Information



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