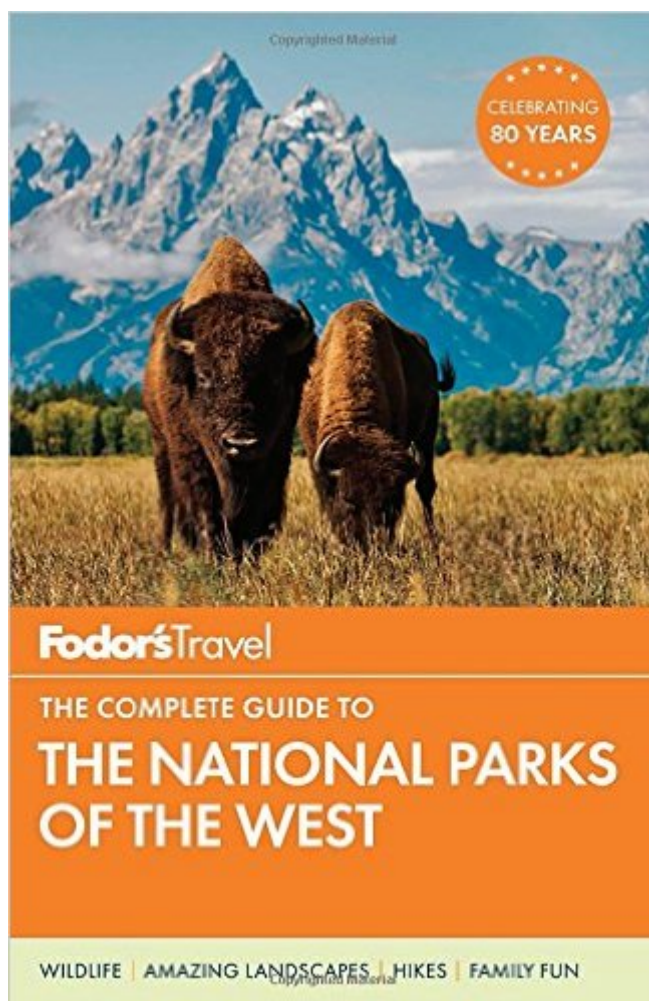


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# Fodor's The Complete Guide To The National Parks Of The West (Full-color Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering trusted advice for all tastes and budgets for 80 years. Fodor's The Complete Guide to the National Parks of the West features comprehensive information on everything within each of the 38 national parks of the West and on the towns and attractions nearby. Every recommendation has been vetted by a local Fodor's expert to ensure travelers plan the perfect trip, from rafting the raging Colorado River as it pushes through the Grand Canyon, to viewing wildlife in Yosemite while you hike, to watching Yellowstone's Old Faithful geyser in action. This guide also includes special chapters to help you choose a park and advice for planning your visit like what to pack, which park passes to buy, and photography tips. This travel guide includes:

- Dozens of full-color maps
- Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations
- In-depth breakout features on great lodges of the National Parks, tips for stargazing, exploring the Colorado River, and Yellowstone's Old Faithful

Covers: Arches National Park, Badlands National Park, Banff National Park, Big Ben National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Channel Islands National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Death Valley National Park, Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Great Basin National Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Jasper National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, North Cascades National Park, Olympic National Park, Petrified Forest National Park, Pinnacles National Park, Redwood National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Saguaro National Park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Wind Cave National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Zion National Park

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent overview of the National Parks. This is not meant to be a comprehensive view of any one park, but the general information is great and there is enough information on every park to give you a flavor of what they have to offer. Even one day ideas for a quick visit to some of the larger parks. Worth the purchase.

This book was awesome on our great out west trip. It gave us lots of idea, great descriptions, and even some things to do that were not known to us from the National Park information. My only gripe was that in some of the chapters, for the bigger parks, it was a bit out of order and not as easily organized for some of the information.

This truly is a great guide, to help you plan a trip to the National Parks in the western states, from Texas, and even a few parks, up into Canada. The book, starts out with a very interesting history about how the parks came to be. I didn't realize so much, like President Lincoln's role in setting aside land in a public trust. There's info, about the animals that live in all the parks, what parks to go to, for different sites and activities, like glaciers, mountains, beaches, etc, even, which parks, you could take a train to. There's great advice on how to take great photos, what to wear, what to bring, which parks pair nicely together for a trip. There's the best lodges to stay in, or campgrounds. I could go on and on, about what all is in this book. If you want to have the best park experience, whether for a day trip, or longer, this book, has all the information you could ever want. There's 7 day itineraries, with a mapped out totally planned trip. It'll be a no brainer, with checklists, of what clothing to bring. I'd give this book stars, if I could.

If you already know specifically which park you're going to, you will probably want something dealing specifically with that park. (Duh.) On the other hand, if you're going to a lot of parks, or trying to pick one, holy cow are you going to love this book. It's gorgeous, well put together. I have spent a lot of time in two of the parks, Theodore Roosevelt and Yellowstone. Thus, I can contrast their treatment in this book. Roosevelt gets a scant dozen or so pages. However, the info that is there is

on-point and accurate. It does give one the feeling of glossing over, but that's hard to help. Yellowstone, on the other hand, gets about 50 pages, which is what you'd expect. Still, Yellowstone is so massive that, again, you'll want a book dedicated to it. This is a wonderful book for armchair park visitors. I wish I had the time to read it cover to cover, and then the time to visit some of the parks of my choosing. The book is fairly inexpensive, so there isn't much reason not to grab it if you're interested. Now I need to find out if they do a book specifically about Theodore Roosevelt National Park.....

This is a very comprehensive guide to the National Parks in the west. It is too heavy to carry around, but yet small enough to have easily available in your car or lodgings. There is a detailed introduction to the park service, wildlife, geology and the great lodges. Although you really have to go to the park's website to get complete information for the specifics and costs concerning their lodges. There is good advice on finding the park that might interest you, families and children. Suggested itineraries are also helpful. The parks are divided into sections with information on each including exploring, sports and outdoor activities, nightlife and performing arts, shopping eating and lodging and what's nearby. This is probably the most informative book on the western parks, although one might wonder what is celebrating 80 years as stated on the cover. (Fodor's guides are celebrating 80 years; the national parks are celebrating 100 years.)

In order to provide enough detail about each national park destination, Fodor wisely focused this guide on the National Parks of the West which includes two popular Canadian parks. That keeps this guide manageable in size yet still able to provide considerable detail about each potential destination. Without assuming that the reader has significant existing knowledge about national parks, it begins with a history of our National Park Service, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and provides information about and photos of wildlife that visitors are likely to encounter. To help prospective national park visitors make appropriate choices about which park or parks to visit, they're mapped and categorized based on accessibility, bear spotting, time available, best for burning calories, best for cultural history and numerous others ranging from best for desert solitude to best for scenic drives. Advice about what to pack is thoughtfully organized. Photography tips and even advice on remaining healthy and safe during national park visits are included. Assuming that national park visitors may have the time and inclination to visit more than one park, several itineraries are mapped out in the guide before the next chapters detail and map each park. Information ranging from lodging and dining choices to virtually every category of interest

that visitors to a national park might have is included in this guide. Whether visitors to national parks plan to hike, backpack and sleep in tents or find accommodations in hotels and lodges and take scenic drives during their travels, this guide offers significant valuable information. Although this guide is remarkably complete, it does not cover every option. One category that is NOT covered by this guide is recreational vehicle (RV) travel and RV camping. Since there are numerous other guides focused exclusively on RV travel and camping that can be used in conjunction with this guide, I don't see that omission as a serious shortcoming. Most people who travel to and visit national parks in their cars, vans or SUVs will find this guide to be virtually complete. I believe that using this guide will make visits to our national parks more rewarding.

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