

Beamish National Park Personal Ratings

Visits as of Feb 25	Grade	Date	State(s)	Faves	Summary	Days*
Acadia	●●●●	Sep-23	ME	Bill	Ocean vistas, fabulous hiking, lodges, Carriage roads, NP vibe**	8
Arches ¹	●●●	Sep-23	UT	Sz/Bill	Rugged desert, rock arches/formations, vistas, easy hiking	5
Badlands	●●	Sep-23	SD		2 parks in 1: prairie and badlands, wildlife, views	5
Big Bend	●●	Jan-23	TX		Huge mountainous desert park bordered by the Rio Grande	6
Biscayne	●	Nov-23	FL		95% water with reefs, corals, shipwrecks, must see by boat	1
Bryce Canyon ²	●●●	Oct-23	UT	Sz/Bill	Magnificent hoodoos/rock formations, limited but great hiking	3
Canyonlands	●●●	Sep-23	UT	Sz	Rocky plateau. huge Colorado River horseshoe gorge. great views	4
Capitol Reef	●●●	Sep-23	UT	Sz	Geological marvels with stunning colors. Best seen in off-road 4x4	5
Carlsbad Caverns ³	●●●	Jan 20	NM	Bill	The king of all USA caverns: huge, varied, brilliantly displayed	1
Channel Islands	●●	Mar 20	CA		5 beautiful islands. boat trip ~20 miles off-shore. views and wildlife	1
Congaree	●	Nov-23	SC		Old growth Cypress trees in floodplain. mud and mosquitoes	1
Crater Lake	●●●	Oct-23	OR	Sz	Deepest lake in US formed in volcano with bluest water ever seen	2
Cuyahoga Valley	●	Oct-23	OH		Patchwork park surrounding abandoned 1800's canal	2
Death Valley	●●●●	Mar-23	NV/CA	Bill	Huge, varied, and amazing collection of geological features. hot	7
Everglades	●	Nov-23	FL		Lot's and lots everglades. See crocodiles at the visitor centers	3
Glacier	●●●●	Sep-23	MT	Sz/Bill	Rocky Mountain lakes, vistas, hiking, and beauty. Huge NP vibe	8
Grand Canyon	●●●	Mar-23	AZ	Sz	Bucket list views of the Canyon. nice "boardwalk". not much hiking	1
Grand Teton	●●●	Sep-25	WY	Bill	Gorgeous mountains, lakes, rivers, good hiking, Jackson Hole	7
Great Sand Dunes	●●	Mar-23	CO		Tallest sand dunes in US surrounded by mountains, grasslands	2
Great Smoky Mountains ⁴	●●●	Apr-23	TN/NC	Sz/Bill	Huge mountain park w/history. great & varied hiking. Gatlinburg	8
Guadalupe Mountains	●●	Jan-23	TX		Smallish park with canyons, desert, and dunes. good "wash" hiking	3
Hot Springs	●	Feb-23	AR		Historic bathhouses fed from thermal springs in middle of town	1
Indiana Dunes	●	Aug-24	IN		Piecemeal park. huge sand dunes at the end of Lake Michigan	2
Joshua Tree	●●●	Mar-23	CA	Bill	Awesome rock formations, iconic Joshua trees. great hiking	7
Lassen Volcanic	●●	Oct-23	CA		Thermal features like Yellowstone. lakes, forests. fire damage	3
Mammoth Cave	●●	Feb-23	KY		Very long, "smooth" caves. not much happening above ground	1
Mesa Verde	●●	Sep-25	CO		Incredible 700 year old Indian "cities" carved/built into cliffsides	3
Mount Rainier	●●●	Sep-23	WA	Sz	Gigantic volcanic mountain with glaciers, rivers, forest, wildlife	7
New River Gorge	●●	Oct-23	WV		Piecemeal park along the New River. Historic sights. Killer views	3
North Cascades	●●	Sep-23	WA		True mountain wilderness, lakes, hikes through deep woods.	5
Olympic	●●●●	Sep-23	WA	Bill	Enormous. several ecosystems - tropical to glaciers. primo hiking	9
Petrified Forest	●●	Mar-23	AZ		Amazing amount of petrified wood plus the "Painted Desert"	1
Pinnacles ⁵	●●	Mar-23	CA	Bill	Small 2-sided park. Unusual rock formations. Condor refuge	4
Redwoods	●●	Oct-23	CA		Large grove of huge redwoods with easy hikes through them	2
Rocky Mountain	●●●	Oct-95	CO	Sz/Bill	High altitude hiking and wildlife. large Elk herds. fantastic vistas	5
Saguaro ⁶	●●	Jan-23	AZ		2-sided desert park with a lot of hiking trails though Saguaro cacti	4
Shenandoah	●●	Oct-23	VA		100 mile along the ridge of Blue Ridge mountains. Views and trails	5
Theodore Roosevelt ⁷	●●	Sep-25	ND		Mountains, prairies, and rivers. herds of buffalo and wild horses	3
White Sands	●●	Jan-23	NM		Large dunes of firm white gypsum sand that you can sled on	1
Wind Cave ⁸	●●	Sep-23	SD		Serpentine natural tunnels stretch on for miles. some hiking up top	1
Yellowstone	●●●●	Sep-23	WY/MT	Sz/Bill	Thermals. mountains. lakes, waterfalls. wildlife. beauty. NP Vibe	9
Yosemite	●●●●	Apr-13	CA	Sz/Bill	Amazing and features, wildlife, redwoods, hiking trails, NP vibe	8
Zion	●●●●	Apr-23	UT	Sz/Bill	Perhaps the most beautiful river gorge on earth. Fabulous hiking	7

* optimum recommended days to visit if hiking

** National Park vibe - Parks with roads, trails, lodges, and landscaping that was constructed by the CCC in the 1st half of the 20th century

¹ Suggest combining with Canyonlands and Dead Horse SP

² Suggest combining with Zion

³ Suggest combining with Guadeloupe

⁴ Suggest staying on both TN and NC sides of the park

⁵ Suggest driving at least one day to east side of park

⁶ West and East sides are 30 miles apart

⁷ North and South Units are 80 miles apart - worth seeing both

⁸ Suggest combining with Mount Rushmore