



## Visit National Parks

From the shores of Maine and Alaska to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, national parks offer outdoor fun and educational activities for everyone. If you're considering a trip to a national park this summer, visit the National Park Service website first.

Search for a National Park by state:  
National Park Service  
<http://www.nps.gov/>

### Advance planning

- Plan some creative scavenger hunts at the parks to keep all family members engaged.
  - Research the native trees in the region, use a field guide to study the shapes of the leaves, then hunt for 5-10 different types of leaves.
  - Make a list of miscellaneous things each family member must find in the park: bird feather, acorn, pine cone, etc.
  - Have each family member bring a pouch or backpack for collecting found objects.
  - For older kids: bring a magnifying glass and look for evidence of animal activity (worm castings, holes in bark from woodpeckers, insects...)
  - Pack a field guide for identifying trees and animals.
  - Bring binoculars and magnifying glasses!
  
- Photo essay – Have family members take turns using a camera to capture images of the park. Or bring a couple disposable cameras as well. See what level of detail you can detect in close-up shots. Make a photo album/scrapbook after your trip and mix photos with family members' own drawings and small found objects.



Can't make it to a national park this summer? The activities on this website are the next best thing:

Online Park Fun Guide – from the National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/learn/gozone.htm>

Junior Ranger

<http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm>

Learn how you can become a Junior Ranger with the National Park Service.

WebRangers

<http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/index.html>

The National Park Service's on-line Junior Ranger program for kids of all ages. Play more than 50 games and learn about your National Parks.

Teen Activity Guide: Appalachian Trail

<http://www.nps.gov/appa/forkids/index.htm>

