

# WESTERN U.S. NATIONAL PARKS



Best Time to Visit:

**JUN - AUG**



The American West conjures up all sorts of images of pretty meadows, majestic mountains and forests, dramatic rivers and canyons, and amazing rock formations. Whether your interest is in photography, hiking, wildlife viewing, or nature's beauty, you can generally visit these parks all year round. The oldest and most famous national park in the west is **Yellowstone**, with almost 3500 square miles of wilderness. It is known for its impressive geothermal hot springs and spurting geysers as well as the beautiful landscape and abundant wildlife such as bears, wolves, bison, elk, and antelope. **Yosemite National Park** in California is among the most visited parks in the country. With splendid valleys revealing waterfalls, impressive granite rocks, hiking trails for all levels and ages, and scenic drives, it offers enough adventure to suit everyone.

Often overlooked, the **Channel Islands National Park** offers peace and solitude for a day trip, with the possibility of seeing species found nowhere else in the world. Further north in Washington, **Olympic National Park** is great for exploring rivers, lakes, coastline, with opportunities for hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing and tide pooling. The striking landscape of **Grand Teton National Park** in Wyoming will leave you breathless. While it is popular for mountaineering, hiking, and fishing, visitors can enjoy boating on its lakes, wildlife viewing and scenic drives.

Whether you wish to combine parks in your trip, or focus on just one, Lakani will create the special vacation for you and your family and friends. Here are some highlights you can enjoy in the National Parks of the West:

- Discover the many species of mammals living beneath the soaring peaks of the Teton Range
- Admire iconic El Capitan, whose height is 2 ½ times the height of the Empire State Building
- Tour the geysers of Yellowstone, including Old Faithful, Grand Geyser, the tallest, and Giant Geyser, the most voluminous
- Cross the channel from Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz, and look out for dolphins and whales on the way
- Take the spectacular "Going-to-the-Sun Road" that spans the width of Glacier National Park, passing through varied terrain from glacial lakes and cedar forests to valleys and alpine tundra on its 50-mile road
- Explore the tide pools at Hole in the Wall on the coast of Olympic National Park