



Traveling in the Western National Parks

In the quiet awe-inspiring world of our
National Parks, we become grounded.
They are America's best idea, and visitors
come from all over the globe
to enjoy their treasures.

Melting snow streaks the iconic
faces of US Presidents
Washington, Jefferson,
Teddy Roosevelt and Lincoln
atop Mt. Rushmore, deep
in the barren Black Hills
of South Dakota



Devils Tower, WY

LEFT: Devils Tower is sacred to several Native American Indian tribes who knew it as Bear's Lodge. Their legends hold that the paws of a giant bear scraped the sides attempting to climb to the top. It's actually an "igneous intrusion" of magma that was abruptly thrust upward 867 feet several million years ago.

Yellowstone, WY

BELOW: Roughly every 74 minutes Old Faithful geyser erupts, attracting hundreds of visitors each time. Its impressive display is only one of the many bizarre natural attractions in America's oldest National Park.



Wyoming



West Yellowstone, MT

RIGHT: Like many western towns, the 1,200-plus local residents are overwhelmed by tourists in the warmer months when the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park is open. This is Madison Avenue.



Zion, UT

BELOW: Towering walls of Navajo sandstone surround Zion Canyon which stretches 15 miles along the Virgin River. These falls above Emerald Pool feed into the river.

Montana & Utah





Durango, CO

LEFT: In a view from the ridge above the city, streets and buildings emerge out of the clouds on a dank autumn day.

BELOW: A steam train brings tourists through the mountains from Durango to Silverton. Leaving Durango with its whistle howling amid clouds of steam that have almost smothered the whole train, it's easy to understand the excitement generated when this was the ideal way to travel.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, WY

FACING PAGE: The Lower Falls on the Yellowstone River pour over the brink and down 308 feet to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone: nature at its primordial best.



Colorado & Wyoming





Millelea



North Rim of the Grand Canyon, AZ

ABOVE: Bright Angel Point wasn't too bright this day, although the majesty of 1,800 million years worth of natural sculpting was still evident, and in spite of clouds drifting in and out, the view is haunting.

Glen Canyon, AZ

FACING PAGE TOP: Just down river from Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon Dam, the striated layers of Glen Canyon look like a giant color comb has been dragged across the face of the vertical walls.

Grand Teton Mountains, WY

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: The majestic heights of the Tetons Fault have erupted across a valley that is now the meadows of Wilson Flats. Together with Jackson Lake they are part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.



Arizona & Wyoming





Albuquerque, NM

LEFT: A piece of local history remains on the city's Old Town Plaza. The church of San Felipe de Neri was rebuilt in 1793 after the original 1706 building collapsed. Although it is a vestige of the Spanish colonial period, it continues as an active parish today.

Kayenta, AZ

BELOW: Peter MacDonald is a 90 year old Marine Corps veteran and one of only nine living Navajo Code Talkers. They were a group of Navajo Indians who developed an unbreakable military code from their own language. He spoke succinctly, with humor and without notes, explaining how their work saved the lives of thousands of Marines during WWII's Pacific island battles. They are true American heroes.



Arizona & New Mexico



Michael Killelea

is an artist and an avid traveler who paints on location every opportunity he gets, no matter where that might be.

Samples of his artwork as well as a link to his email and Facebook page are on his website at www.killeleart.com. New artwork is posted every week on his facebook page Killeleart.

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