



Etiquette Guidelines for Tour and Individual

Visitors to the National Parks

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Working together, the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and the travel and tourism industry can enhance the experiences for travelers while preserving one of the nation's greatest treasures and avoiding risk to surrounding economies.

The tour and motorcoach industry stands ready to work with the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and individual parks to find solutions and develop best practices for commercial tour operators and their customers.

Following are etiquette guidelines for visitors and standard practices for how tour operators can assist their tour travelers adhere to the etiquette guidelines.

These guidelines are provided as a starting point for discussions between industry stakeholders, the Department of the Interior and National Park Service.

Park Visitor Etiquette: Provide Park Visitor Etiquette guidelines to Commercial Tour Operators for distribution to their visitors on the motorcoach or in advance with final tour documents. For example:

- Help keep America's national parks pristine.
- Respect the environment and wildlife when visiting the national parks.
- Stay on designated trails, paths and walkways to avoid harming native flora.
- Keep a respectful distance from wildlife.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Please use restroom facilities.

Standard Practices for Tour Operators: Standard Practices for Commercial Tour Operators (may vary by park). May be distributed and enforced through the CUA program.

- Promote sustainable tourism that supports long-term preservation of national park resources and quality visitor experiences.
- Provide professional tour guides with adequate experience and training for groups visiting national parks.
- Ensure proper and adequate training, oversight, and control of Tour Directors who conduct tours in and surrounding the National Parks.
- Manage visitor expectations, for example they may experience crowds, traffic, and lines.
- Conduct education and training to ensure that all personnel and visitors are aware of national park etiquette.
- Inform travelers of ways of protecting and reducing impacts on flora and fauna of national parks
- Unload passengers in parking lots or developed areas *only*. No parking, stopping, or unloading on roadways, including proximity to wildlife.
- Use designated bus parking areas. Make sure you do not obstruct any other traffic.
- Ensure passengers use designated restrooms.
- Encourage visitor use of lesser-known parks and underutilized areas; use during non-peak seasons, days of the week, and times of the day, to protect resources and enhance overall visitor experiences..