

Find Your Park in Arizona and National Park Service Fact Sheet

- President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill on Aug. 25, 1916 creating the National Park Service, which today covers more than 84 million acres and is comprised of 410 sites.
- The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, 1-mile deep and includes a span of 18 miles.
- The saguaro or scientific name, *carnegiea gigantea*, honors philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, who funded a desert lab in Tucson for the study of native plants.
- It is illegal to damage a saguaro – destructing one can be prosecuted as a class 4 felony.
- The Grand Canyon is the second most visited national park in the country, last year recording more than 5.5 million visitors; the Great Smoky Mountains tops the list, last year recording more than 10.7 million visitors.
- Petrified wood is the official state fossil.
- Petrified Forest National Park is the only national park site that contains a segment of the Historic Route 66 alignment.
- The NPS has more than 167 million museum items, including George Washington's inaugural coat and Carl Sandburg's typewriter.
- Coronado National Memorial in southern Arizona is site to Coronado Cave, a natural limestone believed to have been used as a shelter and hideout for people as far back as 8,000 years ago.
- Yellowstone National Park was established by Congress as the nation's (and the world's) first national park on March 1, 1872.
- Saguaro National Park contains an estimated 1.6 million saguaros.
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is home to the organ pipe cactus, which is different from the saguaro by having thinner stems and branches from the base. The organ pipe cactus is not found anywhere else in the United States.
- In 1916, the NPS had approximately 326,000 visitors; in 2015, the NPS had more than 307 million visitors.
- Early settlers to central Arizona assumed that the dwelling at Montezuma's Castle was built by the Aztecs and associated with the Aztec emperor Montezuma, thus its name. However, it was abandoned a century before he was even born. It was constructed by the Sinagua people.