



Grand Canyon, Arizona

Exploring Natural Wonders: A Journey Through National Parks

With National Park Week kicking off on April 20, it's the perfect time to learn more about some of these great wonders. And by that, we mean literal wonders, as the Grand Canyon was named one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World! The Grand Canyon is also home to the Colorado River where you can go rafting within the canyon walls. Or for a drier alternative, the South Rim lookout point offers an incredible view where you can take in the magic of this inexplicable beauty.

Although not an official national park, due to its indigenous roots and location within the lands of the Navajo Nation, Monument Valley is noteworthy for its unique landscape much associated with the Wild West. The jaw-dropping vistas of this sacred land are sure to stun and its indigenous inhabitants work hard to preserve the history and integrity of this region.

Arches National Park, on the other hand, is a recognized national park with multiple iconic formations to explore. The Delicate Arch serves as the symbol of Utah and the Double Arch is one recognized in films like *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. The Windows Section of the park provides a unique lens and new perspective to look out from. It's truly fascinating to explore the different views and learn the geological history of how these amazing formations came about.

Venturing out of the deserts of Arizona and Utah, there's Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. This unique region is home to North America's tallest peak: Mount McKinley. It also houses the relaxing Nenana River where you can float in bliss during a more gentle rafting experience. Between the snow-capped mountains, tranquil lakes and the lush green forest, this idyllic park is the perfect backdrop to create unforgettable memories.



Denali National Park, Alaska

We are not the only ones amazed by the grandeur and scenery of the national parks. Bret Iwan, the official voice of Mickey Mouse, is also inspired by these wonders when it comes to his own artwork. Bret has created an ongoing series of art prints that feature Mickey Mouse exploring various national parks. He just released two brand new pieces: *Shenandoah Park* and the *Grand Canyon*.

These newest works recently debuted at the EPCOT® International Festival of the Arts in Lake Buena Vista, Florida this past February. Bret himself made an appearance at one of the art booths where Guests and fans could engage with him about his work. He has said that this collection was inspired by the vintage WPA posters and printed on the same presses that Walt Disney Imagineering used to print the original attraction posters!

Adventures by Disney® is lucky to be able to host trips to all of the national park destinations mentioned above. Between the Arizona & Utah Land Adventure and the Alaska Land Adventure, you and your family can experience these marvels for yourself with an extra sprinkle of pixie dust. While these incredible destinations are quite magical on their own, imagine exploring them with an expert Adventure Guide to escort you through the rocky terrain or having your lodging accommodations completely taken care of before your adventure even begins. What better way to celebrate National Park Week than to book a trip to experience them firsthand!