

2020



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A Free Press Matters

U.S. Historic Parks

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COVER:

First State National Historical Park

Made up of seven different sites, the First State National Historical Park tells the history of Delaware as the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The park preserves the legacy of early Swedish, Dutch and English settlements that are vital to Delaware's history. One of the biggest battles of the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of the Brandywine, was fought here and the paper used for the Declaration of Independence was also made here. From the start, Delaware valued independence and tolerated diversity in religion and national origin. (Photo: pabradyphoto/iStock via Getty Images)



Voice of America News and Information in 47 Languages

Afan Oromo	English	Macedonian	Spanish
Albanian	French	Mandarin	Swahili
Amharic	Georgian	Ndebele	Thai
Armenian	Hausa	Pashto	Tibetan
Azerbaijani	Indonesian	Persian	Tigrigna
Bambara	Khmer	Portuguese	Turkish
Bangla	Kinyarwanda	Rohingya	Ukrainian
Bosnian	Kirundi	Russian	Urdu
Burmese	Korean	Sango	Uzbek
Cantonese	Kurdish	Serbian	Vietnamese
Creole	Lao	Shona	Wolof
Dari	Lingala	Somali	



Charter

President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.

1. VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

2. VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

3. VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussion and opinion on these policies.

Dear Friends,

This year we're taking you on a tour of notable historic parks in the United States. We go from the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks in Oregon, to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park that starts in the U.S. capital, Washington D.C., and everywhere in between. I hope you will enjoy this journey across America through the pages of our calendar.

One of the featured destinations is the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York. The site shares the story of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848 that paved the way to American women's winning the right to vote in 1920. At the Voice of America we practice women's empowerment each and every day. While today women are certainly better represented in the media than at the beginning of my career back in the 1970s, there is still work to be done. So that is why I'm very proud of the newly established VOA Women's Caucus, focused on bringing more women's voices and viewpoints into VOA's news coverage and into the VOA workplace.

In the same vein, I'm also very pleased with the success of our new pan-African women's show, *Our Voices*, a half-hour English language TV program focusing on African women throughout the continent and around the world. First and foremost, the show is about African women's empowerment where the female hosts and their guests encourage discussion on serious issues that impact women's lives and their futures, including politics, business, and migration.

This past year we have launched many important initiatives at VOA. One of our newest projects is VOA 365, a 24/7 Persian language channel created in collaboration with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Radio Farda. The goal of this network—full of hard-hitting news and cutting-edge programming—is to inform and engage Iranian audiences and the Persian-speaking diaspora around the world.

As always, we promise to produce informative, reliable and impactful journalism. VOA is the only free press in so many communities around the world.

Wishing you a fantastic 2020!

Sincerely,

Amanda Bennett
VOA Director



The Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

The Cumberland Gap National Historical Park lies along the borders of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia and it is considered the first great gateway to the west. It was formed by two geological plates colliding millions of years ago. Buffalo, Native Americans, and pioneers traveled on this natural passage way which became an important route for commerce and the expansion of the American colonies. Throughout the years, poets, songwriters, novelists, journal writers, historians and artists have captured the grandeur of the Cumberland Gap. *(Photo: National Park Service)*

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The Lewis & Clark National and State Historical Parks

Sunset Beach in Oregon is one of the main trailheads for the "Fort to the Sea Trail," a unit of The Lewis & Clark National and State Historical Parks. The park commemorates the Corps of Discovery expedition (1804-1805) of Capt. William Clark and Capt. Meriwether Lewis who were commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the territory west of the Mississippi River. Upon arriving on the Pacific Coast, the explorers built Fort Clatsop as a winter encampment, named after the local Native American tribe who helped the Corps. *(Photo: National Park Service)*

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THE WRIGHT CYCLE CO.

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Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park is where some of the most inventive, creative minds of the turn of the 20th century lived and worked. Orville and Wilbur Wright worked tirelessly here and suffered failure after failure before they perfected a working aircraft. In a home within the park, the African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar wrote the words that gave a lively voice to the struggle of black Americans after the Civil War. This is a place where these men worked and shaped the world forever. *(Photo: csfotoimages/ iStock Editorial via Getty Images)*

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"We hold these truths to be self evident:
that all men and women are created equal..."



Women's Rights National Historical Park

Women's Rights National Historical Park shares the story of the first Women's Rights Convention that took place in July 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. The convention, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Hunt, Lucretia Mott, Mary Ann M'Clintock and Martha Wright, focused on equal and full rights with men. The park was established in 1980 and consists of four major historical properties including the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the site of the Seneca Falls Convention, as well as the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, and the homes of other early women's rights activists. *(Photo: National Park Service)*

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Natchez National Historical Park

Natchez National Historical Park commemorates the cultural history of Natchez, Mississippi and the key role it played in the settlement of the old southwest, the antebellum South and the Cotton Kingdom. The park is made up of three sites: Fort Rosalie, the William Johnson House and Melrose estate. Fort Rosalie was a fortification built in the 18th century by the French, the William Johnson House was the home of the free African-American businessman and barber, William Johnson, who wrote a diary detailing everyday life in antebellum Natchez. Melrose was the estate of John T. McMurran who was a middle class lawyer from the north who ascended into a position of power and wealth in Natchez. *(Photo: National Park Service)*

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The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park preserves the history of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897 to 1898 that took place on both sides of the Canada-United States border. In 1896 more than 40,000 prospectors made their way to the Yukon gold-fields in Canada. The gold seekers did not know that most of the gold of Klondike had already been taken, as thousands of people went to Alaska and the Yukon territory with dreams of a better life. *(Photo: thierry64/iStock via Getty Images)*

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Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, also known as "the Grand Old Ditch", was a coal transportation route on the east coast of America from 1828-1924. It follows the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland for 184.5 miles. It was President George Washington who first advocated for a navigable waterway of canals between the Eastern Seaboard and the Great Lakes. The park preserves the story of 19th and 20th century America in the canal era, along with the history of Native Americans, the Civil War, the westward expansion, industrial development, and the conservation movement.

(Photo: Carol M. Highsmith)

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Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is dedicated to maintaining a site of cultural importance to the history of Hawaii. The site was originally for those seeking refuge and forgiveness in old Hawaii. People would flee here after breaking an ancient Hawaiian law, called a kapu. Until the beginning of the 19th century, those who wanted to escape the penalty of death would come to this place of refuge and be liberated by a priest who could grant them freedom.

(Photo: Jupiterimages/photos.com via Getty Images)

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The Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park

The Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park preserves the industrial heritage of the U.S. and is home to the 77-foot waterfalls that were used for America's first industrial parks. It was a district that thrived on manufacturing and where founding father Alexander Hamilton began his project to create power systems run by water in 1792. Hamilton's vision was to create a vibrant and diverse culture in New Jersey. Many immigrants worked in the mills and sought better pay and work conditions during the labor movement. *(Photo: National Park Service)*

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Tumacácori National Historical Park

Tumacácori National Historical Park contains the ruins of three Spanish Jesuit mission communities in Arizona. At the park is the Mission San José de Tumacácori complex, home to the first mission in southern Arizona and established in 1691. Tumacácori is located on a cultural crossroads in the valley of the Santa Cruz River. The local natives interacted with Franciscan missionaries, European Jesuits, settlers and soldiers, sometimes in peace and sometimes in conflict. In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt named the site a national monument. (Photo: scgerding/iStock via Getty Images)

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STAY ON TRAIL
KEEP OFF WALLS

The Chaco Culture National Historical Park

The Chaco Culture National Historical Park, also known as Chaco Canyon, is the largest ancient ruins that have been excavated north of Mexico and among the most important historical and cultural areas of pre-Columbian time. It was the culture center for Pueblo people in New Mexico from 850 A.D. to 1200 A.D. The park protects some of the earliest ancient Puebloan structures built by the Chacoan people who were highly skilled and used sophisticated architecture and building methods.

(Photo: Wilsilver77/iStock via Getty Images)

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Lowell National Historical Park

Lowell National Historical Park preserves the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution and the use of water-powered textile mills. Lowell, Massachusetts, is the first city in the U.S. that was created solely as a center for manufacturing and was among the first to employ female factory workers and immigrant families. Unlike many other mill towns, Lowell's manufacturing facilities were built based on a planned community design with ample green space and accompanying clean dormitories.

(Photo: National Park Service)

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