

Hidden in Plain Site: *Places You Know - Places You've Never Imagined!*

Multiple U.S. federal agencies and their partners take care of the largest expanse of public lands and waterways within the United States, and they work hard to provide new information about fresh and exciting visitor destinations and experiences. For many international and domestic visitors these spaces represent new, exciting and unexplored opportunities.

Some U.S. public lands and water visitors like to navigate these destinations on foot or by climbing. Others prefer to mountain bike, raft, drive, canoe or kayak. Still others love to explore underground and underwater via caving and diving adventures. These breathtaking land and water landscapes are always a photographer's delight, as are their extraordinary cultural and heritage attractions.

Here are some destination highlights and visitor information links to help you and your travelers explore, and find their **NEXT** newest adventure.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/ Department of the Interior

BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land and waters, with breathtaking landscapes coast to coast. If there is such a thing as "classic" western American landscapes, they likely lie within the realm of BLM, which manages more fish, wildlife and plant habitat than anyone else in the United States. Whether you want a slow scenic ride or an extreme adventure, BLM offers one-of-a-kind experiences with stunning views. Explore those landscapes, one story at a time.

<https://steller.co/mypubliclands/my-public-lands-roadtrip>

Few realize that more than a tenth of BLM lands and water are part of a relatively young conservation system known as the **National Conservation Lands**, most of which is open to hunting and fishing. See [National Geographic's National Conservation Lands 15th-anniversary map \(2015\)](#). These lands and water are among America's best kept secrets. [Visit recreation maps here!](#)

In addition, check out [BLM's top 20 mountain biking locations and interactive trail maps](#) developed in partnership with the International Mountain Biking Association.

BLM preserves our past by managing a tremendous number and wide diversity of cultural heritage resources. Check out BLM's [Cultural Heritage and Paleontology photo album on @mypubliclands Flickr](#) for extraordinary photos, such as the ancient reptile track from Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in New Mexico. Scroll over each photo to find its location.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)/ Department of the Interior

USFWS manages a Wildlife Refuge System that offers unique visiting, viewing and learning opportunities focused on wildlife and their habitats. Find **your** favorite wildlife refuge:

[Full Refuge List](#) | [Refuge Maps](#) | [NWRS Maps \(to scale\)](#)

Commented [JH1]: Hi Bob – if you need to cut for space, I think you could eliminate this 'graph, as I'm not sure NTA members organize many mountain biking tours ...

This is 23 words.

Also be sure to check the USFWS [Special Events calendar](#) and other sections to find out about [birding](#), [fishing](#), [trails](#), [photography](#), [coastal resources](#), and more [fun on refuges](#).

The United State Forest Service (USFS) / Department of Agriculture

USFS manages and protects 93 million acres of land encompassing 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico.

Visitors who choose to recreate on these vast and scenic public lands and water find more than 150,000 miles of trails, 10,000 developed recreation sites, 57,000 miles of streams, 122 alpine ski areas, 338,000 heritage sites, and specially designated sites that include 9,100 miles of byways, 22 recreation areas, 11 scenic areas, 439 wilderness areas, 122 wild and scenic rivers, nine monuments, and one preserve. And remember, *"It's All Yours."*

So pick a spot, choose an activity, and go play. See www.fs.fed.us/visit/destinations. Discovery begins even before you take your first step. Use these interactive resources, and make your adventures even more unforgettable. See the USFS's interactive Explore Map <http://itsallyours.us/>.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) / Department of Commerce

NOAA manages an extraordinary National Marine Sanctuary System as part of its overall mission. See [Visit Us!](#) NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System includes a network of 13 underwater parks that provide an idyllic setting for a variety of recreational activities, from diving, fishing, surfing, swimming and kayaking to tidepooling, whale watching and wildlife viewing. Enjoy NOAA's online guide for exploring national marine sanctuaries <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/>, as well as their mobile apps for visitors <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/mobile-apps.html>. Learn about the [Best Places to See Aquatic Life](#), and how to [Dive Into Your Sanctuaries](#).

But why wait?! Immerse yourself in the ocean and your national marine sanctuaries without getting wet! These virtual reality voyages use 360-degree images to highlight the amazing habitats, animals, and cultural resources you can find in each national marine sanctuary. Select which sanctuary you want to visit, scroll through the gallery, and click on a panorama to start your dive!
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr/>

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA)

America's Great Outdoors public lands and water federal agencies are intertwined with American Indian Tribal lands and waters, and frequently work together to provide the best visitor experience. Explore Native American destination and adventures at <https://nativeamerica.travel/>. Working on behalf of all 567 federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiians, AIANTA supports and promotes authentic American Indian Country tourism.

So **GET OUT THERE!** Explore the vast and wonder-filled public lands and waterways available for recreation of all varieties.