



National Park Service
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Interior

Public Use Statistics Office

Social Science Program

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Public Use Statistics - Monthly Report January - December 2008

Recreation Visits

Units of the National Park System received 275.0 million recreation visits in January-December 2008.¹ This was a 0.3% decrease in recreation visits, or 0.8 million fewer visits than in 2007. While the Midwest Region reported a larger year-to-date percent change from last year than the Southeast Region (4.2% decrease versus 3.4% decrease), the Southeast Region's numerical change was much greater (a decrease of 2.1 million recreation visits versus a decrease of 0.8 million visits). Meanwhile, the National Capital Region reported a 4.3% increase or 1.9 million more visits, and the Northeast Region reported a 3.1% increase or 1.6 million more visits.

The largest year-to-date increases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Gateway National Recreation Area	+618	Independence National Historical Park	+371
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	+610	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	+342
Lincoln Memorial	+465	Cape Cod National Seashore	+293

The largest year-to-date decreases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Blue Ridge Parkway	-1,033	Ford's Theatre National Historic Site	-397
Ozark National Scenic Riverways	-546	Cape Lookout National Seashore	-374
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	-422	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	-238

The following November changes in visitation (in thousands) over the same month in 2007 are notable:

Blue Ridge Parkway	-102 (-12%)	Weather related road closures.
Ozark National Scenic Riverways	-78 (-67%)	Two major winter storms.
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore	-40 (-42%)	Fierce winter storms.
Amistad National Recreation Area	+51 (+74%)	High water levels resulted in increased visitation.
Biscayne National Park	+34 (+101%)	100% increase in visitor center and visitors by boat.

Non-Recreation Visits (Commuters)

Units of the National Park System received 161.7 million non-recreation visits in January-December 2008. The 1.2% decrease in non-recreation visits was 2.0 million fewer commuter visits than in the same time period in 2007. George Washington

¹ NPS Public Use Statistics Office, preliminary data, 2008. Data are adjusted for delinquent reports and comparisons are made against the same time period in 2007.

Memorial Parkway reported a decrease of 1.3 million visits and Cumberland Gap National Historic Park a decrease of 0.7 million.

Overnight Stays (Year-to-Date)

Yosemite National Park reported 103,400 more overnight stays in the park: 13,500 more Concessioner Lodging, 20,800 more Tents, 8,400 more Recreational Vehicles and 60,700 more Backcountry overnight stays. Lake Mead National Recreation Area had 66,300 more Concessioner Campground overnight stays and 40,100 more Tent & Recreational Vehicle overnight stays but had 22,900 fewer Backcountry stays and 41,000 fewer Nonrecreation overnight stays. Yellowstone National Park had 102,000 fewer Concessioner Camping overnight stays. Sixty-three percent of the units have reported a decrease in Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Buffalo National River reported 15,600 fewer Tent and Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Joshua Tree National Park reported 25,700 fewer Tent overnight stays. Great Smoky Mountains National Park reported 15,100 fewer Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Channel Islands National Park reported 69,100 fewer Group and Boat overnight stays. Olympic National Park has been impacted by the severe storms of the last 2 years and is down in virtually all categories, totaling a decrease of 29,600 overnight stays.

Change in Overnight Stays in NPS Units 2007-2008

(December 2008, numbers in thousands)

Overnight Stay Category	Year-To-Date 2007	Year-To-Date 2008	Difference	% Change
Concessioner Lodging	3,591	3,585	-6	0
Concessioner Camping	1,300	1,227	-73	-6
Tents	3,003	2,955	-48	-2
Recreational Vehicles	2,108	2,013	-95	-5
Backcountry	1,704	1,782	+78	+5
Groups & Boats	2,115	2,058	-58	-3
Non-recreation	285	230	-55	-19

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Public Use Statistics Office Web site: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats>

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