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THE BESTS

Majority of Americans Don't Know Where the Grand Canyon Is

But at least everyone knows the Statue of Liberty is in New York, right?

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August 23, 2016

The National Park Services is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and yet it turns out 57 percent of Americans don't know what state the Grand Canyon resides in. (The answer is Arizona, in case you fall into that majority.) According to a survey conducted by Intrepid Travel, a travel tour operator, Americans are pretty lost when it comes to their national parks and landmark knowledge. They surveyed 2,000 Americans to see what they know (and don't know) when it comes to geography. And while 97 percent know the White House is in Washington D.C. and 78 percent know that Epcot is in Florida, the results of what most of us don't know may surprise you.

Ninety-nine percent know that the Statue of Liberty is in NYC (phew).

Also, a full 94 percent of those surveyed knew the Empire State Building is in New York and 97 percent knew Times Square was too.

Seventy percent didn't know that Yellowstone National Park resides in three states.

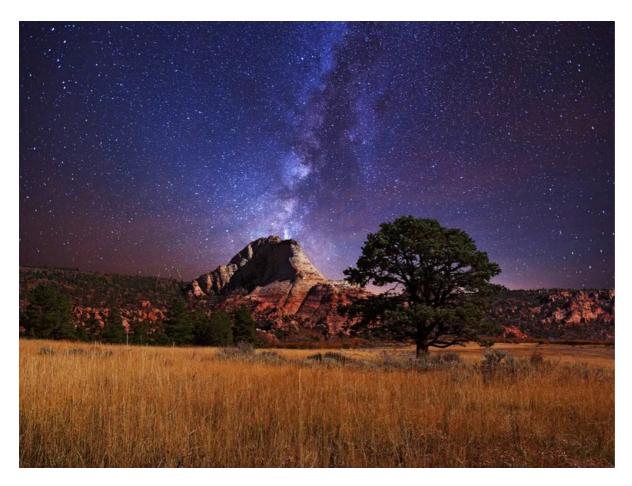
If you guessed Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, you'd be correct. Yellowstone, our country's first national park, is massive. It spans almost 3,500 square miles and while most of it (96 percent) is located in Wyoming, another three percent is found in neighboring Montana and only one percent is located in Idaho. Now you know.

Two out of every three Americans admit that they have little or no knowledge of where our national landmarks and parks are located.

A good way to change that? Take a family vacation to a state with a high number of national parks—Alaska has eight; Utah has five; and Colorado has four—and see what you and your family like best (hiking, driving between lookout points, getting off the beaten path). Then make it a family tradition to visit a new park every year. It doesn't have to be for a whole week—even a long weekend makes for a short and sweet getaway.

Fifteen percent of Americans have never visited a U.S. landmark or national park.

But the good news is that 85 percent have. With over 50 national parks to choose from in the continental U.S. (there are 58 in total), there's no excuse not to visit one. Not sure which one to visit first? Take the *Traveler* quiz.



Utah's Zion National Park Like You've Never Seen It Before

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Seventy-four percent know Niagara Falls borders New York and Ontario.

Clearly the Falls are a big destination for Americans. If you're heading there, be sure to visit Niagara Falls State Park, our nation's oldest state park, and get close to the 750,000 gallons of water that flow over the falls each second. Few people realize that Frederick Law Olmsted, the famed architect who designed Central Park, was also the landscape architect of Niagara Falls State Park. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, try the new Niagara Falls zipline.

Only 48 percent of Americans know Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes.

You'd think that the name would have tipped them off. Fun fact: The five Great Lakes make up almost one-fifth of the world's fresh water supply.

Sixty-eight percent of Americans know that Alcatraz Island is in California.

Part of the National Parks Service, Alcatraz Island is the site of the first lighthouse and U.S.-built fort on the West Coast. It was also an infamous federal penitentiary between 1943 and 1963. Now it's one of the most visited sites in the San Francisco area.

Forty percent know that the Hoover Dam borders Arizona and Nevada.

Another popular tourist site, the dam was created over 80 years ago and attracts over 1 million visitors each year.

Seventy-two percent know that the Kennedy Space Center is located in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

While the state of Florida offers an array of beautiful beaches and vibrant cities, visits to less-known national parks are well worth it. For starters, head to the little-known Dry Tortugas National Park, located in Key West. If you're traveling with kids, they'll love hearing the legends of pirates and sunken treasures.

EXPLORE NATIONAL PARKS