



Here are some you may not have experienced yet, and are just waiting for you to explore and enjoy:

1. American Samoa: Three islands, Tutuila, Ofu-Olosega and Ta'u, were dedicated as a National Park in 1988. American Samoa is nearly 5,000 miles and a ten-hour flight from Los Angeles, and its sunny beaches, South Sea island tranquility and wildlife make it well worth the journey.

2. Dry Tortugas: On a vacation in Key West, Florida, take a tourist boat headed 70 miles west to the Dry Tortugas National Park. It offers uncrowded beaches, turtle nests and coves famed as pirate hangouts in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Check the island's old Fort Jefferson prison. Dr. Samuel Mudd, accused of conspiracy in the 1865 Lincoln assassination, was sentenced to life there. He was pardoned four years later after heroic medical service during a yellow fever epidemic.

3. Isle Royale: Isle Royale National Park is on the largest island in Lake Superior between Michigan, Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. Take a short boat trip on the MV Sandy to Hidden Lake Trailhead. Go ashore for a Ranger-guided hike up to Lookout Louise, where you may see

a herd of moose across on the Canadian shore.

4. Great Basin: Another underrated National Park is Nevada's Great Basin. In the northern part of the state near the border with Utah, it's a beautiful natural area far away from the glittering lights of Las Vegas and Reno.

Pitch tents at ground level, surrounded by desert sage and sand. Looming up nearby on three-mile-high Wheeler Peak, there's glacial snow and centuries-old pine trees. Away from city glare, look up at the perfectly clear night skies.

5. Valley Forge National Historical Park: Every American schoolchild knows about the cold Pennsylvania winter of 1777-78 when General Washington camped there with his troops. Springtime events include volunteers in period uniforms and costumes of the era, and re-enactments of battles and general camp life.

6. Theodore Roosevelt National Park: It's one of the best for photo and video enthusiasts. The striking sunsets, dramatically eroded North Dakota badlands, along with herds of free-roaming buffalo and bighorn sheep offer memorable scenes.

7. Craters Of The Moon National Monument and Preserve: This Idaho wonderland was formed in more than 600 square miles over eons of eruptions and lava flow. The latest happened 2,000 years ago. You can still see flowing lava seeping from little cones out onto the rocky ground. The experience is as close to a moonwalk as you can get on our own planet.

Ref: [www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm)