

## These overlooked state parks rival their better-known national counterparts

Skip the crowds and visit these lesser-known destinations

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[National parks](#) may get the bulk of the attention, but [nature lovers](#) would do well to add a few state parks to their itinerary. These five spectacular destinations could either be explored as a day trip from nearby major cities or as a multiday escape. All offer campsites in addition to local cabins, hotels and bed-and-breakfasts.



*Credit: Getty*

## **Custer State Park, South Dakota**

*Location: 40 minutes from Rapid City, South Dakota*

Best known for its herd of 1,300 bison, Custer State Park is a must-do for wildlife lovers. Elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep and burros also make their home among the paper birch, quaking aspen and Black Hills spruce that cover the park's 71,000 acres. Though the reserve is blanketed with hiking trails and is a popular destination for cyclists, its 18-mile Wildlife Loop Road allows much of the beauty to be enjoyed from your vehicle.

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