

**ATTENTION: NPS extended the public comment period through December 22, 2017.**

## **COMMERCIAL TOUR REQUIREMENTS AND FEES FACT SHEET**

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The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to standardize road-based commercial tour commercial use authorization (CUA) requirements and fees. Currently, commercial tour operators must deal with varying permitting processes and fees.

The proposal effects commercial tour operations occurring after December 31, 2018. After that date, road-based commercial tour operators would obtain a CUA for each NPS unit in which they operate and would submit mandatory annual CUA reports after each CUA operating season. All parks would charge commercial tour fees made up of three components: the CUA application fee, a CUA management fee, and an entrance fee.

### **Application Fee**

NPS would use the proposed annual \$300 non-refundable CUA application fee to recover the administrative costs of receiving, reviewing, and processing CUA applications and required reports. NPS would adjust the application fee periodically to account for increased costs including inflation.

### **Management Fee**

NPS would use the proposed \$5 per client CUA management fee to recover day-to-day road-based commercial tour management and monitoring costs and to fund improvement projects for visitors using road-based commercial tours. NPS would adjust the management fee periodically to account for increased costs including inflation.

### **Entrance Fee**

The NPS has not updated the commercial tour entrance fee schedule since implementation in 1998. Beginning May 1, 2019 all parks that have a vehicle entrance rate must charge the commercial tour entrance fees based upon the most recent Commercial Vehicle Fee Schedule below. Parks that have a per person entrance rate only will charge the per person fee. Access to the majority of National Park Service sites remains free; only 118 of 417 National Park Service sites charge an entrance fee.

Entrance Group	Sedan Rate (1-6)	Van (7-15)	Mini Bus (16-25)	Motor Coach (26-56)	NEW Motor Coach (57+)
1	\$40	\$60	\$110	\$150	\$220
2	\$50	\$85	\$160	\$225	\$325
3	\$60	\$110	\$190	\$300	\$450
4	\$80	\$185	\$300	\$450	\$600

As part of the NPS commitment to improve the visitor experience and increase revenue to help address the deferred maintenance backlog, the NPS is proposing to implement peak season commercial entrance fees at 17 of its busiest national parks. The peak-season for each park is defined as its busiest contiguous five month period of visitation. The proposed new fee structure will be implemented in Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Denali, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Olympic, Sequoia & Kings Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Zion National Parks with peak season starting on May 1, 2019; in Acadia, Mount Rainier, Rocky Mountain, and Shenandoah National Parks with peak season starting on June 1, 2019, and in Joshua Tree National Park with peak season starting on January 1, 2020. Proposed peak-season commercial tour entrance fees are below.

Entrance Group	Sedan Rate (1-6)	Van (7-15)	Mini Bus (16-25)	Motor Coach (26-56)	NEW Motor Coach (57+)
3	\$160	\$370	\$600	\$900	\$1200
4	\$160	\$370	\$600	\$900	\$1200

All commercial tour fees stay with the National Park Service. The CUA fees (CUA application and CUA management fee) stay within the collecting park and are used to recover CUA program costs and help fund visitor experience improvement projects. 80% of the commercial tour entrance fees remain in the collecting park. The other 20% is spent on projects in other national parks. NPS would expend the funds on projects and activities that further the mission and purpose of the NPS, with an emphasis on deferred maintenance.

Public comments on the commercial permit requirement and fee proposal will be accepted October 24, 2017 to November 23, 2017 on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commercialtourrequirements>. To submit written comments, mail comments to: National Park Service, Recreation Fee Program, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop: 2346 Washington, DC 20240.

The NPS is also proposing private non-commercial seasonal entrance fee rates. Proposal information and a public comment forum is available from October 24, 2017 to November 23, 2017 on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/proposedpeakseasonfeerates>.