



The national parks are the American experience expressed in place: Acadia National Park (Maine).





In contrast to the Smithsonian, where artifacts of that experience are gathered to a central location, the national parks preserve our story against the landscape of its origins. Above: Where the Civil War ended: Reconstruction of the McLean House, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (Virginia).





In the more than a century since the national parks' beginnings, their meaning continues to expand. Petrified Forest National Park (Arizona).