



The American national park model that began in the 19th century has spread around the world, with other countries adapting the idea of national parks to their particular circumstances. In turn, the U.S. National Park Service has also learned from other countries' innovations and experience. One way to encourage this mutually beneficial learning is through "sister park" agreements, where a U.S. national park exchanges ideas and information on a regular basis with a similar park elsewhere in the world. For example, Loreto Bay National Marine Park in the Mexican state of Baja California Sur (left) and Channel Islands National Park in California are sister marine parks.



Sister-park relationships occur between historic sites too, such as John Muir Birthplace museum, Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland (above), and John Muir National Historic Site, California (below).



The U.S. has also adapted protected area models that were developed in other countries. An example are *protected landscapes*, which are defined by the interaction of people and nature over time and are rich in interrelated natural and cultural values—what is known as *biocultural diversity*. Feral horses are a high-profile component of the biocultural diversity preserved at Assateague Island National Seashore (Maryland / Virginia), which is categorized as a protected landscape under the international system of protected area classification.



Some U.S. national parks located along the Canada or Mexico border are adjacent to protected areas on the other side of the line. In these cases, the adjacent parks have some level of formal or informal cooperation with each other. Pictured: Pictured: Santa Elena Canyon on the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo in Big Bend National Park (Texas). The “Bend” refers to a turn in the Rio Grande (known in Mexico as the Rio Bravo), which serves as the Mexico–United States border for 110 miles through the park. On the Mexican side lie two protected areas, Maderas del Carmen to the east and Cañon de Santa Elena to the west, and Big Bend has cooperative relationships with both.



Since 1992, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska and Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site in British Columbia, Canada, have been managed cooperatively as Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park, working together to preserve and interpret a major route used by prospectors during the Alaska/Yukon Gold Rush of the late 1800s.



Unique in the U.S. national park system, Roosevelt Campobello International Park is located in Canada on a small island near the Maine border. The park, jointly managed by the United States and Canada, preserves the site where Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his family spent summer vacations.



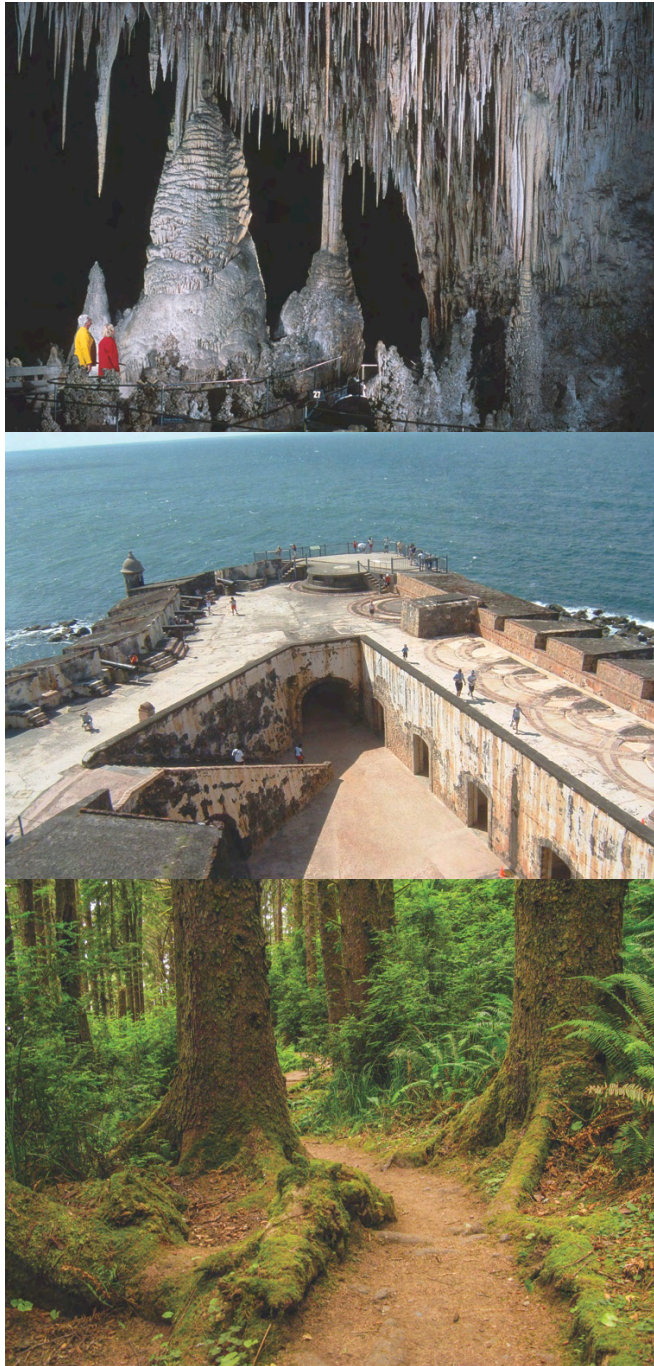
Another example of Canadian-American cooperation is the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, a national heritage area in New York and Vermont on the Canadian border. While Champlain Valley is not officially a transboundary protected area, as there is no comparable designation on the Canadian side of the border, the states and the adjacent province of Quebec cooperate by organizing cross-border trails and touring itineraries.



The reservation of the Death Valley Timbisha Shoshone Band of California lies within Death Valley National Park (California, Nevada), and the tribe, a sovereign nation within U.S. borders, has a government-to-government relationship with the U.S. federal government through the National Park Service.



Joint management by the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation of Canyon de Chelly National Monument (Arizona) dates back to 1931 and today, Navajo tribal members continue to live and farm in the valley as they have since the 17th century.



A different sort of international engagement occurs when U.S. national parks apply for and achieve the coveted status of World Heritage Site under the World Heritage Convention, an international treaty signed by nearly every country and overseen by the United Nations. World Heritage designation doesn't change the day-to-day management of these parks by the National Park Service, but it does add an important layer of responsibility to care for them. U.S. National parks that are also World Heritage Sites: (top to bottom) Carlsbad Caverns National Park (New Mexico); San Juan National Historic Site (Puerto Rico); Redwood National and State Parks (California).