

Tips for Road Trips



Planning a road trip? Before you go, check out these Tips for Road Trips from Buddy Bison Student Ambassador Bryan!

Meet Buddy Bison Student Ambassador Bryan:

Our newest Buddy Bison Student Ambassador Bryan Wilson is originally from Florida, is in 5th grade, and lives in Navajo Nation, Arizona.

“I have been to 28 national parks and almost 100 national park sites. Currently, I am living in Navajo Nation and working with local schools on the reservation to get kids active and healthy. I am hoping, with Buddy Bison, to help end childhood obesity and diabetes on the Rez!”

Stay up to date with Bryan on Instagram @ junior_ranger_bry and our blog page www.parktrust.org/buddy-bison-program/buddy-bison-ambassadors/ to see where he and #BuddyBison are traveling.

Ya’at’teeh:

I have been on some of the most epic road trips covering our national park sites. I have traveled all the way up the East coast, Midwest, and even to Canada to name a few. Here are some tips to make your road trips successful!

So go explore outdoors, the parks are yours and find your park today!

Ahe’hee,
Buddy Bison Student Ambassador Bryan



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Tip 1: Pick what states or areas you will be visiting

Visit the **National Park Trust's** new interactive **Park Finder** map (www.parktrust.org/map-of-national-parks/) or the **National Park Service** (NPS) website (www.nps.gov/index.htm) to see most NPS sites across the country.

Sometimes it is impossible to cover all NPS sites near the area you will be visiting because you want to have at least **half a day at national park service sites** and at least **two days in national parks**.

Remember the time of year is extremely important when planning your road trip. Road conditions during the winter can be very dangerous. Parks with water are fun to explore during the summer.

Tip 2: Plan your itinerary

Now that you have a better idea on what parks you will like to visit, figure out the time and day you will be there. Write out a detailed list of all the places you will like to see and how far away they are from each other.

Whether you enjoy camping or hotel lodging, you will need to start making your reservations (if reservations are full, be prepared to arrive very early for first-come first-serve campsites). At national parks, you get the best experience right at the park! So I suggest camping out or staying close.

Check out www.recreation.gov to reserve your federal lands campsite or www.reserveamerica.com to reserve many local and state campsites.

Tip 3: Print out your Junior Ranger booklets

If possible, it is best to **print out your Junior Ranger booklets in advance**. This is very helpful when you may not have much time at a park site. You can research about each park before you get there and start to answer some of the questions. Don't complete all pages before you get to the park. Most of your learning will be exploring and getting out on trails.

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Tip 4: Know what you will do before you get there

Each national park site has its own website where you can find maps, brochures, and activities. Make sure you look at the difficulty level and length of hikes that best fits your physical ability. If you are travelling with small children, don't forget an infant/toddler carrier.

I also love to observe wildlife and you can research before hand where certain animals are frequently seen. **Don't forget to ask the rangers** at the visitor center where wildlife have been spotted that day.

When looking for wildlife be patient, keep a close eye, keep your distance, and go in the early morning or around sunset for the best chances of seeing something. Don't forget your binoculars!

Most importantly, the day doesn't end when the sun goes down. The night time at our national parks is a sight to see! So stay up a little longer and watch the night sky, or even go on a moonlit hike!

Tip 5: Be prepared and have fun

A lot of national park sites do not have cell phone coverage, gas service, or restaurants nearby. So bring a cooler with plenty of water, food, and snacks or be prepared to spend money for food on site.

The best part of our national parks is being outdoors, so have some fun! Go kayaking, hiking, biking, or even snowshoeing and explore all nature has to offer. Maybe even plan a picnic outside or something adventurous.