



WRITING SAMPLE: Slideshow

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America's National Parks Are A Sight to Behold

America's natural beauty is breathtaking, and worth traveling to in order to view up close. Woodlands, rock formations, swamps, grassland and lots of animals—you'll find it all at the 424 national parks waiting to show off their wonders to visitors. Which will you visit next?

Swipe through to learn about just a few of America's national parks.



Yosemite

Spectacular Yosemite, in the Sierra Mountains in the central eastern part of California, is known for its spectacular waterfalls, giant sequoia trees, and the Half Dome and El Capitan rock formations. Visitors enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, rock climbing, birdwatching and more. With nearly 1200 square miles to explore, everyone will find a way to connect with nature.



Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park protects the largest subtropical wilderness in America. Located at the southern tip of Florida, the park is host to numerous birds, crocodiles, manatees and the elusive Florida panther. Take a guided tour or explore some of the 1.5-million-acre park on your own.



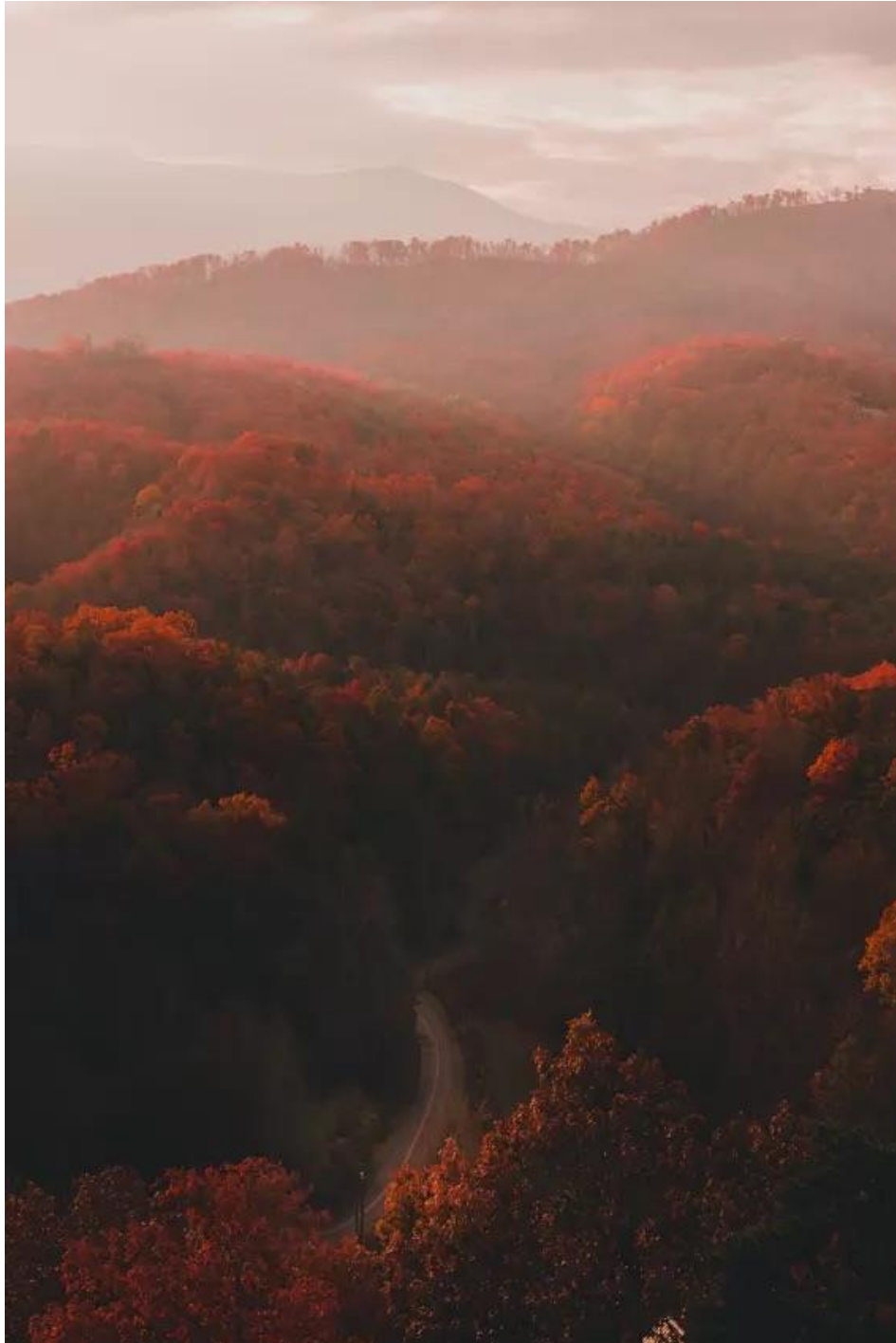
Yellowstone

Centered in northwest Wyoming, Yellowstone became our nation's first national park on March 1, 1872. Many people visit this park to see its unique hydrothermal and geologic features, including the famous geysers that can shoot water and steam as high as 300 feet. Others appreciate the spectacular wildlife in the park: bison, wolves, bears, birds and more.



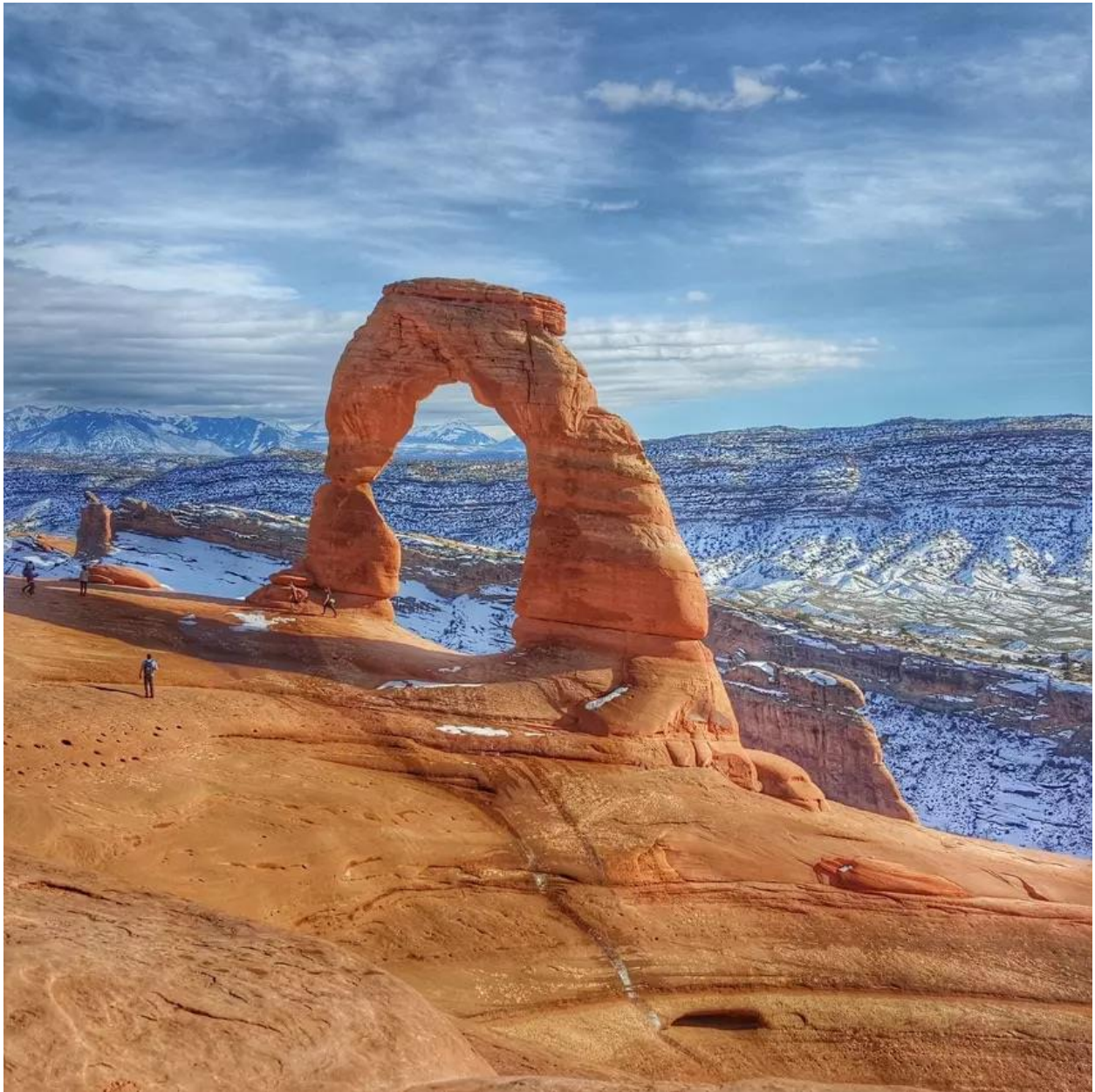
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

If you're looking for a park that's a bit off the beaten path, consider Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota. You'll have an opportunity to see a wide variety of prairie animals, including bison, elk, 186 types of birds and several varieties of snakes and lizards. Take a walk to see the place Roosevelt called his "home ranch."



Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Experience a wide diversity of plant and animal life when you visit Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which straddles the border between Tennessee and North Carolina. More than 19,000 species have been documented in the park, and scientists believe tens of thousands more species may call the park home. Visitors flock to the park in late spring to see the display of synchronous fireflies, which flash in unison in a mating ritual.



Utah's National Parks

Utah boasts five spectacular parks, all worth a visit: Zion, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef and Arches. Each is incredibly beautiful, and you can drive a circuit of the parks, seeing them all, in about a week. These parks are beloved for their astonishing and colorful rock formations.



Acadia National Park

Maine's Acadia National Park is one of America's 10 most-visited national parks and offers guests 27 miles of historic motor roads, 158 miles of hiking trails, and 45 miles of rustic carriage roads. Featuring granite peaks, rocky coasts and acres of woodland, the park has something for everyone.