

The Magic of the Smokies

The Magic of the Smokies by stephenstewart

This as the most magical national Park in the United States of America when you have spent some time in the great Smoky Mountain National Park it is not difficult to understand why

The Smoky Mountains or "Smokies" are part of the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern United States and the whole area is steeped in history, folklore and is incredibly beautiful to boot!

The Smoky Mountain section of the Appalachians was called "Shaconage" or "Place of Smoke" (hence the name) by the native American Indians.

Like most places on the planet however the Smokies are not without the risk and threat of environmental damage (some of it caused by humans in the strangest of ways*) caused by either industrial Pollution drifting in from the Industrial eastern seaboard of the United States and at some times of the year exacerbated by the pollution arising from the vast numbers of cars that drive through the National Park on a regular basis.

In what can be described as truly one of the modern-day paradoxes the Smoky Mountain National Park is actually in danger of possibly being "loved to death";

As the song writers Don Henley and Glenn Frey once described in their eponymous tune The Last Resort, "they called it paradise I don't know why, call someplace paradise kiss it goodbye" and this is what is happening to the Smokies. The increase in visitor levels, though of course welcome, is actually having quite serious side effects.

The National Park Service claim the Smokies attracts nearly 10 Million visitors a year and this makes it the most popular national park in the US.

The most popular time of the year and the busiest is the fall when hundreds of thousands of people drive up through the park to view the spectacular autumnal colours. Though not quite as high profile as "New England in the fall", the Smokies probably (in fact they do) attracts more visitors.

After the fall, the next busiest part of the year is the springtime. Thanks to the mild mountain air, the wildflowers and other warm weather attractions come into their own. The months of late April and early May are the best times for viewing the wild flowers.

For those wishing to view the spectacular blossoming of the vast amounts of Rhododendrons, then June and July is the time for you. July is statistically the wettest month of the year with sudden and torrential thunderstorms being quite common.

The range of temperatures experienced by visitors to the park is quite wide and it is well worth remembering that the higher you go (you can travel to an altitude of in excess of 6,000 ft) it can get quite cool whilst at the same time lower down (below 3-4,000 ft) the temperatures can regularly reach in excess of 90 degrees.

The park is open all year round and if you plan carefully and well ahead of the busiest weekends then a great and magical experience can be had by everyone.

Scott writes regularly about Travel issues such as Smoky Mountain Cabins and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He also writes about associate issues such as Travel Insurance Worldwide

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