Great Places to Dine in America’s National Parks

America’s National Parks house some of the world’s greatest natural wonders. What most people don’t realize though, is that in addition to offering sweeping vistas and amazing fun outdoor activities, our National Parks offer some of the best dining experiences available. Here is the National Park Hospitality Association’s list of Great Places to Dine in America’s National Parks. Entries are listed alphabetically.

Drakesbad Guest Ranch – Lassen Volcanic National Park (CA)

Located in a lush mountain valley at the halfway point of the historic Pacific Crest Trail, guests at Drakesbad Guest Ranch have found hospitality, seclusion, restoration and recreation since 1900. Dining is a highlight at Drakesbad, where their gourmet chef and restaurant staff will delight even the most discerning palate, especially on Wednesdays when the entire Drakesbad staff turns out for the ranch’s famous barbecue. Special attention is given to the children’s menu, meals from which are presented in lacquered Bento boxes. For more information visit http://drakesbad.com/index.php/dining/.

El Tovar Dining Room and Lounge – Grand Canyon National Park (AZ)

Located in the historic El Tovar Hotel, the El Tovar Dining Room and Lounge is a construction of native stone and Oregon Pine. Murals on the walls reflect Native American customs from four
tribes – the Hopi, Apache, Mojave and Navajo. The menu integrates both international and southwest influences, and the fare has been sampled by notable guests like Teddy Roosevelt, Bill Clinton and Paul McCartney. For more information visit http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com/dining/el-tovar-dining-room-and-lounge/.

Elk Island Cruises on Jackson Lake – Grand Teton National Park (WY)

If you’d rather get out and experience a National Park than sit in a dining room, look no further than breakfast or dinner lake cruises on Jackson Lake, one of Grand Teton National Park’s most popular activities. After a narrated cruise across the lake, guests are seated at a private meal site on the lake’s Elk Island – in the shadow of Mount Moran – for a cowboy meal like no other. After you’re done, take time to wander the island or soak in the campfire ambiance before cruising back to the Colter Bay Village Marina. For more information, visit http://www.gtlc.com/activities/marina-lake-cruise.aspx.

Grand Canyon Lodge at the North Rim – Grand Canyon National Park (AZ)

Dining in the historic Grand Canyon Lodge is a truly memorable experience. The lodge’s on-site restaurant features breathtaking views and great food. The restaurant takes pride in utilizing only the freshest and healthiest ingredients and has been certified as a green restaurant
since 2009. The Lodge’s “Grand Canyon Cookout Experience” takes place nightly from June 1 to September 30 and features a “Chuck Wagon”-style dinner comprising slow-cooked beef brisket, roasted chicken, freshly baked biscuits and lively entertainment. For more information visit http://www.grandcanyonlodgenorth.com/north-rim-dining.

**Indigo Landing** – George Washington Memorial Parkway (VA)

Indigo Landing restaurant is an all-season sanctuary unlike any in the Metro Washington, D.C. area. Located adjacent to the Washington Sailing Marina, guests can find refuge from the urban world and enjoy the tranquility of the natural setting while viewing the monuments of Washington from one of the restaurant’s 100 outdoor seats. For more information visit http://www.indigolanding.com/.

**Jenny Lake Lodge** – Grand Teton National Park (WY)

One of the crown jewels of Grand Teton National Park, the Jenny Lake Lodge features a large stone fireplace surrounded by fine art encased within original log cabin walls that create the Lodge’s lobby. The Dining Room features a five-course dinner with an award-winning wine list. Dinner menus rotate nightly. For more information, visit http://www.gtlc.com/lodging/jenny-lake-lodge-dining.aspx.
Lake Yellowstone Hotel – Yellowstone National Park (WY)

Located on the majestic shores of Yellowstone Lake, the Yellowstone Lake Hotel is a vision that stands apart from the surrounding forest and meadows. The Lake Yellowstone Hotel Dining Room menu is creative and upscale, featuring sustainable, unique dishes of fresh fish, wild game and more. For more information, visit http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/dining/lake-yellowstone/hotel-dining-room/.

The Lodge at Bryce Canyon – Bryce Canyon National Park (UT)

The Lodge at Bryce Canyon Restaurant is consistently rated as one of the area’s best dining experiences. A grand stone fireplace graces the 180-seat dining room and delivers just the right amount of rustic elegance to guests who want to enjoy fine food in a remarkable atmosphere. The restaurant serves many specialty entrees that are unmatched in the region, including their signature Elk Chili at lunch and Wasatch Grilled Buffalo Flank Steak at dinner. For more information, visit http://brycecanyonforever.com/lodge-dining
Mural Room at the Jackson Lake Lodge – Grand Teton National Park (WY)

Panoramic views of the Teton Range and magnificent murals painted by late 20th-century master Carl Roters set the Mural Dining Room at Jackson Lake Lodge apart from any other dining experience. Dinner at the Mural Room features local buffalo, local trout, wild-caught salmon and more – all prepared fresh at an on-site butcher shop. The restaurant boasts an entire wall made of glass, opening up views of designated moose habitat, Jackson Lake and the Grand Teton Mountain Range beyond. For more information, visit http://www.gtlc.com/dining/jackson-lake-lodge-the-mural-room.aspx.

Peaks of Otter Lodge – Blue Ridge Parkway (VA)

With the tagline, “Thousands of feet above sea level. Thousands of miles from ordinary,” Peaks of Otter Restaurant boasts spectacular views and even better food on the historic Blue Ridge Parkway. The restaurant’s menu includes spectacular regional specialties made with fresh local ingredients, and features a surf & turf buffet on Friday nights. For more information visit http://www.peaksofotter.com/Dine.aspx.
The National Park Hospitality Association (NPHA) – is the national trade association of the businesses that provide lodging, food services, gifts and souvenirs, equipment rentals, transportation and other visitor services in the National Park System. Concessioners have played an important role in creating lasting national park memories for more than 125 years. Concessioners operate in more than 100 national park units with combined sales exceeding $1.2 billion annually and $100 million+ in franchise fees paid to the National Park Service. The in-park concessioner workforce of some 25,000 persons assists visitors an estimated 100 million times annually. Information on national park concessioners is at www.parkpartners.org.