



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File

In this Feb. 24 photo, tourists take picture of wildflowers near Badwater Basin in Death Valley, Calif. A rare "super bloom" of wildflowers in Death Valley National Park covered the hottest and driest place in North America with a carpet of gold, attracting tourists from all over the world and enchanting visitors with a stunning display from nature's paint brush.



Marc Adamus/The Register-Guard via AP, File

In this Jan. 2006 file photo, the sun rises over Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park. Crater Lake lies in the caldera of an ancient volcano called Mount Mazama that collapsed 7,700 years ago, according to the National Parks Service. It is the deepest lake in the United States and is famous for its vivid blue color and water clarity.

# National Parks celebrate centennial

The Associated Press

The National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday on Thursday with events across the U.S. including the creation of a giant, living version of its emblem in Washington, D.C., a naturalization ceremony on the South Rim of

the Grand Canyon and an outdoor concert at Yellowstone National Park.

The centennial comes as the agency that manages national parks as well as historic places welcomes a new national monument and nature forces some changes in the party in the West.

## LIVING EMBLEM

More than 1,000 kids and adults used brown, green and white umbrellas to create a living version of the park service emblem on the National Mall, which the agency photographed from a helicopter above. The emblem contains elements symbolizing the major facets of the national park system. A Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, mountains and water represent scenery and recreation and the arrowhead shape represents history and archaeology. The first 1,000 participants were allowed to keep their umbrellas and got T-shirts commemorating the event.

## NEW MONUMENT

On Wednesday President Barack Obama created the Katahdin Woods and Waters monument on 87,000 acres in Maine's North Woods

donated by the founder of Burt's Bees, Roxanne Quimby. The land, which includes stunning views of the state's tallest mountain, Katahdin, is cherished by Native Americans, and its history includes visits by naturalist Henry David Thoreau and President Theodore Roosevelt.

The creation of the agency's 413th property was opposed by state lawmakers and critics who fear that it will hinder efforts to rebuild a forest-based economy in the region. Quimby's son said many parks in the service's system have been criticized upon creation but "when we look to the future, we see huge amounts of success."

## NATURE INTRUDES

For a time, both fire and ice hindered travel into Yellowstone National Park on the park service's centennial anniversary.



AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File

In this Nov. 1998 file photo, a meteor streaks through the sky over Joshua trees and rocks at Joshua Tree National Park in Southern California's Mojave Desert in this 30-minute time exposure.

Authorities closed a portion of the popular Beartooth Highway to the park's northeast entrance Wednesday night because of snow and ice from a summer snowstorm, but the road reopened Thursday morning.

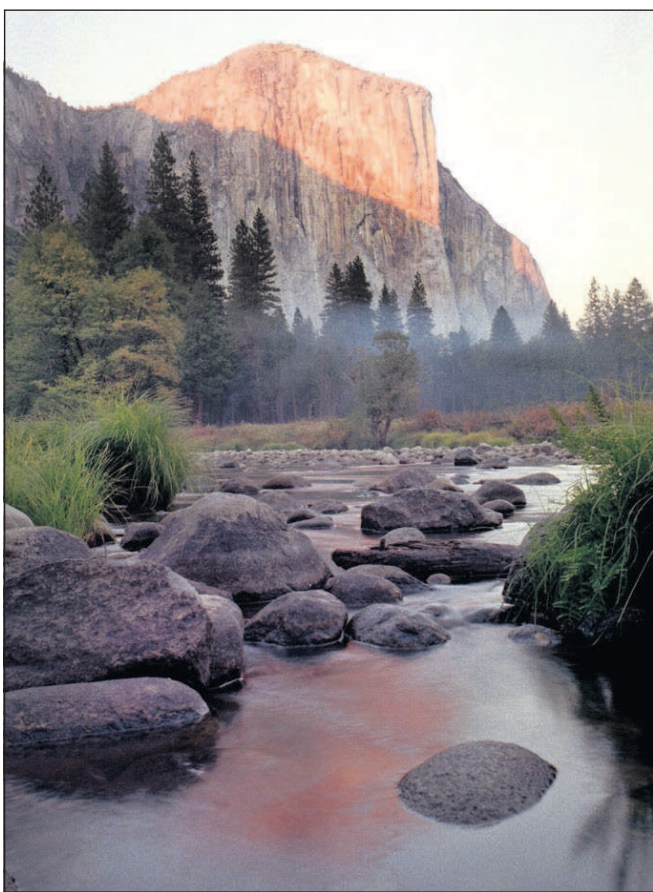
At the other end of the park, a portion of the road leading to Yellowstone's South Entrance remained closed because of a wildfire. Visitors heading to Thursday's celebration and concert at the Roosevelt Arch from the south face an hour-long detour into Idaho.

In Montana, grizzly bear activity threatened to cancel a hike in Glacier National Park by Interior Secretary

Sally Jewell. The Highline Trail has been closed all week because a family of grizzlies has been feeding on a carcass there. Jewell also plans to talk with park officials, scientists and others about how climate change is affecting the park and its disappearing glaciers.

## FREE ADMISSION

The park service is offering free admission to all its sites through Sunday. They're among 16 free days scheduled throughout the centennial year. Some parks are serving birthday cake and offering ranger talks for the occasion. The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland is offered free mule-drawn boat rides.



AP Photo/Ben Margot, File

In this 1997 file photo, an autumn sunsets drapes El Capitan and the Yosemite valley with warm light in Yosemite National Park, Calif. First protected in 1864, Yosemite National Park is best known for its waterfalls, but within its nearly 1,200 square miles, you can find deep valleys, grand meadows, ancient giant sequoias and a vast wilderness area.



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File

In this Sept. 2009 file photo, hikers make their way to Sunset Point from Thor's Hammer in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah. The Canyon formed millions of years ago when the Earth's crust violently heaved, leaving behind stunning, unique arrays of rock formations.

## Peak season for Mexican Grilled Corn

By KATIE WORKMAN  
Associated Press

There is nothing better than an ear of simply steamed or grilled fresh corn in the late summer.

Except for this Mexican Grilled Corn.

A bold statement? Well, I'm not planning to give up on plain old corn on the cob any time soon. But I am planning, for the remaining corn months of the year (that's a real thing, you know, the corn months), to alternate unadorned cooked ears of corn with these embellished ears from day to day, week to week, until the air gets nippy and the leaves turn orange and drop from the trees.

And then I will just think about fresh corn for the next 10 months.

But first, Mexican Grilled Corn, known as elotes: In Mexico, you can buy this from street vendors much as you can get a hot dog or soft pretzel here in New York. The ears of corn are grilled, slathered with a spicy, creamy, cheese mayonnaise mixture, and sprinkled with a bit more cheese.

If you can find Mexican crema, use that instead of the sour cream listed below. If you can't find cotija (a dry, crumbly, Mexican cow's milk cheese), use a combination of feta and Parmesan. If you can't find pure ancho chili powder, it's OK to use a chili powder blend. And if you don't have smoked paprika, skip it, or give the corn a final sprinkle of chili powder or regular paprika.

Be resourceful; you don't want to miss out on this summer joy.

Add minced fresh cilantro to the mix if cilantro is your thing. Notice there is no salt or pepper; the cheese and chili powder provide enough saltiness and heat.



Katie Workman via AP

### Mexican grilled corn.

#### MEXICAN GRILLED CORN

Servings: 4-8

- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons sour cream or Mexican crema

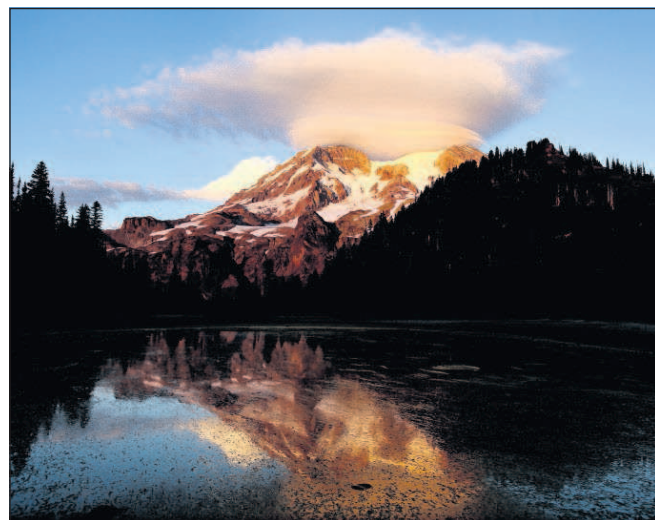
- ¼ cup cotija cheese, divided
- 1 teaspoon finely minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon ancho or chipotle chili powder
- 8 ears shucked corn
- 2 tablespoons melted unsalted butter
- 1 lime, halved
- Smoked paprika (optional) and additional lime wedges to garnish

Preheat the grill to medium high. In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise; sour cream; 3

tablespoons of the cheese; garlic and chili powder. Transfer the mixture to a plate, and spread it out a bit.

Brush the corn with the melted butter. Grill the corn for 8 minutes, until it is nicely browned in spots. Roll the corn in the mayo mixture, and place on a serving platter. Squeeze the lime over the corn, sprinkle with the remaining tablespoon of cheese, then sprinkle with smoked paprika if desired. Add the lime wedges, and serve immediately.

*Nutrition information per serving:* 176 calories; 102 calories from fat; 11 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 16 mg cholesterol; 98 mg sodium; 19 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 5 g protein.



Drew Perine/The NewsTribune via AP, File

In this Sept. 2012, file photo, a cloud hovers over Mount Rainier at sunset in a view from Klapatche Park Camp at Mount Rainier National Park, Wash.

## Explore our nearby National Parks

East Oregonian

The National Park Service manages 63 parks in the Pacific West Region, including Oregon and Washington. This includes National Recreation Areas, National Historic Sites, National Monuments and National Historic Trails.

For a fun trip to some of America's most treasured areas, try one of the following:

• **Crater Lake** — Established in 1902, the park is located in a remote area of southern Oregon. Formed in the caldera of a destroyed volcano, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the U.S. at 1,949 feet, and ninth-deepest in the world. The Mazama Village campground offers 214 tent and RV sites for families.

• **John Day Fossil Beds** — Spread out over three units in Grant and Wheeler counties, the Fossil Beds are a colorful look into Oregon's prehistoric past. Each unit offers scenic hikes and drives, and the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center features some of the best fossils on display. For a break, stop in one of the small towns of Fossil, Mitchell or Kimberly.

• **Mount Rainier** — At 14,411 feet, Mount Rainier stands as the highest point in the Cascades. The icy volcano is surrounded by subalpine meadows and old-growth forests. The park, located in west-central Washington, is just an hour and a half away from Seattle.

• **Manhattan Project National Historic Park** — Providing a glimpse into World War II history, including Hanford's B Reactor, the first large-scale nuclear reactor ever built. Located just outside the Tri-Cities, guided tours typically last about four hours and are offered regularly from April through September. Register for tours by Internet, phone or in person.