

AMERICA'S

TOP 20 ATTRACTIONS

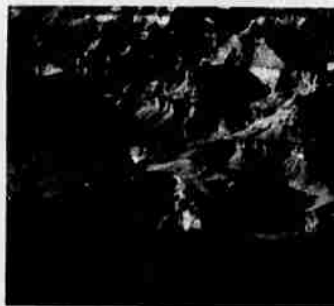
■ AMERICA is endowed with the world's finest scenery. We see this in the rugged beauty of the Grand Canyon, in the cathedral splendor of wilderness pines, and in the shifting sands of North Carolina's Outer Banks.

It is also a land of man-made attractions. Cities large and small, Disneyland, Mt. Rushmore Memorial, and lakes formed by mighty dams are major vacation objectives.

The best way to explore this broad and enchanting nation of natural and man-made wonders is in the family car. The ease and convenience of motoring have long made the automobile the most popular conveyance for vacation and pleasure travel. The A.A.A. estimates that this year nearly 90 percent of all U. S. sight-seeing trips will be taken in family cars.

There are so many interesting things to see in America that it is difficult to choose the top attractions. Any two persons' lists of favorites would vary. So the A.A.A. went to the experts. We asked a group of travel editors and writers to name America's vacation lands with the most appeal. Their replies, coupled with thoughts gleaned from many of our own 3,500 domestic travel counselors, resulted in this list of America's Top 20 Attractions.

The Grand Canyon



This was the undisputed leader. Its spectacular and colorful formations, its sheer immensity have drawn millions. A mule-back ride from the rim down to the banks of the river is an exhilarating and unique vacation experience.

New York City



The fascination of the Big City continues to draw throngs of visitors. The Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, Chinatown, Rockefeller Center, Wall Street—even the Fulton Fish Market—keep setting visitor records. The city's reputation as the world's finest entertainment center continues to attract the elite among travelers.

Washington, D. C.

The nation's capital is one of the world's most beautiful cities, with broad avenues, hundreds of parks, and striking memorials to great Americans of the past. In April, when the cherry blossoms bloom around the Tidal Basin and on Hains Point, the city puts on its finest raiment for all to see.

The Skyline Drive



It is a magnificent motoring experience to drive along the backbone of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains with your head literally in the clouds at times and the broad vistas of the Shenandoah Valley on one side and the Piedmont Plain on the other.

San Francisco



The nation's most cosmopolitan city continues to lure the young man who goes West. Its Chinatown is the largest Chinese settlement in the Western world, its cable cars still furnish an exciting ride, and Fisherman's Wharf restaurants offer a variety of exotic foods.

The Pacific Northwest

The Seattle World's Fair last year focused attention on this area, and as a result many Americans discovered its natural beauty for the first time. Exceptionally good hunting and fishing bring outdoorsmen in growing numbers. Seattle plans a major tourist center on the grounds where the fair was held.

Yellowstone National Park



A couple of years ago earthquakes changed Old Faithful's timetable somewhat, but it still spouts faithfully. The spectacular coloring of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone makes it an outstanding feature of the park. The Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest and most successful in the nation.

Los Angeles Area



Movieland, Disneyland, and television make this area popular. If you want to see a tv show, write several weeks in advance for tickets. Movie studios can be visited only if you have a personal contact or take part in a standard commercial tour. Disneyland, perhaps the most costly tourist attraction in America, is well worth a visit.

Niagara Falls



The awesome and ear-filling spectacle of Niagara's cascading waters is perhaps the American vacation spot best known to foreigners. The falls are colorfully lighted for two hours after dusk. A steamer takes visitors to an advantageous spot below the falls.

Colonial Williamsburg



The restored capital of the Virginia Colony is a year-round vacation attraction with almost daily events scheduled for visitors. The remarkable restoration preserves the colonial flavor in buildings, furnishings, formal gardens, and craft shops. Of special delight to the child-

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TO SEE BY CAR

A poll of travel editors and A.A.A. experts came up with this list of favorite U. S. vacation spots; how many have you visited? and where are you going this year?

By GEORGE F. KACHLEIN, Jr.
President, American Automobile Association

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