



# Reporting Information for Commercial Air Tour Operations over Units of the National Park System

## *2021–2023 Report*



Photo of aircraft.

© VOLPE CENTER / AARON HASTINGS

# **Reporting information for commercial air tour operations over units of the National Park System: 2021–2023 report**

Science Report NPS/SR—2025/235

Meghan Ahearn<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Rapoza<sup>1</sup>, Ashley Pipkin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Department of Transportation  
Volpe National Transportation Systems Center  
Cambridge, MA 02142

<sup>2</sup> National Park Service  
Natural Sounds & Night Skies Division  
Overflights Program  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Please cite this publication as:

Ahearn, M., A. Rapoza, and A. Pipkin. 2025. Reporting information for commercial air tour operations over units of the National Park System: 2021–2023 report. Science Report NPS/SR—2025/235. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. <https://doi.org/10.36967/2307331>

The National Park Service Science Report Series disseminates information, analysis, and results of scientific studies and related topics concerning resources and lands managed by the National Park Service. The series supports the advancement of science, informed decisions, and the achievement of the National Park Service mission.

All manuscripts in the series receive the appropriate level of peer review to ensure that the information is scientifically credible and technically accurate.

Views, statements, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and data in this report do not necessarily reflect views and policies of the National Park Service, US Department of the Interior. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the US Government.

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

This report is available in digital format from the [National Park Service DataStore](#) and the [Natural Resource Publications Management website](#). If you have difficulty accessing information in this publication, particularly if using assistive technology, please email [irma@nps.gov](mailto:irma@nps.gov).

# Contents

	Page
Figures.....	iv
Tables.....	v
Abstract.....	vii
Executive Summary.....	viii
Introduction.....	1
Background.....	2
The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000.....	2
Interim Operating Authority.....	3
Reporting Requirements.....	4
Air Tour Voluntary Agreements.....	4
Exempt Parks.....	5
Compliance with Reporting Requirements.....	6
Summary of Reporting Data.....	7
High-Activity Park Units.....	26
Air Tours by Region.....	35
Annual and Quarterly Trends.....	42
Parks that Require an Air Tour Management Plan or Agreement.....	46
Literature Cited.....	51
Appendix A. Air Tour Reporting Template.....	52
Appendix B. Department of Interior Unified Regions.....	53

# Figures

	Page
<b>Figure 1.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2021. ....	30
<b>Figure 2.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2022. ....	30
<b>Figure 3.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2023. ....	31
<b>Figure 4.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2013–2023. ....	33
<b>Figure 5.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 5 most recent years, 2019–2023. ....	34
<b>Figure 6.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2021. ....	40
<b>Figure 7.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2022. ....	41
<b>Figure 8.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2023. ....	42
<b>Figure 9.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours 2013–2023 by Quarter. ....	44
<b>Figure 10.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by Year, 2013–2023. ....	45
<b>Figure 11.</b> The Commercial Air Tours Reporting Form. ....	52
<b>Figure 12.</b> Map of 12 Department of the Interior regions based on watersheds. ....	53

# Tables

	Page
<b>Table 1.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021–2023 (sorted by 2023 Total Reported Air Tours).....	ix
<b>Table 2.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2021. ....	xiv
<b>Table 3.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2022. ....	xv
<b>Table 4.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2023. ....	xvi
<b>Table 5.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).....	8
<b>Table 6.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).....	11
<b>Table 7.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).....	14
<b>Table 8.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit). ....	17
<b>Table 9.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit). ....	20
<b>Table 10.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit). ....	23
<b>Table 11.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2021. ....	27
<b>Table 12.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2022. ....	28
<b>Table 13.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2023. ....	29
<b>Table 14.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2013–2023 (sorted alphabetically). ....	32
<b>Table 15.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2021. ....	36
<b>Table 16.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2022. ....	37
<b>Table 17.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2023. ....	38
<b>Table 18.</b> Reported Commercial Air Tours by Quarter, 2013–2023.....	43
<b>Table 19.</b> Park Units per 2020 Court Order that Required an Air Tour Management Plan or Voluntary Agreement. ....	47

## Tables (continued)

	Page
<b>Table 20.</b> Park Units with Agreements Completed.....	48
<b>Table 21.</b> Park Units Previously Exempt but with more than 50 tours in 2021, 2022, or 2023.....	49
<b>Table 22.</b> Park Units that Qualify for the Exemption Based on 2021, 2022, and 2023 Data (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).....	49

## **Abstract**

Beginning in 2013, commercial air tour operators who conduct tours over units of the national park system have been required to report their air tour activity to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level quantitative summary of the data provided by air tour operators for flights conducted in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The NPS and FAA use these data to implement requirements of the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000*, as amended, including the identification of parks where an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement is required.



## Executive Summary

Beginning in 2013, commercial air tour operators who conduct tours over units of the national park system have been required to report their air tour activity to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level quantitative summary of the data provided by air tour operators for flights conducted in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The NPS and FAA use these data to implement requirements of the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* (NPATMA), as amended, including the identification of parks where an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement is required.

In 2021 there were 40 unique operating certificates associated with operators authorized to conduct commercial air tours over units of the national park system; 37 in 2022 and 39 in 2023. In 2021 the reporting compliance rate was 72% (72% of expected reports were received), in 2022 the compliance rate was 66%, and in 2023, the compliance rate was 68%. Compliance with the reporting requirement in 2021, 2022, and 2023 was lower than 2018 (100%) and 2019 (88%). Data are subject to change pending receipt of additional reports and should be considered only a partial summary for the current reporting years.

Table 1 displays the number of reported tours at the 78 units of the national park system where one or more air tour operators held authority to conduct tours in 2021, and the 76 units in 2022 and 2023.<sup>1</sup> Operators may hold authority for conducting tours through interim operating authority (IOA)<sup>2</sup> or through air tour management plans or voluntary agreements. According to reports submitted by operators, a total of 24,247 air tours were reported over these units in 2021, 21,941 in 2022, and 30,244 in 2023.<sup>3</sup>

The *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000*, as amended, requires that park units with more than 50 annual tours establish an air tour management plan (ATMP) or voluntary agreement (Agreement). While units with 50 or fewer tours are exempt from the requirement to establish an ATMP or Agreement, NPS may withdraw an exemption if NPS determines that an ATMP or Agreement is necessary to protect park resource and values, or visitor use and enjoyment.

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2022, the sole operator with IOA for commercial air tours at Everglades National Park and Dry Tortugas National Park surrendered their operating certificate.

<sup>2</sup> IOA is the annual maximum number of flights an operator may fly over a single park. The Federal Aviation Administration granted IOA to existing operators who applied for operating authority following the enactment of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000.

<sup>3</sup> The annual totals do not include tours over Grand Canyon, Alaska, and those over Lake Mead determined to be “for transportation only”. Grand Canyon had over 100,000 reported tours and related flights in 2019. More information about air tours at Grand Canyon is available at [Overflights Documents - Grand Canyon National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#) and [Soundscapes: Overhead Flights - Grand Canyon National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#).

**Table 1.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021–2023 (sorted by 2023 Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	2021 Total Reported Air Tours	2021 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2022 Total Reported Air Tours	2022 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2023 Total Reported Air Tours	2023 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit <sup>B</sup>	2,245	35,532	2,829	35,532	8,143	No cap
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>C</sup>	4,940	26,664	5,966	26,664	6,381	21,986
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>C</sup>	5,859	5,608	4,006	5,608	4,961	5,608
Haleakala National Park	2,850	25,827	2,978	20,145	2,632	20,145
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	697	36,819	565	35,954	1,972	35,954
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	1,000	8,159	1,008	8,159	1,935	8,159
Badlands National Park <sup>C</sup>	2,259	4,117	1,285	4,117	885	4,117
Golden Gate National Recreation Area <sup>C</sup>	173	5,090	858	5,090	690	2,548
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	272	3,992	293	3,992	469	3,992
Canyonlands National Park <sup>C</sup>	600	988	510	988	342	367
Arches National Park <sup>C</sup>	385	623	383	623	301	309
Bryce Canyon National Park <sup>C</sup>	290	3,119	57	3,119	253	515
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>C</sup>	2,075	1,920	332	1,920	238	946
Glacier National Park <sup>C</sup>	151	903	85	903	118	144
Bandelier National Monument <sup>C</sup>	66	126	62	126	110	126
Point Reyes National Seashore <sup>C</sup>	33	5,090	146	5,090	107	143
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	40	147	51	147	92	147
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	36	175	4	175	82	175
Mesa Verde National Park	0	63	61	63	63	63
Aztec Ruins National Monument	0	83	64	83	61	83
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>C</sup>	60	145	36	145	56	73
Navajo National Monument	29	267	50	267	51	267
Olympic National Park <sup>C</sup>	45	76	41	64	44	64

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP, or voluntary agreements updated at any point during the calendar year. There could be instances where the number of air tours exceeded the authorizations for that year because they were conducted prior to the update of Operating Specifications.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreement(s) in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Park with air tour management plan completed in 2023 or before.

**Table 1 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021–2023 (sorted by 2023 Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	2021 Total Reported Air Tours	2021 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2022 Total Reported Air Tours	2022 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2023 Total Reported Air Tours	2023 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>
Hovenweep National Monument	0	92	37	92	39	92
Zion National Park	130	684	45	684	31	684
Colorado National Monument	0	57	16	57	20	57
Pecos National Historical Park	1	32	15	32	18	32
Capitol Reef National Park	5	284	20	284	17	284
Petroglyph National Monument	0	45	17	45	17	45
Fort Union National Monument	1	32	13	32	16	32
El Malpais National Monument	0	43	15	43	15	43
Capulin Volcano National Monument	0	13	13	13	13	13
Petrified Forest National Park	0	60	11	60	11	60
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	0	17	5	17	10	17
Wupatki National Monument	0	60	8	60	9	60
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	0	18	5	18	8	18
El Morro National Monument	0	43	6	43	8	43
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	0	7	7	7	7	7
Big Bend National Park	0	55	3	55	4	55
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	0	5	3	5	4	5
Dinosaur National Monument	0	9	0	9	3	9
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	0	27	7	27	3	27
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	2	16	2	16	2	16
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	0	94	6	94	2	94
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	0	26	0	26	1	26
Cedar Breaks National Monument	0	66	0	66	0	66

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP, or voluntary agreements updated at any point during the calendar year. There could be instances where the number of air tours exceeded the authorizations for that year because they were conducted prior to the update of Operating Specifications.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreement(s) in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Park with air tour management plan completed in 2023 or before.

**Table 1 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021–2023 (sorted by 2023 Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	2021 Total Reported Air Tours	2021 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2022 Total Reported Air Tours	2022 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2023 Total Reported Air Tours	2023 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>
Death Valley National Park <sup>C</sup>	2	37	0	37	0	2
Grand Teton National Park	0	29	0	29	0	29
Montezuma Castle National Monument	0	180	0	180	0	180
Pipe Spring National Monument	0	26	0	26	0	26
Saguaro National Park	0	18	0	18	0	18
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park <sup>C</sup>	0	5,090	0	5,090	0	2,548
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	0	10	0	10	0	10
Tuzigoot National Monument	0	57	0	57	0	57
Walnut Canyon National Monument	0	48	0	48	0	48
Yellowstone National Park	0	103	0	103	0	103
Yosemite National Park	0	115	0	115	0	115
Acadia National Park	0	60	0	60	0	60
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	0	972	0	252	0	252
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	0	200	17	90	0	90
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	0	6	0	6	0	6
Coronado National Memorial	0	5	0	5	0	5
Devils Tower National Monument	0	22	0	22	0	22
Dry Tortugas National Park	0	100	0	0	0	0
Everglades National Park	0	674	0	0	0	0
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	0	5	0	5	0	5
Fort Davis National Historic Site	0	5	0	5	0	5
Golden Spike National Historic Site	0	11	0	11	0	11
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	0	18	0	18	0	18

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP, or voluntary agreements updated at any point during the calendar year. There could be instances where the number of air tours exceeded the authorizations for that year because they were conducted prior to the update of Operating Specifications.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreement(s) in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Park with air tour management plan completed in 2023 or before.

**Table 1 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021–2023 (sorted by 2023 Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	2021 Total Reported Air Tours	2021 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2022 Total Reported Air Tours	2022 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>	2023 Total Reported Air Tours	2023 Authorized Tours <sup>A</sup>
Hohokam Pima National Monument	0	5	0	5	0	5
Mojave National Preserve	0	15	0	15	0	15
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>C</sup>	1	34	0	1	0	1
Muir Woods National Monument <sup>C</sup>	0	5,090	0	5,090	0	0
North Cascades National Park	0	2	0	2	0	2
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	0	5	0	5	0	5
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	0	254	0	254	0	254
Tumacacori National Historical Park	0	5	0	5	0	5
Yucca House National Monument	0	63	0	63	0	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>180,570</b>	<b>21,941</b>	<b>172,419</b>	<b>30,244</b>	<b>111,676</b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP, or voluntary agreements updated at any point during the calendar year. There could be instances where the number of air tours exceeded the authorizations for that year because they were conducted prior to the update of Operating Specifications.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreement(s) in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Park with air tour management plan completed in 2023 or before.

On February 14, 2019, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Hawai‘i Coalition Malama Pono filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit requesting that the Court order the agencies to complete ATMPs for Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Haleakalā National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, Glacier National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Bryce Canyon National Park. On May 1, 2020, the Court granted the petition and ordered the agencies to submit a schedule for bringing 23 eligible parks based on reported air tour data from 2018 (Lignell 2019) into compliance with the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* within two years or to show specific, concrete reasons why doing so will take longer. Muir Woods National Monument was not included in the 23 parks subject to the court’s order because no tours had been reported over the park at the time of the lawsuit; therefore, it was exempt from the ATMP requirements. However, because there were over 5,000 IOA allocations for Muir Woods, which is managed jointly with Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the NPS withdrew the exemption, and an ATMP for Muir Woods was completed in conjunction with the ATMP for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore in January 2023. The agencies finalized ATMPs for a total of 19 parks between 2022 and 2024.

Two parks completed Agreements with operators prior to the 2020 court order—Big Cypress National Preserve and Biscayne National Park. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area / Rainbow Bridge National Monument completed Agreements with seven operators in 2018 and completed Agreements with the remaining two existing operators in 2023. National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit completed Agreements with two existing and two new entrant operators in 2023. Lake Mead National Recreation Area completed Agreements with six existing operators plus one new entrant in 2024.

As shown in Table 1, 61 park units qualified for the exemption in 2021 because the number of tours did not exceed 50 tours per year, while 57 park units qualified in 2022 and 47 park units qualified in 2023. Several park units had more than 50 tours reported in 2021, 2022, or 2023, but were not covered by the court order. These parks include Zion National Park (130 tours in 2021), Aztec Ruins National Monument (64 tours in 2022 and 61 in 2023), Mesa Verde National Park (61 tours in 2022 and 63 tours in 2023), Chaco Culture National Historical Park (51 tours in 2022 and 92 in 2023) and Navajo National Monument (51 tours in 2023). The FAA and NPS will publish a list of exempt parks in a forthcoming Federal Register notice after consulting with managers at these park units to determine if an ATMP or Agreement is necessary to protect park resources or visitor enjoyment.

Of the 78 park units where operators held an authorization in 2021, operators reported conducting tours over 28 units. Of the 76 park units<sup>4</sup> where operators held an authorization in 2022 and 2023, operators reported conducting tours over 44 units in 2022 and over 45 units in 2023.

Tables 2–4 display the air tour activity at the top-ten high-activity parks for each year, 2021–2023. These park units accounted for 22,910 tours (94% of all tours nationwide) in 2021, 20,388 tours (93%) in 2022, and 28,410 tours (94%) in 2023. The remaining park units had a combined total of 1,337 tours in 2021, 1,553 tours in 2022, and 1,834 tours in 2023.

---

<sup>4</sup> In 2022, the sole operator with authorization for commercial air tours at Everglades National Park and Dry Tortugas National Park surrendered their operating certificate.

**Table 2.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2021.

<b>National Park System Unit</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of All Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Authorized Operators</b>
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5,859	24.2%	3
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	4,940	20.4%	7
Haleakalā National Park	2,850	11.8%	5
Badlands National Park	2,259	9.3%	2
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	2,245	9.3%	2
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	2,075	8.6%	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	1,000	4.1%	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	697	2.9%	6
Canyonlands National Park	600	2.5%	8
Arches National Park	385	1.6%	8
All Other Parks	1,337	5.5%	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Table 3.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2022.

<b>National Park System Unit</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of All Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Authorized Operators</b>
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	5,966	27.2%	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	4,006	18.3%	3
Haleakalā National Park	2,978	13.6%	5
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	2,829	12.9%	2
Badlands National Park	1,285	5.9%	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	1,008	4.6%	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	858	3.9%	2
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	565	2.6%	6
Canyonlands National Park	510	2.3%	8
Arches National Park	383	1.8%	8
All Other Parks	1,553	7.1%	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,941</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N/A</b>



**Table 4.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2023.

<b>National Park System Unit</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of All Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Authorized Operators</b>
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	8,143	26.9%	4
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	6,381	21.1%	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	4,961	16.4%	3
Haleakalā National Park	2,632	8.7%	5
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	1,972	6.5%	6
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	1,935	6.4%	9
Badlands National Park	885	2.9%	2
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	690	2.3%	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	469	1.6%	7
Canyonlands National Park	342	1.1%	4
All Other Parks	1,834	6.1%	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,244</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## Introduction

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) *Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* amended the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* to include a provision that requires commercial air tour operators conducting air tours over units of the national park system to report their activity to the FAA and the National Park Service (NPS).

The FAA and NPS developed reporting requirements, including the data that would be required to be submitted as well as the frequency of reports and the mechanism by which operators would report. These reporting requirements went into effect beginning in calendar year 2013.

The purpose of this *2021–2023 Annual Report* is to provide a high-level, quantitative summary of the reporting data that the agencies received from calendar years 2021–2023 submitted by commercial air tour operators. With the submission of the 2021–2023 reports, the FAA and NPS continue to compile data about the extent of commercial air tour operations over units of the national park system. The agencies use this information to implement requirements of the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act*, including the identification of parks where an air tour management plan (ATMP) or voluntary agreement (Agreement) is required.

# Background

## **The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000**

The *Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (AIR-21) was signed into public law (P.L. 106-181, codified at 49 U.S.C. 40128) on April 5, 2000. Title VIII of this law, called the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* (the Act) regulates commercial air tour operations over units of the national park system. The Act requires the FAA and NPS to develop air tour management plans for units of the national park system where an operator has applied for authority to conduct commercial air tours. The objective for any ATMP as stated in the Act is to develop acceptable and effective measures to mitigate or prevent significant adverse impacts, if any, of commercial air tour operations upon the natural and cultural resources, visitor experiences, and tribal lands.

On February 14, 2019, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Hawai‘i Coalition Malama Pono filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit requesting that the Court order the agencies to complete ATMPs for Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Haleakalā National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, Glacier National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Bryce Canyon National Park. On May 1, 2020, the Court granted the petition and ordered the agencies to submit a schedule for bringing 23 eligible parks based on reported air tour data from 2018 (Lignell 2019) into compliance with the National Parks Air Tour Management Act within two years or to show specific, concrete reasons why doing so will take longer. Muir Woods National Monument was not included in the 23 parks subject to the court’s order because no tours had been reported over the park at the time of the lawsuit; therefore, it was exempt from the ATMP requirements. However, because there were over 5,000 Interim Operating Authority allocations for Muir Woods, which is managed jointly with Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the NPS withdrew the exemption, and an ATMP for Muir Woods was combined with the ATMP for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore.

As of publication of this report, ATMPs have been completed for the following 19 parks:

- Arches National Park
- Badlands National Park
- Bandelier National Monument
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Canyonlands National Park
- Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- Death Valley National Park
- Glacier National Park

- Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, Point Reyes National Seashore, San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Haleakalā National Park
- Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
- Mount Rainier National Park
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Natural Bridges National Monument
- Olympic National Park

Two parks completed Agreements with operators prior to the 2020 court order—Big Cypress National Preserve and Biscayne National Park. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area / Rainbow Bridge National Monument completed Agreements with seven operators in 2018 and completed Agreements with the two remaining existing operators in 2023. National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit completed Agreements with two existing and two new entrant operators in 2023. Lake Mead National Recreation Area completed Agreements with all six existing operators and one new entrant in 2024.

### **Interim Operating Authority**

Section 49 U.S.C §40128(c) of the codified Act has a grandfathering provision that applies to existing operators (those operators who had operated over a national park system unit prior to enactment of the Act). FAA granted interim operating authority (IOA) to existing operators who applied for operating authority. The intent was to allow the operators to continue to conduct operations until such time as an air tour management plan was developed for the park system unit. IOA was the maximum number of flights an operator could conduct over a national park system unit. The provision allowed FAA to provide an operator with an annual authorization for the greater of:

1. the number of flights used by the operator to provide the commercial air tour operations over a national park system unit within the 12-month period prior to the date of the enactment of this section; or
2. the average number of flights per 12-month period used by the operator to provide such operations within the 36-month period prior to such date of enactment, and, for seasonal operations, the number of flights so used during the season or seasons covered by that 12-month period.

The Act also required that the IOA granted under the Act be published in the Federal Register for notice and the opportunity for comment. On June 23, 2005 (70 FR 36456-36463) the FAA published a *Notice of Interim Operating Authority Granted to Commercial Air Tour Operators Over National Parks and Tribal Lands Within or Abutting National Parks*. The list provided the IOA granted to each operator for each national park system unit / abutting tribal lands. On October 7, 2005 (70 FR

58778-58784) the FAA published a supplemental notice. The supplemental notice republished the IOA alphabetically by park system unit rather than operator.

The number of operators with IOA and the total amount of IOA changes from year to year, as some operators have gone out of business, operators have purchased other companies, and ATMPs and VAs have been implemented that terminate or change an operator's IOA. The system-wide authorized number of air tours is 180,570 tours annually in 2021, 172,419 tours annually in 2022, and 111,676 tours<sup>5</sup> annually in 2023.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* amended various provisions of the Act. Amendments codified in 49 U.S.C §40128(d) require that each commercial air tour operator submit a report to both the FAA and NPS on the number of commercial air tour operations over each park system unit where they operate and “such other information” as the agencies request. This section also indicates that the reports shall be submitted “with a frequency and in a format” prescribed by the agencies. The full text of the codified Act, including paragraph 49 USC 40128(d) on reporting requirements, is available at <http://uscode.house.gov/browse.xhtml>.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) assigned control number 2120-0750 for this data collection effort. In January of 2013, the FAA and NPS distributed a guidance memo to air tour operators that provided information on the new reporting requirements, the data that were being requested, how they were to submit the data and the frequency with which they were to submit reports. The FAA and NPS also provided a reporting template in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. A copy of the reporting template is provided in Appendix A.

In July of 2015, FAA updated the template for operating specifications (OpSpecs) issued to commercial air tour operators who conduct tours over units of the national park system (FAA Notice, N 8900.312, 7/27/15). Specifically, OpSpec B057, National Park Air Tour Management Operations under 14 CFR 136, was amended to include the reporting requirement and instructions for reporting air tour data on a quarterly basis (then semi-annually starting in 2021) for all operators conducting air tours over national park system units, except for exempt park units. For exempt park units, operators are required to report only on an annual basis.

### **Air Tour Voluntary Agreements**

The *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* included another amendment to the Act that allows the FAA and NPS to enter into voluntary agreements with operators as an alternative to air tour management plans. Agreements must address the management issues necessary to protect park resources and visitor use without compromising aviation safety or the air traffic control system, and may contain many of the conditions that would be found in ATMPs. Development of Agreements requires public review and consultation with tribes, after which an Agreement may be implemented

---

<sup>5</sup> The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations.

without further administrative or environmental process. Voluntary agreements are currently fully implemented at the following parks:

- Big Cypress National Preserve
- Biscayne National Park
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area / Rainbow Bridge National Monument
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit

### **Exempt Parks**

Other amendments to the Act exempt units of the national park system with 50 or fewer air tours each year from the requirement to prepare an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement. However, the NPS may withdraw an exemption “If the Director determines that an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement is necessary to protect park resources and values or park visitor use and enjoyment” (49 USC 40128(a)(5)(B)). While operators were required to submit quarterly reports (and now semi-annual reports starting in 2021) for non-exempt park units, the amendments require only an annual report for any exempt park unit.

## Compliance with Reporting Requirements

Prior to 2021, quarterly reports were required and due within 30 days after each calendar quarter. Starting in 2021, quarterly reports were no longer required, and instead semi-annual reports were required and due within 30 days of each semi-annual reporting period (January 1 to June 30, July 1 to December 31). Annual reports are due within 30 days after the calendar year end. When the reporting deadlines have passed, NPS and FAA contact operators or local FAA offices (e.g., Flight Standards District Offices) to follow up on missing reports or any other issues with reporting. FAA has the authority to enforce compliance with the reporting requirements.

In 2021 there were 40 unique operating certificates associated with operators authorized to conduct commercial air tours over units of the national park system; 37 in 2022 and 39 in 2023. In 2021 the reporting compliance rate was 72% (72% of expected reports were received), in 2022 the reporting compliance rate was 66%, and in 2023, the reporting compliance rate was 68%. Compliance with the reporting requirement in 2021, 2022, and 2023 was lower than 2018 (100%) and 2019 (88%). Data are subject to change pending receipt of additional reports and should be considered only a partial summary for the current reporting years.

## Summary of Reporting Data

This section provides information on data collected from the 2021, 2022, and 2023 calendar year reporting. This includes all data submitted by air tour operators through semi-annual or annual (for exempt parks) reports.

Tables 5, 6, and 7 list all units of the national park system where operators have authorization to conduct commercial tours, with park units sorted by the number of air tours, highest to lowest. Tables 8, 9, and 10 provide the same information but with park units sorted alphabetically. Quarterly totals for exempt parks where operators are required to report only annual totals are indicated by an en dash (“–”).

There was a total of 28 national park system units where at least one air tour is reported to have occurred in 2021, 44 in 2022, and 45 in 2023. Overall, 24,247 air tours were reported over these units in 2021, 21,941 in 2022, and 30,244 in 2023, much lower than the pre-COVID pandemic average of 51,520 for the years 2017 through 2019.



**Table 5.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5	SD	0	2,089	3,416	354	5,859	5,608	3
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	12	HI	641	2,198	1,070	1,031	4,940	26,664	7
Haleakala National Park	12	HI	263	853	956	778	2,850	25,827	5
Badlands National Park	5	SD	0	801	1,458	0	2,259	4,117	2
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY	278	579	693	695	2,245	35,532	2
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	2	NC, TN	215	620	637	603	2,075	1,920	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7, 8	AZ, UT	92	269	397	242	1,000	8,159	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	53	207	233	204	697	36,819	6
Canyonlands National Park	7	UT	62	226	204	108	600	988	8
Arches National Park	7	UT	53	195	137	0	385	623	8
Bryce Canyon National Park	7	UT	27	181	52	30	290	3,119	8
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	5	75	149	43	272	3,992	7
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	10	CA	0	0	0	173	173	5,090	2
Glacier National Park	5, 9	MT	14	66	59	12	151	891	3
Zion National Park	7	UT	20	52	41	17	130	684	7
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	0	35	31	0	66	126	1
Natural Bridges National Monument	7	UT	8	22	21	9	60	145	5
Olympic National Park	9	WA	6	0	35	4	45	76	1
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	0	19	21	0	40	147	1
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	0	17	19	0	36	175	4
Point Reyes National Seashore	10	CA	0	0	0	33	33	5,090	2
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	8	16	5	0	29	267	5
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	0	0	2	3	5	284	7
Death Valley National Park	8, 10	CA, NV	2	0	0	0	2	37	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	0	1	1	0	2	16	1
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	0	1	0	0	1	32	1
Mount Rainier National Park	9	WA	1	0	0	0	1	34	1
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	0	1	0	0	1	32	1
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	–	–	–	–	0	103	4
Acadia National Park	1	ME	–	–	–	–	0	60	1
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	83	1
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	55	2
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	972	2

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 5 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	200	2
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	7	1
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	13	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	57	1
Coronado National Memorial	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	–	–	–	–	–	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	–	9	1
Dry Tortugas National Park	2	FL	–	–	–	–	–	100	1
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	–	43	1
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	–	43	1
Everglades National Park	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	674	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site	6	TX	–	–	–	–	–	5	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	–	26	1
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	–	–	–	–	–	11	1
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	–	–	–	–	–	29	3
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	–	18	1
Hohokam Pima National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	5	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	–	92	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	27	1
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	–	63	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	–	–	–	–	–	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	180	3
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	–	–	–	–	–	2	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	5	1
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	60	3
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	–	45	1
Pipe Spring National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	26	2
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	–	–	–	–	–	5	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 5 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	18	2
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	–	17	1
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	–	10	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	94	4
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	–	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	48	2
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	60	3
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	–	–	–	–	–	115	2
Yucca House National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	–	63	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	–	<b>1,748</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>180,570</b>	<b>40<sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 6.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	12	HI	1,672	1,155	1,685	1,454	5,966	26,664	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5	SD	69	1,156	2,572	209	4,006	5,608	3
Haleakala National Park	12	HI	746	662	894	676	2,978	20,145	5
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY	566	837	918	508	2,829	35,532	2
Badlands National Park	5	SD	0	677	608	0	1,285	4,117	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7, 8	AZ, UT	191	653	113	51	1,008	8,159	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	10	CA	149	223	305	181	858	5,090	2
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	187	376	2	0	565	35,954	6
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	61	173	109	167	510	988	8
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	35	154	70	124	383	623	8
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	NC, TN	40	63	133	96	332	1,920	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	6	128	112	47	293	3,992	7
Point Reyes National Seashore	10	CA	32	38	45	31	146	5,090	2
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	5, 9	MT	7	4	64	10	85	891	3
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	0	1	0	0	64	83	1
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	18	14	15	15	62	126	1
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	0	0	0	0	61	63	1
Bryce Canyon National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	20	37	0	0	57	3,119	8
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	11	11	15	14	51	147	1
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	0	0	0	0	50	267	5
Zion National Park	7	UT	16	29	0	0	45	684	7
Olympic National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	9	7	25	0	41	76	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	0	0	0	0	37	92	3
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	4	12	7	13	36	145	5
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	4	8	6	1	20	284	7
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	17	0	0	0	17	90	1
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	17	45	1
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	16	57	1
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	43	1
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	32	1
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	13	1
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	32	1
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	11	60	3

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 6 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	8	60	3
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	7	7	1
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	7	27	1
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	6	43	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	6	94	4
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	5	18	1
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	5	17	1
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	0	1	1	2	4	175	4
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	3	55	2
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	–	–	–	–	3	5	1
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	–	–	–	–	2	16	1
Acadia National Park	1	ME	–	–	–	–	0	60	1
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	252	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Coronado National Memorial	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park <sup>B</sup>	8, 10	CA, NV	0	0	0	0	0	37	3
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	0	9	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	26	1
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	11	1
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Hohokam Pima National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	0	0	0	0	0	34	1
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pipe Spring National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	26	2

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 6 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	10	1
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	–	–	–	–	0	103	4
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	115	2
Yucca House National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	–	<b>3,860</b>	<b>6,419</b>	<b>7,699</b>	<b>3,599</b>	<b>21,941</b>	<b>172,419</b>	<b>37 <sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 7.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit <sup>B</sup>	1	NY	635	51	3,584	3,873	8,143	No cap	4
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	12	HI	1,685	1,865	1,588	1,243	6,381	21,986	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>B</sup>	5	SD	0	934	3,712	315	4,961	5,608	3
Haleakalā National Park	12	HI	775	852	545	460	2,632	20,145	5
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	475	544	494	458	1,972	35,954	6
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7,8	AZ, UT	133	646	859	297	1,935	8,159	9
Badlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	5	SD	0	313	562	10	885	4,117	2
Golden Gate National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	111	212	218	149	690	2,548	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	26	330	81	32	469	3,992	7
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	37	121	112	72	342	367	4
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	36	97	102	66	301	309	3
Bryce Canyon National Park <sup>C</sup>	7	UT	8	94	114	37	253	515	6
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	NC, TN	30	72	74	62	238	946	2
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	5,9	MT	33	0	78	7	118	144	3
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	18	31	32	29	110	126	1
Point Reyes National Seashore <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	17	28	34	28	107	143	1
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	18	25	27	22	92	147	1
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	18	21	25	18	82	175	4
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	2	63	63	1
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	1	61	83	1
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	7	15	19	15	56	73	2
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	1	–	–	0	51	267	5
Olympic National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	3	16	19	6	44	64	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	39	92	3
Zion National Park	7	UT	4	20	7	0	31	684	7
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	20	57	1
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	18	32	1
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	0	5	4	4	17	284	7
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	17	45	1
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	16	32	1
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	43	1
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	13	1
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	11	60	3

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 7 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	10	17	1
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	9	60	3
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	8	18	1
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	8	43	1
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	7	7	1
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	4	55	2
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	–	–	–	–	4	5	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	3	9	1
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	3	27	1
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	–	–	–	–	2	16	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	2	94	4
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	1	26	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Death Valley National Park <sup>B</sup>	8,10	CA, NV	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Pipe Spring National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	2,548	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	10	1
Tuzigoot National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Yellowstone National Park	5,7,9	ID, MT, WY	–	–	–	–	0	103	4
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	115	2
Acadia National Park	1	ME	–	–	–	–	0	60	1
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	252	1
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	90	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Coronado National Memorial	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	22	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	11	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.



**Table 7 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Hohokam Pima National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Muir Woods National Monument <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Yucca House National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,070</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>12,290</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>30,244</b>	<b>111,676</b>	<b>39<sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 8.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Acadia National Park	1	ME	–	–	–	–	0	60	1
Arches National Park	7	UT	53	195	137	0	385	623	8
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	83	1
Badlands National Park	5	SD	0	801	1,458	0	2,259	4,117	2
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	0	35	31	0	66	126	1
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	55	2
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	972	2
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	200	2
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	7	1
Bryce Canyon National Park	7	UT	27	181	52	30	290	3,119	8
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	0	17	19	0	36	175	4
Canyonlands National Park	7	UT	62	226	204	108	600	988	8
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	0	0	2	3	5	284	7
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	13	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	0	19	21	0	40	147	1
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	57	1
Coronado National Memorial	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park	8, 10	CA, NV	2	0	0	0	2	37	3
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	0	9	1
Dry Tortugas National Park	2	FL	–	–	–	–	0	100	1
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	43	1
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	43	1
Everglades National Park	2	FL	–	–	–	–	0	674	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	1	32	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	26	1
Glacier National Park	5, 9	MT	14	66	59	12	151	891	3
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7, 8	AZ, UT	92	269	397	242	1,000	8,159	9

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 8 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	10	CA	0	0	0	173	173	5,090	2
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	11	1
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	0	1	1	0	2	16	1
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	2	NC, TN	215	620	637	603	2,075	1,920	2
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Haleakala National Park	12	HI	263	853	956	778	2,850	25,827	5
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	12	HI	641	2,198	1,070	1,031	4,940	26,664	7
Hohokam Pima National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	0	92	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	27	1
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	53	207	233	204	697	36,819	6
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Mount Rainier National Park	9	WA	1	0	0	0	1	34	2
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5	SD	0	2,089	3,416	354	5,859	5,608	3
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY	278	579	693	695	2,245	35,532	2
Natural Bridges National Monument	7	UT	8	22	21	9	60	145	5
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	8	16	5	0	29	267	5
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Olympic National Park	9	WA	6	0	35	4	45	76	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	0	1	0	0	1	32	1
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	60	3
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	45	1
Pipe Spring National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Point Reyes National Seashore	10	CA	0	0	0	33	33	5,090	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	5	75	149	43	272	3,992	7
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	17	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 8 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2021 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	10	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	94	4
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	60	3
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	–	–	–	–	0	103	4
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	115	2
Yucca House National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
Zion National Park	7	UT	20	52	41	17	130	684	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	–	<b>1,748</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>180,570</b>	<b>40<sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 9.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Acadia National Park	1	ME	–	–	–	–	0	60	1
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	35	154	70	124	383	623	8
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	0	1	0	0	64	83	1
Badlands National Park	5	SD	0	677	608	0	1,285	4,117	2
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	18	14	15	15	62	126	1
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	3	55	2
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	252	1
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	17	0	0	0	17	90	1
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	7	7	1
Bryce Canyon National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	20	37	0	0	57	3,119	8
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	0	1	1	2	4	175	4
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	61	173	109	167	510	988	8
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	4	8	6	1	20	284	7
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	13	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	5	18	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	11	11	15	14	51	147	1
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	16	57	1
Coronado National Memorial	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park <sup>B</sup>	8, 10	CA, NV	0	0	0	0	0	37	3
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	0	9	1
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	43	1
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	6	43	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	32	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	0	26	1
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	5, 9	MT	7	4	64	10	85	891	3
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7, 8	AZ, UT	191	653	113	51	1,008	8,159	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	10	CA	149	223	305	181	858	5,090	2
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	11	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 9 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	–	–	–	–	2	16	1
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	NC, TN	40	63	133	96	332	1,920	2
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Haleakala National Park	12	HI	746	662	894	676	2,978	20,145	5
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	12	HI	1,672	1,155	1,685	1,454	5,966	26,664	6
Hohokam Pima National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	37	92	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	7	27	1
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	187	376	2	0	565	35,954	6
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	61	63	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	0	0	0	0	0	34	1
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5	SD	69	1,156	2,572	209	4,006	5,608	3
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY	566	837	918	508	2,829	35,532	2
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	4	12	7	13	36	145	5
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	50	267	5
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Olympic National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	9	7	25	0	41	76	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	32	1
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	11	60	3
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	17	45	1
Pipe Spring National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Point Reyes National Seashore	10	CA	32	38	45	31	146	5,090	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	6	128	112	47	293	3,992	7
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	–	–	–	–	3	5	1
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	5	17	1
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	10	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 9 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2022 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	6	94	4
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	8	60	3
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	–	–	–	–	0	103	4
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	115	2
Yucca House National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
Zion National Park	7	UT	16	29	–	–	45	684	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	–	<b>3,860</b>	<b>6,419</b>	<b>7,699</b>	<b>3,599</b>	<b>21,941</b>	<b>172,419</b>	<b>37 <sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 10.** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Acadia National Park	1	ME	–	–	–	–	0	60	1
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	36	97	102	66	301	309	3
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	1	61	83	1
Badlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	5	SD	0	313	562	10	885	4,117	2
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	18	31	32	29	110	126	1
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	55	2
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	252	1
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	0	0	0	0	90	1
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	7	7	1
Bryce Canyon National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	8	94	114	37	253	515	6
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	18	21	25	18	82	175	4
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	37	121	112	72	342	367	4
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	0	5	4	4	17	284	7
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	13	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	8	18	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	18	25	27	22	92	147	1
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	20	57	1
Coronado National Memorial	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park <sup>B</sup>	8, 10	CA, NV	0	0	0	–	0	2	2
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	3	9	1
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	43	1
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	8	43	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	16	32	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	1	26	1
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	5, 9	MT	33	0	78	7	118	144	3
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7, 8	AZ, UT	133	646	859	297	1,935	8,159	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	111	212	218	149	690	2,548	2
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	11	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.



**Table 10 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	–	–	–	–	2	16	1
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	NC, TN	30	72	74	62	238	946	2
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Haleakala National Park	12	HI	775	852	545	460	2,632	20,145	5
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	12	HI	1,685	1,865	1,588	1,243	6,381	21,986	6
Hohokam Pima National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	39	92	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	3	27	1
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	475	544	494	458	1,972	35,954	6
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	–	–	–	–	63	63	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>B</sup>	5	SD	0	934	3,712	315	4,961	5,608	3
Muir Woods National Monument <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit <sup>B</sup>	1	NY	635	51	3,584	3,873	8,143	No cap	4
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	7	15	19	15	56	73	2
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	51	267	5
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Olympic National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	3	16	19	6	44	64	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	–	–	–	–	18	32	1
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	11	60	3
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	17	45	1
Pipe Spring National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Point Reyes National Seashore <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	17	28	34	28	107	143	1
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	26	330	81	32	469	3,992	7
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	–	–	–	–	4	5	1
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	–	–	–	–	10	17	1
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	–	–	–	0	0	2,548	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	10	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 10 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2023 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	2	94	4
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	9	60	3
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	–	–	–	–	0	103	4
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	–	–	–	–	0	115	2
Yucca House National Monument	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
Zion National Park	7	UT	4	20	7	0	31	684	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	–	<b>4,070</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>12,290</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>30,244</b>	<b>111,676</b>	<b>39 <sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

### **High-Activity Park Units**

Tables 11–13 and Figures 1–3 display the reported air tours for the ten park units that had the most activity for each year, 2021–2023. These park units had 94.5% of all air tour activity in 2021, 92.9% in 2022, and 94.5% in 2023. The remaining park units had a combined total of 1,337 annual operations in 2021, 1,553 in 2022, and 1,536 in 2023.

In 2021, 2022, and 2023, data obtained thus far show that the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and Haleakalā National Park saw an increase from the historic low in 2020, though still below pre-pandemic levels based on 2019 data.

**Table 11.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2021.

National Park System Unit	January–March 2021	April–June 2021	July–September 2021	October–December 2021	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	0	2,089	3,416	354	5,859	24.2%	5,608	3
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	641	2,198	1,070	1,031	4,940	20.4%	26,664	7
Haleakalā National Park	263	853	956	778	2,850	11.8%	25,827	5
Badlands National Park	0	801	1,458	0	2,259	9.3%	4,117	2
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	278	579	693	695	2,245	9.3%	35,532	2
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	215	620	637	603	2,075	8.6%	1,920	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	92	269	397	242	1,000	4.1%	8,159	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	53	207	233	204	697	2.9%	36,819	6
Canyonlands National Park	62	226	204	108	600	2.5%	988	8
Arches National Park	53	195	137	0	385	1.6%	623	8
All Other Parks	91	486	436	324	1,337	5.5%	34,313	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>4,339</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>180,570</b>	<b>40 <sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2021 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

**Table 12.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2022.

National Park System Unit	January–March 2022	April–June 2022	July–September 2022	October–December 2022	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	1,672	1,155	1,685	1,454	5,966	27.2%	26,664	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	69	1,156	2,572	209	4,006	18.3%	5,608	3
Haleakalā National Park	746	662	894	676	2,978	13.6%	20,145	5
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	566	837	918	508	2,829	12.9%	35,532	2
Badlands National Park	0	678	607	0	1,285	5.9%	4,117	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	191	653	113	51	1,008	4.6%	8,159	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	149	223	305	181	858	3.9%	5,090	2
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	187	376	2	0	565	2.6%	35,954	6
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	61	173	109	167	510	2.3%	988	8
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	35	154	70	124	383	1.7%	623	8
All Other Parks	184	353	423	229	1,553	7.1%	29,539	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,860</b>	<b>6,419</b>	<b>7,699</b>	<b>3,599</b>	<b>21,941</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>172,419</b>	<b>37 <sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with an air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2022 or before.

<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

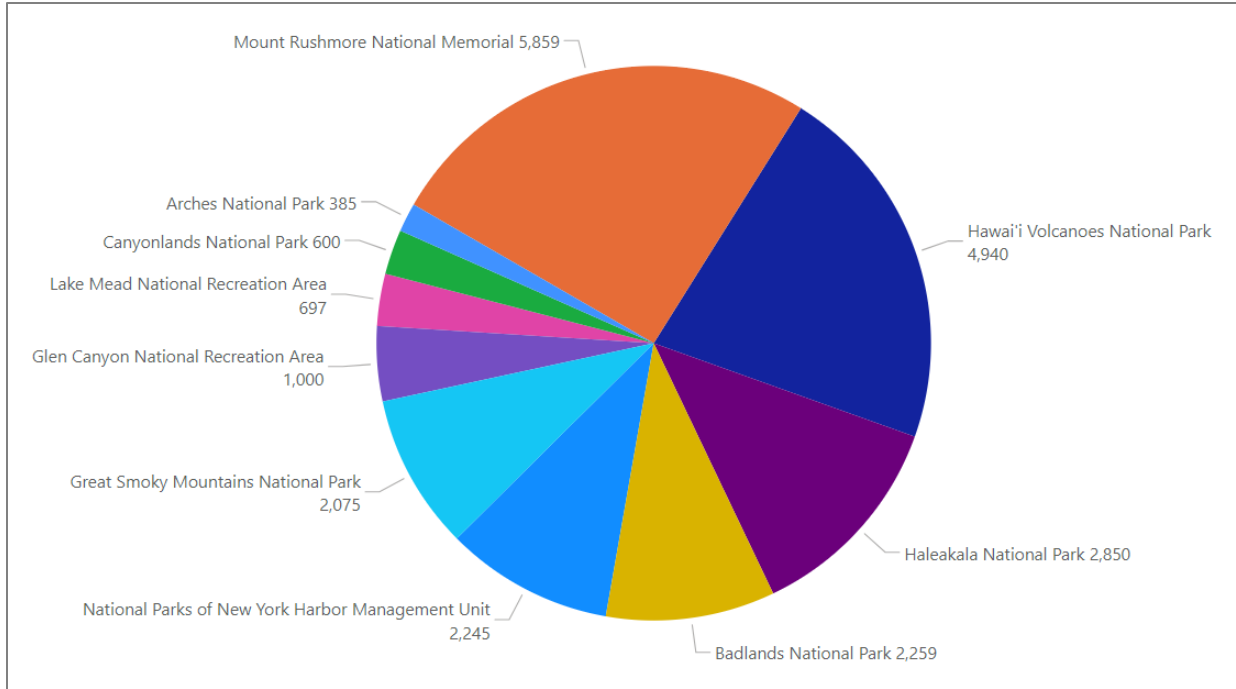
**Table 13.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2023.

National Park System Unit	January–March 2023	April–June 2023	July–September 2023	October–December 2023	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit <sup>B</sup>	635	51	3,584	3,873	8,143	26.9%	No cap	4
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	1,685	1,865	1,592	1,239	6,381	21.1%	21,986	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>B</sup>	0	934	3,712	315	4,961	16.4%	5,608	3
Haleakalā National Park	775	852	545	460	2,632	8.7%	20,145	5
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	475	544	494	458	1,972	6.5%	35,954	6
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	133	646	859	297	1,935	6.4%	8,159	9
Badlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	0	313	562	10	885	2.9%	4,117	2
Golden Gate National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	111	212	218	149	690	2.3%	2,548	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	26	330	81	32	469	1.6%	3,992	7
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	37	121	112	72	342	1.1%	665	4
All Other Parks	193	424	535	297	1,834	6.1%	8,800	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,070</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>12,290</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>30,244</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>111,676</b>	<b>39 <sup>C</sup></b>

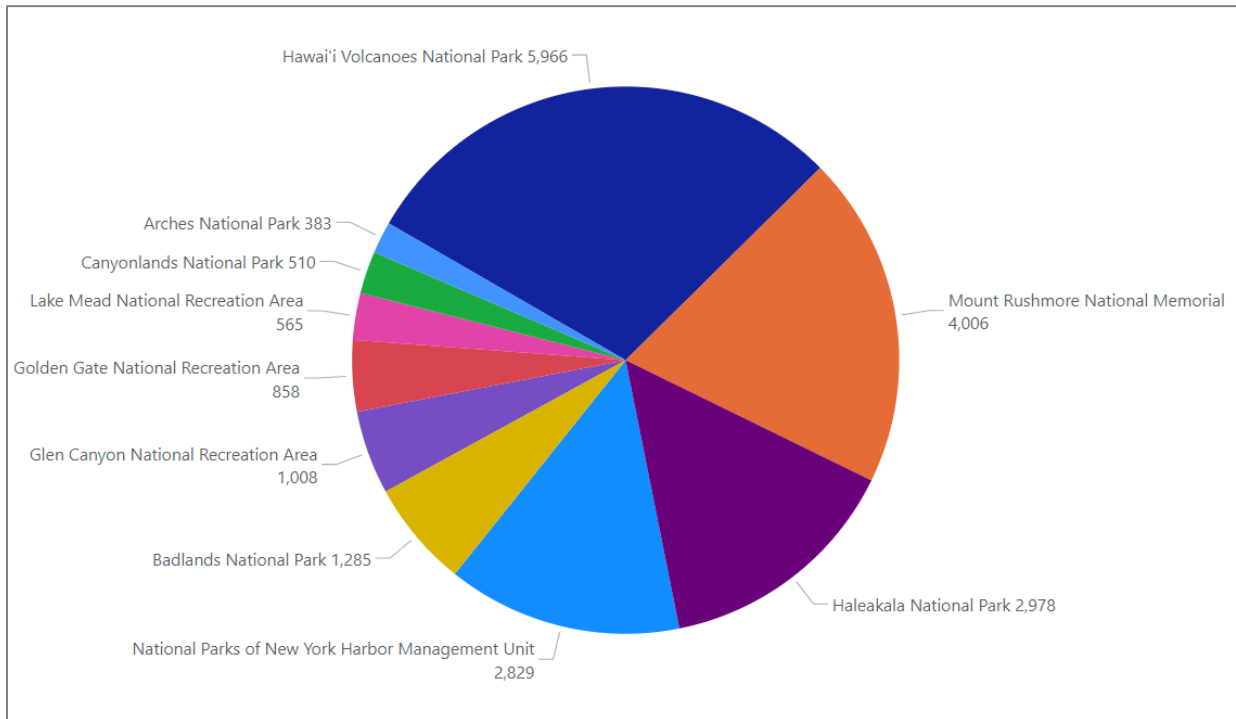
<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements.

<sup>B</sup> Park with an air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2023 or before.

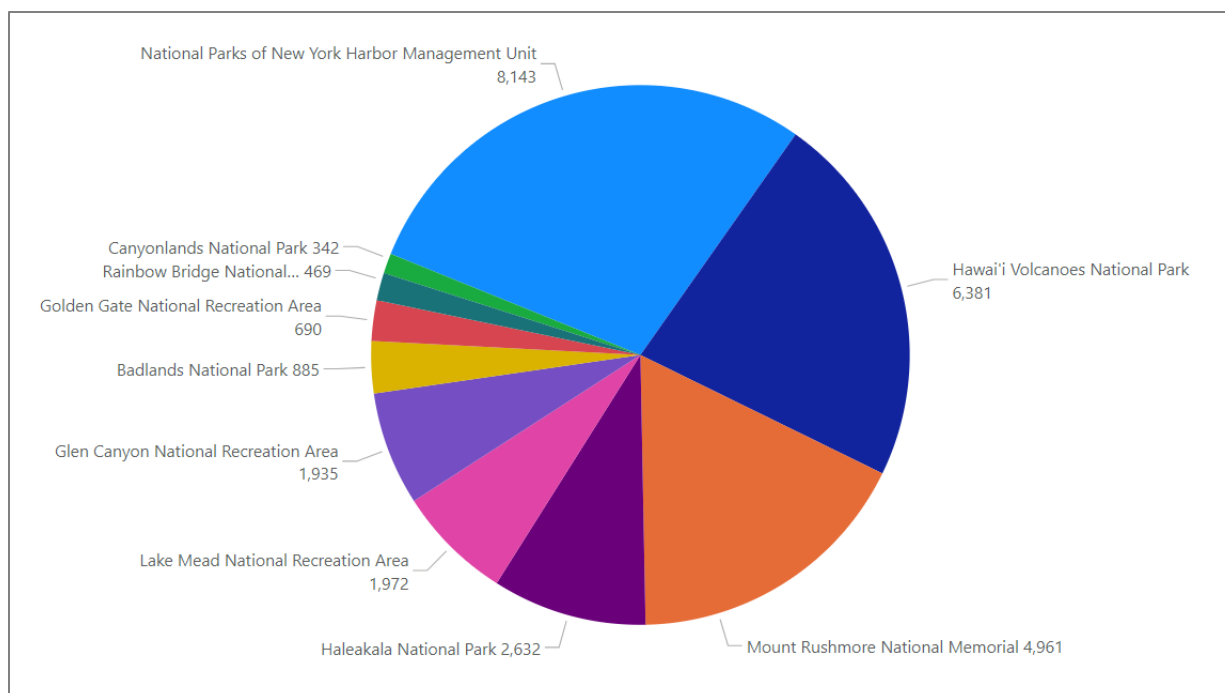
<sup>C</sup> This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.



**Figure 1.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2021. NPS



**Figure 2.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2022. NPS



**Figure 3.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at the Top-Ten High-Activity National Park System Units, 2023. NPS

Table 14 and Figure 4 display annual data for high-activity parks from 2013 through 2023. Figure 5 displays annual data for the most recent 5 years (2019–2023), allowing for better visualization of recent trends. 2021 was the peak year of activity at Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Canyonlands National Park, while 2020 was the peak year at Badlands National Park. Air tours at these parks did not decline in number due to the COVID pandemic, but rather increased over previous years; however, air tours at these parks declined into 2022 and 2023 compared to the 2020 and 2021 levels. Additional trends, as noted in previous years include:

- At the National Parks of New York Harbor, the sharp decline in tours between 2015 and 2018 was due to an agreement between New York City and air tour operators unrelated to NPATMA. The agreement banned air tours on Sundays and mandated a phased reduction of air tours to 50% of 2015 levels by 2017.
- At Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, the nearly 50% drop in tours from 2017 to 2018 was a result of the Kīlauea Volcano eruptive activity that began in the spring of 2018.



**Table 14.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2013–2023 (sorted alphabetically).

<b>National Park System Unit</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Badlands National Park	962	1,317	1,205	1,330	1,194	1,729	1,349	2,264	2,259	1,285	885
Canyonlands National Park	490	476	468	355	420	314	367	302	600	510	342
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	4,424	4,861	4,167	3,820	4,243	4,715	5,919	614	1,000	1,008	1,935
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	1,920	1,990	2,190	2,167	2,588	2,550	2,352	577	173	858	690
Haleakala National Park	4,631	4,932	4,543	4,589	4,839	4,757	4,875	647	2,850	2,978	2,632
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	15,510	14,428	14,645	15,489	16,520	8,333	9,276	1,252	4,940	5,966	6,381
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	13,218	12,159	10,548	7,530	8,735	7,401	5,218	771	697	565	1,972
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	9	3,648	4,363	4,011	3,749	3,788	4,204	4,860	5,859	4,006	4,961
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	34,682	39,797	26,812	18,638	11,006	8,141	7,859	850	2,245	2,829	8,143
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	2,148	2,399	2,415	2,065	1,316	1,526	1,301	149	272	293	469

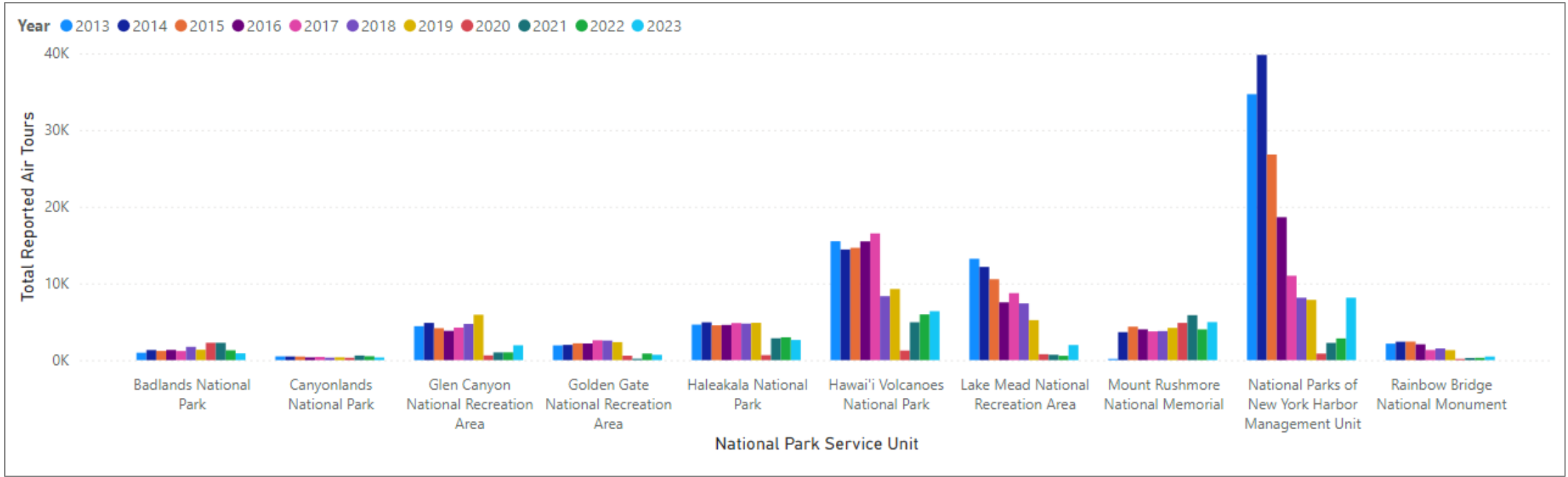
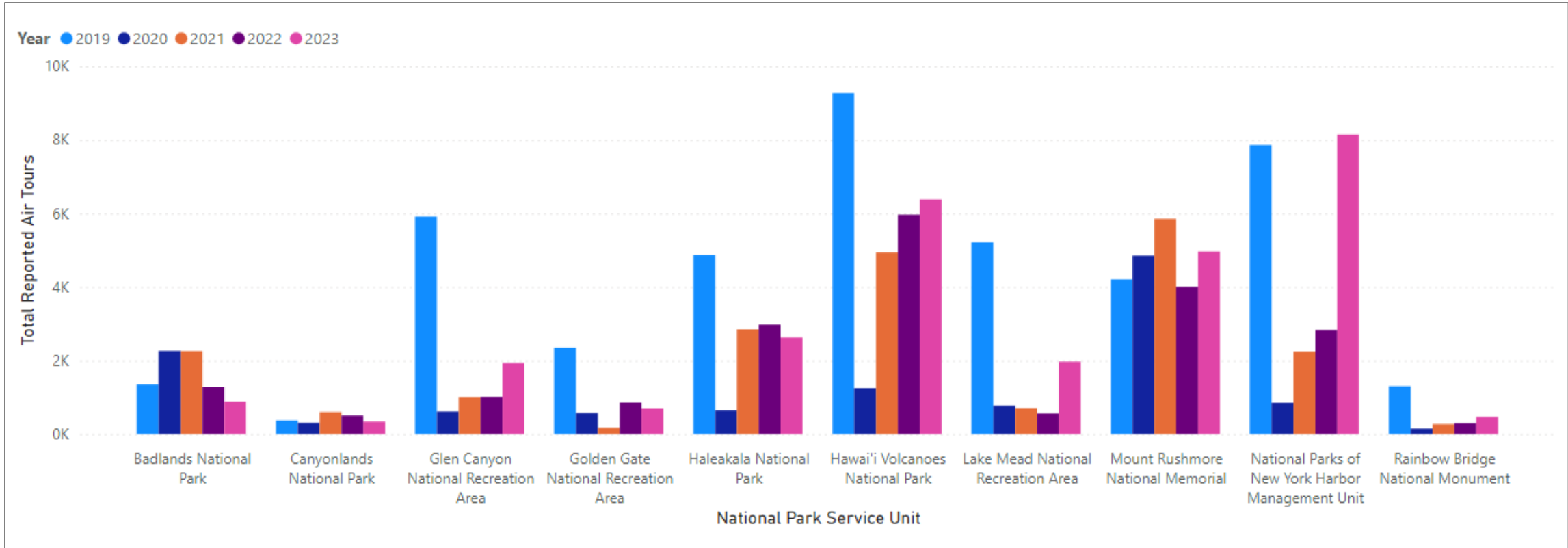


Figure 4. Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2013–2023. NPS



**Figure 5.** Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 5 most recent years, 2019–2023. NPS

### **Air Tours by Region**

Tables 15–17 and Figures 6–8 display the amount of air tour activity by the Department of Interior (DOI) unified region. Region 12 contains the greatest number of air tours, although these operations were concentrated over only two park units. In contrast, there is less activity in region 7, but there are significantly more park units where tours occur. Appendix B provides a map of DOI regions.

**Table 15.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2021.

<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>Region Description Region</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour</b>
1: North Atlantic-Appalachian	North Atlantic-Appalachian	Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington DC, West Virginia	2,245	9.3%	1
2: South Atlantic-Gulf	South Atlantic-Gulf	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, US Virgin Islands	2,075	8.6%	1
5: Missouri Basin	Missouri Basin	Kansas, Most of Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota	8,118	33.5%	2
6: Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Oklahoma, Texas	0	0%	0
7: Upper Colorado Basin	Upper Colorado Basin	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico	1,852	7.6%	12
8: Lower Colorado Basin	Lower Colorado Basin	Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada	762	3.1%	3
9: Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Idaho, Most of Oregon, Washington, NW Montana	46	<1%	2
10: California-Great Basin	California 0 Great Basin	Most of California, Most of Nevada, Klamath County Oregon	206	<1%	2
12: Pacific Islands	Pacific Islands	American Samoa, Guam, Hawai'i, Northern Marianas	7,790	32.1%	2
Regions 5,7,9	Yellowstone National Park	Yellowstone National Park (DOI Regions 5,7,9)	0	0%	0
Regions 5,9	Glacier National Park	Glacier National Park (DOI Regions 5 and 9)	151	<1%	1
Regions 7,8	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (DOI Regions 7 and 8)	1,000	4.1%	1

**Table 15 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2021.

<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>Region Description Region</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour</b>
Regions 8,10	Death Valley National Park	Death Valley National Park (DOI Regions 8 and 10)	2	<1%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	<b>24,247</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28</b>

**Table 16.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2022.

<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>Region Description Region</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour</b>
1: North Atlantic-Appalachian	North Atlantic-Appalachian	Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington DC, West Virginia	2,829	12.9%	1
2: South Atlantic-Gulf	South Atlantic-Gulf	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, US Virgin Islands	349	1.6%	2
5: Missouri Basin	Missouri Basin	Kansas, Most of Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota	5,291	24.1%	2
6: Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Oklahoma, Texas	6	<1%	2
7: Upper Colorado Basin	Upper Colorado Basin	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico	1,733	7.9%	23
8: Lower Colorado Basin	Lower Colorado Basin	Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada	651	3.0%	7
9: Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Idaho, Most of Oregon, Washington, NW Montana	41	<1%	1
10: California-Great Basin	California-Great Basin	Most of California, Most of Nevada, Klamath County Oregon	1,004	4.6%	2

**Table 16 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2022.

<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>Region Description Region</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour</b>
12: Pacific Islands	Pacific Islands	American Samoa, Guam, Hawai'i, Northern Marianas	8,944	40.8%	2
Regions 5,7,9	Yellowstone National Park	Yellowstone National Park (DOI Regions 5,7,9)	0	0%	0
Regions 5,9	Glacier National Park	Glacier National Park (DOI Regions 5 and 9)	85	<1%	1
Regions 7,8	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (DOI Regions 7 and 8)	1,008	4.6%	1
Regions 8,10	Death Valley National Park	Death Valley National Park (DOI Regions 8 and 10)	0	0%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,941</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>

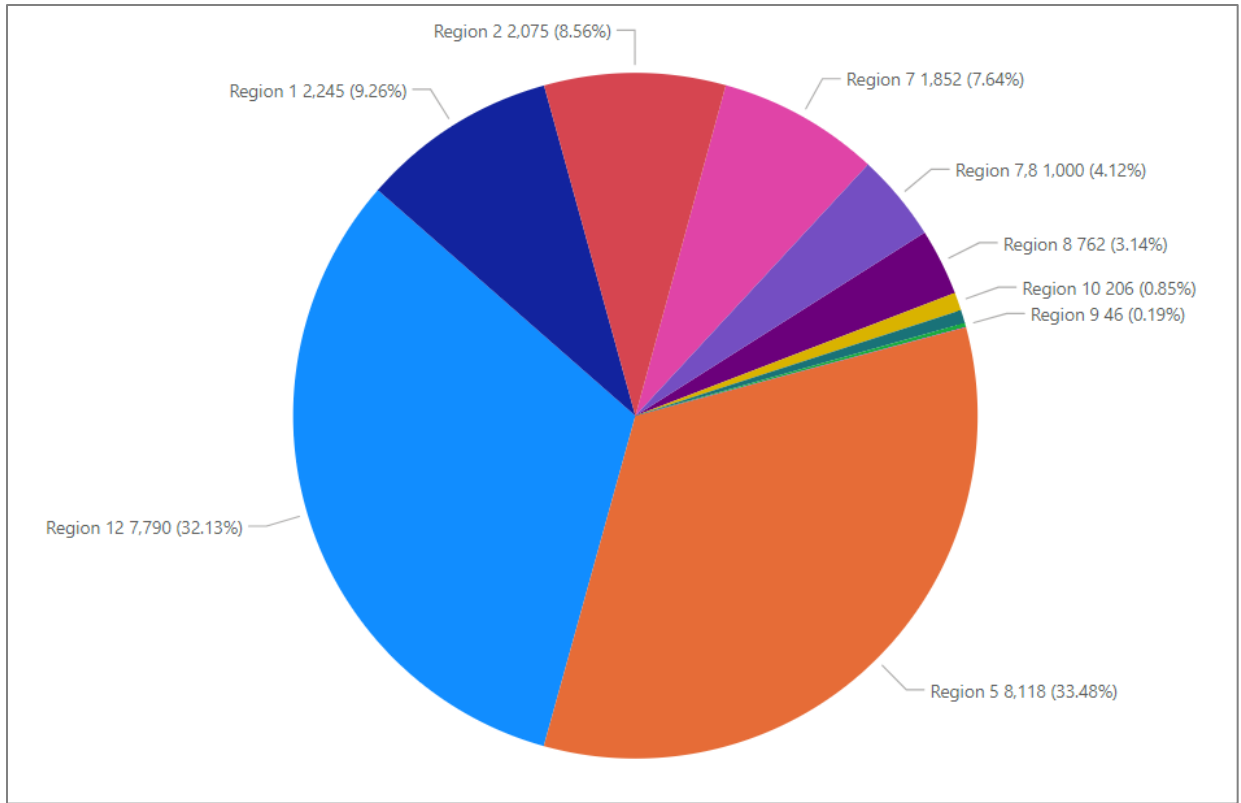
**Table 17.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2023.

<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>Region Description Region</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour</b>
1: North Atlantic-Appalachian	North Atlantic-Appalachian	Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington DC, West Virginia	8,143	26.9%	1
2: South Atlantic-Gulf	South Atlantic-Gulf	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, US Virgin Islands	238	<1%	1
5: Missouri Basin	Missouri Basin	Kansas, Most of Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota	5,846	19.3%	2

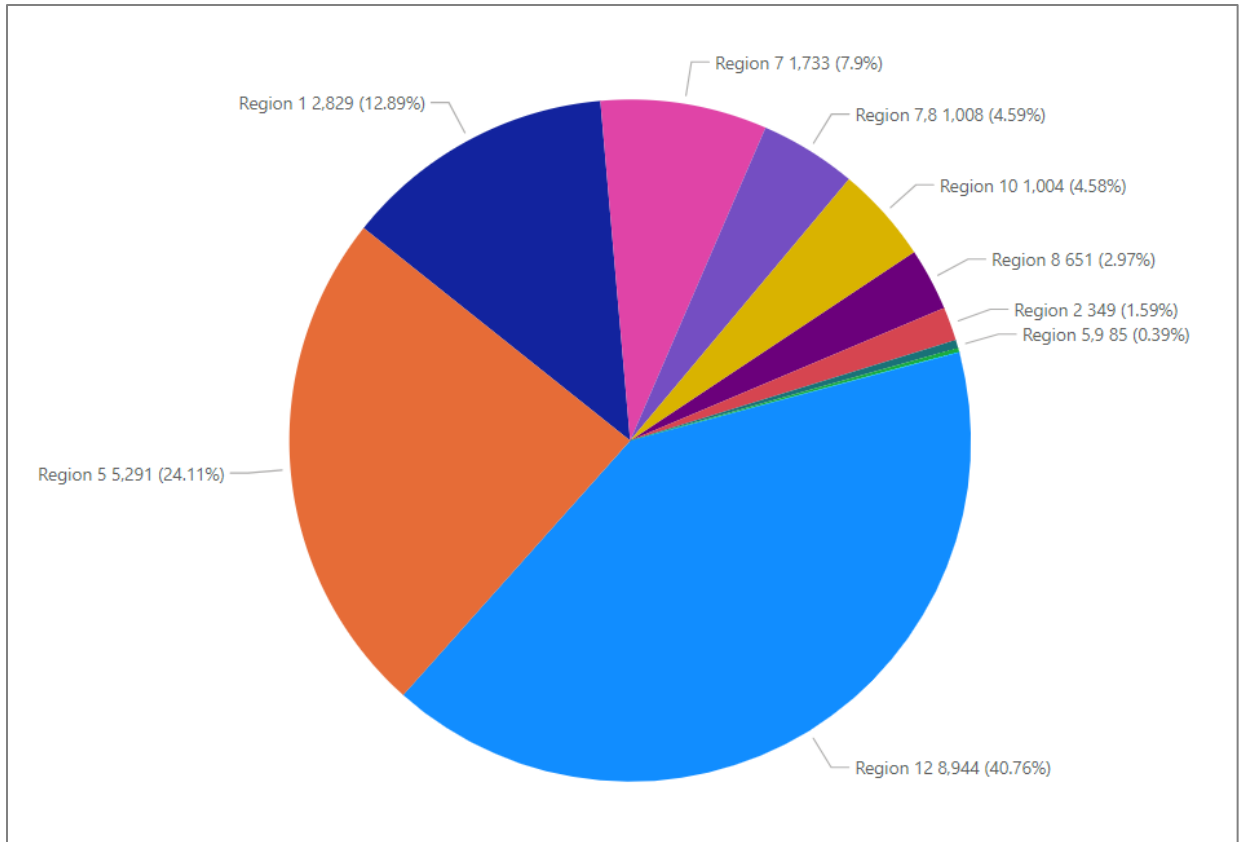
**Table 17 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2023.

<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>Region Description Region</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Percent of Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour</b>
6: Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Oklahoma, Texas	8	<1%	2
7: Upper Colorado Basin	Upper Colorado Basin	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico	1,972	6.5%	25
8: Lower Colorado Basin	Lower Colorado Basin	Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada	2,130	7.0%	7
9: Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Idaho, Most of Oregon, Washington, NW Montana	44	<1%	1
10: California-Great Basin	California-Great Basin	Most of California, Most of Nevada, Klamath County Oregon	797	2.6%	2
12: Pacific Islands	Pacific Islands	American Samoa, Guam, Hawai'i, Northern Marianas	9,013	29.8%	2
Regions 5,7,9	Yellowstone National Park	Yellowstone National Park (DOI Regions 5,7,9)	0	0%	0
Regions 5,9	Glacier National Park	Glacier National Park (DOI Regions 5 and 9)	118	<1%	1
Regions 7,8	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (DOI Regions 7 and 8)	1,935	6.4%	1
Regions 8,10	Death Valley National Park	Death Valley National Park (DOI Regions 8 and 10)	0	0%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,244</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>45</b>

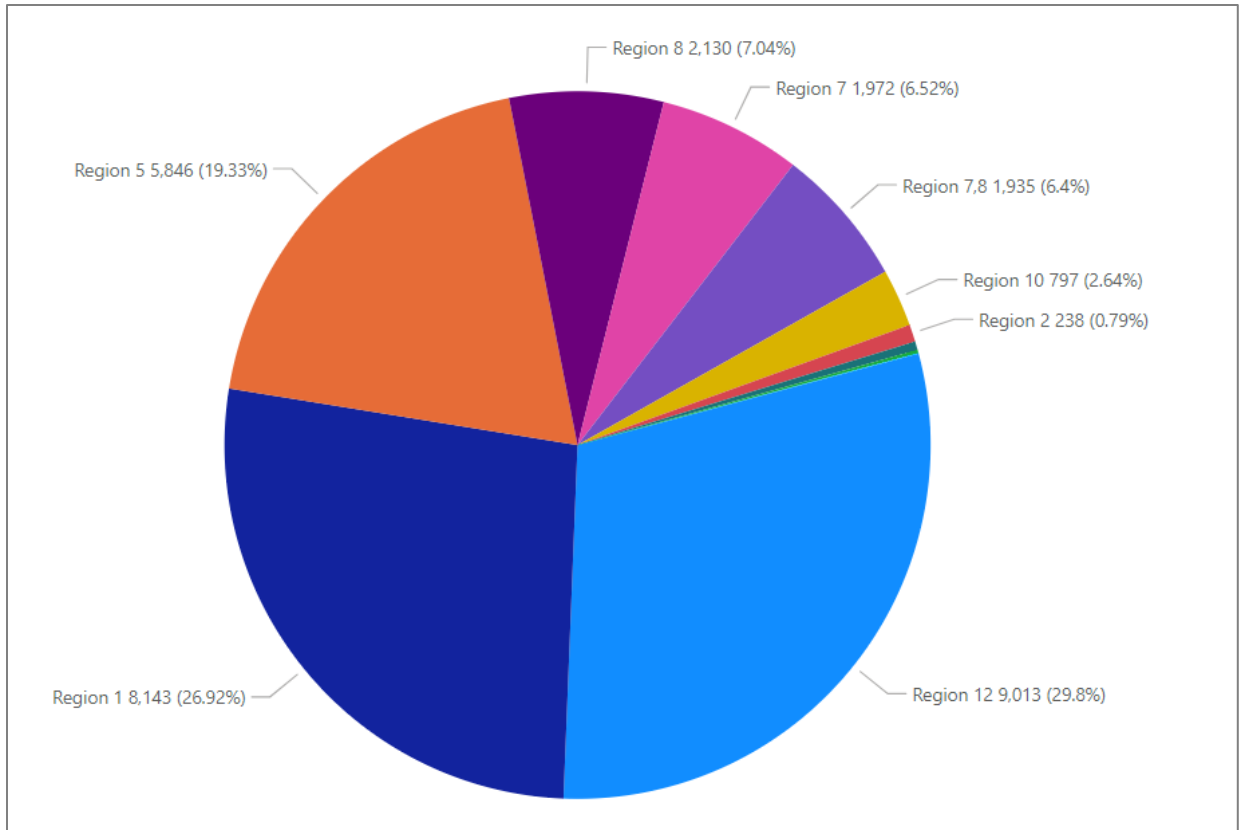




**Figure 6.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2021. NPS



**Figure 7.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2022. NPS



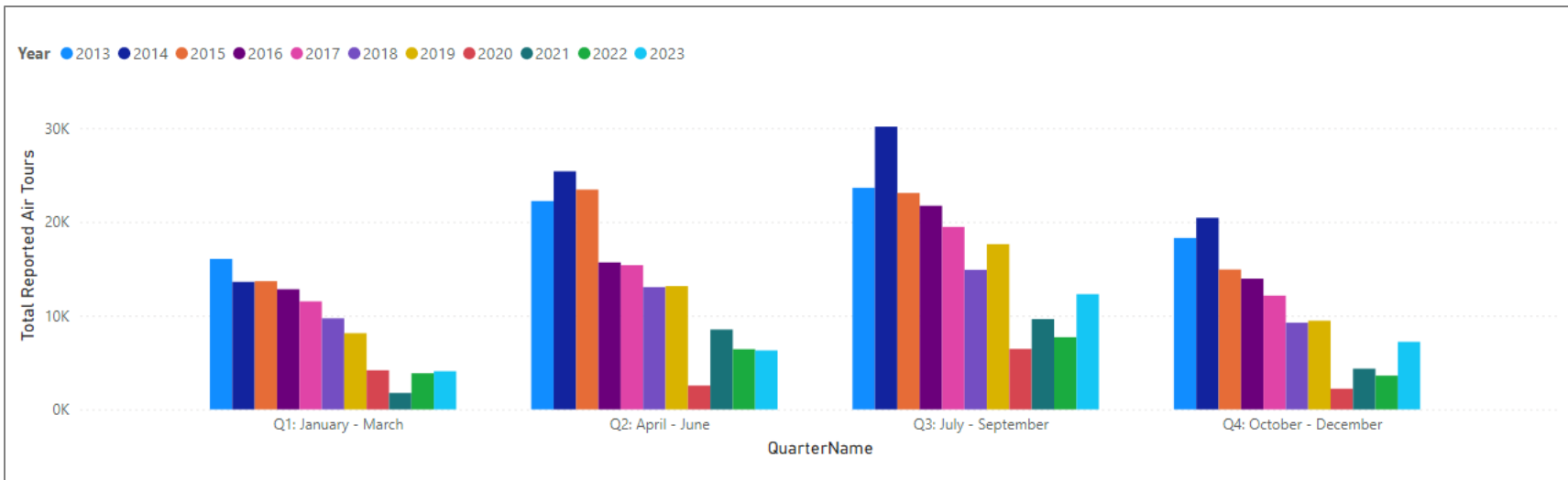
**Figure 8.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2023. NPS

### Annual and Quarterly Trends

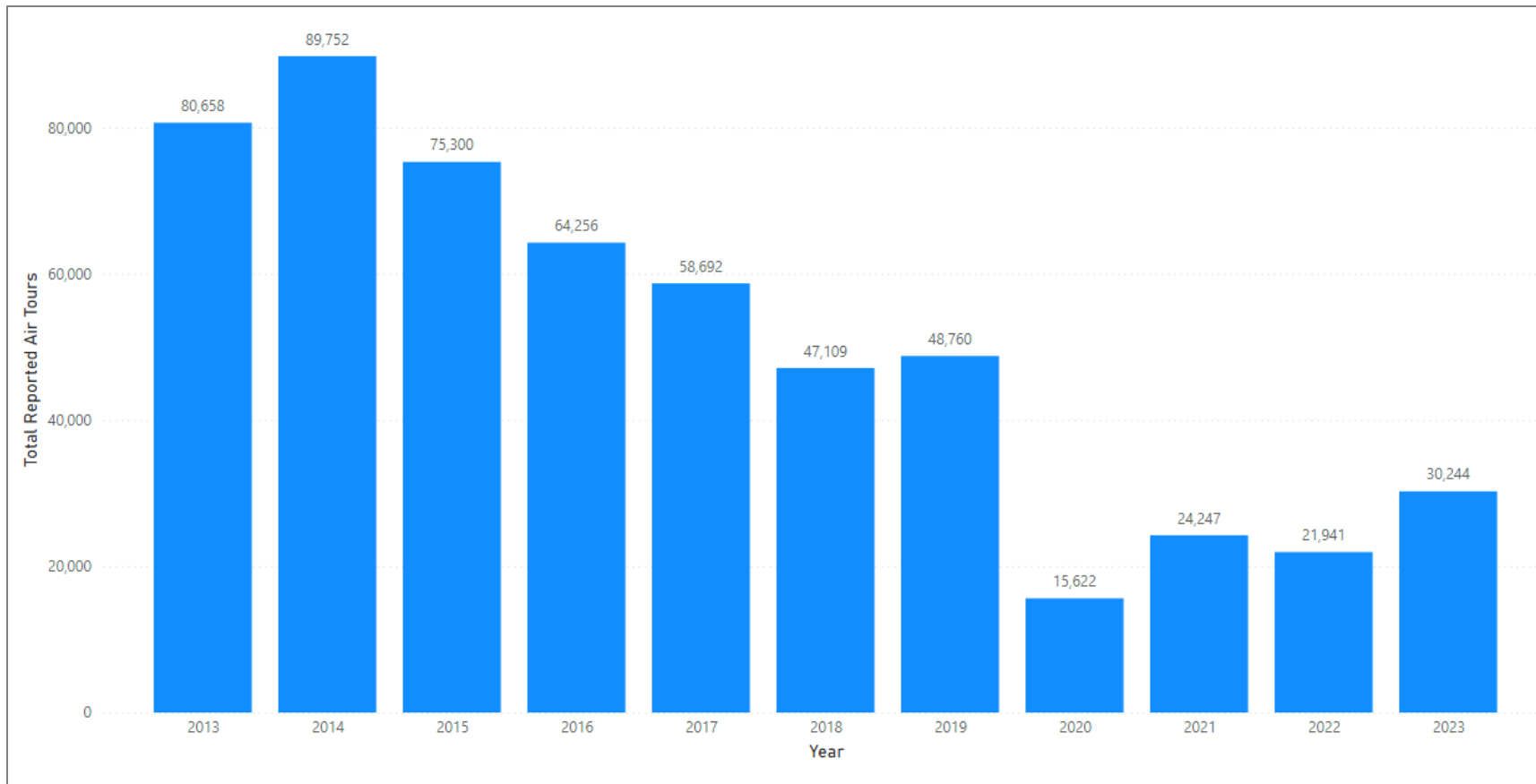
Table 18 and Figure 9 display air tour activity by quarter for 2013–2023. Most park units experienced seasonal fluctuations in operations associated with weather and customer demand. Figure 10 displays the total annual tours for 2013–2023. The COVID pandemic caused a sharp decline in air tour operations in 2020; declining to 30% of the average from 2017 through 2019. The declining trend in tours between 2015 and 2017 was due in part to a reduction in activity at the National Parks of New York Harbor, where an agreement between New York City and air tour operators bans air tours on Sundays and mandated a phased reduction of air tours to 50% of 2015 levels by 2017. The decline between 2017 and 2018 was due in part to a nearly 50% drop in tours at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, a result of the Kīlauea Volcano eruptive activity. Air tours shifted to pursue views of lava flows outside of the park and the FAA implemented multiple temporary flight restrictions (TFR) over areas of volcanic activity.

**Table 18.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by Quarter, 2013–2023.

<b>Year</b>	<b>January–March</b>	<b>April–June</b>	<b>July–September</b>	<b>October–December</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours</b>
2013	16,043	22,213	23,540	18,278	80,558
2014	13,600	25,389	30,157	20,433	89,752
2015	13,664	23,441	23,077	14,913	75,300
2016	12,815	15,676	21,715	13,950	64,256
2017	11,520	15,386	19,467	12,126	58,692
2018	9,714	13,041	14,878	9,252	47,109
2019	8,129	13,158	17,620	9,454	48,760
2020	4,173	2,539	6,446	2,204	15,622
2021	1,748	8,523	9,637	4,339	24,247
2022	3,860	6,419	7,699	3,599	21,941
2023	4,070	6,292	12,290	7,206	30,244



**Figure 9.** Reported Commercial Air Tours 2013–2023 by Quarter. NPS



**Figure 10.** Reported Commercial Air Tours by Year, 2013–2023. NPS

## **Parks that Require an Air Tour Management Plan or Agreement**

The Act requires that park units with more than 50 annual tours enter into an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement to protect park resources and values, or visitor use and enjoyment. While the Act exempted park units with 50 or fewer tours from the requirement to establish an ATMP or Agreement, Congress anticipated that there might be instances where even 50 or fewer annual air tours could affect park resources or the visitor experience. Therefore, if the NPS determines that an ATMP or Agreement is necessary to protect park resources or the visitor experience, NPS can withdraw an exemption.

Table 19 lists the 23 park units per the 2020 court order and one park unit NPS withdrew from the exemption (Muir Woods National Monument) for which the agencies have been working to complete ATMPs or Agreements.

Table 20 lists the parks where NPS and FAA have completed Agreements with operators.

Table 21 lists the parks that had more than 50 tours reported in 2021, 2022, or 2023, and which were not covered by the court order.

Table 22 lists the park units that qualify for the exemption because the number of tours does not exceed 50.

**Table 19.** Park Units per 2020 Court Order that Required an Air Tour Management Plan or Voluntary Agreement.

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	State	ATMP or Agreement	Status as of 8/31/2024	2021 Reported Air Tours	2022 Reported Air Tours	2023 Reported Air Tours
Arches National Park	7	UT	ATMP	Complete	385	383	301
Badlands National Park	5	SD	ATMP	Complete	2,259	1,285	885
Bandelier National Monument	7	NM	ATMP	Complete	66	62	110
Bryce Canyon National Park	7	UT	ATMP	Complete	290	57	253
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	ATMP	In Progress	36	4	82
Canyonlands National Park	7	UT	ATMP	Complete	600	510	342
Death Valley National Park	8,10	CA, NV	ATMP	Complete	2	0	0
Everglades National Park <sup>A</sup>	2	FL	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Glacier National Park	5,9	MT	ATMP	Complete	151	85	118
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	7,8	AZ, UT	Voluntary Agreement	Complete	1,000	1,008	1,935
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	10	CA	ATMP	Complete	173	858	690
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	2	NC, TN	ATMP	Complete	2,075	332	238
Haleakalā National Park	12	HI	ATMP	Complete	2,850	2,978	2,632
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	12	HI	ATMP	Complete	4,940	5,966	6,381
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	Voluntary Agreement	Complete	697	565	1,972
Mount Rainier National Park	9	WA	ATMP	Complete	1	0	0
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5	SD	ATMP	Complete	5,859	4,006	4,961
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	ATMP	Complete	0	0	0
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY, NJ	Voluntary Agreement	Complete	2,245	2,829	8,143
Natural Bridges National Monument	7	UT	ATMP	Complete	60	36	56
Olympic National Park	9	WA	ATMP	Complete	45	41	44

<sup>A</sup> In 2022, the sole operator with IOA for commercial air tours at Everglades National Park surrendered their operating certificate.



**Table 19 (continued).** Park Units per 2020 Court Order that Required an Air Tour Management Plan or Voluntary Agreement.

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	State	ATMP or Agreement	Status as of 8/31/2024	2021 Reported Air Tours	2022 Reported Air Tours	2023 Reported Air Tours
Point Reyes National Seashore	10	CA	ATMP	Complete	33	146	107
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	7	UT	Voluntary Agreement	Complete	272	293	469
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	10	CA	ATMP	Complete	0	0	0

<sup>A</sup> In 2022, the sole operator with IOA for commercial air tours at Everglades National Park surrendered their operating certificate.

**Table 20.** Park Units with Agreements Completed.

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	State	Year Completed	2021 Reported Air Tours	2022 Reported Air Tours	2023 Reported Air Tours
Big Cypress National Preserve	2	FL	2015	0	0	0
Biscayne National Park	2	FL	2016	0	17	0
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	7,8	AZ, UT	2018, 2023	1,000	1,008	1,935
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	2024	697	565	1,972
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY, NJ	2023	2,245	2,829	8,143
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	7	UT	2018, 2023	272	293	469

**Table 21.** Park Units Previously Exempt but with more than 50 tours in 2021, 2022, or 2023.

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State	Total Reported Air Tours 2021	Total Reported Air Tours 2022	Total Reported Air Tours 2023
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	0	64	61
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	40	51	92
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	0	61	63
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	29	50	51
Zion National Park	7	UT	130	45	31

**Table 22.** Park Units that Qualify for the Exemption Based on 2021, 2022, and 2023 Data (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State	Total Reported Tours 2021	Total Reported Tours 2022	Total Reported Tours 2023
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	0	37	39
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	0	16	20
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	1	15	18
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	5	20	17
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	0	17	17
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	1	13	16
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	0	15	15
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	0	13	13
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	0	11	11
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	0	5	10
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	0	8	9
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	0	5	8
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	0	6	8
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	0	7	7

**Table 22 (continued).** Park Units that Qualify for the Exemption Based on 2021, 2022, and 2023 Data (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).


<b>National Park Service Unit</b>	<b>DOI Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total Reported Tours 2021</b>	<b>Total Reported Tours 2022</b>	<b>Total Reported Tours 2023</b>
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	0	3	4
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	0	3	4
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	0	0	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	0	7	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	2	2	2
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	0	6	2
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	0	0	1
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	0	0	0
Montezuma Castle National Monument	8	AZ	0	0	0
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	0	0	0
Yellowstone National Park	5,7,9	ID, MT, WY	0	0	0
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	0	0	0

## Literature Cited

Lignell, B. W. 2019. Reporting information for commercial air tour operations over units of the national park system: 2018 annual report. Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/NSNSD/NRR—2019/1952. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

# Appendix A. Air Tour Reporting Template

This form is used by air tour operators to submit air tour reporting data to the FAA and NPS (Figure 11).

Commercial Air Tour Reporting Data				
		As Mandated by the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Title V, Section 501		
		Please Fill In Shaded Areas Below Where and As Appropriate		
		Note: Guidance is included in each cell and the first cell of each section.		
<small>Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement: A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120-0750. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 4-16 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory per The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the FAA at: 800 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20591, Attn: Information Collection Clearance Officer, AES-200.</small>		OMB CONTROL NUMBER 2120-0750	Revised 12/15/2017	
Operator/Company Name:		FAA Information: Go to <a href="http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/">http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/</a> for more information.		
dba (doing business as):		Name of Assigned POI:		
Certificate Designator:		Name of Assigned FSDO:		
Reporting Quarter:	Click on cell; select from dropdown	Reporting Year:	Click on cell; select from dropdown	FSDO Phone No.:
Notes:				
<b>Location Information</b>			<b>Route Information</b>	
National Park Service Unit Name(s):	Alpha-Code(s):	Departure Airports/Helipads:	Route Code:	Route Name:
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
<b>Air Tour Data Submission</b>				
Date of Tour	Hour of Tour	Aircraft Make/Model	Park-Route Code	

**Figure 11.** The Commercial Air Tours Reporting Form. A [downloadable Excel version](#) of this form is available on [National Parks Air Tour Management | Federal Aviation Administration](#) website. FAA

## Appendix B. Department of Interior Unified Regions

Map of the Department of Interior Unified Regions (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Map of 12 Department of the Interior regions based on watersheds. DOI



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Science Report NPS/SR—2025/235  
<https://doi.org/10.36967/2307331>

---

**Natural Resource Stewardship and Science**

1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 150  
Fort Collins, CO 80525