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

## *2024 Report*



Photo of aircraft.

*NPS / ASHLEY PIPKIN*

# **Reporting Information for Commercial Air Tour Operations over Units of the National Park System: 2024 Report**

Science Report NPS/SR—2026/394

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

<sup>1</sup> U.S. 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

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# Contents

	Page
Figures.....	iv
Tables.....	v
Abstract.....	vi
Executive Summary.....	vii
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.....	14
Air Tours by Region.....	21
Annual and Quarterly Trends.....	23
Parks That Require an Air Tour Management Plan or Agreement.....	27
Literature Cited.....	31
Appendix A. Air Tour Reporting Template.....	32
Appendix B. Department of Interior Unified Regions.....	34

# Figures

	Page
<b>Figure 1.</b> Reported commercial air tours at the top-ten high-activity National Park System units, 2024. ....	16
<b>Figure 2.</b> Reported commercial air tours at high-activity units of the National Park System, 2013–2024. ....	19
<b>Figure 3.</b> Reported commercial air tours at high-activity units of the National Park System, six most recent years, 2019–2024. ....	20
<b>Figure 4.</b> Reported commercial air tours by DOI unified region, 2024. ....	23
<b>Figure 5.</b> Reported commercial air tours by quarter, 2013–2024. ....	25
<b>Figure 6.</b> Reported commercial air tours by year, 2013–2024. ....	26
<b>Figure 7.</b> National Parks Air Tour Management Act Air Tour Reporting Form. ....	33
<b>Figure 8.</b> The 12 interior region names and areas. ....	35

# Tables

	Page
<b>Table 1.</b> Reported commercial air tours and authorized commercial air tours as of December 31, 2024. ....	viii
<b>Table 2.</b> Reported commercial air tours at the top ten high-activity National Park System units, 2024. ....	xi
<b>Table 3.</b> Reported commercial air tours in 2024 (sorted by total reported air tours). ....	8
<b>Table 4.</b> Reported commercial air tours in 2024 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System unit). ....	10
<b>Table 5.</b> Reported commercial air tours at the top ten high-activity National Park System units, 2024. ....	15
<b>Table 6.</b> Reported commercial air tours at high-activity units of the National Park System, 2013–2024. ....	18
<b>Table 7.</b> Reported commercial air tours by DOI unified region, 2024. ....	22
<b>Table 8.</b> Reported commercial air tours, 2013–2024. ....	24
<b>Table 9.</b> Park units with an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement in place. ....	28
<b>Table 10.</b> Park units with more than 50 tours in 2024 without an agreement. ....	30
<b>Table 11.</b> Park units that qualify for the exemption based on 2024 data (sorted by total reported air tours). ....	30

## **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 2024. 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 2024. 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.

In 2024 there were 31 unique operating certificates associated with operators authorized to conduct commercial air tours over units of the national park system. The reporting compliance rate was 85% (85% of expected reports were received). Data are subject to change pending receipt of additional reports and should be considered only a partial summary for the current reporting year.

Table 1 displays the number of reported tours at the 75 units of the national park system where one or more air tour operators held authority to conduct tours in 2024. Of the 75 park units where operators held an authorization in 2024, operators reported conducting tours at 50. Operators may hold authority for conducting air tours through air tour management plans or voluntary agreements. In parks where these plans and agreements are not in place an operator may conduct air tours with their interim operating authority (IOA)<sup>1</sup>. According to reports submitted by operators, a total of 43,878 air tours were reported over these units in 2024.

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 resources and values, or visitor use and enjoyment.

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<sup>1</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.

**Table 1.** Reported commercial air tours and authorized commercial air tours as of December 31, 2024.

<b>National Park Service Unit</b>	<b>2024 Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>2024 Authorized Air Tours</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	33,279	33,279 (No Limit) <sup>A</sup>	Voluntary Agreement
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	2,644	8,159	Voluntary Agreement
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	2,436	36,219	Voluntary Agreement
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	1,788	1,548	ATMP
Haleakala National Park <sup>B</sup>	929	2,224	ATMP
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	604	3,992	Voluntary Agreement
Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	602	2,548	ATMP
Canyonlands National Park	282	367	ATMP
Arches National Park	211	309	ATMP
Glacier National Park	136	144	ATMP
Point Reyes National Seashore	103	143	ATMP
Bandelier National Monument <sup>B</sup>	94	0	ATMP
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	82	946	ATMP
Aztec Ruins National Monument	71	83	–
Bryce Canyon National Park	64	515	ATMP
Mesa Verde National Park	64	63	–
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	58	147	–
Navajo National Monument	57	267	–
Olympic National Park	55	64	ATMP
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	53	175	ATMP
Hovenweep National Monument	53	92	–
Natural Bridges National Monument	38	73	ATMP
Zion National Park	22	684	–
Biscayne National Park	20	90	Voluntary Agreement
Pecos National Historical Park	19	32	–
Fort Union National Monument	15	32	–
Capulin Volcano National Monument	13	13	–
El Malpais National Monument	11	43	–
Petroglyph National Monument	10	45	–
Petrified Forest National Park	9	60	–

<sup>A</sup> The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Authorizations updated in 2024 after an ATMP or Agreement was put into place. In some cases the reported air tours may exceed authorizations because they were conducted under IOA before B057 operation specifications had been amended

**Table 1 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2024.

<b>National Park Service Unit</b>	<b>2024 Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>2024 Authorized Tours</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>
Colorado National Monument	7	57	–
Capitol Reef National Park	6	284	–
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	5	7	–
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	4	16	–
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	4	27	–
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	4	94	–
Wupatki National Monument	4	60	–
Big Cypress National Preserve	3	252	Voluntary Agreement
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	3	18	–
El Morro National Monument	3	43	–
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	3	17	–
Devils Tower National Monument	2	22	–
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>B</sup>	2	0	ATMP
Big Bend National Park	1	55	–
Dinosaur National Monument	1	9	–
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	1	26	–
Mount Rainier National Park	1	1	ATMP
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	1	5	–
Yosemite National Park	1	115	–
Acadia National Park	0	0	–
Badlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	0	0	ATMP
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument	0	6	–
Cedar Breaks National Monument	0	66	–
Coronado National Memorial	0	5	–
Death Valley National Park	0	2	ATMP
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	0	5	–
Fort Davis National Historic Site	0	5	–
Golden Spike National Historic Site	0	11	–
Grand Teton National Park	0	29	–
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	0	18	–
Hohokam Pima National Monument	0	5	–

<sup>A</sup> The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Authorizations updated in 2024 after an ATMP or Agreement was put into place. In some cases the reported air tours may exceed authorizations because they were conducted under IOA before B057 operation specifications had been amended

**Table 1 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2024.

<b>National Park Service Unit</b>	<b>2024 Total Reported Air Tours</b>	<b>2024 Authorized Tours</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>
Mojave National Preserve	0	15	–
Montezuma Castle National Monument	0	180	–
North Cascades National Park	0	2	–
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	0	5	–
Pipe Spring National Monument	0	26	–
Saguaro National Park	0	18	–
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	0	10	–
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	0	254	–
Tumacacori National Historical Park	0	5	–
Tuzigoot National Monument	0	57	–
Walnut Canyon National Monument	0	48	–
Yellowstone National Park	0	103	–
Yucca House National Monument	0	63	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,878</b>	<b>94,402</b>	<b>–</b>

<sup>A</sup> The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Authorizations updated in 2024 after an ATMP or Agreement was put into place. Of the 71 park units where operators held an authorization in 2024, operators reported conducting tours at over 49 units. In some cases the reported air tours may exceed authorizations because they were conducted under IOA before B057 operation specifications had been amended.

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.

All parks covered by the 2020 court order completed an ATMP or a Agreement before December 19, 2024. The agencies sent their final progress report for the case on December 20, 2024, providing for the Agencies’ completion of ATMPs or Agreementss for all parks included the Court’s May 1, 2020, Order granting the petition for writ of mandamus. On April 28, 2025, the court directed to note on the docket that the case was closed.

As shown in Table 1, 32 park units qualified for the exemption in 2024 because the number of tours did not exceed 50 tours per year. Several park units had more than 50 tours reported in 2024 that were previously exempt and currently do not have a Agreement or ATMP in place. These parks include Aztec Ruins National Monument (71 tours), Mesa Verde National Park (64 tours), Chaco Culture National Historical Park (58 tours), Navajo National Monument (57 tours), and Hovenweep National Monument (53 tours).

Table 2 displays the air tour activity at the top ten high-activity parks for 2024. These park units accounted for 42,911 tours (98% of all tours nationwide). The remaining park units had a combined total of 967 tours in 2024.

**Table 2.** Reported commercial air tours at the top ten high-activity National Park System units, 2024.

<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	33,279	76%	4
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	2,644	6%	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	2,436	6%	7
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	1,788	4%	4
Haleakala National Park	929	2%	4
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	604	1%	7
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	602	1%	2
Canyonlands National Park	282	1%	4
Arches National Park	211	0%	3
Glacier National Park	136	0%	2
Others	967	2%	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,878</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>–</b>

## Introduction

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) *Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* amended the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* (NPATMA) 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 in compliance with NPATMA, 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 *2024 Annual Report* is to provide a high-level, quantitative summary of the reporting data that the agencies received for calendar year 2024, submitted by commercial air tour operators. With the submission of the 2024 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 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 the end of the 2024 reporting period, ATMPs have been completed for the following 19 parks:

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

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

All parks covered by the 2020 court order completed an ATMP or an Agreement before December 19, 2024. The agencies sent their final progress report for the case on December 20, 2024, providing the dates for the Agencies' completion of ATMPs or Agreements for all parks included the Court's May 1, 2020, order granting the petition for writ of mandamus. On April 28, 2025, the court directed to note on the docket that the case was closed.

### **Interim Operating Authority**

Section 49 U.S.C §40128(c) of the codified Act has a grandfathering provision that applied 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 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 and 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.

All subsequent updates to an operator’s IOA, after the 2005 FR notice and before the end of the publication of this report, have been updated through the OpSpec B057. The number of operators with IOA and the total amount of IOA has changed, as some operators have gone out of business, some operators have purchased other companies (in whole), ATMPs have terminated IOA as required by NPATMA, and Agreements have been implemented that amend an operator’s IOA.

### **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, and 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 a Microsoft 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 without further administrative or environmental process.

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 of the nine operators in 2018 and then with the two additional operators who held IOA in 2023, finally bringing the park into compliance with NPATMA. National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit completed an agreement with all operators in 2023. Lake Mead National Recreation Area completed Agreements with all six existing operators and one new entrant in 2024.

### **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 2024 there were 31 unique operating certificates associated with operators authorized to conduct commercial air tours over units of the national park system. In 2024 the reporting compliance rate was 85% (85% of expected reports were received). Data are subject to change pending receipt of additional reports and should be considered only a partial summary for the current reporting year.

## Summary of Reporting Data

This section provides information on data collected from the 2024 calendar year reporting. This includes all data submitted by air tour operators through semi-annual or annual (for exempt parks) reports.

Table 3 lists 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. Table 4 provides the same information but with park units sorted alphabetically. Parks where operators are required to report only annual totals do not report a quarterly total but are included in the Total Air Tours column.

The system-wide authorized number of air tours in 2024 is 61,123 tours<sup>2</sup>, not including tours at the National Parks of New York Harbor (NPNH). The NPNH do not have a limitation on air tours over the park. The system-wide authorized number of air tours including NPNH is calculated as tours authorized in all parks plus tours that were reported at NPNH; using this calculation there were 94,402 tours authorized in 2024 over the National Park Service. These air tours are authorized under ATMPs, Agreements and IOA. Of the 77 parks where air tours were authorized in 2024 there was a total of 49 national park system units where at least one air tour is reported to have occurred in 2024. Overall, 43,878 air tours were reported in 2024, including tours at the NPNH.

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<sup>2</sup> The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations and are not reflected in this total.

**Table 3.** Reported commercial air tours in 2024 (sorted by total reported air tours).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	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	5,117	10,309	8,525	9,328	33,279	33,279 (No Limit)	4
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	7, 8	AZ, UT	181	1,017	911	535	2,644	8,159	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	8	AZ, NV	472	595	680	689	2,436	36,219	7
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	12	HI	984	795	5	4	1,788	1,548	4
Haleakala National Park <sup>B</sup>	12	HI	723	204	2	0	929	2,224	4
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	43	264	181	116	604	3,992	7
Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	68	173	184	177	602	2,548	2
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	28	86	106	62	282	367	4
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	25	68	71	47	211	309	3
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	5, 9	MT	4	42	88	2	136	144	2
Point Reyes National Seashore <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	14	28	37	24	103	143	1
Bandelier National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	NM	23	41	30	–	94	0	1
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	NC, TN	9	15	26	32	82	946	2
Aztec Ruins National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	71	83	1
Bryce Canyon National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	8	32	15	9	64	515	6
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	–	1	–	63	64	63	1
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	13	21	24	0	58	147	1
Navajo National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	57	267	5
Olympic National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	7	20	26	2	55	64	1
Canyon de Chelly National Monument <sup>B</sup>	8	AZ	13	19	21	0	53	175	4
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	0	0	0	53	53	92	3
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	9	13	6	10	38	73	2
Zion National Park	7	UT	3	8	7	4	22	684	7
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	9	4	2	5	20	90	1
Pecos National Historical Park <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	19	32	1
Fort Union National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	32	1
Capulin Volcano National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	13	1
El Malpais National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	11	43	1
Petroglyph National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	10	45	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMPs or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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 3 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2024 (sorted by total reported air tours).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Petrified Forest National Park <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	9	60	3
Colorado National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	7	57	1
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	0	1	2	3	6	284	7
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	5	7	1
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	4	16	1
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	4	27	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	4	94	4
Wupatki National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	4	60	3
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	1	0	2	3	252	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	3	18	1
El Morro National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	3	43	1
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	3	17	1
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	0	0	0	2	2	22	1
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>B</sup>	5	SD	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
Big Bend National Park <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	1	55	1
Dinosaur National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	1	9	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	1	26	1
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	1	5	1
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	0	1	0	0	1	115	2
Acadia National Park	1	ME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Badlands National Park	5	SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Coronado National Memorial <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park	8, 10	CA, NV	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Fort Bowie National Historic Site <sup>C</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	0	0	0	0	0	11	1
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	0	0	0	0	0	29	3
Guadalupe Mountains National Park <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMPs or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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 3 (continued).** Reported commercial air tours in 2024 (sorted by total reported air tours).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Hohokam Pima National Monument <sup>C</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	0	0	0	0	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	–	–	–	–	–	0	0
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pipe Spring National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	0	0	0	0	0	18	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	0	0	0	0	0	10	1
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	0	0	0	0	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	0	0	0	0	0	103	3
Yucca House National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7,753</b>	<b>13,758</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>11,167</b>	<b>43,878</b>	<b>61,123</b>	<b>164 <sup>D</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMPs or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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 4.** Reported commercial air tours in 2024 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System unit).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Acadia National Park	1	ME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	25	68	71	47	211	309	3
Aztec Ruins National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	71	83	1
Badlands National Park	5	SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bandelier National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	NM	23	41	30	0	94	0	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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 4 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2024 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Big Bend National Park <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	1	55	1
Big Cypress National Preserve <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	0	1	0	2	3	252	1
Biscayne National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	FL	9	4	2	5	20	90	1
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	5	7	1
Bryce Canyon National Park	7	UT	8	32	15	9	64	515	6
Canyon de Chelly National Monument <sup>B</sup>	8	AZ	13	19	21	0	53	175	4
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	28	86	106	62	282	367	4
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	0	1	2	3	6	284	7
Capulin Volcano National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	13	13	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	3	18	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	UT	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	13	21	24	0	58	147	1
Colorado National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	7	57	1
Coronado National Memorial <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park	8, 10	CA, NV	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	0	0	0	2	2	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	CO, UT	–	–	–	–	1	9	1
El Malpais National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	11	43	1
El Morro National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	3	43	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site <sup>C</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Fort Union National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	15	32	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	1	26	1
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	5, 9	MT	4	42	88	2	136	144	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	7, 8	AZ, UT	181	1,017	911	535	2,644	8,159	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	68	173	184	177	602	2,548	2
Golden Spike National Historic Site	7	UT	0	0	0	0	0	11	1
Grand Teton National Park	7	WY	0	0	0	0	0	29	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	4	16	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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 4 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2024 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Great Smoky Mountains National Park <sup>B</sup>	2	NC, TN	9	15	26	32	82	946	2
Guadalupe Mountains National Park <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Haleakala National Park <sup>B</sup>	12	HI	723	204	2	0	929	2,224	4
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	12	HI	984	795	5	4	1,788	1,548	4
Hohokam Pima National Monument <sup>C</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	0	0	0	53	53	92	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	4	27	1
Lake Mead National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	8	AZ, NV	472	595	680	689	2,436	36,219	7
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	0	1	0	63	64	63	1
Mojave National Preserve	8	CA	0	0	0	0	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Mount Rainier National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	5	SD	0	0	0	2	2	0	1
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	–	–	–	–	–	0	–
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit <sup>B</sup>	1	NY	5,117	10,309	8,525	9,328	33,279	33,279 (No Limit)	4
Natural Bridges National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	9	13	6	10	38	73	2
Navajo National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	57	267	5
North Cascades National Park	9	WA	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Olympic National Park <sup>B</sup>	9	WA	7	20	26	2	55	64	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pecos National Historical Park <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	19	32	1
Petrified Forest National Park <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	9	60	3
Petroglyph National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	10	45	1
Pipe Spring National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	–	26	2
Point Reyes National Seashore <sup>B</sup>	10	CA	14	28	37	24	103	143	1
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	7	UT	43	264	181	116	604	3,992	7
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River <sup>C</sup>	6	TX	–	–	–	–	1	5	1
Saguaro National Park	8	AZ	0	0	0	0	0	18	2
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	NM	–	–	–	–	3	17	1
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	10	CA	–	–	–	–	–	10	1

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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 4 (continued).** Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2024 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit).

National Park Service Unit	DOI Region	State(s)	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours <sup>A</sup>	Number of Authorized Operators
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	4	94	4
Timpanogos Cave National Monument	7	UT	0	0	0	0	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park	8	AZ	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Wupatki National Monument <sup>C</sup>	8	AZ	–	–	–	–	4	60	3
Yellowstone National Park	5, 7, 9	ID, MT, WY	0	0	0	0	0	103	3
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	0	1	0	0	1	115	2
Yucca House National Monument <sup>C</sup>	7	CO	–	–	–	–	–	63	1
Zion National Park	7	UT	3	8	7	4	22	684	7
<b>Total</b>	–	–	<b>7,753</b>	<b>13,758</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>11,167</b>	<b>43,878</b>	<b>61,123</b>	<b>164 <sup>D</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with air tour management plan or voluntary agreements completed in 2024 or before.

<sup>C</sup> Air tours reported annually, not quarterly.

<sup>D</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**

Table 5 and Figure 1 display the reported air tours for the ten park units that had the most activity in 2024. These park units had 98.8% of all air tour activity in 2024. The remaining park units had a combined total of 967 annual operations in 2024.

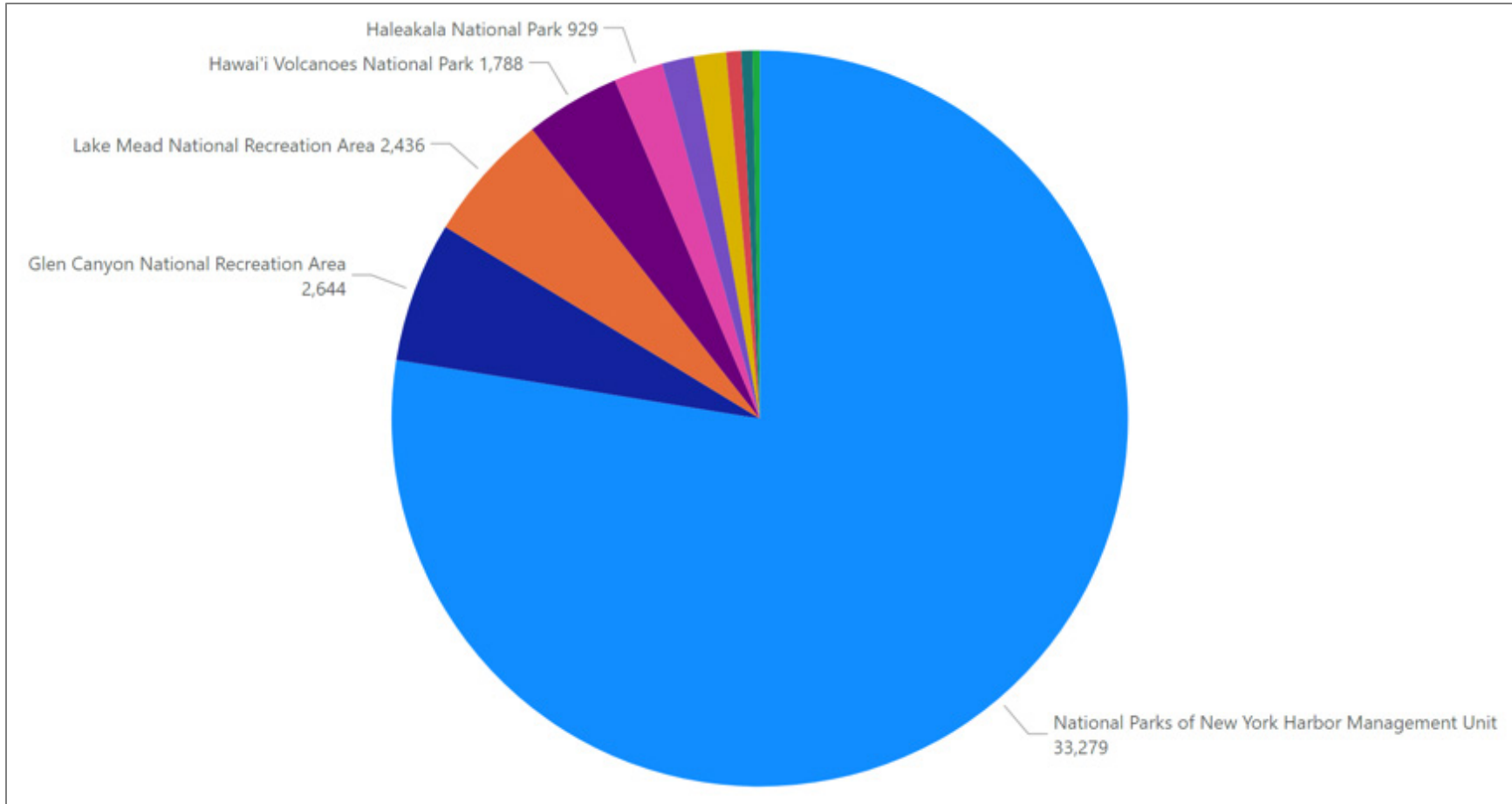
**Table 5.** Reported commercial air tours at the top ten high-activity National Park System units, 2024.

National Park System Unit	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	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>	5,117	10,309	8,525	9,328	33,279	75.8%	33,279 (No limit)	4
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	181	1,017	911	535	2,644	6.0%	8,159	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	472	595	680	689	2,436	5.6%	36,219	7
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>B</sup>	984	795	5	4	1,788	4.1%	1,548	4
Haleakala National Park <sup>B</sup>	723	204	2	0	929	2.1%	2,224	4
Rainbow Bridge National Monument <sup>B</sup>	43	264	181	116	604	1.4%	3,992	7
Golden Gate National Recreation Area <sup>B</sup>	68	173	184	177	602	1.4%	2,548	2
Canyonlands National Park <sup>B</sup>	28	86	106	62	282	0.6%	367	4
Arches National Park <sup>B</sup>	25	68	71	47	211	0.5%	309	3
Glacier National Park <sup>B</sup>	4	42	88	2	136	0.3%	144	2
Others	108	205	196	458	967	2.2%	5,613	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,753</b>	<b>13,758</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>11,418</b>	<b>43,878</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>94,402</b>	<b>46 <sup>C</sup></b>

<sup>A</sup> Total number of air tours authorized through IOA, ATMP or voluntary agreements. The agreements for the National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit do not specify numbers of allocations. The total number of reported tours is included as the number of allocations.

<sup>B</sup> Park with voluntary agreements completed in 2024 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.

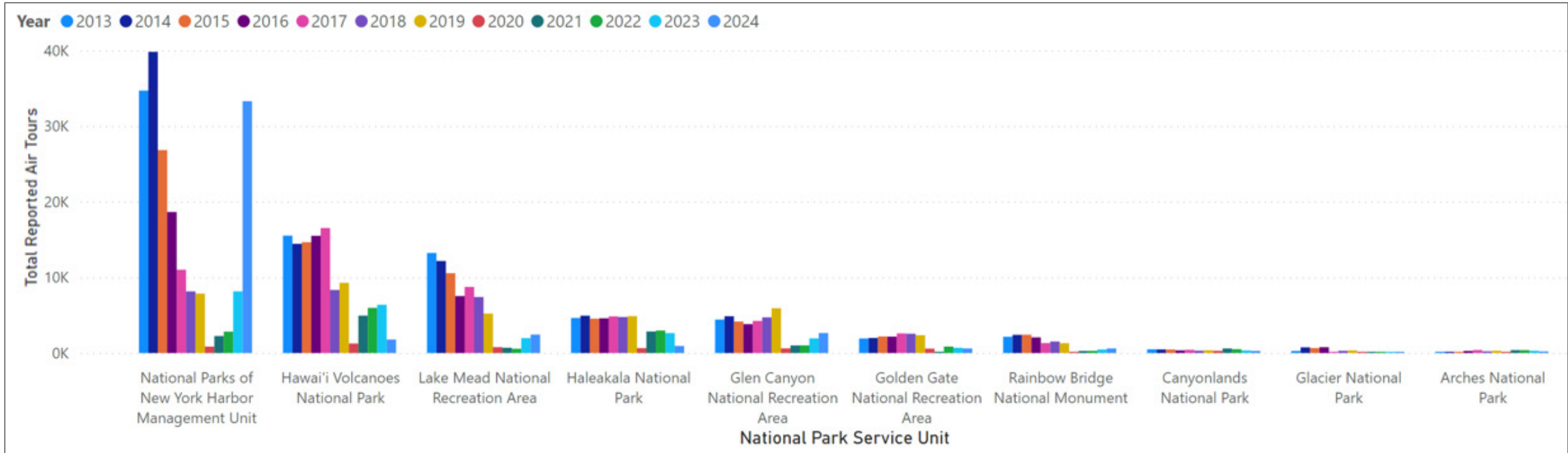


**Figure 1.** Reported commercial air tours at the top-ten high-activity National Park System units, 2024.  
*NPS*

Table 6 and Figure 2 display annual data for high-activity parks from 2013 through 2024. Figure 3 displays annual data for the most recent six years (2019–2024), allowing for better visualization of recent trends. All the high-activity units of the National Park System in 2024 have a completed ATMP or Agreement.

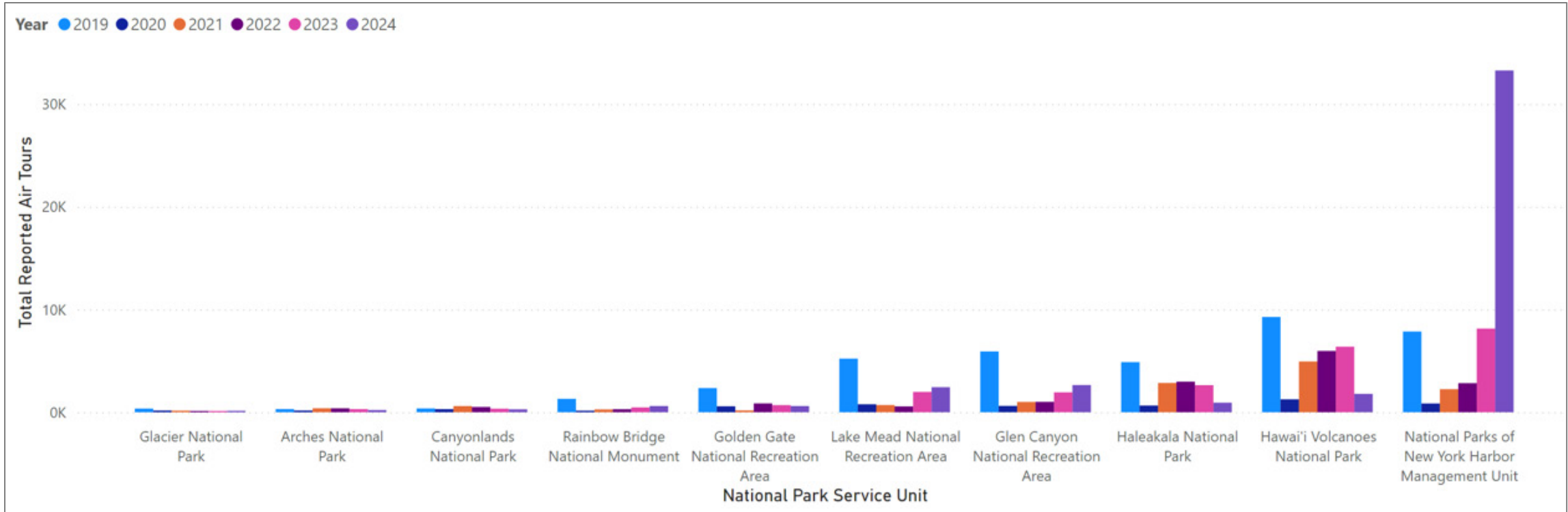
**Table 6.** Reported commercial air tours at high-activity units of the National Park System, 2013–2024.

<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>	<b>2024</b>
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	33,279
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	2,644
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	13,218	12,159	10,548	7,530	8,735	7,401	5,218	771	697	565	1,972	2,436
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	1,788
Haleakala National Park	4,631	4,932	4,543	4,589	4,839	4,757	4,875	647	2,850	2,978	2,632	929
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	2,148	2,399	2,415	2,065	1,316	1,526	1,301	149	272	293	469	604
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	1,920	1,990	2,190	2,167	2,588	2,550	2,352	577	173	858	690	602
Canyonlands National Park	490	476	468	355	420	314	367	302	600	510	342	282
Arches National Park	115	83	106	274	395	225	305	164	385	383	301	211
Glacier National Park	272	748	660	767	109	298	352	163	151	85	118	136



**Figure 2.** Reported commercial air tours at high-activity units of the National Park System, 2013–2024.

NPS



**Figure 3.** Reported commercial air tours at high-activity units of the National Park System, six most recent years, 2019–2024.

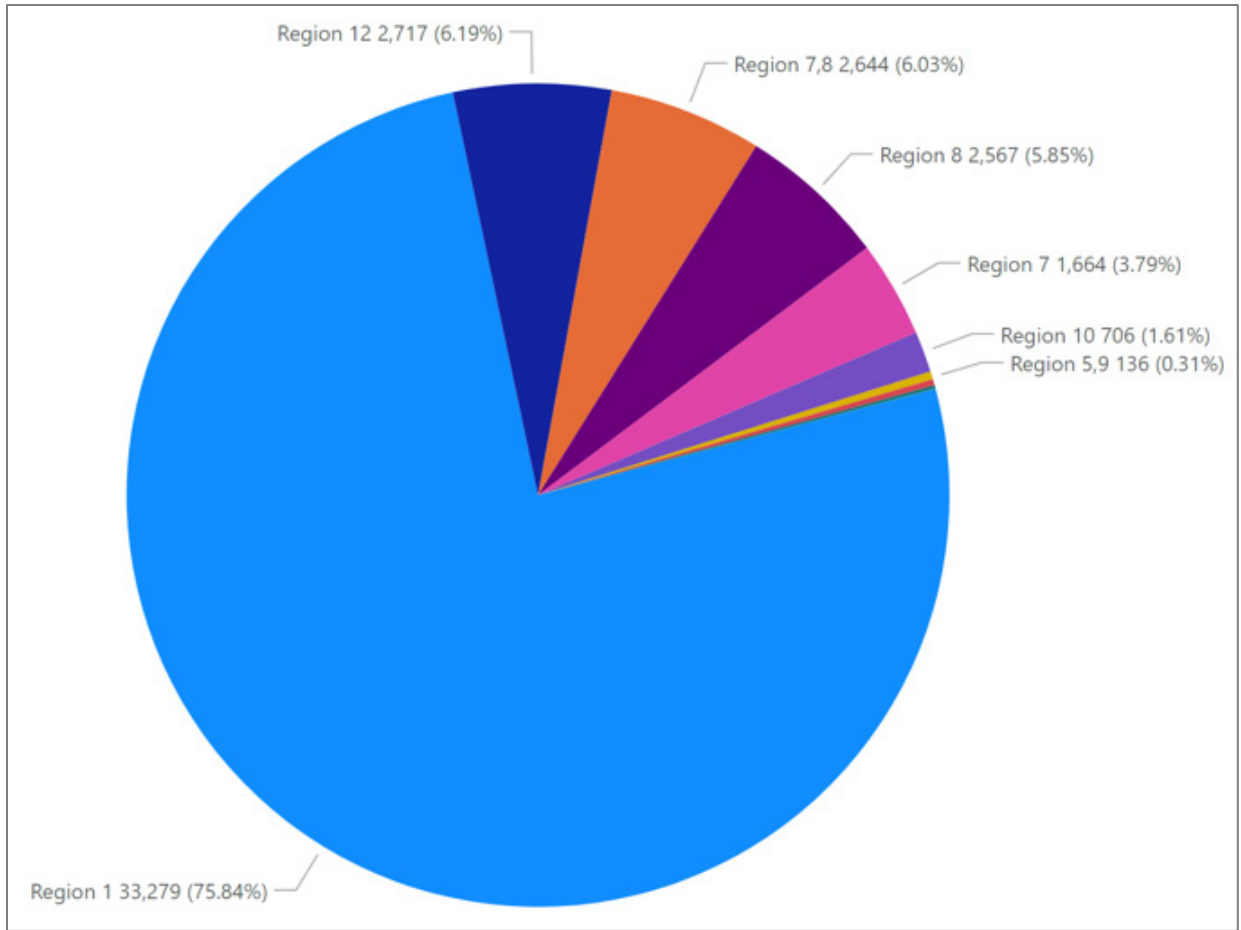
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### **Air Tours by Region**

Table 7 and Figure 4 display the amount of air tour activity by the Department of Interior (DOI) unified region. Region 1 contains the greatest number of air tours, although these operations were concentrated over one park unit. 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 7.** Reported commercial air tours by DOI unified region, 2024.

DOI Unified Region	Region Description	Coverage	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of Reported Air Tours	Number of Park Units with at Least One Tour
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	33,279	75.8%	1
2 - South Atlantic - Gulf	South Atlantic - Gulf	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands	105	<1%	3
5 - Missouri Basin	Missouri Basin	Kansas, Most of Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota	2	<1%	1
6 - Arkansas - Rio Grande - Texas Gulf	Arkansas - Rio Grande - Texas Gulf	Oklahoma, Texas	2	<1%	2
7 - Upper Colorado Basin	Upper Colorado Basin	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico	1,664	3.8%	26
8 - Lower Colorado Basin	Lower Colorado Basin	Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada	2,567	5.9%	7
9 - Columbia - Pacific Northwest	Columbia - Pacific Northwest	Idaho, Most of Oregon, Washington, NW Montana	56	<1%	2
10 - California - Great Basin	California - Great Basin	Most of California, Most of Nevada, Klamath County Oregon	706	1.6%	3
12 - Pacific Islands	Pacific Islands	American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Marianas	2,717	6.2%	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)	136	<1%	1
Regions 7,8	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (DOI Regions 7 and 8)	2,644	6.0%	1
Regions 8,10	Death Valley National Park	Death Valley National Park (DOI Regions 8 and 10)	0	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	–	–	<b>43,878</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>49</b>



**Figure 4.** Reported commercial air tours by DOI unified region, 2024.

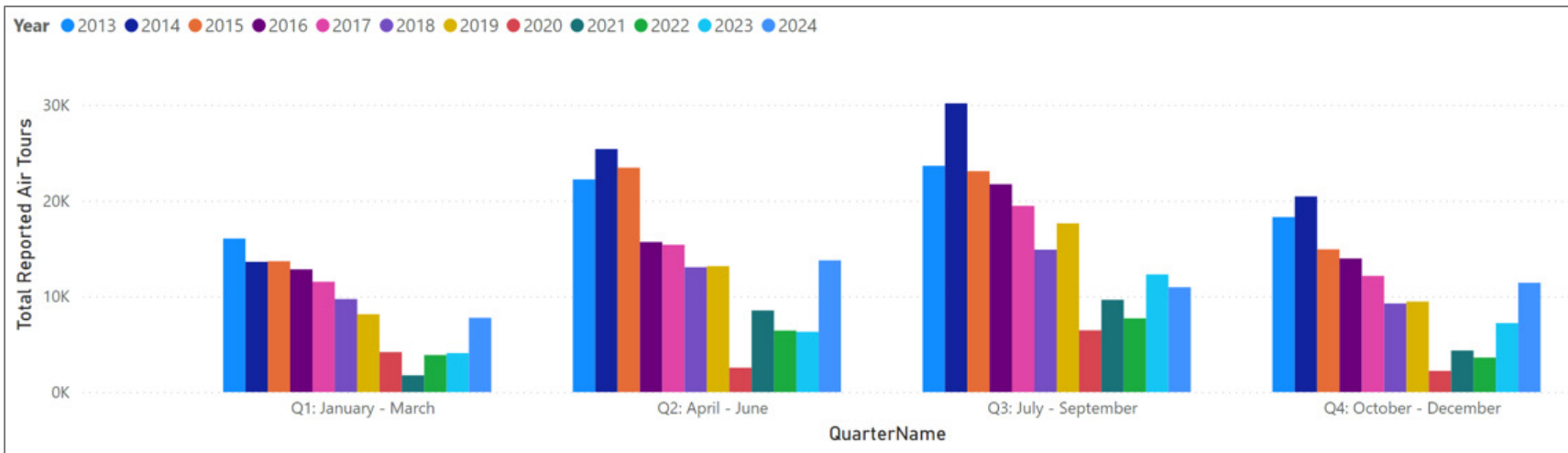
NPS

### Annual and Quarterly Trends

Table 8 and Figure 5 display air tour activity by quarter for 2013–2024. Most park units experienced seasonal fluctuations in operations associated with weather and customer demand. Figure 6 displays the total annual tours for 2013–2024. 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.

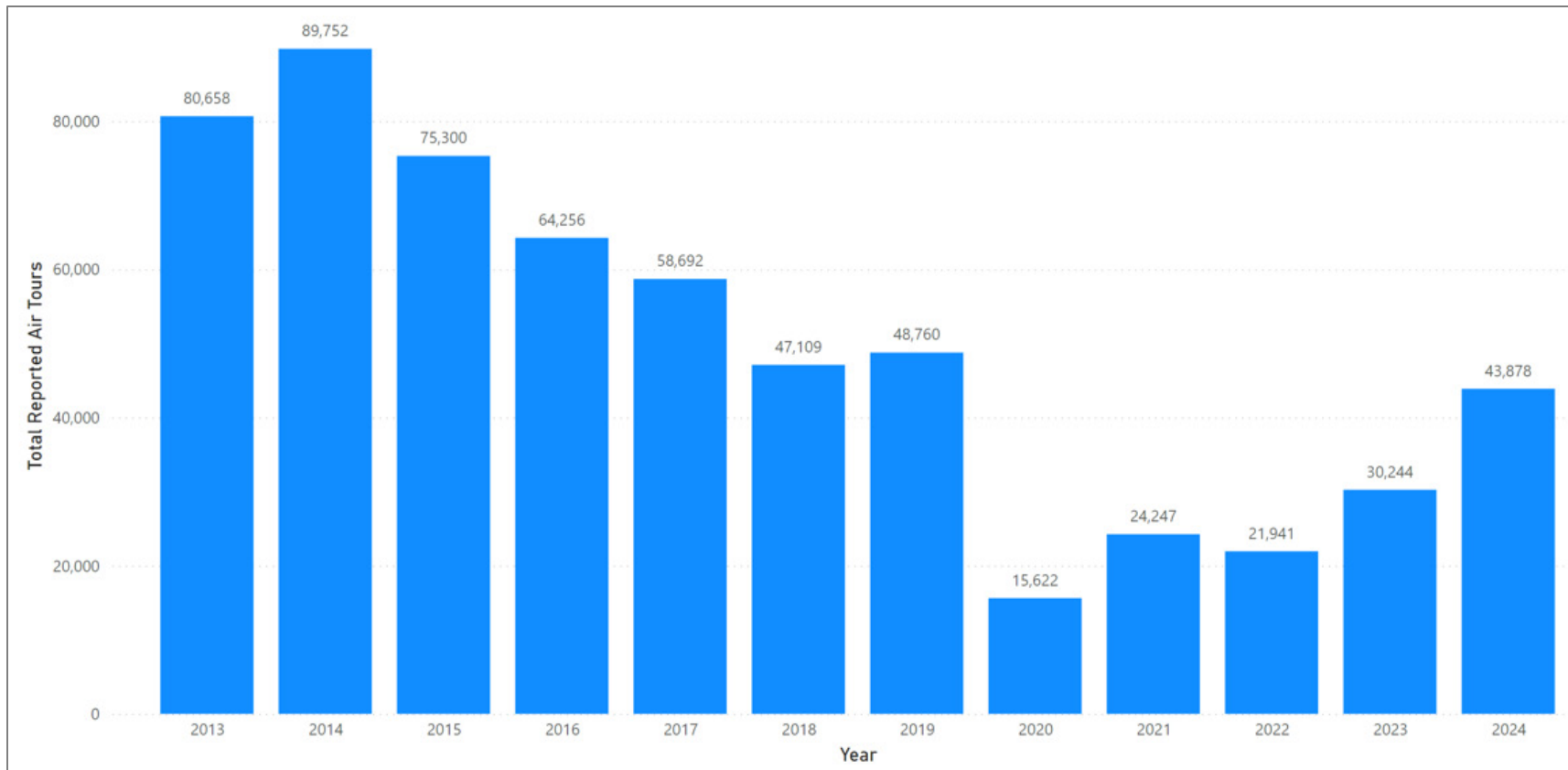
**Table 8.** Reported commercial air tours, 2013–2024.

<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	22,215	23,638	18,278	80,658
2014	13,599	25,389	30,158	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	19,457	12,136	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
2024	7,753	13,758	10,949	11,418	43,878



**Figure 5.** Reported commercial air tours by quarter, 2013–2024.

NPS



**Figure 6.** Reported commercial air tours by year, 2013–2024.

*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 9 lists the parks where NPS and FAA have completed Plans or Agreements with operators.

Table 10 lists the parks that had more than 50 tours reported in 2024, and were not covered by a plan or agreement.

Table 11 lists the park units that qualify for the exemption because the number of tours does not exceed 50.

**Table 9.** Park units with an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement in place.

<b>National Park System Unit</b>	<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>	<b>2024 Reported Air Tours</b>
Arches National Park	7	UT	ATMP	211
Badlands National Park <sup>A</sup>	5	SD	ATMP	0
Bandelier National Monument <sup>A</sup>	7	NM	ATMP	94
Big Cypress National Preserve	2	FL	Voluntary Agreement	3
Biscayne National Park	2	FL	Voluntary Agreement	20
Bryce Canyon National Park	7	UT	ATMP	64
Canyon de Chelly National Monument	8	AZ	ATMP	53
Canyonlands National Park	7	UT	ATMP	282
Death Valley National Park	8, 10	CA, NV	ATMP	0
Glacier National Park	5, 9	MT	ATMP	136
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	7, 8	AZ, UT	Voluntary Agreement	2,644
Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	10	CA	ATMP	602
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	2	NC, TN	ATMP	82
Haleakala National Park <sup>A</sup>	12	HI	ATMP	929
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park <sup>A</sup>	12	HI	ATMP	1,788
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	8	AZ, NV	Voluntary Agreement	2,436
Mount Rainier National Park	9	WA	ATMP	1
Mount Rushmore National Memorial <sup>A</sup>	5	SD	ATMP	2
Muir Woods National Monument	10	CA	ATMP	0
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit	1	NY	Voluntary Agreement	33,279
Natural Bridges National Monument	7	UT	ATMP	38
Olympic National Park	9	WA	ATMP	55

<sup>A</sup> Authorizations updated in 2024 as part of a change to a plan or agreement.

**Table 9 (continued).** Park Units with an Air Tour Management Plan or Voluntary Agreement in place.

<b>National Park System Unit</b>	<b>DOI Unified Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>	<b>2024 Reported Air Tours</b>
Point Reyes National Seashore	10	CA	ATMP	103
Rainbow Bridge National Monument	7	UT	Voluntary Agreement	604

<sup>A</sup> Authorizations updated in 2024 as part of a change to a plan or agreement.

**Table 10.** Park units with more than 50 tours in 2024 without an agreement.

<b>National Park Service Unit</b>	<b>DOI Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours 2024</b>
Aztec Ruins National Monument	7	NM	71
Chaco Culture National Historical Park	7	NM	58
Hovenweep National Monument	7	CO, UT	53
Mesa Verde National Park	7	CO	64
Navajo National Monument	8	AZ	57

**Table 11.** Park units that qualify for the exemption based on 2024 data (sorted by total reported air tours).

<b>National Park Service Unit</b>	<b>DOI Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total Reported Air Tours 2024</b>
Zion National Park	7	UT	22
Pecos National Historical Park	7	NM	19
Fort Union National Monument	7	NM	15
Capulin Volcano National Monument	7	NM	13
El Malpais National Monument	7	NM	11
Petroglyph National Monument	7	NM	10
Petrified Forest National Park	8	AZ	9
Colorado National Monument	7	CO	7
Capitol Reef National Park	7	UT	6
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park	7	CO	5
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve	7	CO	4
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	8	AZ	4
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument	8	AZ	4
Wupatki National Monument	8	AZ	4
Big Cypress National Preserve	2	FL	3
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	7	NM	3
El Morro National Monument	7	NM	3
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument	7	NM	3
Devils Tower National Monument	7	WY	2
Big Bend National Park	6	TX	1
Dinosaur National Monument	7	CO, UT	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument	7	NM	1
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River	6	TX	1
Yosemite National Park	10	CA	1

## 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**

Figure 7 shows a blank air tour reporting form that air tour operators would use to submit the data summarized in this report.



## **Appendix B. Department of Interior Unified Regions**

The Department of Interior has organized the United States into regions based on watersheds but are generally drawn along stateliness to simplify coordination with external partners. Figure 8 shows the 12 interior regions.

## 12 Interior Region Names Based on Watersheds



**Figure 8.** The 12 interior region names and areas.

USGS

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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**Natural Resource Stewardship and Science**

1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 150  
Fort Collins, CO 80525