

# U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

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**The Honorable Deb Haaland**  
Secretary of the Interior  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

**Mr. Chuck Sams, III**  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

July 11, 2022

Dear Secretary Haaland and Director Sams,

On behalf of the global travel and hospitality industry, we write to ask you to address challenges with the visitor reservation systems in the national parks that threaten to stall the recovery of international inbound travel.

During the pandemic, several parks saw record-breaking visitation from domestic visitors, which, coupled with staffing and operational limitations, threatened both the conservation of parks lands and the visitor experience. This led several of our largest and most popular parks to implement reservation systems for visitors.

National parks are an undeniable attraction for international travelers, too. Overseas travelers made up more than a third (35%) of the 327 million visitors to national parks in 2019. The U.S. is one of the few places in the world that protects and conserves its natural resources, while also allowing visitation and recreation. For international travel to recover, foreign travelers and tour operators must be able to plan their trips in advance.

Inbound travel cannot fully resume until international travelers can reliably plan their visits to our national parks. While we understand the need to implement new procedures to protect both parks and visitors during the pandemic, the new reservation systems have created significant challenges for the travel industry.

Specifically, the short lead-in times and inconsistent procedures threaten to prolong the already-slow recovery of international inbound travel. Reservation systems with short booking windows and inconsistent procedures are not workable for international travelers and international tour operators, many of whom plan for their travel a full year in advance. As we emerge from the pandemic and inbound travel resumes, it is imperative that reservations be allowed 10 to 12 months in advance. It is also imperative that reservation systems be consistent across parks that implement them. We hope you will work with us to extend reservation lead-in times and create consistency in a way that encourages and enables the resumption of inbound travel.

This is crucial due to the slow recovery of the U.S. travel industry. Prior to the pandemic, the travel industry generated \$2.6 trillion in economic output, supported 16.7 million American jobs, and generated a \$53 billion trade surplus for the United States. While some parts of the travel industry are recovering, international inbound travel remained down 78% in 2021, and the combined loss in industry spending from 2020 and 2021 totaled \$755 billion. The return of international inbound travel is essential to the industry's economic recovery, as well as the recovery of the broader U.S. economy.

The travel industry is ready to partner with you to implement visitation procedures that work for all of the National Parks Service's interests while also facilitating the return of inbound visitors. We recognize that environmental and conservation protections are part of what makes a quality visitor experience at the national parks. We further recognize that parks vary widely in size, location and infrastructure, eliminating any opportunity for a one-size-fits-all visitation policy. We request the opportunity to collaborate and partner with NPS during the planning and development process when considering changes that will impact parks operations and visitation in the future.

We respectfully request your engagement on this issue and stand ready to collaborate with you to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Respectfully,

## DOMESTIC ORGANIZATIONS

A Woman of Wonderland	Best Western Plus Abbey Inn & Suites
A-1 Hospitality Group	Best Western Plus Black Oak
Aames-Warner Corporation	Best Western Pony Soldier
Advantage Destination & Meeting Services, Inc.	Beyond Global Solutions
Adventure Park	Big Five Tours and Expeditions, Inc
Adventure Travel Trade Association	Big Wheel Tours
AEM	Black Hills & Badlands Tourism Association
Aiden by Best Western @St. George UT	BONJOUR USA
Alamance County Visitors Bureau	Bonotel Exclusive Company
Alberto Cioni Inc	Bright Event Rentals
Allegheny National Forest VisitorsBureau	Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland
AlliedTPro	Bryce Canyon Country
America 4 You, LLC	Burke County TDA
American Bus Association	California Travel Association
American Resort Development Association	Camarillo Hotel and Tourism Association
Americascope Tour Services	Camelback Hotel Corp.
Angel's Envy	Catch Des Moines
Arizona Office of Tourism	Chartwell Hospitality
Ascend Growth Partners	Chattanooga Tourism Co.
Association Management Resources	Classic Journeys
ATI	Colorado Tourism Office
Audio Industries Direct Entertainment	Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor & Convention Buresu
Authentic Vacations	Cruise America
BB Riverboats	CRVA/Visit Charlotte
Bedford Area Welcome Center/Destination Bedford	Days Inn By Wyndham
Best Western Coral Hills	Del Rio Chamber of Commerce
Best Western Hotels and Resorts	Derby Dinner Playhouse

Destination DC  
Destination Marketing Association of the West  
Discover Flagstaff  
Discover Torrance Visitors Bureau  
District Hospitality  
Docal  
DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa  
Dumas/Moore County Chamber of Commerce  
Durant Area Chamber of Commerce  
Dutchess Tourism, Inc.  
Easy Time Travel LLC  
Educational Travel Adventures  
EIG Inc.  
Empire Polo Club  
Enjoy Oxford  
Enterprise Holdings  
Excellent Vacation Homes  
Experience Kissimmee  
Experience Scottsdale  
Explore Crawford County  
Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa  
Fisherman's Wharf Merchants Association  
FLORIDA MAGIC TRAVEL AND TOUR  
CONSULTANTS, INC.  
Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism  
FORGE AHEAD PROMOTIONS  
Fugazi Travel  
GEN Travel Solutions  
Glacier Country Tourism  
Glasstone  
Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Go Lake Havasu  
Go West Tours  
GoldSpring Consulting  
Gourmet Food & Wine Tours  
Granite Hospitality  
Gray Line/City Sightseeing New York  
Great Rivers Country Tourism  
Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Wilmington CVB  
Guides Association of New York City  
Halifax County Tourism  
Hampton Inn & Suites, St. George, Sunriver / Sun  
River Hotel Group  
Hannah Marketing Group, Inc.  
Harvard Club of New York City  
Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau  
Heads in Beds, LLC  
Hermes Hospitality Advisors  
Hertz  
Hickory Furniture Mart & Hickory Metro Convention  
& Visitors Bureau  
Hilton San Francisco Union Square  
Hocking Hills Tourism Association  
Homestead Cottages  
Iberia Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Inn at Riverbend  
Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau  
J.Hilburn Men's Clothier  
Jahnvi hospitality llc  
JKL TOURS LLC  
JLL  
JW Marriott Los Angeles LA LIVE  
Kaiser Restaurant Group  
KATEI Inc  
Know Before You Go, Inc  
LA Family Travel  
La Quinta Inn & Suites St. George  
LaGrange Art Museum  
LaGrange County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Langham Hotels and Resorts  
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority  
Lewisville Texas Convention & Visitors Bureau  
LHP Events  
Liberty International USA  
Like A Local Tours  
Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau  
London-Laurel County Tourist Commission

Los Angeles Tourism  
 Louisville Tourism  
 Luray Caverns  
 Luxury Trips  
 Madera County Economic Development  
 Commission  
 Marriott Savannah Riverfront  
 Maryland Motorcoach Association  
 Maryland Recreation and Parks Association  
 Maryland Tourism Coalition  
 Meeting Point North America  
 MGE  
 MHA  
 MHD Corp  
 Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention &  
 Visitors Bureau  
 Miles Partnership  
 Mohegan Sun  
 Mt. Pleasant Area CVB  
 Muscle Shoals Sound Studio  
 Music Travel Consultants  
 Myrtle Beach Area Chamber & CVB  
 National Association of Motorcoach Operators  
 National Tour Association  
 NCVRMA  
 New Orleans & Company  
 New York State Tourism Industry Association  
 NGCOA  
 Noble Hospitality, Inc.  
 North American Traveler  
 North West Motorcoach Association  
 Norwegian Cruise Line  
 Nutel INC DBA Baymont Inn & Suites  
 Oakhurst Hideaway  
 Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association  
 OExplora  
 Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association  
 Ohio Travel Association  
 Old Town Spice Shop  
 Omni Hotels & Resorts  
 On stage by Aloha  
 Onwardly  
 Opal Cliff Beach House  
 OTS Globe - Americas  
 Pedal Forward Bikes & Adventure.  
 Pegasus  
 Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau  
 PIER 39  
 Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism  
 Plantation On Crystal River  
 PM Hotels  
 Port of Seattle  
 Portola Hotel & Spa  
 PRA Events, Inc.  
 Prairie Ecosystems  
 Preferred Travel of Naples  
 Protel Group  
 PSB Engineers  
 Public Safety Aviation Association  
 Q Hotels LLC  
 Rainbow Ryders Hot Air Balloon Co  
 Rancho Cordova Travel & Tourism  
 RD Travel Limited,Inc.  
 Red Barn Haven  
 Red Lion Global  
 Reign Realty  
 Rensselaer County Tourism  
 Richard Reasons  
 Richmond Region Tourism  
 Rill's Bus Service  
 Rocky Mountain Holiday Tours  
 RTT Services LLC  
 Ruby's Inn  
 Rupperts  
 RWC Hospitality LP  
 San Francisco Bay Adventures  
 San Mateo Chamber of Commerce  
 Sandra S. Dartus, CFEE Nonprofit Consulting  
 See Plymouth

Shores & Islands Ohio  
Sierra Meadows  
Smokehouse41  
SoIN Tourism  
Sonoma County Tourism  
South Dakota Department of Tourism  
Southeast Tourism Society  
Southwest Adventure Tours  
space tours bus line  
Sprague Hotel Developers  
Springfield CVB  
Springfield MO Convention & Visitors Bur  
Starline Tours of Hollywood Inc.  
STR/CoStar  
Student and Youth Travel Association  
Summit Investments Group LLC  
SUN ISLANDS HAWAII, INC.  
TAMU  
Tauck  
Tharaldson Hospitality Management  
The Collective and company  
The Evolved Traveler  
The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau  
The Hotel Group, an affiliate of Hotel Equities  
The Las Olas Company DBA Riverside Hotel  
THE PRINCE ORGANIZATION  
The Ranch at Laguna Beach  
The Westin Tysons Corner  
Tour America LLC  
TourMappers North America, LLC  
Travalco USA  
TravDek  
Travel Association of Kansas  
Travel Butler County  
Travel Michigan - MEDC  
Travel Oregon  
Travel Services, Inc.  
Travel Spike  
TripShock  
True Louisiana Tours  
TSA Tours  
U.S. Cultural & Heritage Marketing Council  
U.S. Travel Association  
Uniglobe Five Star Travel  
Utah Tourism Industry Association  
Vibrant Management  
VIKTOR Incentives & Meetings  
Visit Alexandria  
Visit Anaheim  
Visit Baltimore  
Visit Beloit  
Visit Canton  
Visit Charlevoix  
VISIT DENVER  
Visit Detroit  
Visit Greater Palm Springs  
Visit Irving  
Visit Jackson  
Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette  
Visit Lake Charles / Creole Nature Trail All-American Road  
Visit Lakeville Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Visit Lawrence County  
VISIT Milwaukee  
Visit Natchez  
Visit Ogden  
Visit Perry  
Visit Quad Cities  
Visit Rapid City  
Visit Salt Lake  
Visit Savannah  
Visit Spokane  
Visit St. Pete/Clearwater  
Visit Tampa Bay  
Visit Tillamook Coast  
Visit Tri-Valley CVB  
Visit Tuolumne County  
Visit Vacaville

Visit Ventura  
Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge  
Visit Yosemite | Madera County  
Western Leisure Inc  
Western States Tourism Policy Council  
Wheelwright Museum  
Whitefish Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin RV Dealers Alliance  
Witte Travel & Tours  
Wittwer Hospitality  
WRK Enterprises, Inc.  
Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort  
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Accor  
Air Canada  
America Unlimited  
American Vacation Creating Stories  
AmericanTours International, LLC  
AmerikaNu  
Associated Luxury Hotels International (ALHI)  
B-FOR International  
Best Western International  
Best Western Plus Settlers Point  
Brand USA Netherlands  
BuroSix  
CANUSA TOURISTIK  
Choice Hotels International, Inc.  
Connections-Eurotrain NV  
Copcotravel  
CRD Touristik GmbH  
Creating Stories  
Cruising Reise GmbH  
de Jong Intra Vakanties  
DER Touristik Deutschland GmbH  
Destinations International  
DiaMonde  
Doets Reizen

euram  
EW Discover GmbH  
Experience Travel  
Explorer World of Travel  
FAIRFLIGHT Touristik GmbH  
Faszination Ski & Fernweh  
FTI Group  
Gérald en Amérique  
Global Spot GmbH / SFTA  
Go City  
GoAmerika  
Green Eye Travel/United Travel  
GTAA  
HelloHolidays  
IAAPA  
Ignite Sales & Marketing  
Inforeizen  
International Association of Exhibitions and Events  
| IAEE  
International Association of Tour Directors and  
Guides  
International Inbound Travel Association  
International Risk Mitigation Institute  
International Tourism Marketing  
ITG Companies

Just be Travellers  
Le Beau Reizen BV  
Lieb Management & Beteiligungs GmbH  
Longwoods International  
Marriott Hotel Holding GmbH  
Meridia Reisen GmbH  
MESO Reisen GmbH  
Never Stop Travelling  
NORTH AMERICA TRAVEL SERVICE  
Office du tourisme des USA  
Penta's USA  
Personal Touch Travel  
Planet Hollywood International  
Rep for Ka'aanapali Beach Resort  
Riksja Travel  
Ruck Zuck Urlaub  
Silverjet Travel in Style  
Sommer Touristik Marketing  
Style in Travel  
Target Travel Marketing / Visit USA the Netherlands  
The travel club  
Tioga Tours

Travel Counsellors  
Travel Trend  
Travelhome  
TravelMarketing Romberg  
Traveltastic  
Travelworld  
TUI at Home Mariza Derksen  
TUI Deutschland GmbH  
USA TRAVEL  
UStravel.nl  
Van Verre Reizen  
Virgin Atlantic Holidays  
Visit USA Belgium  
Visit USA Committee Austria  
Visit USA Committee Germany  
Visit USA Committee Switzerland  
Wiechmann Tourism Service GmbH  
WintersportCanadaAmerika  
World Wide Gruppenreisen GmbH  
Worldwide Campers  
YourTravel  
Zerbian Business Development