



# SOUTHEAST TOURISM SOCIETY

## NPS Visitor Spending Effects

The national parks are an important piece of the tourism landscape in the Southeast. Running the gamut from rural to urban, the Southeast's park sites showcase the diversity of the national parks, which are located in every state and touch nearly every community.

Spending by parks visitors in gateway communities is a key economic driver of these local economies. Investing in the national parks is an investment in the economic vitality of gateway communities.

A detailed breakdown of the economic impact of NPS visitor spending in 2018 by state and park can be accessed here:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

Listed below are the notable NPS visitor spending effects for each of the 12 Southeastern states:

### **Alabama**

1 million park visitors spent an estimated \$45 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 679 jobs.

### **Arkansas**

3.2 million park visitors spent an estimated \$178 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 2,690 jobs.

### **Florida**

9.6 million park visitors spent an estimated \$530 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 7,660 jobs.

**Georgia**

7.5 million park visitors spent an estimated \$403 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 6,130 jobs.

**Kentucky**

1.7 million park visitors spent an estimated \$111 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 1,560 jobs.

**Louisiana**

611,000 park visitors spent an estimated \$36.1 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 512 jobs.

**Mississippi**

6.9 million park visitors spent an estimated \$214 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 2,990 jobs.

**North Carolina**

18.1 million park visitors spent an estimated \$1.3 billion in gateway communities, supporting a total of 20,600 jobs.

**South Carolina**

1.6 million park visitors spent an estimated \$89.8 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 1,260 jobs.

**Tennessee**

9.3 million park visitors spent an estimated \$653 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 8,870 jobs.

**Virginia**

22.2 million park visitors spent an estimated \$1.1 billion in gateway communities, supporting a total of 16,800 jobs.

**West Virginia**

1.6 million park visitors spent an estimated \$73.6 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 1,050 jobs.