

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

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
United States Tour Operators Association
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 Lafyaette-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